

MBMBaM 733: Congratulations on Your Powerful Trunk

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

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

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me! An advice show for the modren era! I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy! And I have to remind myself that every single episode is another chance to shine.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation?! I'm your middlest brother, Travis big dog woof-woof McElroy!

Griffin: I appreciate the honesty of you have to remind yourself to do a good show.

Justin: Sometimes you hear—

Travis: Not to do a good show, Griffin! What he said was it's his chance to shine. Which would imply that perhaps up 'til now—

Griffin: You and I are gonna take a back seat on this one.

Justin: Oh, boys—

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy, the baby brother.

Justin: When you crack open your email and you see 733 staring at you in that subject line, part of you feels like, certainly, that's enough of them. Right? Certainly. [chuckles]

Travis: Surely, I've shown enough?

Justin: Certainly, that's enough of them! You get it.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Like how many good flights does the pilot have to do before you're like, "He's got it. He can fudge this one a little bit."

Griffin: He's good.

Justin: He's got it. But then I remember, every one of these is a work of art! [chuckles] Like every one of these is a special—

Travis: That's true, Justin. It's beautiful.

Justin: Individual works of art.

Griffin: That's true.

Justin: A chance to change hearts and minds.

Griffin: I think we're also in a bit of an unexciting numerical groove.

Justin: It is hard.

Griffin: 733, who gives a shit, man? Can you guys—

Justin: 737, we can do a little plane thing.

Griffin: Oh, it'll be like a Sully—we love a prompt for a joke. Like we can do—we love that shit. Juice, I'm worried you're gonna eat right through the ink cartridge of that pen. I'm real worried you're gonna—

Justin: I've been there. I've been there.

Travis: Yeah, don't eat that pen. But speaking of eating, if you guys are hungry, I've got a big announcement!

Justin: That's not a—the connective tissue of that—

Travis: I'll get there.

Griffin: Is quite loose. It's stringy.

Travis: So, give me a second. Because you know how influencers these days, and this is so topical, everybody's doing meal deals with a thing. I've decided to partner with—

Griffin: Yeah, happy 4th of July, by the way, everybody.

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: That is the date that we're recording this. Obviously talking about this.

Travis: I've decided to partner with Chipotle.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: To do a meal deal, the Travis. It is currently an unofficial partnership.

Griffin: But is this like when you are like a Cyberpunk hero, they give you a drink named after you at the hacker bar? Is that basically what kind of—

Travis: Yeah, sort of like that. My hope is that we'll kind of do a grassroots partnership deal. Where if enough people go in and ask for the Travis—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Chipotle will start carrying it?

Griffin: I am actually hugely—don't do that. Hey, listener at home. Don't do that. That'll make you uncomfortable.

Travis: You don't even know what the Travis is?!

Griffin: No, but I'm more talking about you are saying, "Hey, do this thing that'll embarrass you. And that'll bring me some sick satisfaction." They probably won't know what the Travis is if you do this at a Chipotle.

Travis: It won't bring me any satisfaction.

Griffin: Yeah, so again, like we're agreeing then, don't do this if you're listening. This is, what you're about to hear is pure jokes. Not in order.

Travis: You're gonna go in and you're gonna say, "Give me the Travis." They're gonna say, "What's that?"

Griffin: Don't actually do that.

Travis: Then you're gonna say—grab an extra—grab like a large cup, right? They would put a drink in. Fill it with guacamole, light ice. And that's the Travis.

Griffin: Okay... why is that the—why is that the Travis?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I guess let's start like, Juice, do you have—how many questions do you have off the top of your head? Because I've got like nine.

Justin: Why? Why this?

Griffin: Why do you like the—

Justin: Why this?

Travis: Oh. Because I don't like a lot of—

Griffin: Number one; why this? Juice and I are agreed—

Justin: Why this?

Griffin: Top priority—

Justin: [titters] Why this?

Griffin: Why—

Justin: Why this?

Griffin: Why does this?

Travis: Oh, because I don't like a lot of ice in my guacamole.

Griffin: Okay. So, that doesn't—that avoids, that sidesteps the question in sort of a funny way. What are you doing with all that guac? You just chuzzle that down?

Travis: Well, I mean, it's good if you need it. You can take it home, maybe put some cling film over the top, and then you got guacamole for a while.

Griffin: It's not a—sorry, no, you're mistaken and confused. Chipotle is not a Tex-Mex grocery store, where you go to—

Justin: Stock up on your essentials.

Griffin: Stock up your supply of guacamole.

Travis: Well, that's why it's the Travis. Because I'm kind of an out of the box thinker. And not a lot of people stock up on their supplies at Chipotle. And I would if I ever went there.

Griffin: You've never been to Chipotle?

Travis: I don't think so.

Justin: [chuckles] Wait, not for jokes—[chuckles] not for jokes—

Griffin: I am actually deeply curious. If we could step at it—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Travis, can I get you to break kayfabe for just a moment? And step out of jokes.

Justin: The thing I think is most interesting, like I'm already flashing forward to telling my wife like, "Honey, do you trust—" [laughs]

Travis: I just don't think I have!

Griffin: Travis, step outside—Travis, please. The kayfabe? I'm gonna take it. Joop! And put it down on the ground for a minute. We're gonna put that one pause.

Justin: Jokes, out of the room!

Griffin: Out of the room! No jokes, only honesty, real, uncut Trav. Please, I'm asking you as your brother to give me a real thing here. Have you eaten at Chipotle? Don't say, "I think I have." I need a—you would know whether or not you've done this or not.

Travis: Here's what I'll say. I can picture the interior of a Chipotle.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: I don't remember eating there. So if I have, it's been like once in my entire life.

Griffin: Yeah, no. I mean, if you can—

Justin: Tell me if you have eaten at Chipotle or not!

Griffin: If you've envisioned the front—

Travis: Memory is so malleable, is the problem.

Griffin: It has been worked—it's like a Cold Stone Creamery, but hot, and with rice and beans instead of ice cream.

Travis: Yeah, no, no, like I said, I understand the concept. And I can picture it.

Griffin: Yeah. Let me tell you this; you get a delivery bag of Chipotle, and you get out the bowl that you ordered. What's that look like? What's that look like, Trav?

Justin: What's your Chipotle order?

Griffin: Well, or what does the thing physically, actually look like?

Justin: Yeah, what are you eating, in your mind's eye?

Griffin: Don't say a big cup of ice and guacamole. The bit's on the fuckin' ground still. We put the bit in the corner.

Justin: [chuckles] We might go back and pick up the bit. We may not. I haven't decided yet.

Travis: I know there's like rice. It's kind of like a cardboard-y kind of bowl, and there's like rice in it.

Griffin: Yes?

Travis: And like some other fixes and stuff.

Griffin: Yeah. And how do they cover it on top of it?

Travis: I mean, like a burrito? Is that what you mean?

Justin: I didn't ask you to describe it for Pictionary. I wanted you to just tell me what you order there.

Travis: But I'm mostly—look, I'm conjuring—

Griffin: What's your favorite protein?! What's your favorite Chipotle protein?!

Travis: I...

Griffin: I don't think this motherfucker's eating at Chipotle, Juice! I don't think he's been at Chipotle in his life!

Justin: I don't think you've—have you had Chipotle?!

Travis: Why are you guys treating this like a gotcha when I started the entire segment saying I don't think I've ever eaten there? And now you guys are like quizzing me as I'm like, I don't know, man. And you're like, "Ha! I don't think you've eaten at Chipotle!"

Griffin: I will tell you this; we travel a lot, Travis. And the thing about the Chipotle is that if you're ever out on the road traveling and you're hungry, you start to get a grumble in your tummy? You can reach in your pocket, take out your keys, Chipotle is close enough for you to throw your keys at it and hit it. So you can go. So that's what's—just like law of large numbers, the number of Chipotles you've seen and decided not to eat at, is so large!

Justin: I have a way of settling this, Travis.

Travis: Okay?

Justin: Think about your favorite Chipotle in town—[chuckles]

Travis: Okay? I—

Justin: Okay, think about your number one favorite Chipotle—

Travis: I'm not even sure what we're settling anymore!

Justin: And remember the first time you went there, to your favorite Chipotle. Are you visualizing your favorite Chipotle? And think about the first time you went there.

Travis: I can't—I don't know where Chipotle is in Cincinnati.

Griffin: Scroll down your delivery app of choice, your orders, and scroll down and let—

Justin: Right now, Griffin, I'm gonna check and see how close Travis is.

Travis: 100%, I don't have any delivery orders from Chipotle in my phone.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: This, it's just like, I'm not—can I just say this; listener at home, if you're getting like confused or ready for this bit to end, I understand.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's truly a—this is just interesting now to me and Justin. And maybe only us.

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, we're not gonna do any jokes right now, okay?

Griffin: I don't even love Chipotle! I don't eat at Chipotle anymore because there's a lot of really great restaurants in my neighborhood now. I find I don't go there for that. But it's crazy to have never had Chipotle.

Justin: So...

Griffin: I think.

Travis: I would say statistically, in my 40 years. Because I'm not going to sit here and be like, maybe a paparazzo has like a single picture of me leaving Chipotle. I don't want to get gotcha'ed. I'm saying statistically, I've been to Chipotle enough in my 40 years. As you say, I don't think I've ever been there statistically. Right? Maybe once. But I know if that counts.

Griffin: No, Travis! No, Travis! No!

Justin: [chuckles] No! This is where it keeps breaking down for me. Okay, let's, I... I can't show you a diagram because it would dox Travis.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: But there's basically—

Travis: This would be a wild thing to doxx me about.

Griffin: A wild way to get him.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Wild way to go.

Justin: But basically, there is a pentagram of chipotles surrounding him.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: If you were to connect the dots between the Chipotles surrounding Travis, it would make a pentagram. And I'm gonna send it in Slack, Griff, so you know that I'm not fucking with you. [chuckles]

Travis: Like within four miles?

Griffin: Travis' house is built on a Chipotle ley line, and if—

Travis: Maybe that's it?

Griffin: If you just follow the ray, then you will eventually arrive. And you can eat it, and—

Travis: Like is there one within four miles of me? Oh yeah, 3.4 miles, 3.2.

Justin: So, Griff, as you can see there—

Travis: Oh my god, there's a bunch! In a four mile radius.

Justin: So many Chipotles.

Griffin: A lot, but it is arranged in a perfect constellation. I mean, that's, Travis, let me say; I kind of get it now. I kind of get it now. You're not getting a lot of Chipotle foot traffic of your own feet. So I do—I can understand that.

Justin: Yeah. It's like they're not—it looks like they're closing in on you from this diagram.

Griffin: It does. It looks like a family of velociraptors is executing the pincer.

Justin: Here is what I would just love, because we didn't have a lot of pre-planned content for this episode.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Trav, it's coming up on lunch time. What would you think about putting it in an order to get you some Chipotle that you can enjoy for the first time, *live* in our program?

Travis: I think that would make for some horrible audio, Justin.

Justin: [chuckles] Well, think about it.

Griffin: There's nothing they sell there that doesn't mush up terribly.

Justin: [chuckles] It's all mush.

Griffin: It's all mush. Sometimes they wrap up the mush so you can eat it on the go. But I like to rock with a bowl of mush.

Justin: I don't want to have to just put in an order and guess at what you like, Travis. So it would probably be better if you—

Travis: No, thank you! I—

Justin: It'll be better if you put in the order—

Griffin: I also like to, I do bowl because I like to be able to see the mush also. Which is—

Justin: Let's talk about Travis's first Chipotle order. Okay?

Griffin: Yeah. Do you burrito or bowl? We start there.

Travis: Which one—

Justin: Well, I don't even know if he has the app open. Hey, Trav, pull up the Chipotle app on your phone—[chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: What? I don't have the app?

Griffin: C-H-I in the search bar, and then it will auto fill. And it'll show up on your phone.

Travis: How much—which—

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah! Sometimes you lose track of it.

Travis: It seems like a lot of work. If on—I'm on it—and I'm not saying the ordering process. I'm saying I'm looking at pictures of like their dishes. And it seems like a lot of work to eat them!

Justin: [laughs] Is it triggering anything within you?

Travis: No? I don't like eating things that fall apart while I'm eating them.

Justin: Okay, I understand that very much.

Griffin: Bowl.

Justin: Bowl is a good way to go.

Travis: Okay?

Justin: So you're thinking about a bowl. I love that.

Travis: I'm not thinking about a bowl! You guys are like, mentalisting—

Griffin: We're thinking bowl for this one.

Travis: A bowl into my head.

Griffin: Juice and I are thinking, for Travis, a bowl!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I feel like I'm having a bespoke—like I'm at a tailor. And you guys are asking a series of questions.

Griffin: A bowl for Travis!

Justin: [chuckles] I'm just responding to you. You said you don't like when things fall apart. We have a limited set of options for people like yourself, okay? It's gotta all be caught by something, man!

Griffin: [guffaws] Yeah, Travis, the other options is a salad. And I know you're not going there, man. You're gonna get the bowl.

Justin: Bowl or a burrito—we have burrito bowls, we have salads. Which do you want?

Griffin: Gotta go bowl. Produced. What are we gonna—

Travis: No, because I'm worried if we go too far down this, I'm gonna have to eat this thing.

Griffin: It's pretty good.

Justin: It's not Hook. This doesn't work that way, Travis. Like, if we talk about the food all day, it's not just gonna show up at your house.

Travis: Oh, they have smoked brisket. Oh, it's plus \$5 though. Plus \$5 for smoked brisket?

Justin: Now you're talking. So the burrito bowl is like... is just like if you dumped it all out. And then the salad is just the burrito bowl with some shredded lettuce in there. Don't let it fool you, it's not a salad. [titters]

Griffin: Yeah, don't be fooled. You could actually turn a burrito bowl into a salad by saying, "Let me get some extra romaine lettuce in there." Life hack!

Justin: Now, protein, Trav. What are you thinking protein-wise? What would be your go-to?

Griffin: He balked at the brisket, so I know some of the premium options—

Justin: He balked at the brisket.

Griffin: The premium options he's not gonna go for.

Travis: It's just \$5, I mean...

Griffin: No, it's true, that's a huge upcharge. That's crazy.

Travis: Carnitas, perhaps?

Griffin: They're great.

Justin: Carnitas are a great choice, Trav. Tender, juicy.

Griffin: That's a great—I'll tell you what I—I'll tell you what I love about carnitas, Trav. And I think it represents a lot of wisdom on your part, and perhaps even some systemic knowledge of Chipotle you probably possess because you've eaten there before. Carnitas is a beginner, I think. A great

beginner option. It's not as assertive or spicy as a barbacoa. It's not traditional and boring like a chicken.

Justin: I will say this. Now, the chicken at Chipotle, though, does pack enough heat to put some toddlers off.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true, actually.

Justin: Carnitas are a nice, mild option. There's a big spice to the chicken there, I just want to warn you.

Griffin: Great texture.

Justin: If you ever eat at Chipotle, you—

Griffin: Great texture. *Really* mushy. Really, really mushy meat.

Justin: The perfect amount of mush.

Griffin: Sweet, mushy meat.

Travis: I don't like this!

Griffin: No, no, no, but it's good when you get it all together in one bite.

Travis: No, I'm not saying your use of the word mushy. I'm saying that the experience I'm having currently, in this moment, occupying the body that I have right now as you two talk to me; I'm not enjoying it! [chuckles] I think is where I'm at.

Griffin: That's weird, man.

Justin: Let's move on. Let's move on then.

Travis: But now I am hungry...

Griffin: No, let's move on.

Justin: It's a very fair... a very fair point.

Travis: I think it was just too much. Just too much.

Griffin: No, it was fair. We gotta move on.

Justin: Too much on—that makes perfect sense to me, yeah.

Travis: It got too real!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Well, and there's also, it's hard to contribute when you've only been to Chipotle a handful of times at most. [titters]

Travis: A quantum physics number of times.

Justin: Five to six times.

Travis: A Schrödinger's amount of times!

Griffin: Which kind of their salsas, just to put a bow on this, do you prefer?

Travis: In general, in life, I like a verde. Do they have any kind of verde?

Griffin: Do they?

Justin: This is a green—

Griffin: Yeah, I guess so. It's more of a darkish... darkish, brownish.

Justin: "I have long worked a very physically demanding job, and have recently taken up rock climbing. Between all the heavy lifting at work and hitting the climbing gym several times a week, I have a lot of upper body strength and extremely well defined arms. It's gotten to the point where my brothers, Travis and Griffin—"

Griffin: [laughs] Whoa, wait!

Travis: Wait.

Justin: [laughs] Wait, huh?! Okay... "It's gotten to the point where co-workers and new acquaintances regularly said things like, 'Wow, you are built,' or, 'You have really nice arms.' What is the appropriate response to this? They're not being weird or creepy. And I'm very proud of my physical strength." That's from Muscular and Trying to be Modest in Manhattan. She/her.

Travis: Me go-to?

Griffin: Is it so hard to be so strong and built? Oh, man, poor you with your huge, powerful, strong body.

Travis: My go-to? Because this happens to me all the time.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [snickers]

Travis: Happens to me all the time.

Griffin: Sorry, Justin just fuckin'—

Travis: Did you just punch?

Griffin: In response to my thing, just sort of uppercutted his microphone. And now he's busting.

Justin: I was—I was going to—[chuckles] I was going—[chuckles]

Griffin: I know what you were trying to do!

Justin: I was gonna make a crying expression with my hands, like—

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: But instead you punched your microphone like a real professional!

Justin: Well, I was gonna pretend like I was wiping tears out. And then it occurred to me that that's not gonna read on the podcast.

Griffin: It was a weird energy I—

Justin: But it occurred to me as I was hitting the microphone, so I just bailed on the action.

Griffin: [titters] Yeah, it was cool.

Justin: So it looked like I was just hitting the microphone and then stopping.

Griffin: I didn't even like the energy of the bit I did. And I was like, hopefully, we'll just move on from that. But Justin really hung a lantern on it with that uppercut.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Travis, I apologize for interrupting.

Travis: No, no, no, it's fine. This happens to me all the time. I've got powerful fish lifters. You just hit 'em with a, "Huh, these old things?"

Griffin: That's great. I love that.

Justin: That's good. I am really torn, because I've been telling my kids that we just don't comment on people's bodies ever. [titters] That's been kind of the hard line that we have drawn at our house, is just see everybody as kind of a shapeless spirit that's just living.

Griffin: Great, yeah.

Justin: I feel like I don't necessarily—I feel like nobody should be talking about anybody's bodies at all. Just, period.

Travis: Okay. But the question isn't about them complimenting other people's bodies, Justin.

Griffin: No, no, no, no.

Justin: But other people hear this too, right? And so I just wanted to point out that a much better thing might be in your day-to-day life is to just like not—[chuckles] to just be like a choice anything, really.

Griffin: And I'll tell you what I don't like about complimenting only muscles, is if someone is like wiry or stocky in like a cool way, it's, you don't—that one doesn't get much sort of commentary. Because you can't walk up to somebody and be like, "Hey, you're stocky in a way." I think that's a wild sort of—

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. "You look difficult to knock over."

Griffin: Yeah. "What a dirty individual you are, wow!"

Justin: See?

Griffin: "Great trunk."

Justin: [snickers]

Travis: Powerful!

Griffin: Don't tell someone they have a—

Justin: A powerful trunk!

Travis: Immovable!

Griffin: "Congratulations on your powerful trunk!"

Travis: "Look at this immovable oak over here. This redwood."

Justin: Why do I have to solve the problems of someone who is so physically strong, hm?

Griffin: True.

Justin: Why do I have to solve your problem?

Griffin: Well, so that she may—

Travis: Well, physically strong people can be emotionally weak, Justin.
[chuckles]

Griffin: We, Juice, just to clarify, we are the mouse pulling the thorn out of the lion's paw. We help this strong, like muscle-y person, so that later if bullies come to try to get us, we can say, "Careful now, we have a strong friend."

Justin: Yeah, we helped them.

Griffin: We helped them kind of, a little bit.

Travis: That's why in like TV shows and movies, you never see like, oh, here's the strong, you know, person, and here's like the nerd person. They work together, because one—or you never see like the nerd be like, "I'll help you with your homework, and you help me with bullies." And then the jock is like, "I'm a straight-A student, and I've got... I've got, you know, a scholarship to Harvard."

Griffin: The jocks are so smart on TV now, yeah.

Travis: And then the nerds like, "Oh, shit, I don't have anything to offer you anymore." That never happens.

Justin: Yeah. I think the bigger problem is not what you do with your mouth and saying, but what happens with the arms.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Because I'm thinking about if I'm carrying a baby or something, and people are like, "Wow, nice arms." I'm immediately—

Travis: They might be talking about the baby.

Griffin: Fair.

Justin: Maybe. But I'm immediately so aware of what I'm doing with them, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm immediately like, I guess I should not flex. Or flex more to show it off better? Or—

Griffin: That's a challenge they have posed for you. Great arms.

Justin: Right. Am I... Should I show 'em the full capacity? If they're like, "Oh, if you're interested in arms, let me show you at their fullest."

Travis: "Oh, and let me show you all the feachies they got. I can show you, look, they can do this. They can do this!"

Justin: [chuckles] "Oh, a fan of arms? A fellow armsman?"

Griffin: When you're holding a baby, you're in the fucking zone! Don't take me out of my zone. I'm in the zone. I need total concentration on this.

Travis: That is true.

Griffin: When I'm in my auto zone.

Travis: But that's why I like these old things, because there's enough—

Griffin: These old things?

Travis: Of a humorous response that you can get away with even flexing a little bit more. And everyone's like, "How playful," right? And you say, "Oh, these old things?" And they're like, "Ah! What a bashful, playful response, while still showing off all the special features that their arms possess."

Griffin: I have shed pretty much all of my knee-jerk dislike or judgment of people with big, strong bodies. Because what I've learned is a lot of 'em are just like... they're strong nerds. Like they're nerds about—

Travis: They're just like us.

Griffin: Watching Physical 100, that's 100 big nerds that care only about muscle stuff and sports stuff. But they're like nerds about it. It's interesting. And so to me, it could be they're trying to get you into a conversation about like how do you do your—how do you do your shit? I think that's interesting.

Justin: How do you get strong?

Griffin: Because you do it, you take it seriously, and you get strong 'cause of it. And that's neat.

Justin: That is neat.

Griffin: Just don't be a jerk with your might. That's the big problem that we all have.

Justin: Use it responsibly, is the issue.

Travis: They might also be looking for a not weird way to ask you if you would like just pick 'em up and carry 'em around for a while. Because I would like that.

Griffin: I'm tired. I'm so tired.

Travis: I have to pick my kids up all the time, and there's no 12 foot like adult behind me who then picks me up while I'm tired? That's all I want.

Griffin: And once the boss starts doing it, it's gonna be like, is the boss being passive-aggressive? Is the boss threatened by me because I'm like way huger than the bosses?

Travis: No, they just wanna be carried around.

Justin: Do you worry that people—that you need to direct people to other muscles that they should enjoy as long as they're around?

Griffin: "If you like—if you like these, wait 'til you see—"

Justin: "This is just what's on display."

Travis: "Let me take you on a tour!" [chuckles]

Griffin: "I'm gonna hike my pants—"

Travis: "Follow me!"

Griffin: "I want you to see my quads. I am gonna hike my pants way, way up. Like, I need HR in the room while I do this. It's just quads."

Travis: Well, that's—I mean, that's what would happen if someone admired like you were playing Pokémon cards or whatever and they said, "That's a great one." You be like, "Well, let me show you some of my rare cards," right?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, sure.

Travis: Why can't I do that with my muscles?

Griffin: Yeah, exactly.

Travis: Let me show you muscles other people don't have, that I've developed. I've collected all the muscles.

Justin: I mean, I'm really having a hard time imagining being strong.
[titters]

Travis: Do you wanna see my muscles, Justin?

Justin: I'm really struggling for the bit. I'm trying to come up with some jokes that I might do if I was a strong person. And I really am struggling to—

Travis: You have powerful legs?!

Griffin: You have—let me tell you, man, sometimes you come up to me when we're on tour, and you give me a little back rub. A little shoulder massage. And that shit is fearsome. That shit is—

Travis: Yeah, bud.

Griffin: Is effective.

Justin: Yeah, that's true. I guess I am very strong. Thank you, Griffin.

Travis: And you're a shorts wearer, and I've enjoyed your quads and calves many a time.

Griffin: Absolutely sweet—I mean, we all have pretty great gams. It's a sort of—

Travis: My gams could be better. I'm an arms man. I could have better gams. I know that about myself. I'm trying.

Griffin: Hey, I know we're getting close to Money Zone time, but before we do, I just want to do a quick... This could be a new segment on the show, if we wanted to, just a quick background check. Which is to say like let's sort of do a quick audit of all of our backgrounds.

Obviously, mine's sort of very shelf-forward, where I try to show off some of my favorite stuff. And then Juice has the sort of like paneling behind him, and he'll put up a few of his little 3D printed little toys up there. And I think that's so cool. And then Travis used to have more plants and fish in it. And

now I see there is one plant, and a skeleton. And then we also have, I believe that is a plushy Donkey Kong.

Travis: It is a plushy Donkey Kong. I got that from—

Griffin: A claw machine, I'm guessing?

Travis: A claw machine, while we were doing Donkey Kong Country. And so I put him up there. There's also a little statue thing of Merle, Magnus, Taako and Angus behind me. And our, of course, YouTube play button that we got for getting—

Griffin: Still sucks.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Still sucks that you just took that.

Justin: It's hidden behind plants. Like he's not even—

Griffin: I wouldn't even hide it. I would put... I would, honestly, Trav, I would swap the positions of Donkey Kong and the YouTube Play Award.

Justin: Do you want me to print you a frame that just says 'Travis's button?' [titters]

Griffin: Hide Donkey Kong, because we don't even do him anymore.

Travis: Ah!

[clattering thud]

Travis: Oh, no!

Justin: [chuckles] Travis dropped his skeleton off the thing.

Griffin: Yeah, the YouTube play button, give it a more featured position. And then Donkey Kong—

Justin: It's hard bragging—I think it feels bad bragging about the silver, doesn't it? [titters] I mean, it's kind of the worst one you could have.

Travis: It feels weird.

Justin: It kind of puts an exact cap on your popularity level. [titters] And it's like, this is exactly how famous these guys are.

Griffin: Well, we only just started doing YouTube stuff. I feel great about—

Travis: It's just so prominent now!

Justin: Just a few years ago.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: Our YouTube channel's like, what, a decade old?

Griffin: [laughs] Travis, that's way better. That's way better, man.

Justin: Now you look like a pro.

Travis: It feels too prominent. I feel like I'm showing off.

Justin: Travis, please.

Griffin: Where does your light belong? On the candlestick or under the bushel?

Travis: You're right. Yeah, you're right. Don't hide it under a bushel, no.

Griffin: Don't hide you YouTube—

Travis: [sings] Put it on your shelf.

Griffin: It would have to be a pretty big bushel. Put that YouTube silver award up so that everyone in the house may enjoy it.

Justin: "At my local coffee shop today, I noticed wrestler John Cena dropped by." I doubt it.

Griffin: Wow. [guffaws]

Travis: Just calling our—

Griffin: Hey! Hey, guys, have we ever done this before when they asked the question and we're like, fuckin' lying.

Travis: Liar.

Justin: I doubted that they saw him because I...

Travis: Oh, I see.

Griffin: Okay, I mean, let's unpack—let's unpack this then.

Justin: I thought that—I don't follow wrestling, but I thought there was something about you can't see him.

Griffin: Oh, gosh! Okay, now I get it.

Justin: I'm so sorry. No, I was out of my lane. Guys, I shouldn't have tried to do a wrestling one.

Griffin: No, Juice, this was my failing. And it's my—it's the way I lapsed as a wrestling fan. I forgot that was his—

Justin: Blew it again—

Griffin: You didn't blow it! You did a kick ass joke. Me and Travis blew it on that one.

Travis: I did.

Griffin: We didn't do a very good job.

Justin: So anyway... [titters] Saw John Cena. "Asked a barista later and was told he visits regularly. Obviously, the best thing to do with this information is nothing." Which I will admit that you've already failed at by writing this email, but moving on.

Travis: But this is the next degree closest to nothing.

Justin: This is next to nothing.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: "And let him go about his day. But if given the opportunity while he's around, brothers, what might be the most impressive way to order and drink a coffee or tea?"

Griffin: Oh, my friend...

Travis: I think that this is too short sighted. I don't think there's an impressive way to order a drink or a tea or whatever. That said, I do think there are impressive things one could be doing in a coffee shop at a table that would be noticed and appreciated by anyone, let alone Jonathan Cena.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like what, Trav?

Travis: Right? Like playing chess against yourself. Right?

Justin: Okay, interesting.

Travis: Spinning the thing around? That's gonna get noticed. That's gonna get noticed. Finishing your novel and loudly announcing, "It's finished!" When you slam the laptop shut. Something like that would be appreciated.

Griffin: Yeah. That's not gonna work. I do think you would have to do a pretty extreme version of it, of like closing your laptop and be like, "Hey everyone! I just got engaged!" Then John Cena might look at you and be like, "Great work." I don't think anything less than a fresh engagement—"My wife's in labor!" Fuckin' John Cena will turn and definitely give you like—

Travis: Carry me to the hospital, John Cena!

Griffin: Well, no, see, here's—

Travis: Ah, yeah.

Griffin: Let's talk about expectations.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: You will never be John Cena's friend. Never ever.

Travis: Whoa?

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Never ever, ever, ever. And you—

Travis: You don't know that?!

Griffin: No, I know that. I'll never be John Cena's friend. Neither will Justin, neither will Travis. It will never ever, ever happen.

Justin: Ever, ever, ever, ever, ever.

Travis: Oh my god, you guys haven't heard of manifesting? Come on, The Secret, man. I've got it written on my board.

Justin: No, we'll never be John Cena—that's why I wouldn't care to see John Cena in a green room.

Griffin: I'd love to—

Justin: If there's no chance I'll ever be the person's friend, I think it's great to see a celebrity.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think it's great seeing a famous person, because I will feel no pressure. If I see someone like, I bet we could get to be friends, then it's—

Griffin: It's gone. It's all out the window.

Justin: Yeah, forget about it.

Griffin: It's chaos. It's pandemonium.

Travis: Sometimes I forget how polar opposite we are in some regards.

Griffin: So different.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's cool, though. It takes a village to make a podcast.

Justin: Travis, I want to hear how you would wear down John Cena. Because I think you could do this.

Travis: No, no, no! I'm saying but the difference was when I see somebody and I'm like, I could be friends with them, that feels good. When I see a celebrity and I'm like, that's so far out of my league, I suddenly panic.

Justin: No, but like Travis, I'm saying if I had to do this thing that this person is talking about.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: And I was like Arsène Lupin, and I needed guidance, you are the person I would come to. And I would be like, Travis, help me plan this friendship heist.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And I'm asking you as the best in the biz that I know, what would be your strategy to bring down, by which we mean—

Griffin: And then wait, just let me get on your other shoulder here and say that I think that this bit could trend towards levels of kind of hypnotism, or running some sort of con. Or other sort of things that might remove John Cena's agency in some way—

Travis: I will say this—

Griffin: And let me just get ahead of that. Let me just get ahead of that and say don't do that. Because people do not like that.

Travis: By doing this, by saying it out loud, I am trademarking it and no listener is allowed to do it.

Griffin: Okay, but if you ever—

Travis: I would—

Griffin: If part of it is putting him in a big box, or—

Travis: No, no, no, I would never.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: Calling Brock tune.

Travis: I would never Brock tune him, no. No way.

Griffin: Okay, great.

Travis: I would... he gets in line a couple of people behind me, right? And I would lean into the...

Griffin: Tell me how you orchestrate that. First, let's stop there. Tell me how you orchestrate it so that John Cena gets in line a couple people behind you.

Travis: I don't orchestrate it! I'm saying if it happens. He comes in here often, right? I see him come in.

Justin: [laughs] But in my head, you just rolled out the map and you've like—and like turn on the light. Above it you're like—

Travis: You're assuming—

Justin: "Okay, here is the plan. Hopefully, he will end up two customers behind me!"

Griffin: [guffaws] It would be so much easier.

Travis: You're assuming that I have orchestrated this. That's not how I operate, my man. I'm in there, I see an opportunity.

Griffin: But you don't see—this is what I'm saying, Travis, you don't see the opportunity. You got to the store before him, and there's two people behind you, and then John Cena. That's crazy! There's no fuckin' way—

Travis: Okay, cashier? Cashier. He comes in, I lean to the cashier and I say like, "Here's, you know, an extra like 15 bucks. I want to pay for whatever he gets. I'm a big fan. Don't make a big deal out of it." Right?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: So his order is covered with whatever he orders, right?

Griffin: Is this at a star—so this is at just like a cafe? Okay.

Travis: Yeah. In this circumstance. Right? And then, if he decides, to say something like, "Oh, man, I really appreciate it. Thank you so much." Right? Because he's a regular. I'm not taking this opportunity as like a one-time chance.

Griffin: There will be more opportunities.

Travis: Right? Now he at least has some kind of recognition of who I am.

Griffin: Rome was not built in a day.

Travis: And now there's an opportunity to perhaps engage in conversation the next time, or a shared interest is present. But I think that is also true of literally anyone.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Right? Outside of that. Where, you know, you see someone reading a book that you've read before and you say, "I love that book. That's a great choice." Whatever, right? Some kind of introduction, not going to change, you know, you're not going to write books about how great this introduction was. It's just a chance to start a conversation with somebody.

Griffin: Yeah. It is more high-pressure, though, than a conversation with a normal person. Because when you're talking to a normal person, you're not running the risk of making such a big boner that they go on their wrestling show that night and they're like, "This fucking jabroni tried to buy my drink at Drink More!"

"No way?"

"His name was Travis McElroy." Like, and then like you're done in that town.

Travis: Can you imagine, though? Hey, Griffin, in that scenario—

Griffin: That's a win for you, isn't it? That's a win for you?

Travis: John Cena gets up and like fuckin'—like Smackdown or whatever and starts talking shit about me?

Griffin: Ah, Travis, that's sick, man.

Travis: Are you kidding me?! I'm over the moon!

Griffin: And then fuckin' Brock Lesnar comes out and is like, "I actually like Travis McElroy!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "I thought Graduation was good!"

Griffin: "He's an acquired taste, but it's his fuckin'—"

Travis: "It's not for everybody, but he's trying his best!"

Griffin: "He's the spice that makes it right!" And then—

Travis: "Yeah, he needs—he's—listen, I like him and I get that he's not funny, but that's the humor!"

Griffin: [chuckles] Brock Lesnar with a fuckin' knife tattoo and a fuckin' Trav Nation tattoo on his other pec. I like that shit.

Justin: Hey, I got—I think I've got this cracked wide open, guys.

Griffin: Oh, boy. Okay?

Justin: You ready?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You're John Cena. You're John Cena and I'm me, all right?

Travis: Wait, which one of us?

Griffin: Both of us are John Cena?

Justin: So you're—

Travis: We would equal half of a John Cena put together.

Justin: You're both John Cena and I'm me.

Griffin: Okay. Wait, let's fuse. Haa-yaa!

Justin: Can you not make this about you guys? Thank you. [titters]

Travis: Oh, sure, sure, sure.

Griffin: My apologies.

Justin: Yeah, it's okay. It's no problem. "Piece of gum, Mr. Cena?"

[pause]

Griffin: Yeah—

Justin: That's the whole thing! That's the whole thing! [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, okay—

Justin: That's the whole thing. [chuckles]

Griffin: I thought we were gonna have to interact with it.

Justin: No, no, no, listen, listen, listen. "Piece of gum, Mr. Cena?"

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: The confidence that you're projecting is truly outrageous.

Travis: I'm loving the confidence! Can you try it again saying John?

Griffin: Wait, what's this? What's slapping the leg?

Travis: I just want to hear a take—can you do a take where you say John?

Griffin: Yeah. And raise your mic up too, so you don't have to hunch over like a little—like a... [titters] cool.

Justin: Piece of gum, John? [laughs]

Griffin: Whoa, why did you yell? "Why did you yell at me, Jabroni? I'm gonna talk about you on SmackDown tonight. What's your full Christian name?"

Travis: Can you give me a stick of—give me stick of gum, John?

Griffin: Stick of gum, John?

Justin: Stick of gum, John? Stick of... would you like a stick of gum, John?

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: John? Hey, John. John... That's too—

Travis: I wanna recruit you to an elite unit of—

Griffin: Give me a Mr. Cena? Give me a Mr. Cena.

Justin: Stick of gum, Mr. Cena?

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Stick of gum, Mr. Cena? And then if he says yes... then we're friends. If he says no—he's getting coffee, and eventually he's going to be like, "I probably should take this poor guy's gum. It seems really important to him."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then he starts to rely on that gum, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because that maybe that day someone's like, "Hey, John? Great breath today."
"Thank you. I had a piece of gum." And then it's like you're a lucky charm maybe, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Eventually he'll say yes! You'll be friends. Stick of gum, Mr. Cena?

Travis: And in this universe, sorry, John Cena doesn't know where to get gum from?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Outside of you?

Griffin: That's a good question.

Justin: Whoever thinks of picking some up. Look, I got a jumbo bag of Eclipse on my desk right now. No problem, Mr. Cena. He's not gonna have to walk around with jangly—

Griffin: That's not a click of gum though, right? Those are little—those are little sort of tablet gums.

Travis: Cube of gum?

Griffin: Cube of—

Justin: Chicle tab. Chicle tab?

Griffin: Chicle tab of gum, Mr. Cena? This is great. Juice, I know—

Justin: Coffee candy, Mr. Cena?

Griffin: I know—

Travis: Most towelette?

Griffin: Juice—

Justin: Mr. Cena, would you like my pocket knife, Mr. Cena? Any help today?

Travis: Back rub?

Justin: Would you like—

Griffin: Now—

Justin: Cash, Mr. Cena?

Griffin: Let me just ask you; how many pieces—in all the times that we've like been lucky enough to like have, you know, face time with our audience, how many sticks of gum have you accepted from them? How many sticks of gum?

Justin: Okay, but here's the problem, is that we're colleagues in this situation because we just go the same coffee shop, right?

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: There's no power dynamic.

Travis: Then what if you're just a stranger?

Justin: There's no power dynamic, right?

Travis: You have to pretend like you don't know him. Maybe—

Griffin: Yeah, no Mr. Cena.

Travis: "Hey, I got enough gum here for everybody in the place." And you offer it to some people and then you say, "You, big stranger."

Griffin: Yeah. Or, "Piece of gum, mister?"

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Just like, "Hey, you're the Undertaker, right? You want some gum?" And then I'll hand him—

Travis: Oh, a little negging?

Justin: I don't know if that's good or bad.

Griffin: I that would be—I think people would be pretty stoked.

Travis: "Hey, small fry. Piece of gum?" That way, let him know you see him just as another—

Griffin: And now we can go back to the other question about being strong, and being complimented on your strength.

Justin: This is really a holistic episode. I think we're helping everybody.

Griffin: This one's for the strong ones! For sure.

Travis: "Ever been to Chipotle, John?"

Griffin: If you told me—if you told me, John—

Justin: If you told me John Cena had not—[chuckles]

Griffin: That's, there's no fucking way John Cena doesn't pound—see, because at Chipotle, you can get as much protein packed into a little... a little bowl as you possibly—as you want. So definitely John Cena eats at Chipotle two or three times a week.

Justin: But he doesn't go himself, right?

Griffin: No, he doesn't fuckin'—he doesn't do anything himself.

Justin: If you're asking me if John Cena has ever physically been inside a Chipotle, I want to say it's no, right? Like no feels like the answer to me. If you—Griffin, are you googling for pictures of John Cena in a Chipotle right now?

Griffin: I'm trying to tell. I'm trying to find it.

Justin: I'll tell you what, you won't find any pictures of me in a Chipotle. But that's not—because who cares? Like of course he's there.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: No, I can't find it. I'm coming up short.

Justin: I'll also say, Trav, I think they got some of the best chips in the business when they're hittin'.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Let's go to the Money Zone.

Griffin: [chuckles]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Did you guys know that John Cena used to be a character in WWE called the Doctor of Thugonomics?

Travis: No!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It sucks so bad! If you told me the Doctor of Thugonomics had not been to a Chipotle, I would push you over physically. You're lying to me.

Justin: If you have been putting something off for a long time, part of the problem may be that you just haven't made it convenient enough for yourself.

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: If I have a task that I hate doing, maybe it's not that I'm a procrastinator, maybe it's just not the right size of commitment. Maybe you gotta take it a little bit step at a time. Let me give you one example. That thing you've been trying to mail and it's like such a hassle because you gotta go all the way down the post office.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: And you gotta wait in a line and you gotta talk to the people and you gotta find the parking and all that stuff. What if you could do all of it at your house, with stamps.com? Imagine—

Travis: Wait, do I have to deal with the people in my house?

Griffin: For the parking?

Justin: Well, only if they barge in on you. If you lock the door, you won't have to deal with anybody while you're doing all of your shipping business. All you need to make this work is a computer in a printer. They'll send you a scale so you can measure out what you're sending. And they've got huge discounts. It's not just more convenient. You can save like 89% off at USPS and UPS as part of this. So, make this one thing, mailing stuff, just a little bit easier. And maybe make—

Travis: Do it!

Justin: It a little bit—a little bit easier on yourself to get some of this stuff off your to-do list. Free up more time for more important business with stamps.com. Sign up at stamps.com and enter code My Brother for a special offer that includes a four-week trial, plus free postage!

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: And a free digital scale!

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: No long-term commitments or contracts? That's stamps.com.

Griffin: Sorry—

Justin: Sorry.

Griffin: I always forget the listeners can't see the video. Tony Hawk just showed up and started doing all—

Justin: [chuckles] Right.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's stamps.com, code My Brother. Stamps.com, and the code is My Brother!

[break]

John: Egos, I'm John Hodgman.

Janet: At eggosum, Janet Varney.

John: And we're the host of E Pluribus Motto, a podcast dedicated to exploring the mottos of every state in the union!

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Janet: And for the Latin-challenged among you and us, listen to E Pluribus Motto every other Monday on Maximum Fun!

[break]

[theme music plays]

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]

Justin: "I won a \$10 gift card to a local tea shop. The prize package included this faux movie poster made to promote the return of one of their flavors. They made some fake trailers on Instagram. I have no intention of hanging the poster, but I feel like I can't throw it or give it away. What do I do?" That's from Impossible Poster in Post Falls—

Griffin: So, the post—

Justin: Idaho?

Griffin: [chuckles] ID? Yeah. What other state would that be?

Justin: I don't know.

Griffin: [titters] The poster, because this is primarily an audio medium, is for a film called The Tarot Returns. And by film, I guess I mean flavor. And then it's just a picture of four people sitting in chairs. And that's about it.

Justin: It's pretty dramatic!

Griffin: It's very dramatic looks on their faces. And they are all wildly different sizes. Like wildly different sizes.

Justin: [chuckles] And different expression too I think.

Travis: And I think I would say, I think the scale here would denote a level of importance within the flavor.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like the rankings here.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: And the way it is composed, it looks like this would be like a, you know, a movie with not a huge budget. But they did get Christian Slater to be in it. And so in the poster, Christian Slater is like four times the size of any other dude. That's what we're working with here.

Travis: I guess there is one thing I want to address with the makers of The Tarot Returns. There are four people featured prominently in this poster, and only three names listed. So there must have been some kind of crediting dispute.

Griffin: Well, the other one's Christian—like you know that's Christian Slater. You don't even need to put his name on the post.

Travis: Oh, I see.

Justin: Yeah. This is tough sometimes, but you gotta remind yourself that it's not. It doesn't have feelings. Like, it doesn't—you've shared the image, right? You've captured it for history.

Griffin: That's a great point, Juice.

Justin: You have, I will say, by sending this in, extended its power, extended its reach.

Griffin: Dramatically, dramatically.

Justin: Dramatically, right? You've done your part.

Griffin: I mean, Travis picked the question out to include in the show. So really a lot of the credit goes to Travis.

Justin: I bet you this will end up on our—

Griffin: Tunblow or something.

Justin: Instagram, something. You know, you'll see it out there.

Travis: I—Justin, I would like you—

Justin: But it's done. Its work is done.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I would like you to tell me if I'm wrong, Justin. I think you'd put this up in your home.

Justin: Would I, Justin McElroy?

Travis: Yeah. I think that if you got this from a local café where you won a \$10 gift card, and you were given this poster. And you could put this up in your home and have people say, "Sorry, what is this?" Somewhere in your home, you would hang this up.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: Yeah...

Griffin: I would in a heartbeat.

Justin: Yeah, that's probably true.

Travis: I would too.

Justin: I did steal the beer prices sign that they hung up during Margaritaville, because someone had used AI art to create it. And it is... truly outstanding.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: There's a lot of real unpredictable geometry and a lot of extra teeth in Mr. Muffin's head.

Griffin: Awesome! I do—I mean, lots of people pay tens of thousands of dollars for these priceless works of art, just so that they can have a topic of conversation when they do invite guests over to sit and socialize in the

drawing room. This is a free poster you got for not a lot of money. And it actually came with money.

Justin: They didn't even want it. [titters]

Griffin: You got \$10 extra, for coffee stuff. Artista. And so that's great. If I walk into your home and you have a fake movie poster for something called The Tarot Returns with three names, but four boys, I'm going to want to know what the story is with that. Do you know those people? No.

Justin: Are they friends of yours?

Griffin: Are they friends of yours?

Justin: Huh?

Griffin: No?

Travis: What is this movie? It's not. It's a flavor.

Griffin: It's not a movie. It's a tea flavor.

Travis: It's a flavor. It's a flavor?

Justin: Huh...

Griffin: So you like tea? Let's talk about that.

Justin: Are you friends? Or... Are you guys close? Or...

Travis: No, no, no?

Griffin: Dude, this is such a fucking good one, because they learn a lot about you, that you like tea. Every first date you should demand must be in your drawing room. And then you walk—

Travis: And you could play a game where you're like, what name do you think corresponds with what person? What do you think—

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Their relationship is within like the group? Who's the shy one, who's the bad boy? You know?

Justin: One of 'em—is it possible that one of 'em is named Tarot? [chuckles] Is that possible?

Travis: Maybe?

Griffin: That's cool. And they also name the—

Justin: But maybe his name is just T-A-R-O? So when it says The Taro Returns, it's like, it's not just talking about the plant, but rather the man is also named Taro.

Travis: Maybe?

Griffin: I don't know. I like that, though. That's a cool, strong name.

Travis: I'm also not entirely certain what location they're at in this photo?

Griffin: It looks like a dark room that someone's being held against their will in somewhere maybe.

Travis: I am threatened. I guess that's the question I have from the creators of Tarot Returns. When you're making this poster, assumedly, so that people will come in and buy the tea that you're making. I feel challenged.

Griffin: I feel threatened.

Travis: Yeah, that like if I walked in and said, "Can I have a Tarot thing?" They'd be like, "It's not for you." Would be the feeling I would have.

Justin: It's not for you. You don't deserve it.

Griffin: I also would have put more shit on the poster about what the tea is and what it's like and what kind of flavors it brings. And how long you're supposed to brew it.

Travis: Yeah! And maybe that it is tea at all.

Griffin: It is tea! That's a good point, Travis.

Travis: There's a drink, a consumable, maybe the name of the shop.
[chuckles] Maybe any pertinent detail.

Griffin: Let me tell you something! Let me tell you something! I'm glad that shit's not on here! You know why? Because I walk into your home and I see that, and then it's like 'Yummy Bug Tea Shop.' I see that and I'm like, oh, it's a tea poster.

Travis: That would ruin it.

Griffin: I'm not asking you about your tea poster. Like that sucks that you have that up. But a mystery poster for a film that doesn't exist? Yeah, I want to know about that! You like tea, huh? My grandfather brewed tea.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like you're—like this date is going so well. And all you had to do is go to your drawing room with them.

Justin: Just take 'em straight back to the drawing room.

Griffin: That's what I'm saying. Date one, right to the drawing room. You learn everything you need to know about that person based on how they look at your fake movie poster for tea.

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: [continues riffing] Little bit.

Travis: Ooh?

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

Griffin: [chuckles] Squad.

Travis: Squad!

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

Griffin: Squad.

Travis: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Junior. Welcome to Munch Squad Junior. It's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating.

Griffin: Within a podcast, it sounds like.

Justin: No, it's just a shorter version. It's a mini-bite. We call 'em snacks. We don't. We've never done that. But I just did want to mention a quick thing about Baskin-Robbins. Because I think that it's important that if we don't call out these brands for immoral behavior, then nobody will. So—

Griffin: We're the last vanguard of morality.

Justin: I wanted to take a second to talk about this. Okay, I'm going to share with you the imagery. Introducing wickedly tempting new treats, Twix Caramel Crunch and the Spooktacular Polar Pizza.

Griffin: Oh, man, until the last two words of that headline I was like, yum, yum, sounds all good to me.

Justin: Mm-hm. Don't let your sweet tooth down this spooky season. Get ready to indulge in the ultimate Halloween treats! If you're looking for some hauntingly delicious desserts, Baskin-Robbins is introducing new flavor of the month, Twix Caramel Crunch.

Travis: I'm very interested.

Griffin: Yeah. Thumbs up!

Justin: And the scary-good Spooktacular Polar Pizza ice cream treat. So, this is the—

Griffin: You're gonna need to sell me on that one. That one I'm not so sure about.

Justin: This is the flavor of the month, Twix Caramel Crunch.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Kick ass.

Justin: Okay, so you can see, it's got—and I'm not even going to talk to you about what's... it's like... it looks good, right.

Griffin: It looks—

Travis: Now, I do—Justin, could you—ooh!

Justin: Now here's a—now here's that Spooktacular Polar Pizza.

Griffin: Ah, Jesus Christ!

Justin: You step—it's a, here's what, just—it says, "Step into the Twilight Zone and enjoy this pre-sliced, shareable dessert."

Travis: What?

Justin: So, this is what I want to—this is what was bothering me. And before we get deeper into this, I want to say, just admit you forgot it was Halloween!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just admit that when you were coming up with flavors and stuff, you didn't remember it was Halloween. Stop trying to pretend like you—

Griffin: That's okay!

Justin: Meant these to be scary.

Travis: Justin, could you read the last sentence of the Twix Caramel Crunch paragraph?

Justin: Yes, Travis, thank you. That is the next sentence I wanted to read. Thank you, good eye. "Available while supplies last, make sure to grab Twix Caramel Crunch before it ghouls away." Okay, listen, that doesn't make it scary. You just said—

Travis: It also doesn't any sense.

Justin: Ghouls away.

Griffin: I think, I mean, you could change—

Justin: That's nothing.

Travis: That's nothing!

Griffin: You can change a handful of words in any of these and have it be like, "Grab the Cookie Crunch Polar Pizza, before Santa Claus comes to deliver the presents!"

Justin: [laughs] Exactly!

Griffin: "Before Christ's resurrection!" Uh-oh!

Justin: [chuckles] "Your lover and you can share this sextacular Polar pizza!"

Griffin: [chuckles] "Say thanks to dad! With a dad-tastic Polar Pizza!"

Travis: This also, the pizza itself looks like you gave free reign to a child.

Griffin: Dude, it is a child's fantasy of—it's a child's fantasy snack. Can we describe it?

Travis: That they instantly also take one bite of and they're like, "I'm—I actually—that's too much."

Griffin: "I'm good, thank you."

Justin: And gonna read—I wanna read this paragraph actually without editorializing. And it's gonna be really difficult, but I'm going to. "You can also enjoy our flavor of the month in our delicious new Spooktacular Polar Pizza. Step into the Twilight Zone and enjoy this pre-sliced, shareable dessert, featuring a chocolate chip cookie crust topped with Twix Caramel Crunch, M&M's milk chocolate candies, Halloween sprinkles, and drizzled with fudge topping. It's perfect for sharing with your ghouls at your next Halloween party."

Griffin: You guys get are really stuck on ghouls, huh?

Justin: Yeah, got ghouls on the brain.

Travis: But you've also used it in two different ways! [titters]

Justin: Yeah, exactly! Like they're admitting that they know about ghouls. It's not a joke.

Griffin: I feel like this does slightly read like you put in an AI prompt for a press release for these two items. And then you were add—like add to previous order, Halloween ghouls.

Justin: That's right, Griffin. The bots think that they can just write these themselves because nobody's watching. But bad news for you, bots, I'm watching.

Griffin: We're fucking watching, dude!

Justin: Justin McElroy and his brothers are out here watching you, every movie you bots make. Don't think you can get one past me. I know that—I know that no human wrote ghouls twice in one photograph.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Just admit it! Just admit that you forgot! Just admit you forgot. Also, I do like that they have shared as a bullet point that this is pre-sliced. Because at the point I would be at where I would buy one of these, that would be a major plus for me. [titters]

Griffin: Dude, it—

Justin: Because I just can't. I can't.

Travis: Well, because you're probably too stoned to safely operate a knife.

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: Yeah, no kidding, dude. [chuckles] This shit looks bananas. It looks like the carpet at the Portland Airport. This fuckin' shit looks *crazy*.

Justin: Crazy.

Travis: It's also ice cream, so you know all of those M&M's and sprinkles—

Justin: Immediately.

Travis: And shit, rock hard!

Griffin: Rock hard M&Ms, yum-yum.

Travis: Tooth-breaking.

Justin: And look at—right here—now, right here at the bottom, "Don't be scared to try all our treats. From October 1st through October 31st, buy any

Polar Pizza and any two novelty ice cream bar boxes for just \$31. Don't worry, we won't tell a soul."

Griffin: What is—now, is that supposed to be scary? Or are you—

Justin: Or threatening?

Griffin: Threatening? [titters] Because I didn't even think you would tell anyone you're Baskin-Robbins.

Travis: Just between us, bud.

Justin: Yeah, we won't tell anybody about your nasty predilections, no problem.

Griffin: Also, is \$31 a good price? Is it a good amount of money to spend on these three things?

Justin: They just love the branding opportunities. Now, listen! Meanwhile... over at Sonic!

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: Check this out!

Griffin: Now that's what I'm fuckin' talking about, dude.

Justin: Sonic unveils a spooktacular Halloween treat with new Witch's Brew Slush Float!

Griffin: Yeah, this is—

Justin: Casting a spell on taste buds nationwide this Halloween season with the launch of the Witch's Brew Slush F—

Travis: Witch's Brew Slush Fund!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: It's a—it's part of the flavorista favorites premium drink lineup. That's right, a premium treat for the holiday. Thank you.

Travis: What's the flavor?

Justin: It's a limited-time seasonal treat, and is a refreshing twist on the classic caramel apple treat.

Griffin: Wait, a limited-time treat? And it's a refreshing twist on the caramel—classic caramel apple treat?

Justin: Yeah, thanks, bots. We got you on this one too. But I do want to say the Witch's Brew Float combines the tartness of green apple, thank you, seasonal, and salted caramel bubbles. Thank you.

Travis: But the salted caramel bubbles are like pitch black?

Justin: Jet black.

Travis: Yeah, what?

Justin: The whole drink looks terrifying. There is no way you would sell this at any other time of year, right? You're not going to come out with this ugly thing in spring.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, no way.

Justin: This horrible drink?

Travis: Unless you're celebrating like a new release of a Shrek movie.

Griffin: Yeah, I was just thinking—also had Shrek on the mind on this one.

Justin: Oh, that is actually a very good point. "Witch's Brew is our twist on a caramel apple that stands out from the crowd with its unique blend of seasonal flavors and textures," says Mackenzie Gibson. Vice president—

Griffin: A witch.

Justin: A witch. [titters]

Griffin: A real witch. [chuckles]

Justin: A popular witch who works at Sonic.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "This hauntingly good creation not only captures the essence of Halloween season, but also delivers a deliciously fun experience that's truly a one of a kind. Witches' Brew is sure to become a seasonal favorite." And I will hold them to that, by the way. I will be checking up and make sure you bring it back in the future. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Because it is completely up to you if it becomes a seasonal favorite. Anyway, that's what's happening in the Halloween world. I just wanted to share that Baskin-Robbins is a corrupt company that should be shut down.

Griffin: [chuckles] That's a really—I would agree just on optics of this fuckin' Polar Pizza alone.

Justin: Because they forgot about Halloween. And if they—as always, all brands have always been more than welcome to email follow ups to the Munch Squad desk, if you would like to issue corrections. If we've gotten something wrong—I will say this, folks, in my 10 long years in the Munch Squad industry, I've never had a brand ask me for a retraction. Which, to me, is basically agreement.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: And you've really, you've worked your way—

Justin: To everything I've ever said in this segment.

Travis: You've worked your way up from the bottom. You know?

Griffin: They acknowledge their own flaws.

Justin: I've never lied on this show. I don't lie on this show.

Griffin: He's never lied. Not once.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast, My Brother, My Brother and Me. 733 of 'em and I'm still having just as much fun as I did the first time. Probably more.

Travis: It's your time to shine.

Griffin: Definitely more.

Justin: I'm not so stressed about it.

Griffin: Yeah. So chilled.

Travis: Hey! Very exciting, this week, this very week, it was this very week that we're going to be in Denver and Phoenix. We're doing My Brother, My Brother and Me in Denver on the 18th. And then Phoenix, we're doing Adventure Zone and a My Brother, My Brother and Me. That Adventure Zone is a TAZ Versus Drac Halloween special.

As far as the My Brother, My Brother and Mes go, if you have questions that you want answered or a wish to Fungalore that you want read aloud, email it to mbmbam@maximumfun.org, and put the name of your city that you'll be attending in the subject line.

We also have in November shows in Indianapolis and Milwaukee. And dad and I are going to be—not too long now. End of this month, I believe. The 25th and 26th, at MCM London. Doing some panels there, doing some signings, photos, stuff like that I think. So, check that out. [Bit.ly/mcelroytours](https://bit.ly/mcelroytours) for tickets and information. We also have merch in the McElroy Merch Store, mcelroymerch.com. Got restocked Hunger dice and a Trav Nation T-shirt.

Justin: I was wearing it yesterday. It's probably my favorite T-shirt we've done. If you can get one, get it while it's fast.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: We've got a couple in there. Get it what?

Justin: Get it while it's hot, is what I meant.

Griffin: Get it while it's fast and hot, dude.

Travis: And 10% of all proceeds this month go to Native Women Lead. So, go check that out at mcelroymerch.com!

Griffin: Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, our—My Life Is Better With You. I almost said our life is better with you, but that's also true. Like our lives are better because of Montaigne's incredible work on this one. So, check it out and go listen to all Montaigne's work, because it's fantastic.

Justin: All right. We have a final wish that we want to elevate to Fungalore, to—it is unnecessary, but we do like do it.

Griffin: We'll send it up. Juice, you want to read this one?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. [chants] Huy-ya-wa-wa-wa-wa-wa-wa—

Griffin: [hums] Shahmm-mm-mm-mm-mm-mm—

Justin: I wish blood pressure numbers meant something to me. 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. Kiss your dad square on the lips.

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

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