

## **MBMBaM 720: Mariana Trench Warfare**

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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. Welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy!

**Travis:** Wuddup, Trav Nation? I'm your middlest brother, Travis, big dog, woof-woof, McElroy. Next-level influencer.

**Griffin:** Oh. Hi, everybody, Trav Nation. Hi, everybody in Trav Nation. I'm your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy. The youngest one of them.

**Travis:** I'm very excited, guys, because I just got my certification from the Influencer Board for the next level.

**Griffin:** Oh?

**Travis:** So excited. Big moves.

**Griffin:** Congratulations. Your thetans have been audited and you have not been found wanting.

**Travis:** My photons and thetans. And my thaitins and my... torpedoes. And now I get to move—I get to take the next step! Which I'm very excited about. But I need your guys' help. Next step—

**Griffin:** Charity boxing tournament—oh?

**Travis:** Oh, no, god. Oh, god, I'm not ready for that yet, Griffin. That's—

**Justin:** Trav is gonna fight Logan Paul.

**Travis:** Oh, I would love to. [chuckles] That's next level! That's—

**Griffin:** Travis? Travis?

**Justin:** Travis.

**Griffin:** Travis?

**Justin:** I love you, you would get your—

**Griffin:** Listen, you would get—

**Justin:** Ass handed to you.

**Griffin:** Fucking creamed, dude.

**Travis:** I know. Listen, I'm not saying I could take him. I'm saying if I get one good shot in. Like if I get one good shot in.

**Griffin:** The dude's—

**Justin:** I'm not sure that would happen.

**Griffin:** The dude's—don't get me wrong, the dude sucks rocks.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** Big time. But he would smash your ass into Travis juice on the ground.

**Travis:** Absolutely.

**Justin:** I think he has proven out this point, he can punch people *extremely* hard repeatedly. [chuckles]

**Travis:** He can punch—he punches hard.

**Griffin:** No, I'm not—no, no, no—

**Justin:** He's punched 'em famous punch guys.

**Griffin:** I'm not even gonna make it out to be like he's One Punch Man. Or even that he's like a great boxer. But he would kill Travis dead—graveyard dead.

**Travis:** Maybe.

**Justin:** [titters]

**Travis:** Maybe.

**Griffin:** And that's not a read on you being weak, Travis, I'm just saying—

**Justin:** Not a read.

**Griffin:** You're not—you haven't—

**Travis:** No, if I had—if had eight or nine months to prep, I think I can.

**Griffin:** You haven't done the work. Travis, I know you—

**Travis:** He's also, what, 10 years younger than me? 15 years younger than me? Another—

**Griffin:** That shouldn't matter.

**Travis:** Okay, anyways, but that's not where I'm at. I haven't reached that level yet. I'm at ill-advised move into music career.

**Griffin:** Long overdue I think actually for you, Trav.

**Travis:** Thank you! And I've been prepping for it my whole life by never learning to play a musical instrument, by never learning how to write a song

or write music or anything. So, I am primed, but I need you guys' help because I don't know—

**Griffin:** It's about as ill-advised as it possibly could be because of—

**Travis:** Yes!

**Griffin:** The work you've done and not—

**Travis:** I'm very excited.

**Griffin:** Learning how to do anything.

**Travis:** Considering right now my only thought starter is like Gregorian chamber men's choir version of Hot to Go—

**Griffin:** That can be good.

**Travis:** Is the only offer I have. [sings] H-O-T-T—

**Justin:** No.

**Griffin:** I think that—

**Travis:** That's the only thing.

**Griffin:** That's a bad start.

**Travis:** Yeah, but that's what I'm saying, is like, [sings] O-G-O.

**Griffin:** It sounds—

**Travis:** That's all I've got so far.

**Griffin:** Trav, it sound sounds so bad.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Justin:** Yeah, I don't like to hear it.

**Travis:** [sings] "You can take me—" So, what do you guys think? You know—

**Griffin:** That's not even really—if you did that, Travis, and I hate to again keep slapping you—slamming you like down like this, but if you—

**Travis:** No, please.

**Griffin:** Did that in front of a real Gregorian choir, you would get creamed, man.

**Travis:** Does it need to be more resonant—I'd get creamed? The Gregorian choir would beat me up?

**Griffin:** No, but you'd just get creamed vocally.

**Travis:** Musically.

**Griffin:** You would get a sort of vocally cream situation—

**Travis:** So, what did you think I should start with? What should I...

**Griffin:** Well, Trav, I'll be honest with you. I don't want to hear any of it. So, I think for you, the bust is—

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** I don't want to hear you do music again. But I do think that you can build the buzz required.

**Travis:** Oh, okay?

**Griffin:** I think two things. One, you need to get a lot of anticipation going about this album. And maybe that it's going to be a stinker, but that's still—like, there's no such thing as bad press. Get everybody talking about it.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Okay. I disagree with Griffin—

**Travis:** Needs a good name.

**Justin:** In many important ways. [titters] Number one of which is you have gotta have a single. You've got to have a Welcome to Trav Nation. Think about the long tradition—there is a long tradition, it's one of my favorite sub-genres of music. And I talk about it with people a lot because I'm always looking for more additions. It's the one hit wonder, where their one hit is introducing themselves.

**Griffin:** "What's up, everyone?" Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Griffin:** I'm Rico Suave.

**Justin:** What's everyone—

**Griffin:** Let's—

**Justin:** I'm Rico Suave.

**Griffin:** And I'm never gonna die.

**Justin:** And we're all like—

**Travis:** Jimmy Ray, yeah.

**Justin:** "Oh, shit, we love it!"

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Justin:** And then it's like, we actually don't—or I'm Jimmy Ray. Like, "Oh, cool. That's cool. Thanks, that's all we actually needed from you."

**Griffin:** I'll never forget you, which sucks because you're not gonna do anything else.

**Justin:** If you want to count Ini Kamoze's Hotstepper, possible.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Informer? Debatable.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Return of the Mack is a good one 'cause where did—

**Griffin:** Where'd you come from?

**Travis:** Where'd the Mack go?

**Justin:** Where did you come from? [titters]

**Griffin:** Where'd you come from, where'd you go?

**Travis:** Now, Justin, what if we combined your favorite niche genre of music with my favorite niche genre of music? Mine being songs that reference other songs, that aren't the song being played.

**Justin:** Okay, interesting.

**Travis:** Such as like, the Train hit, Play That Song, the one that makes me go on and on. But not this song. Hey, Mr. DJ, put a record on, I want to dance with my baby. What song do you want to play, Madonna?

**Griffin:** It's a mystery.

**Travis:** I don't know. Monster Mash is one, in fact. And so, what if it was Trav Nation's about to play a—

**Griffin:** Well, Monster Mash is a song about the song. I've never really thought about Monster Mash in that context.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's a story of the monster doing the dance.

**Justin:** Yeah, you never hear the Monster Mash.

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah. It's a song about the Monster Mash. So, what if the song was I—hey, Trav Nation. Trav Nation is about to do a song.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** You're gonna fuckin' love it. And so, Griffin, then it plays into yours. I'm building hype with the first single.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** For future singles. And it's like—

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Travis:** The song I'm coming out with next, Trav, Nation, you're gonna fuckin' love it.

**Griffin:** So, the title of your first single is, "I'm Travis McElroy and my next song is gonna make you groove your ass off."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But then that's—that can be it.

**Travis:** Then I never release a second song.

**Griffin:** That's good. The second part of this formula for mine, and this is foolproof, is you need to start getting angry at people when they talk to you about your podcasting or your streaming, or any of your more sort of traditional media formats. I think if you—



**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because I'm a musician now.

**Griffin:** Go full Billy Bob Thornton and just be like, "You wouldn't ask sting about his podcast." You know what I mean?

**Travis:** I would! Are you kidding me?!

**Griffin:** It's a terrible example. It's a terrible example I just made.

**Justin:** It's a terrible example. Trav, if I could just—I know we don't normally riff like this, but I would love if you could just hit us with like—

**Travis:** Oh, is this part of the show? I thought this was just us talking.

**Justin:** If you could just hit us with a hook?

**Griffin:** I actually—

**Justin:** If we could just workshop a hook?

**Griffin:** I must actually stand firm on the point I made earlier that I do not—and it's not that I think you have a bad—

**Travis:** Well, now I'm a servant of two masters.

**Griffin:** I don't want, Travis—

**Travis:** And I'm trying to decide—

**Griffin:** It's not—

**Justin:** Only one of us is your older brother, Trav. I don't think the math is that hard.

**Travis:** But only one of you is like... has, you know... that I'm trying to impress, basically at this point. I feel like I—

**Griffin:** One of us have taste that you respect—

**Travis:** I'm not gonna say that.

**Justin:** Griffin is a—

**Travis:** I'm not gonna say that! I didn't say that!

**Justin:** Griffin has—

**Travis:** I didn't say that.

**Justin:** Griffin has repeatedly verbally pledged fealty to Trav Nation. And I, a rogue nation in and to myself, I have not been swayed one way or the other. I'm saying maybe a killer jam—

**Griffin:** Yeah. And I'm gonna say it again, just to make my point completely clear, I don't want you to sing. And it's not because I think you have a bad voice, I just don't want you to get fucking—

**Travis:** Can I tell you what's killing me right now?

**Griffin:** [yells] I don't want you to get fucking creamed, Travis!

**Travis:** I'm right now, and I'm not gonna sing it, as I'm trying right now—

**Justin:** He should be more worried about the jeans that are gonna get creamed.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Once he starts blowing those beautiful pipes.

**Travis:** Because I've already said it before, now— "Hey, there, Trav Nation. Put a record on, I want to dance with my baby," is the only thing that's stuck in my head.

**Justin:** That feels—

**Travis:** But Madonna already did that.

**Justin:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. Okay, so you—

**Travis:** [sings] Hey, there, Trav Nation.

**Griffin:** Ah, and I'm out.

**Travis:** [sings] Put a record on, I want to dance with my baby.

**Justin:** No, no, that's the same song! It's the same song. You did the same song over.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** It's got to be something fresh.

**Travis:** Okay. All right, Griffin, how about you? Can you start me off? Maybe Griffin, you give me—

**Griffin:** Sure. Unts-unts-unts-unts!

**Justin:** Yeah, what's like a sick—

**Griffin:** [sings in a high-pitch] Ah-oh-ah-oh! Ah-ah-oh-oh! Ah-ah-oh-oh!

**Justin:** No, I really want to just get like the eight notes. What are the eight notes? You know what I mean? What are the like—

**Travis:** Yeah, if you can give me like an eight note.

**Justin:** What's the huck? What's the huck?

**Griffin:** You want a single eighth note from?

**Travis:** No. [chuckles]

**Justin:** I want an eight. A sequence of eight notes—

**Griffin:** Okay, here we go. You ready? You ready?

**Justin:** A sequence of eight notes that will unite—

**Travis:** The world.

**Justin:** The world.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So, you don't want an eighth note, you want eight individual notes?

**Justin:** If they are eighth notes, that sounds like a great pop hit to me.

**Griffin:** Okay, let me hit you with this. [sings] 'Ska-da-da-da-da-da-da.'  
That was eighth notes, hold on. It's hard—

**Justin:** [sings] 'Ska-da-da-da-da-da-da-da!' Is that what you're doing?

**Griffin:** [sings] Ska-da-da-da-da-da-da—

**Justin:** [sings] Da-da-da-da-da—

**Griffin:** Kind of McDonald's. It's kind of turning into McDonald's.

**Justin:** But it's not exactly.

**Griffin:** [sings] Ska-da-da-da-da!

**Travis:** It's also a little bit [sings] Dadl-a-da-da, da-da-da.

**Justin:** It's a modulation on the McDonald's theme—

**Griffin:** But that's not eighth notes. Again, you're sort of throwing some funky triplets in—

**Justin:** [sings] Da-da-da, da-da, da-da. No.

**Griffin:** [sings] Da-da-da-da-da—

**Travis:** [sings] Trav Nation, party with me.

**Justin:** [sings] You good man, Charlie Brown. Okay.

**Griffin:** [sings and claps] 'Da-da-da-da-da.' Also, we're only doing seven notes there, Juice.

**Travis:** It's also getting a little bit into All Night Long.

**Justin:** Okay. Every song—

**Travis:** [sings] All night long.

**Justin:** Is gonna sound a little bit like other songs. There's only eight notes.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** You know?

**Griffin:** And we've been set free.

**Travis:** [spoofs sings All Night Long] My next song. Next song.

**Griffin:** [titters]

**Justin:** That's a parody. You're doing a parody again.

**Travis:** [spoofs sings All Night Long] Next song.

**Griffin:** That's—you're—

**Justin:** It's gotta be fresh! [titters]

**Travis:** [spoofs sings All Night Long] Will be good. Be good.

**Justin:** Griffin could just give me that melody one more time. I feel like it—

**Griffin:** [sings] Ska-ska-ska-ska, ska-ska-ska.

**Justin:** [sings] Ska-ska-ska-ska, ska! Ska-ska. Is that what it is?

**Griffin:** That's seven notes again. [sings and claps] Ska-ska-ska-ska, ska-ska-ska-ska!

**Justin:** Listen to this.

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Justin:** [sings] Trav Nation is on the rise now. Pa-pa-pa, pa! Pa-pa-pa. Is there something there?

**Griffin:** It's not eighth notes, again, strictly, we do throw a little—

**Justin:** It doesn't need to be eighth notes.

**Travis:** [sings] Open your ears and close your eyes.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** [sings] Here comes Trav Nation in—

**Justin:** [sings] Trav Nation is on the rise now.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** The 'now' is kind of—

**Travis:** We could throw the 'now' in too. Like every line—

**Justin:** I'm gonna do a 'hm' there. [sings] Trav Nation—

**Travis:** Every line can end with 'now' and that's part of the theme. So, [sings] Trav Nation's on the rise now.

**Justin:** [sings] Rise now.

**Travis:** [sings] Open your ears and close your eyes now.

**Griffin:** Open your—

**Travis:** And we just keep saying 'now.'

**Griffin:** Why would you close your eyes—

**Justin:** Open your ears—

**Griffin:** Why is closing your—

**Travis:** Because you wanna feel it. You want to feel the groove, let it take you away. Your eyes are open, you're thinking about all the dangers around you. I want you to close your eyes.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Travis:** And just like, just feel the music, right?

**Griffin:** [sings] 'Shake your hips and squeeze your thighs now.' And that can be part—oh! It could be also like a dance, like a choreographed dance.

**Travis:** Yes! Yes! Yes!

**Justin:** So it's like, [sings] 'open your ears and close your eyes now.'

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** [sings] Wiggle your calves and squeeze your thighs now.

**Travis:** Perfect. All right, Justin, bring us home.

**Justin:** [sings] And it's just for 17.99 a month.

**Travis:** Whoa, it's a streaming service?

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** [laughs] This is my favorite genre of song, which lays out the terms of service for a popular streaming application.

**Justin:** I shouldn't have, Travis. I shouldn't have—

**Travis:** [sings] It's a yearly price you can't refund now.

**Justin:** I shouldn't have tried to impose a business plan on your—

**Travis:** No, no, no, I actually, I like this.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I like that my first single is a back door—

**Justin:** I don't know if you have been wanting to go with the SAS model or not for Trav Nation. I shouldn't try to force that on you.

**Travis:** I guess I don't know what I'm offering on that—is it just the idea of me?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay?

**Griffin:** And it's a citizenship.

**Travis:** Citizenship?



**Justin:** You don't have to be offering 'em. If these Rocket Money ads have taught me anything, it's that you just have to trick people one time and then you never have to give anything again. They just forget about you.

**Griffin:** They forget about you.

**Justin:** It's better if you don't bother them.

**Travis:** And then a series of puzzles to cancel it. [titters]

**Justin:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Let's do our show now.

**Justin:** Yes, I would love to do our show. We take your questions—

**Travis:** [sings] Do the show now.

**Justin:** Oh? I can't get it out of my head. It's so catchy.

**Griffin:** It's really good.

**Justin:** So, listen, we get questions from you, our listeners—oh my god, Griffin! Did you see what episode number this is?

**Griffin:** 720?

**Justin:** 720, we've brought it all back around, guys!

**Griffin:** What do you mean?

**Travis:** In what way?

**Justin:** The double 360. We've gone all the way around, twice.

**Travis:** Well, okay, yeah. I was gonna say, 360 is all the way around.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** Yeah, but we've done it twice now!

**Travis:** So, we're dizzy?

**Griffin:** That's not as impressive as doing it one—

**Justin:** If it was a skate trick, we'd be... 180 away from extremely impressive.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** We'll get there.

**Griffin:** We will get to 900.

**Travis:** We don't have anything else going on.

**Justin:** Here's our first question. "I recently returned back to work after having been gone 12 weeks for maternity leave. A very kind coworker surprised me going all out and decorating my desk and office space with 'welcome back' and 'welcome baby' paraphernalia. This includes streamers, balloons, a big sign, et cetera. I've been back for a week now. Am I supposed to take the décor down, or is it too soon? Will my coworker be disappointed? Or is it her responsibility to take it down?" That's from Desk Distressed in Charlottesville. Now, Travis, it says here pictures are enclosed. Did you include these pictures?

**Travis:** I mean, I have them.

**Griffin:** Describe them to me.

**Justin:** Well, just put 'em up in the thing. All you gotta do is open 'em your web browser and then share the tab so we can see it.

**Griffin:** No, no, no. I mean, the question has made this sound like so boring and so wack. And so like, I don't know that I'm chomping at the bit. I trust that these—

**Justin:** I think that if we want to talk about it accurately, and we have something that we can look at that will give us a little bit more context, I think it's invaluable.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I type so slowly, you guys have to give me a second...

**Griffin:** Have you ever thought about taking a sort of course? A stenography—

**Travis:** If I was going to choose to improve something about my life, Griffin, that would not be top priority.

**Justin:** [chortles] Travis, the speed and alacrity with which you voiced that makes me think this is a question you've wrestled with before.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, baby.

**Griffin:** I'm saying that your lack of familiarity with Miss Beacon and her excellent ways—

**Justin:** It's keeping you from every other thing that you—it's a constant hindrance.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Always.

**Griffin:** But also, well, my point is that it's so nonexistent that you could actually take up stenography and become so much faster than Juice and I, using one of their crazy flat—

**Travis:** Oh, I could, yeah!

**Griffin:** Keyboards.

**Justin:** We should see which of us can get the... fuckin' hell!

**Griffin:** Hey, okay, so that's a lot of shit. It looks like we've got—

**Justin:** Wow!

**Griffin:** Wow, there's a lot of shit on this desk. So, there's a huge banner behind the desk that is covering up, as far as I can tell, a whole—

**Justin:** What the hell?! This person blacked out in the booth!

**Griffin:** Yeah, there's balloons all over this, hither and yon.

**Travis:** Yeah, it goes around... And here's what's wild about it.

**Justin:** Oh, wow. They have decorations blocking their decorations.  
[chuckles]

**Travis:** There's enough there that it's wild, but not enough there that you could leave it and be like, "This is the new like theme of my office." Like it's this uncanny valley of clearly temporary, but also substantial—like there's—

**Justin:** It's so substantial.

**Travis:** This is... if you had to guesstimate, how many minutes of work for takedown? Like, yeah—

**Justin:** 20, I mean—

**Travis:** That's what I was gonna say, 20 minutes.

**Griffin:** Easily 20.

**Justin:** It's not hard.

**Griffin:** The bigger issue is that there's so many balloons and huge sort of paper lantern style things that don't look particularly collapsible. So, what you're looking at is two situations. One, you carry a bunch of gigantic

garbage bags out of the place. Obviously, it's filled with balloons. Or for 20 minutes, the coworker that worked so hard on this display will be treated to the sound of you jabbing a butterfly knife through each of these balloons one at a time, to make them more easily trashable.

**Travis:** One of which has like big, round confetti in it, that if you pop that balloon—

**Griffin:** That's a trap. That's a trap.

**Travis:** You've just added 10 more minutes.

**Griffin:** That's one of the Riddler's traps.

**Justin:** I got one—we had one of those for a cast party recently. It was a nightmare. I don't know why they're making those. I'm looking at this and, question asker, you may think this is a very specific problem. But as parents of kids that have had birthday parties in our house, I can tell you that this is actually something that I have dealt with many, many, many, many, many times. My policy, typically, is to start slowly moving out the stuff. To start one by one—

**Griffin:** Oh, wow. Okay.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Piecemeal, leaving it. And this is the real kicker. You gotta leave one thing up until about October.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And then you can be like, "Look at this. Can you believe this? I've still got it up. I loved it that—" But it has to be like...

**Griffin:** A shriveling, wrinkly, sad balloon.

**Travis:** I'm looking, I think the like Mylar kind of arched frill banner at the top—

**Griffin:** That's great.

**Travis:** You could safely leave that up. But can I just say this coworker, as lovely as this thought is, did put a big poster board that says 'welcome back' covering your bulletin board with important papers on it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I can't—

**Justin:** That's a good one to justify early.

**Travis:** Yeah, and—

**Justin:** That's the first one you can chuck.

**Travis:** It looks like there's ruffles wrapped around your office chair, in a way that when you sit down, you're getting a back full of ruffles.

**Justin:** Now, okay. Now, guys, I gotta stand up for a second.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Justin:** Because this is actually a lot harder than it seems. Because the question that I'm now thinking about is, once you—I don't want to stand up.

**Griffin:** Yeah, you're way off camera.

**Travis:** Yeah, I can't see you.

**Justin:** It's like way off camera. But like listen... I'm thinking about the sign, right? I was thinking about the practical time it would take, you pop the sign down, no big deal. But what happens next?

**Travis:** Oh?

**Griffin:** You throw it—

**Justin:** You can't—

**Griffin:** Away?

**Justin:** You can't take that sign and jam it into a work trash can. You can't.

**Travis:** Okay, step two—

**Justin:** You can't roll it up and shove it in—especially not over at their trash can, maybe. You just like shove it down into it and they're like, "What the..."

**Griffin:** You gotta eat it!

**Travis:** You gotta eat—well..

**Justin:** Do you have to take it to your car?

**Travis:** No, you have to—

**Justin:** And throw it away at home?

**Travis:** Yes, Justin. But not just that. You have to be seen taking it to your car.

**Justin:** Oh, yeah! Fuck!

**Travis:** You have to *make sure*.

**Griffin:** That's cool. Hugging it.

**Travis:** Take it down, stop by where they are and be like, "I'm so excited. I love this, can't wait to show—"

**Griffin:** "I'm so excited." You kiss it a few times. "I love this sign so much."

**Travis:** "Thank you."

**Justin:** Oh my god, I got it! I got it, I got it! I got it, I got it! Take it all down. Take it all down tomorrow and say, "I want to be honest with you. I

loved so much, I wanted to have it up in the nursery. That's—I thought she would love it."

**Griffin:** Wow, that's great.

**Justin:** "So, I wanted to hang these balloons up there. And you should see baby now, she is—"

**Travis:** Send me a picture.

**Justin:** Gaga. What?

**Travis:** Send me a picture of the decorations.

**Justin:** You send this picture back. You send the picture back you took.

**Travis:** But you paint a baby in the corner in Photoshop.

**Justin:** You put a baby in. You scoot your baby into it in Photoshop.

**Griffin:** That's great. "This is my baby's two monitor workstation."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "My baby uses one monitor for Slack and one monitor for Google Calendar."

**Justin:** Goo Goo Gaga Calendar.

**Griffin:** My baby—

**Travis:** Goo Goo Gaga Calendar! Ah!

**Griffin:** My baby's incredibly disciplined and well-organized. This baby keeps the trains running on time.

**Travis:** Motivated by your work.



**Justin:** Got a grindset already. I would just... yeah, I think that we have helped you a lot of different ways. Which is rare. And the fact that you want more is a little bit greedy, if I could just say.

**Travis:** That's fair.

**Justin:** "I'm a graduating high school senior and have been selected to read the names of all my classmates at graduation on Wednesday." Oh my god. "There's a few 100 names to read off, so I want to know if there's anything I can do to keep the audience interested."

**Travis:** No!

**Justin:** "Accents?" No. "Trying to get the crowd hype?" And that's from Nervous in North Jersey. I mean—

**Griffin:** I feel like you guys jumped over accents way too fast.

**Justin:** Oh, man!

**Griffin:** I feel like if we plumb those depths, we'll find a few laughs in there. We might stub our toes on the occasional—

**Justin:** The occasional.

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Little snafu. But I bet you we'll find a few little laughs if we pick around in that berry bush.

**Travis:** I think if you—

**Justin:** What about nicknames for everybody? "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the stage, Nick, The Hammer, Ostelepos!" And you do one for everybody.

**Griffin:** Yeah. And then you stop doing the names and you—

**Travis:** But every fifth one is The Hammer.

**Griffin:** You stop doing the names and then you only start doing the nicknames. Let's—

**Travis:** Get on up here!

**Justin:** Every 20 people you're like, "Folks, I've just got to slow it down here. This next person is a close personal friend of mine. And I've done so many of these benefits and shows with them. And they're a true blue. And I love to welcome onto the stage right now, Nick Osopolis!" And then you welcome him. You have a little bit of like—some people get an intro. Like more of a buildup.

**Griffin:** Not everyone.

**Justin:** Not everyone.

**Travis:** All of them. But as they come up, "And here's a fun fact about this guy." But here's the thing, you don't have to do that research, right? Anything could be a fun fact. Anything could be a fun fact.

**Justin:** You could just guess.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Just guess. You might get it right.

**Travis:** Just make it up.

**Griffin:** You could also, every few people that walk across the stage you can be like, "And let's give it up for Invisible Tyler!"

**Travis:** [chuckles] That's good!

**Griffin:** And then no one will come, but it'll be a good—and you can do like a bunch of them You can do like Invisible Susan, you can do—

**Justin:** All the invisible, yeah.

**Griffin:** "Here comes Solid Snake." But you can't see him.

**Travis:** And a box crawls across.

**Griffin:** Oh, that could be cool.

**Travis:** Oh, that's good.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Now, here's the thing, if your goal is to keep everyone interested, perhaps shift your expectations. Because that's not gonna happen. Because without fail, no matter how good a job you do, all of those people are interested in... probably statistically one kid.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right? They might be like, "Oh, that's his best friend." Or like if you had twins or whatever and they're both graduating. But statistically speaking, only one kid out of all those is gonna—so, what you're gonna do is go as fast as you can to get it done. That would make me happy, as a parent, if it's just like, "Yeah, man, what should have been 2 hours we got done in 10 minutes. That was incredible."

**Griffin:** The amount of attention I'm willing to dedicate to like any kind of big ceremony involving one of us goes like, "Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing. Okay, here come the M names. MC, we're getting close." And then it's like, I had no fucking idea so many Mc last name students went to my school—

**Justin:** McAlister.

**Griffin:** But you learn that real fast at a graduating—

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** Like McCarthy? There's a McCarthy here?

**Travis:** "How come we didn't sit next to each other more? You would think with the order of things, I'd know these people."

**Griffin:** And then—

**Travis:** What if you just got up there and said, "All the A names, go!"

**Griffin:** Go!

**Travis:** And then you're like—

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, you hold that one diploma, you say, "I've got one for the A names."

**Travis:** Ah!

**Justin:** If you skip every 15<sup>th</sup> name, by the time you get to the end of that list, you're going to start to feel a palpable shift in the energy of that room.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** Something is going to be happening in there. And it's going to be little pockets all over. And then it's gonna start to spread.

**Griffin:** A mystery.

**Justin:** Something's gonna happen in that room. And it's gonna be quite a hubbub.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Quite a hubbub.

**Griffin:** Especially if you take that 15<sup>th</sup> diploma and then like put it in a little glass box on the stage—

**Travis:** Oh. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** With a big lock on it. But don't say anything about the box.

**Justin:** Don't say anything about it.

**Griffin:** The box has a snake in it. And you can see—the box is clear, you can see the snake inside with the mini diplomas.

**Travis:** You wanna keep 'em interested? Okay, okay. Do 'em in a random order.

**Justin:** Okay, fun.

**Travis:** That way I don't know when my kid's name is coming.

**Justin:** Oh, that's exciting.

**Travis:** I've gotta be on my toes the whole time.

**Justin:** I gotta have the phone up.

**Travis:** I gotta be ready.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Phones up.

**Travis:** My kid—

**Justin:** All the time.

**Griffin:** Just tell—ooh, that's cool. Tell each student, just say like, "All right, guys, line on up, however you want." And then when they come up on stage be like, "What's your... what's your name?"

**Travis:** Which one is it?

**Justin:** "Who are you? Oh, this is Gary!"

**Griffin:** "Tyler Yamaguchi. Okay, hold on one second. Fuck, that one's way back there."

**Justin:** [chortles] "Why did you come up so early, Tyler?"

**Griffin:** "Why'd you come up first, Tyler? Come on, man."

**Justin:** You should make them get themselves—makeup 'em come up in the order they think they are. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Like and get razzed on if they're wrong.

**Griffin:** Oh, give everyone a random diploma and say, "It's your job to find your diploma. You have 15 minutes." And then—

**Travis:** Just throw them into the crowd.

**Griffin:** It like becomes a huge social experiment.

**Travis:** Yeah! Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Winner gets a million dollars.

**Griffin:** Yeah. These are all such fun ideas.

**Travis:** Just announce that. It's the school's job, right? Why are they making a kid read this? That's bullshit. [titters]

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I think it's time we revisit the entire graduation conversation, because nobody wants to sit there while a thousand names are called and a bunch of people walk slowly and pick up a piece of paper, and maybe they do a bit, but you kind of hope not. I want there to be a physical, tangible like sort of advancement that happens. I'm thinking like in the old Marines commercials, when just like a dude would grab a sword and then hold it in the sky and then [spoofs the sound of a sword] psssw, get turned into a Marine.

**Justin:** Yeah, a Space Marine, if memory serves. He had like knight—

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** Knight armor, right?

**Travis:** I believe so. I believe that's correct.

**Griffin:** Well, he starts out as a knight but then he lifts his sword up and it reveals like actually—

**Justin:** Oh, right, yeah.

**Griffin:** It's a Marine.

**Travis:** He was a Marine.

**Griffin:** The knights—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** That was—that made me wanna join up.

**Griffin:** The knights of America.

**Travis:** If you've got like spurs, right? If you're given—like, now you've earned these. I think that would be a powerful option. A dagger is a good—I mean, a sword.

**Griffin:** A sword, I mean, let's just do a full sword, lift it up in the sky, a beam of light shines on you. They don't even need to say your name or give you anything.

**Travis:** But I don't want it to take any longer.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I don't want this to become a whole 'nother thing. So it's kind of just like, "Here you go, here you go, here you go." I don't want a whole ordeal—

**Justin:** That's boring.

**Travis:** And now it's even longer.

**Justin:** You have to think about—like, people don't think about this enough. But like, I graduated high school in 1999.

**Travis:** What?!

**Justin:** That was 25 years ago.

**Griffin:** Fuckin' shit, man!

**Travis:** Wow, dude!

**Justin:** I know.

**Travis:** You're so old!

**Justin:** This is not what it's about.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** I graduated 25 years ago. When I was there, I remember it as being one of the most boring things I ever did in my entire life.

**Travis:** Correct.

**Justin:** It was so boring. I was at a big, consolidated high school. There were so many people there. It was so boring. The teenagers who are graduating now, 25 years into the future, have no fucking context for the amount of boredom that we're about to foist on them.

**Griffin:** Yeah.



**Justin:** Do you remember how torturous it was for me before YouTube?!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Before TikTok?!

**Travis:** Oh, I see what you're saying.

**Justin:** And I'm still in hell! And these kids are like—

**Travis:** They've never had boredom to this degree.

**Griffin:** That thing that—

**Justin:** They're believing?

**Griffin:** The thing that I—

**Justin:** They're texting?

**Griffin:** The thing that occupied your time in high school was pretty much exclusively, if I remember correctly, prank calls.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Make 'em and listen to tapes of prank calls.

**Justin:** That's the only thing better that I had—I was in my graduation like, "Man, I could—if this wraps up soon, I can still get a few crank calls in."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** To man sewers.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And ask if their—

**Griffin:** "I could go listen to my Jerky Boys tapes. Gotta get the fuck out." Can we just throw a few beach ball—

**Travis:** But now he's a man, he listens to Jerky Boys vinyl.

**Griffin:** I went to—

**Travis:** As an adult.

**Griffin:** See Margaritaville, in Huntington. Which, is it still going by the time this comes out? I don't think so. You missed it, you fucking goober. At the end of that, they throw some beach balls out into the audience, just to sort of like really drive home the island vibes. But now all of a sudden there's like an interactive element. By which I mean you kind of always have to have your head on a swivel so the ball doesn't hit you or the big beer out of your hand that you have. That's cool.

**Travis:** You could also incorporate kind of a Wonka-esque thing, to take it back to another show Justin should associated with. An inside one of the diplomas is a golden ticket that like you get to skip college, right? Now like, this is also a college degree now.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Travis:** You can skip college and now you like you've got a college degree because you had the golden diploma. Right? But it's like a random—here's just a big box of diplomas. Everybody run up and grab one. And see what you get.

**Griffin:** That's good, too.

**Justin:** What if with every diploma, underneath the lectern, or the podium, or whatever you got, you have a little jar.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** You know what in the jar?

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** I'm gonna guess jam or jelly?

**Justin:** Yeah, it's jelly.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** And then when you—you just put a little jelly on each end, and then you hand it to 'em. And they take it and they're like, "What in the..."

**Griffin:** What the fuck?

**Justin:** "What the heck is this? What is—"

**Travis:** Now—

**Justin:** They better not say 'what the fuck,' it's a high school graduation.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I'll take that diploma right back.

**Griffin:** And it'll be so easy because of all the jelly.

**Travis:** What if one of the diplomas, the person unrolls it and looks and what's that? It's a map to Templar gold.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's cool.

**Travis:** Inside the thing, right? And then they're like, "What the fuck? Where's my diploma? I need that, I think." And you're like, "You don't. You'll never ever use it. That's not—you don't have to prove it. Nobody cares."

**Griffin:** What if—

**Justin:** I will—okay, go ahead, Griff.

**Griffin:** What if—

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** Your diploma—

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** Just had a picture of you on it.

**Travis:** [titters] Okay?

**Griffin:** And listed out your stats, and your elemental types and weaknesses.

**Travis:** Oh, a Pokémon card.

**Griffin:** And now all of a sudden, when you're in the audience and you have your diploma, you can play with them. You can do a—

**Travis:** You can battle.

**Griffin:** You can do a battle with your other people. And then if you're not— if you don't have your diploma yet, you're excited to get it. I didn't give a fuck about getting my diploma. It's a piece of paper that I knew I was going to lose pretty much instantly. Which I did within—it took me like four years, but I got there. If that shit had stats and elemental types and weaknesses on it—

**Travis:** Forget about it.

**Griffin:** And I could battle? I would be chomping at the bit to get my hands on these beautiful boys.

**Justin:** So, there you have it, question asker. I feel like us three professional comedians, despite our best efforts, couldn't make what you're doing entertaining.

**Travis:** Yeah. Just get it done.

**Justin:** We gave it our best shot. We gave it a good eight minutes of trying. And even we couldn't make the concept of it entertaining.

**Travis:** No!

**Justin:** I give me your best wishes—my best wishes.

**Griffin:** Are we gonna start doing this after every—we rarely do anything helpful on this show. If we have to trot out an apology tour after each of our great failures on this show—

**Travis:** I don't think it's an apology tour.

**Griffin:** It is going to double its duration.

**Justin:** I just feel like—

**Travis:** That didn't feel like an apology to me, Griffin. I don't know what to tell you, man.

**Justin:** When we move on, I feel like there is an implication that we have solved the problem. Right? Because otherwise, why are we moving on from it?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Justin:** And if we're moving on from it because we can't, I think we should say that too. Or I think we need to be a little more honest about our limits sometimes. And then people will get a better idea of what we are and aren't capable of.

**Travis:** You need a balloon drop. Balloon drop is the answer. Everybody loves a fuckin' balloon drop. But it's diplomas.

**Justin:** One balloon with every name. [titters] Just slowly, each name is read, one balloon—

**Travis:** Okay, wait. You're a parent, you come in and you're like, "Okay." And then you look up and what's that in the ceiling of the convention center or whatever you're in? A huge net full of thousands and thousands of balloons. You're psyched. You're like, "There's a balloon drop coming." But then with every name, what's that? They're edging my balloon dropping site. "One balloon. One balloon. Oh, come on, do it! Do it!" And maybe you work some balloon metaphors into your thing where it's like, "Oh, I can't wait. Oh, the balloon, oh... it's like filling up. Oh, the excitement."

**Griffin:** Wait, are they also giving the commencement address and handing out the diplomas and—

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** It feels like that, like you're MC'ing, there's—

**Griffin:** Changing fundamentally the entire graduation process?

**Justin:** Okay, Griffin! Now you've unlocked it! Because if it happens all at once, we can get it done in 10 minutes.

**Griffin:** Commencement speech with every student's name in it.

**Justin:** With every... yes, you work 'em in. That's better than what I was gonna say, which is just in front of it. So like, yeah, you work 'em into it so it's like, "I'll never forget when Aaron Anderson said—" [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, exactly. "I'll never forget the lunch times with my friends, Aaron Anderson, Megan Anderson, Tabitha Anderson."

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Travis:** I don't know how to incorporate walk up music, which was my other suggestion. I guess if they're displaying it on their phones as they walk by? Everybody gets to play whatever song. And listen, you can't censor this. Whatever song they want on their phone as they walk by.

**Justin:** That makes it take longer. What if you did the balloon drop on your own name? What if when it got to you—it's gonna be awkward anyway, because you're the one reading it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So you just go out there and have a big balloon drop.

**Griffin:** So, you bust right away with the balloons? You're saying you walk up, you're like, "What's up, everybody? I'm Griffin McElroy." Boom! The balloons drop.

**Travis:** Yeah! Right at the top.

**Justin:** "This is my diploma. I'm first."

**Griffin:** "Uh-huh. Pay attention."

**Travis:** "And the rest." You say, "Travis McElroy, et cetera." And walk off the stage. [chuckles]

**Justin:** "I will now read the list of my classmates, ranked in the order that I enjoyed them. Here we go."

[group chuckle]

**Griffin:** "What's up, everybody? I'm—"

**Travis:** "Myself."

**Griffin:** "I'm Griffin McElroy." Balloons, pshh! "I'm shadow type and I have 180 HP!"

**Justin:** [chuckles] "First up, Gregory Thompson, my best friend!"

**Griffin:** [titters] "Fire type, 70 HP. Get up here, buddy. Let's trade."

**Justin:** "Gregory, you pick your best friend." [snickers]

**Griffin:** It's also Gregory.

**Justin:** Let's take a quick break.

[theme music plays]

**Griffin:** Stamps.com, collectible little stickers that help get your messages where they need to go. We love these things. They're—

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** They're cool. They have cool pictures on them. And some of them—

**Justin:** But you gotta go to the store to buy 'em?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They're like little trading cards. But you have to go to the store to buy 'em.

**Griffin:** They're like little trading cards of presidents and famous abolitionists, but—

**Travis:** And these trading cards, you're supposed to like the back of. You don't get yelled at.

**Griffin:** You must. Well, no. Actually, most of the time, they are pretty sticky. A lot of people don't remember that.

**Travis:** What, really?



**Griffin:** Yeah, but with stamps.com, you don't even have to go to the stamps store anymore. You can make the process of mailing your letters and your packages so much easier with stamps.com. You can take care of mailing and shipping wherever you are, even on the go, with the stamps.com mobile app. All you need is a computer and printer. They even send you a free scale to make sure that you're doing all the right numbers on your shit. And you can—

**Travis:** That's so good.

**Griffin:** Get rates you can't find anywhere else. Like up to 89% off USPS and UPS shipping rates. That's wild! That's so much. That's basically 100%. Put more life and your work-life balance with stamps.com. Sign up with promo code My Brother for a special offer that includes a four-week trial plus free postage and a free digital scale. No long-term commitments or contracts. Just go to stamps.com, click the microphone at the top of the page and enter code My Brother!

**Travis:** Now, listen, I want to tell you guys about Rocket Money, my best friend. And I know, listen, guys, I know that when you think about Travis McElroy, you think, "There's a responsible guy. He's really on top of it. Nothing ever slips through the cracks. He's very detail-oriented. Very precise." I know. I know.

**Griffin:** The opposite.

**Travis:** The fuck?

**Griffin:** The opposite, is how I feel about it. The subject you just said.

**Travis:** Huh. Okay.

**Griffin:** The wrongest you could have possibly—the wrongest you could have possibly been.

**Travis:** Okay, cool. Well, we'll talk about that offline. [spoofs sobbing sounds]

**Griffin:** I'm not saying it's a bad thing. It's fun. Like you're like a—

**Travis:** Oh? Okay.

**Griffin:** Like, it's quirky. Like, you're quirky.

**Travis:** But I used Rocket Money and I was like, I'll go through some subscriptions and stuff. It was like \$2,500 a year in subscriptions that I cancelled. A lot of them are those things—

**Griffin:** Travis Patrick McElroy!

**Travis:** Griffin! Griffin Andrew McElroy, I know! I know!

**Griffin:** How much shit were you subscribe to, my dude?

**Justin:** What's wrong with you?

**Travis:** But here's what happened. Here's what happened. Not too bad mount shit, but I will. I had a Disney+ subscription that had looped in—

**Justin:** Oh, don't you dare.

**Travis:** That had looped in all those other things. *And* I was still paying for those other things. And I didn't realize that 'til Rocket Money was like, "Hey, dawg. Hey, you're paying twice for these things." Saved me thousands of dollars a year by going through that shit. And it was seamless and easy. Literally clicking a thing, they might ask me like two or three questions and they're like, "We got you." And then I get an email in like three minutes. It was like, "Yeah, that's done. Don't worry about it. We took care of that."

**Griffin:** Incredible.

**Travis:** It is so streamlined, so easy to cancel the subscriptions that you don't use, that you probably have forgot about. If you've ever signed up for a thing where it's like, "14 day free trial. And then will start automatically charging you." And you completely forgot about it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They got you. Right? So, it's not only a personal finance app that cancels all that stuff, but it's also going to help you like keep bills down. Like, they can negotiate like your bills and help you lower your bills to grow your savings. Rocket Money has over five million users, and I'm one of 'em. And they've saved a total of \$500 million in canceled subscriptions, saving members up to \$740 a year when using all the app's features. Or if you're me, a lot.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So, stop wasting money on things you don't use. Cancel your unwanted subscriptions by going to [rocketmoney.com/mybrother](https://rocketmoney.com/mybrother). That's [rocketmoney.com/mybrother](https://rocketmoney.com/mybrother). [Rocketmoney.com/mybrother](https://rocketmoney.com/mybrother).

[break]

**Ify:** Since 2017, Maximum Film has had the same slogan.

**Alonso:** The podcast that's not just a bunch of straight white guys.

**Drea:** Ooh, we've learned something over the years. Some people out there really do not like that slogan.

**Ify:** Listen, we love straight white guys.

**Drea:** Well, some of them.

**Alonso:** But if there's one thing we can't change, it's who we are.

**Ify:** I'm Ify. A comedian who was on strike last year in two different unions.

**Drea:** I'm Drea! I've been a producer and film festival programmer for decades.

**Alonso:** And I'm Alonso, a film critic who literally wrote the book on queer Hollywood.

**Ify:** You can listen to us talk movies and the movie biz every week on Maximum Film.

**Alonso:** We may not be straight white guys, but we love movies. And we know what we're talking about.

**Drea:** Listen to Maximum Film on Maximum Fun, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

[break]

**Mallory:** Oh darling, why don't you accept my love?

**Brea:** My dear, even though you are a duke, I could never love you. You... You... borrowed a book for me and never returned it!

**Mallory:** [gasps] Save yourself from this terrible fate by listening to Reading Glasses.

**Brea:** We'll help you get those borrowed books back and solve all your other reader problems.

**Mallory:** Reading Glasses, every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[break]

**Justin:** [spoofs a guitar riff] Bow-wow-wow-wa—Oh, sorry, let me try a different one.

**Travis:** Yeah, that was not the right key.

**Justin:** [clears throat] Let me try a different one.

**Travis:** I'm a musician now, so...

**Justin:** [spoofs Jaws intro] Dun-dun... dun-dun...

**Griffin:** Oh, shit.

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Justin:** [continues spoofing Jaws intro and sings] Dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, dun-dun, I wanna munch!

**Griffin:** Jawed!

**Travis:** Squad! What? Did you say 'jawed?'

**Griffin:** I think I said 'jawed.' I didn't know whether to say 'Jaws' or—

**Justin:** Why did you say 'jawed?'

**Griffin:** Well, I didn't know—

**Travis:** Well, that's how you pronounce 'god.' A lot of people get it wrong. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** [titters] Yeah.

**Travis:** It's actually a soft G.

**Griffin:** It's a soft G, yeah.

**Justin:** Welcome to Munch squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. It is Shark Week.

**Travis:** Last week.

**Justin:** I didn't know if you boys had heard, but Shark Week has kicked off on Tommy's birthday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. And John Cena is the host this year, so if you—

**Travis:** Ah, yeah!

**Justin:** Yeah, so, if you—

**Griffin:** I didn't know that Shark Week could have a host?

**Justin:** Shark Week has—

**Travis:** Well, John Cena's in everything.

**Justin:** Had a host for a decade, yeah.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** They've had a—

**Travis:** I hosted it last year. But I see you didn't watch.

**Justin:** So, I want to talk first off about like the plans for Shark Week. Because I do have a tie-in, I have a connection. But first, I just want to talk about Shark Week.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** So basically, they had—they've previously had like a bunch of DC superheroes. So like Jason Momoa did it last year, The Rock was—

**Travis:** Seems obvious.

**Justin:** Yeah, they hit up like DC heroes. This is the quote from Karen Bronzo, which is—

**Griffin:** Pretty good name.

**Justin:** A very good name.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** One of the interesting things about John is that, and he admitted this from the beginning, he really didn't know a lot about sharks. [titters]

**Travis:** Huh?

**Griffin:** Is that a—

**Justin:** So—

**Griffin:** If that's a prerequisite for hosting Shark Week, you are really not going to get as much talent I think approaching you as you would like, whoever does Shark Week.

**Justin:** So, he was—

**Travis:** But what does that mean? The scale at which I don't know a lot about sharks could cover—right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because you've been brought in to host a series of documentaries and shows and stuff, presumably with experts somewhere in there. And if someone's like, "How much do you know about sharks?" Humility is going to serve you well there.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right?

**Justin:** Yeah. It is in contrast, though, she said, "He was really excited to come along for the ride with us, which was—really gave us a whole different angle than we had last year with Jason Momoa, who was really interested in that topic and knew a fair amount about it." So, what they're saying is it's a nice change of pace to Cena there. Because Jason Momoa was just constantly trying to tell 'em about sharks.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Right? He was trying to talk to all the shark—

**Travis:** He was man—he was Momoa-xplaining sharks left and right.

**Griffin:** Yeah! Meanwhile, John Cena, as they go to every commercial break is like, "Holy shit! Did you guys see that shit? That shark was so fucking big! Whoa!"

**Travis:** "Look at that—"

**Justin:** Unbelievable!

**Travis:** "Angry dolphin!"  
"No, John, that's a shark."  
"That's a shark?! Fuck!"

**Justin:** Whoa!

**Griffin:** "Wow, that whale sure was angry!"  
"That was a shark, John."

**Travis:** "What?!"

**Griffin:** "It's Shark Week."

**Travis:** "That slippery grey fish man is so upset!"  
"That's a shark. That's a shark too."

**Justin:** "So, these guys are making milk? Not making milk? What's up?"

**Travis:** [titters]

**Justin:** Shark Week premiere night will feature for specials, beginning with Belly of the Beast: Bigger and Bloodier.

**Travis:** Huh.



**Justin:** Followed by Big Shark Energy, 6000 Pound Shark, Sharktopia and Mothersharker: Hammer Time.

**Travis:** Wait, sorry.

**Griffin:** Mothersharker—

**Travis:** That can't be—

**Justin:** Hammer time!

**Travis:** That can't be real, Justin.

**Griffin:** Mothersharker—

**Justin:** [chortles] Hammer Time. You guys can tell me more. I got a lot of plates spinning here, if any you guys want to look into—[guffaws]

**Travis:** Can I tell you, maybe this is just the looking back, the nostalgia. I remember a time when Shark Week was like, "Hm, listen, you might be afraid of sharks. But these, they—listen, very few sharks attack—you are more likely to get bitten by a cow than you are a shark." And now they're like, "Bigger and bloodier! These sharks are coming for you and your credit score and everyone you love! They're gonna eat your dog!"

**Griffin:** How the fuck is Mothersharker: Hammer Time not on YouTube yet? What's going on?

**Justin:** It's nowhere.

**Travis:** Because it's built.

**Justin:** There are also co-branded partnerships this year. There's a House of the Dragon co-branded promo.

**Travis:** Huh?

**Justin:** There's also a one featuring sharks singing the Banana Boat song, Day-O, with Winona Ryder.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Justin:** Celebrating the release of Beetlejuice Beetlejuice. There's a lot of like—

**Travis:** Realistic sharks?

**Justin:** I don't—I haven't actually seen the clip, Trav. I'll let you know, though.

**Travis:** Thanks, J-Man.

**Justin:** The one thing they said—

**Griffin:** Mothersharker. [titters]

**Justin:** The one thing they want to be clear about is that Bronzo says they will begin planning for Shark Week 2025 as soon as this one wraps. They're already eyeing next year's host and is looking beyond the DC talent lineup.

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Justin:** She also absolutely—this is a quote, "Absolutely foresees female hosts in the future."

**Travis:** Oh?

**Griffin:** That's huge.

**Justin:** After more than a decade of men heading up the event.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** But I could—

**Justin:** "One of the things we've already been—always been very conscious of, especially in bringing on other experts that we have with the host, is making sure that we have diversity, that we have women."

**Travis:** Huh?

**Justin:** "That was have diverse voices in Shark Week."

**Griffin:** But we got—

**Travis:** That's what Mothersharker—Mothersharker: Hammer Time is all about the power of a feminine shark.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Travis:** This is a Mothersharker. Look out!

**Justin:** It is—Mothersharker: Hammer Time is a... is queer romance.

**Travis:** [chortles]

**Justin:** Featuring a wildly diverse range of characters, of many different ethnic backgrounds. And they're all sharks. [laughs]

**Travis:** They're all sharks.

**Justin:** One of 'em is the mother—[chuckles] the mother chomper.

**Travis:** Mothersharker, the eponymous—

**Justin:** The mother—sorry, the mothers—[titters] the Mothersharker.

**Travis:** I like that they're like, "For 10 years it's been dudes. But don't let that fool you."

**Griffin:** "We've got a great idea for the next one."

**Travis:** In the future, it could—I could definitely see the possibility of it potentially maybe at some point in the future being a woman. But here's the thing, we all know this. Sharks hate women. And so—it's not us, guys! Guys, it's not us. Every year, we go to the sharks and we're like, "We're thinking about a woman this time." And the sharks are like, "Hm... I don't know, could you get Cena?"

**Justin:** And that's how the free promo I'm giving Warner Brothers, because they didn't want to make our cartoon. What I wanted to tell you about though is, why is—

**Griffin:** Fathersharker was our cartoon.

**Justin:** Why the munch—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Why the Munch Squad—

**Travis:** It was a—it was like a look at like Shark religion.

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah. Hey, why the Munch Squad, Juice?

**Justin:** Why the Munch Squad? Because we have another little secret Munch Squad sub-series that I'm calling biz-dev deals that fuckin' fell apart apparently at the last moment and it was just too late to put a stop to 'em.

**Griffin:** Hell yeah!

**Justin:** Because Duck Donuts is bringing back a fan favorite Shark Dozen. For no reason at all!

**Travis:** No...

**Justin:** "Duck Donuts sees circling fins, and that can only mean one thing. The popular Shark Dozen is back. Guests can sink their teeth into the limited-time Shark Dozen for one week only, July 7<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Sharks can

smell blood in the water, but Duck Donuts guests smell a perfect snack to dive into their TV entertainment with this week."

**Travis:** Huh?

**Justin:** "For whenever you may be watching. We didn't give anyone any money, so..."

**Griffin:** This incredible Pantheon that is being built of this and the Dunkin' Donuts Tornado adventure beverage.

**Travis:** Very donut heavy.

**Justin:** "We are delighted to bring back our popular summertime favorite snack—"

**Travis:** Summertime.

**Justin:** Summertime! That's it. "The Shark Dozen that our guests look forward to every year. This year, we are proud to partner with Duck Surf Rescue to raise awareness about beach safety, helping guests stay safe and informed as they enjoy their sweet treats and create unforgettable beach vacation memories this summer." So, what they are purporting to say is that, no, this is a celebration of sharks.

**Travis:** This—yeah.

**Justin:** [chuckles] This is a celebration of sharks and shark safety. Both from and for sharks.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It has nothing to do with them being offered during the exact week that Shark Week is happening.

**Griffin:** I hope—

**Travis:** It's giving big game, you know—with people like—but it's like, you can't—

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** 100%.

**Travis:** And it's like, you know, if there should happen to be some kind of a sporting event this week that you—except getting nicher and nicher, and I love it.

**Justin:** Right.

**Griffin:** I actually promote shark safety both for and from, by preaching and practicing ocean abstinence.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** If you don't go where they live, you won't hurt them, they won't hurt you.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** You just have to—and it's not even that big a deal, because the ocean is—

**Travis:** That's not what I thought you meant.

**Griffin:** What did you think I meant?

**Travis:** Not having sex with sharks.

**Griffin:** Well, clearly don't do that either. Like, I don't even know how you would do that, not going into the ocean. Good luck—

**Travis:** Yeah, but I mean, listen, at this point in the year of our lord, anno domini 2024, you can't assume that goes without saying. You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** No. I guess if you had a special harness.

**Travis:** People are out there. Have you seen TikTok? Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I think that considering Bronzo said that—the only thing Bronzo would be able to say about hosts is that Bronzo refused to completely rule out the possibility that a woman will host Shark Week at some point.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And considering that's as far as she would go, I think we can safely assume, next year is not their year.

**Griffin:** Next year ain't it.

**Justin:** Right? Next year is a dude. And I can—if I can just put this into the universe, a DC Universe dude that would be absolutely killer to host Shark Week.

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Justin:** And it's our buddy, Ron Funches.

**Travis:** Oh my god!

**Justin:** Can you imagine a Ron Funches hosted Shark Week? King Shark himself.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** The one and only King Shark, out there hosting Shark Week? Perfect.

**Travis:** It's a—can I just say—

**Justin:** Perfect. Match made in heaven.

**Travis:** It's dumb that you haven't done it yet, Discovery.

**Justin:** It's dumb that you haven't done it yet. It's embarrassing.

**Griffin:** It's humiliating.

**Travis:** You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Griffin:** We don't know what the DC Universe is gonna look like this time next year, though. It could be—

**Travis:** Maybe we should do our own unbranded Shark Week?

**Justin:** I'm saying if there's a Rushmore, Funches is on it, of the DC Universe. That's all I'm saying.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yes. We should do our own unbranded Shark Week. Where like we don't call it Shark Week, but we just happen to have a week-long TV channel filled with shark programming. That we have hosted by Ron Funches. For no reason.

**Griffin:** That could be cool. What if we did eel day? And it was just a day, just about everyone's favorite... weird snake.

**Justin:** We should do a Clubhouse episode!

**Griffin:** Of eels?

**Justin:** That's just... just eel day. Where we just like—

**Travis:** Eel day would be great.



**Justin:** Celebrate eels for a whole day, like—

**Griffin:** It's kind of crazy that some of 'em have electricity—

**Travis:** I'd love to talk about the sunfish and the blobfish, some of the weird ones in there, never get their due.

**Griffin:** They're gross. I would—

**Justin:** Oh, man, the crossword loves 'em, though.

**Griffin:** Yeah, they do.

**Justin:** Crossword loves these little guys—

**Travis:** They're not gross when they're under the water, Griffin! The blobfish is built to be beautiful at the bottom of the ocean.

**Griffin:** Yeah, but I don't live—

**Travis:** Then we bring 'em up here. How do you think you'd look at the bottom of the ocean? Pretty squished, if you ask me.

**Griffin:** Yeah, but we won. We beat the fish. And so, we get to bring them where we live.

**Travis:** I guess that's true. So, you're saying the blobfish needs to get on it and make some kind of land submarine. So they can come drag you to the bottom of the ocean where the pressure will squish you.

**Griffin:** I'm saying if the blobfish very slowly came up to the surface where *the sun* and *the algae* and every other animal on Earth lives—

**Travis:** And war. And war, Griffin. There's no war at the bottom of the ocean.

**Griffin:** You think there's not a trench war? You don't think there's trench warfare happening?

**Travis:** Mariana Trench Warfare? No, I don't think so, Griffin. I think that they live in peace down there, in the fan fiction that I've written. And that's where they truly get along, the blobfish and me. I mean, I'm there too. Because in this world, they've granted me the magic to be able to survive at the bottom of the ocean. And I'm their leader of sorts.

**Griffin:** I was gonna ask if it's an erotic sort of... but when you're—

**Travis:** That's an element to it, but I wouldn't say it's the main—

**Griffin:** Yeah, I was gonna say, when you're dealing with blobfish—

**Travis:** Of course it's erotic. And so, I would say, Griffin, that I wouldn't—if I was putting my book on the shelves of a bookstore—hopefully coming to a bookstore in the year 2025—I wouldn't put it in the smut section. I'd put it in historical fiction.

**Griffin:** That's interesting.

**Travis:** It's a time travel thing too, where I'm back in time and I'm helping them evolve to be humans.

**Griffin:** Bustin' nuts at the Cambrian explosion.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's Travis. Travis, the all father. He went into one of those big vents, and busted. And that's where we all... that's how it all happened, folks."

**Travis:** You're all welcome!

**Justin:** So, Mothersharker is a scary—

**Travis:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** Series about where sharks give birth. So, one team of scientists deploys an arsenal of new technology to find out, but they need to meet some of the Bahamas' biggest tiger shark mothers face to face for it to work. So basically, its—Mothersharker is a series of bunch—about a bunch of nasty dogs that just want to watch sharks have babies. They wanna sneak a peek at some shark Jennys and see how they make-a the baby. So, Hammer Time is—

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** We've pivoted away from the tiger sharks and we're like, "But hammer sharks. Where do you hump, hammerheads? Where's your humping grounds?" And that's what we're—

**Griffin:** "Your heads look so weird, I bet you shoot the babies out in a strange way also. Sideways?"

**Travis:** Yeah, you got like a—

**Justin:** Tell me true.

**Travis:** Weird-shaped Jennys? Like a star—

**Griffin:** Sort of a cross?

**Travis:** Like a Star Wars kind of hangar bay?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** if you are watching this after July 13<sup>th</sup>, which unless you're editing it, you probably are. [titters]

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** You can go find out for yourself where hammerheads have-a their babies. [snickers]

**Travis:** [chortles]

**Justin:** Anywhere in the ocean. You can watch them... watch the pups.

**Griffin:** The answer is—I bet the answer is the ocean, unless some scientists got 'em to look at 'em close. And then they do it in a swimming pool.

**Travis:** I assume that there's nurse sharks there.

**Griffin:** [titters]

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** Yeah. Probably.

**Justin:** Next year, I want to see a mako in there. So that we can see how mako make-a the shark. [titters]

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** Mako mako shark!

**Justin:** Mako, mako the sharks!

**Griffin:** I actually, guys, feel my willpower sapping from my body.

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Travis:** [chortles]

**Justin:** Thank you so much for listening to our podcast, My Brother, My Brother and Me. I hope you've enjoyed yourself as much as we have. We are so excited—

**Travis:** We've having a good time over here.

**Justin:** We're having a good time over here. I'm sorry you missed Shark Week. But hey, here we are. What do we need to tell people about, guys? That's not my job.

**Travis:** I need to tell people that the next graphic novel in The Adventure Zone: Balance graphic novel series, *The Suffering Game*, comes out *this Tuesday!*

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You can get your your copy at [theadventurezonecomic.com](http://theadventurezonecomic.com). And also, we do a streaming series called Clubhouse. McElroy Family Clubhouse. Every Tuesday at noon, Eastern time, over at the McElroy Family YouTube. And this week, we're doing a very special episode celebrating the release of that graphic novel. So, don't miss it. Noon Eastern time, over at the McElroy Family YouTube channel, on Tuesday. We'll see you there.

**Justin:** Every Tuesday.

**Travis:** Every Tuesday! Sometimes we play games.

**Justin:** Within reason.

**Travis:** Sometimes we play video games. There's a lot of stuff, go check it out.

**Griffin:** It's a hoot.

**Travis:** And they're also all available. If you've missed them in the past, you can find them I believe under the live tab on our YouTube page.

**Griffin:** We got some shows coming up this week also. If you live in Detroit, we're going to be there doing MBMBaM and TAZ, July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. And they day after that, July 20<sup>th</sup>, we're gonna be in Cleveland. There's still tickets for those shows available.

If you're coming and you have a question you want answered at MBMBaM, or a wish to Fungalore that you want read aloud, email it to MBMBaM@maximumfun.org. And put your city in the subject line so we know where you're coming from.

**Travis:** We're also going to be at Gen Con this year, we're doing a book launch event for The Suffering Game as well there. So, make sure you get your tickets for that. As well as all of our future tours for the rest of the year, and all of our appearances and whatnot. You can find them at [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours). You got the ticket information and everything there.

And if you haven't yet, go check out all the merch over at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). And 10% of all proceeds this month go to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. So, go check that out. [Mcelroymerch.com](http://Mcelroymerch.com).

**Griffin:** Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It's a track that gets my heart pumping pure adrenaline when I'm out on the tracks.

**Travis:** Ooh?

**Griffin:** Hey, I got a wish here for the big Fungo. Can I throw it up?

**Justin:** [mouths a fading bee-like buzz] Zzz-zzz-zzw-zwww-www-www—

**Travis:** Doy-yim-yim-yim, doy-yim-yim-yim, doy-yim-yim-yim—

**Griffin:** I wish I could buy smaller quantities of lettuce at the grocery store.

**Justin:** [titters] My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

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

**Justin:** I agree with that one though. I've never not thrown away lettuce. 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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