

MBMBaM 736: School You're Allowed to Drink At

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

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

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

Travis: [in a Batman-esque deep voice] Wuddup, Trav Nation? I'm your middlest brother, big dog woof-woof Travis McElroy.

Justin: When do you think this episode is coming out?

Travis: [in a deep voice] What's your favorite scary movie?

Justin: When do you think this episode is coming out? [laughs]

Griffin: And this is Griffin McElroy, and I wish, as always, that it could get to my turn without a bit or a skit having—

Travis: [in a deep voice] Hey, what's your favorite scary movie?

Griffin: It's like on Whose Line if they brought out Ryan Proops—they bring out Ryan Stiles, and they're like—

Justin: No, Ryan Proops is their son. [chuckles]

Travis: They bring out Ryan Mochrie.

Griffin: Ryan Mochrie. [chuckles]

Travis: Then Ryan Brady.

Justin: They gave him his father's first name and his father's last name, and he's Ryan Proops. [titters]

Travis: And there was Ryan Carey hosting it all.

Griffin: Oh, but no, wait, it's like they haven't brought Wayne Brady in—

Travis: Whose Ryan is it anyways?

Griffin: They haven't brought Colin Mochrie in yet, and they're like, "You know what, guys? Even though we're not all out here, let's fuckin' do one bit. Like let—we're not all out here, we haven't all been introduced. But let's go ahead and get a bit started!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [in a deep voice] Are you guys gonna say what your favorite scary movie is?

Justin: It's November 4th. [chuckles]

Griffin: No! Because it's not right. And it's not right morally or—

Travis: [in a deep voice] It's the Halloween creep.

Justin: [laughs] It's not, it's November 4th.

Travis: [in a deep voice] What's your favorite Thanksgiving movie?

Justin: [laughs] It's not that—

Griffin: You can't do that.

Travis: [in a deep voice] What your favorite movie filled with gratitude and thankfulness?

Justin: You can't just pivot like that, it's not—

Griffin: Hitch. I'll answer the—I'll answer the question. Hitch to both.

Justin: This is what's so hard, Trav. Travis is really hitting on the problem of time dilation that we have with My Brother, My Brother and Me, where you are hearing this on November 4th, but we're recording it October 30th.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: [in a deep voice] Time is a flat circle.

Griffin: That's not even a scary TV—

Travis: [in a deep voice] What's your favorite exploration of time movie?

Justin: That stuff about time is a flat circle, don't even get me started.
[titters] Okay, so anyway—

Travis: Oh, here goes.

Justin: No, don't get me—I asked—

Travis: Here he goes. He started now.

Justin: I asked kindly that you not get me started.

Travis: Oh, I thought that was you saying like—

Justin: It clearly isn't flat, because there's Christmas and summer. So let's move on, okay?

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: There's clearly different parts of time. It repeats, for sure, but like there's better parts and worsier parts. Okay? Calm down—

Griffin: It's a rhombus—oh, Travis, you—it's hard, because when I see you put your hands up to your mouth—

Justin: I see you, I talk—he puts the hands up, I talk more.

Griffin: Well, I hear him put his hands up over his mouth and I'm like, I have one and a half to two seconds to finish my point before Bane comes back.

Travis: [in a deep voice] It's not Bane, Griffin. It's the scary guy from *Scream*.

Griffin: Give me a Bane?

Travis: Ghostface.

Griffin: Give me a bane.

Travis: Okay. [spoofing Bane from *The Dark Knight Rises*] "Mr. Wayne, you merely adopted the dark. I was born into it."

Justin: They're both pretty good.

Griffin: They're both really good, actually. You sound exactly like—

Justin: I thought he would be worse, but they both sounded exactly like—

Griffin: God damn it, Travis. Every time I want to come for you for your characters—

Travis: The Bane I practice, don't get it twisted. I practice the Bane.

Justin: The bane of my existence. But hey, I'm still very much in the Halloween spirit. It's hard for me to get past that, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I love pumpkins and the whole bit, I'm still thinking about it.

Travis: [in a deep voice] Then why aren't you talking about your favorite scare—I'm trying to make new friends.

Griffin: My favorite scary—

Travis: [in a deep voice] By showing interest in them and asking about what they like.

Justin: Are you really asking though?

Travis: [in a deep voice] Yeah!

Griffin: My favorite scary movie is Scary Movie 2. It was, of the series, the one with the most jokes per minute. And has a lot of memorable bits in it. And a lot of, I will say, rude send ups of some hallowing classics.

Travis: [in a deep voice] Justin, what's your favorite of the scary movie franchise?

Justin: No, my favorite scary movie is Babadook. [titters]

Griffin: That's not funny, but like... I mean, the name is—I'll say, the name's funny.

Justin: Or—

Travis: [in a deep voice] It's getting to know you questions, Griffin, it doesn't have to be funny. It's a way for me to get to know my friends.

Griffin: Yeah, Babadook is funny. Sorry, I should be clear, the word is amazing.

Travis: It's a funny—it's a funny word. Especially if you said like they're being kind of Babadooky. Like that's funny!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's classic. Maybe there's like a Jeff Foxworthy thing we could do of like, you might be a Babadook. Have you guys thought about that?

Griffin: Oh, yeah! If you climb out—[in a heavy Southern accent] If you climb out of the kid's book to steal children in the night, if you are a phantasm created from a mother's grief, you might be a Babadook!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Nailed it.

Griffin: [in a Southern accent] If you live in a closet and climb up on the ceiling, you might be a Babadook.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [in a Southern accent] If you look around and you say to yourself, I might be in a name, and I might be in a look. Then my friend, I'm gonna tell you, you're the Babadook. *Just might be* the Babadook.

Travis: Now, Justin, that sounded more like a tough intervention you would have with your friend who's a Babadook and doesn't want to admit it.

Griffin: It also ended with a definitive statement, which was never Jeff Foxworthy's approach—

Travis: You are a redneck!

Griffin: He was never—

Travis: Deal with it!

Griffin: You are a redneck.

Travis: [in a Southern accent] You need to open your mind to the fact that you're a redneck, my friend! Deal with it! This is the tough truth I hand out on the Jeff Foxworthy show.

Griffin: [in a Southern accent] 'If your breakfast is a big bowl of worms, you might be a Babadook.' Can we do this, please, the whole episode? I feel like it's really fun to do.

Justin: [in a Southern accent] If your kid is screaming in the back seat and you think, "My husband's dead," you just might be the Babadook.

Travis: [in a Southern accent] What's the deal with all these Babadooks?
[titters]

Justin: I'm... [titters]

Travis: Here's your Babadook.

Justin: No, I'm gonna get you all past—I want to get you in the season.

Griffin: Thanks.

Justin: Let's get you in the season. All right?

Griffin: Hype me up.

Justin: We on that Christmas creep now, right?

Griffin: Oh, fuck—

Justin: Halloween's over.

Griffin: No way.

Justin: Christmas creep, welcome. [sings] Simply talking about Hallmark plus!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Happy holidays, everyone. A lot of people are going to talk to you about the Hallmark movie selection this year, and I think we definitely will. And talking about the Hallmark series that are coming out of—their series of films. I want to do something a little different right now.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: I want to talk to you about Hallmark plus.

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: Because they did it. They went and did it. They rebranded their streaming services Hallmark Plus. And that beast has got to get fed.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Is this where they put the R-rated Hallmark movies?

Justin: No, Travis. No, it's not. But this is where they put the movies that they wouldn't put on Hallmark. [chuckles]

Griffin: Holy shit.

Travis: Hey, Hallmark executives, if you're listening, Mark After Dark is like there.

Griffin: It's waiting for you.

Travis: You can have that for your erotic thrillers or whatnot.

Griffin: Or Skull Mark.

Travis: Ooh.

Justin: What's going on over on Hallmark Plus is truly, truly unhinged.

Travis: So when you say the ones they wouldn't put on Hallmark, Justin, do you mean they're too good?

Griffin: Too hot?

Travis: Too good for Hallmark?

Justin: They're not—no, here's what I'm telling you. I'm worried about the future of the arts in a world with AI.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I think that if AI starts doing movies—

Griffin: This is—

Justin: Christmas ones on Hallmark Plus—

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: That's where we're gonna catch 'em.

Griffin: That's a foot in the door, for sure, yeah.

Justin: That's where we're gonna get 'em.

Travis: That's what the plus is. The plus is AI learning.

Justin: Minus humans, is what it is. [titters]

Travis: Minus humans.

Griffin: Very good.

Justin: Plus—yeah. So, I want to talk to you about these two big projects for Hallmark Plus. And ask you guys this challenging question of like, did they let it in this time?

Travis: Oh, oh, I see.

Griffin: Okay, but I also get very uncomfortable with this. Because I do also think there is a bit of a... over correction. And I don't want to insult a real person's film writing.

Justin: I think—

Griffin: I guess we're just—

Justin: I think we probably do logic a disservice if we think that people that wrote the eight films that we're about to discuss were living out their lifelong dream.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay, fair enough.

Travis: You know, they never talk about—

Justin: You know, they probably—they probably—I'm being un—*you're* being insulting! I'm not insulting! They get it.

Travis: Do they ever include human beings like when they're doing a big Turing test? Kind of like, "This is the Turing test weekend." Do they ever include any human beings just to throw off the curve? Because I can't imagine failing a Turing test.

Griffin: Absolutely, they do.

Justin: They do, but they get so pissed off when you do it. Because I've volunteered, and every time I'm like, "Bleep, blorp, this needs more bolts!" [chuckles] Like, "Justin, please stop. We can see you."

Griffin: But then there's a double faint, because then computers and robots will start talking like that.

Travis: Ah.

Griffin: Because they'll think it's a human. Anyway, let's hear about these films, Juice.

Justin: Okay, so... it's actually, what we're talking about is a wide array of cinematic offerings. The one that I am probably the most excited about from the Hallmark Plus schedule is the Unwrapping Christmas movies.

Travis: Movies?

Justin: Hey, guys... movies. I didn't, I... movies.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Let me just show you the image, and you guys will have to kind of describe this for me. As we're kind of talking about—huh. People or computers or—huh...

Travis: Oh... wait—

Justin: That's the literal promotional image.

Travis: Okay, okay.

Justin: For this movie.

Griffin: That's... okay, so to describe what we're seeing, we have—it looks like a Christmas tree with three flags on it. One of which is def—two of which are definitely Photoshops.

Justin: American flags.

Griffin: Fireworks—

Justin: Merry Christmas.

Griffin: Fireworks in the background.

Justin: Fireworks somewhere, right? They're bent around reality?

Travis: I actually don't—I can't parse...

Justin: I know.

Griffin: I'm struggling.

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: And then behind—

Travis: You know when people talk about like, "Oh, we didn't land on the Moon, look at the way the flag is. And it's weird." And stuff.

Griffin: This is what they're talking about, yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: Like the way that these flags are positioned are—means the wind—

Justin: But then—

Travis: The wind is coming from nine different directions. [titters]

Justin: Head on over to the middle of the image, and you guys just tell me what you see there. [chuckles]

Griffin: Well, now we just have two Cylons who are looking at the camera condescendingly, I would say.

Justin: Barreling!

Griffin: Barely—

Justin: Barrling the camera.

Travis: Like I just caught them pretending to be humans, and then this is the look I get.

Griffin: And then behind them there's a room with snow and a very, again, very robotic looking Santa Claus back there.

Justin: These two are from the Unwrapping Christmas movies. "Meet Tina, Mia, Lily and Oliva." It says Oliva in the press release, but I'm pretty sure they met Olivia. "Four friends who worked together at Tina's shop, All Wrapped Up. Each one woman brings their unique strengths in helping the store be successful."

Travis: One has fire powers, one has ice powers, one has earth powers.

Justin: "And each woman must find her own path to happiness and love." So, on November 7th you've got Unwrapping Christmas: Tina's Miracle. And in that one, Tina Mitchell, a successful business owner, meets a charming guy, Michael.

Travis: Okay?

Justin: Then a week later, you're gonna enjoy Unwrapping Christmas: Mia's Prince.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: "Mia, an accountant at All Wrapped Up, is stunned when local celebrity Beau Kavanagh, who looks just like her favorite romance novel hero, enters her life." Then a week later, you've got Unwrapping Christmas: Lily's Destiny.

Griffin: Holy shit. You gotta hold out.

Justin: Lily, the marketing guru—what? Let's hold up. Let's stop here. Let's stop on these two. There's four of these films.

Travis: Okay, so one is Tina's something.

Justin: Tina's Miracle, that's November 7th.

Travis: And then Mia's Prince.

Justin: Mia's Prince, November 14th.

Travis: And then the Spear of Destiny?

Justin: The Spear of Destiny. Unwrapping Christmas: The Spear of Lily's Destiny, yes. [titters]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: [chuckles] It sounds like they're just trying to kind of churn out all of the stuff they're known for before December even gets here, in four tight, tight films.

Travis: Now I'll tell you what would be an incredible cinematic innovation.

Griffin: What's that, Trav?

Travis: If all of these movies share 75% of exactly the same footage, and just we follow different characters as they leave the scene.

Justin: Why is this not a video game? Like that's what I want.

Griffin: It sounds like a—

Justin: Let me please. Let me play this FMV game. "Lily, the marketing guru of All Wrapped Up believes the universe guides us to our destiny. And it appears that it's guiding her towards a celebrity realtor." [titters]

Travis: Oh, what luck.

Justin: It's so wild when *destiny* does that, huh?

Travis: Hey, I want to point out that second one, where it's like, "She realizes a local celebrity." So he's well-known locally.

Justin: Yeah, he's a local celebrity who should just—

Travis: Looks like the cover guy from her favorite romance novel. Why did it take so long for her to put that together?

Griffin: How come it's never like, "And then she meets Duncan, who works at the Army Corps of Engineers."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "He is 51 years old."

Travis: "Then she met Steve, an unemployed Electrical Technician who's, yeah, he's down on his luck, but he's got a lot of heart and a lot of student loan debt."

Griffin: He's not looking for the meaning of Christmas. That is not important to Duncan. He has bills to pay and mouths to feed.

Justin: Unwrapping Christmas, the franchise, on November 28th.

Travis: End Game.

Justin: Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving. With Olivia's reunion. "Olivia, the gift-wrapping expert at All Wrapped Up, makes a delivery to a remote cabin. Only to find her ex-boyfriend, Benjamin, on the other side of the door."

Travis: [gasps] With a knife!

Justin: So here's... all I want to say that I gotta give credit to them. A lot of movie studios have worked extremely hard to try to get franchises going.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: These mother fuckers are just dropping it in a month. Like, they've created an entire All Wrapped Up cinematic universe.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Take that, Marvel.

Griffin: Yeah, Marvel should just do four movies in a month. Then they would—they'd be able to wiggle their way back in.

Justin: They should take that. And that would be, actually, can you believe that is all the multi-film franchises that Hallmark Plus is launching in 2024?

Griffin: I see winding up that fuckin' haymaker, Juice. Just let it rip.

Justin: Can you believe that they're only doing it once? That's so weird. [titters] Like just once. Okay, except for, wait a minute, let's talk about the Cherry Lane movies. "Over the course of more than 70 years, a lot of families have lived in the house at 7 Cherry Lane. And each of them has had a Christmas Eve to remember. In three sequels to the 2023 hit movie Christmas on Cherry Lane, we return to the house for more Christmas Eves, with each movie exploring three different eras."

Griffin: Holy shit. So that's nine eras? How many different eras have there been?! Are they going Paleolithic in one of them?

Justin: Yeah, man—

Travis: And I'm sorry, the factor—the franchise connection is a house.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Justin: Yes, Travis. This is the brilliant part, right? The one thing that doesn't change is the thing that they have to rebuild.

Griffin: [guffaws] That's fucking great.

Justin: It's so good, actually! They're like, "Oh, you like the house, huh? How about three sequels in it?" And then they're like, "Okay, it's 2PM, we need to get this '50s family out."

Travis: I just love—

Justin: "'70s family, you're up."

Travis: I would love to see the—like a fly on the wall of the contract negotiations of one of the stars of the sequel. Who's like, "Listen, if you want me back, you're gonna have to pay top dollar." And then they're like, "We actually don't need you back, we've got House!"

Griffin: I love—

Travis: "House is all we need for this one."

Griffin: I also love the idea of you bingeing this whole series, and by like era five you're like, "Oh, they moved the china cabinet." You're able to really figure out how—

Travis: "Repainted, huh? Bold."

Griffin: "Oh, that's a new rug."

Justin: I mean, it's actually like—okay, so listen, "In 1951, a doctor wants to make the holiday special for his worried wife before he is shipped out to serve in Korea. In 2003, a newly married couple who are always in agreement about everything, host two sets of in laws for Christmas Eve for the first time, and find that they may not have as much in common as they thought they did. And in 2024, a couple tries to arrange special Christmas surprises for each other, but keeping them a secret may be harder than they thought." That's one.

Griffin: That's one movie!

Justin: That's one movie on one day.

Travis: What?! That's one?

Justin: December 5th, there's one movie that's those three, okay?

Griffin: We are getting nine eras to—

Justin: And then you come back on December 12th in 1960, "Eli and Penny take in Eli's curmudgeonly father, Walter. In 1998, we see Regina and Nelson's first meeting. And in 2015, Jesse faces a big challenge by planning her sister's last minute Christmas Eve wedding. The officiant is Tim, her high school sweetheart."

Griffin: Fuck.

Travis: All of these—all of these could just say like, "Some dude is doing this, and some lady is doing that. Don't worry about who they are, they're going to be on screen for 25 minutes, tops. But don't worry, the corners and the window and the door and stuff, all there. Don't you worry."

Griffin: This is gonna—but what if there's like a House of Leaves style asynchronous mystery happening in the background?

Justin: Griffin, I'm obsessed with the idea of these films. Like there's—it's such an incredible opportunity to do some in-world storytelling.

Travis: What—yes.

Griffin: There's a—

Justin: That has nothing to do with the movie that you're watching.

Travis: Do you remember in Lost how there was like the character Richard, who just like kept showing up and never aged, and he was in every area.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Give me one of those type characters—

Griffin: That would be cool, the watcher, yeah.

Travis: Just keep showing up to the party, but it's the same guy, un-aged, unchanging every time.

Griffin: Every era includes a scene of someone going in the attic and seeing the face of the witch in the attic. And then they scream, and then it hard cuts back downstairs, and they don't talk about the witch in the attic again.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: They don't, they don't. But it—but when you're watching a commercial for Velveeta in the next movie, the witch comes into the commercial for Velveeta.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: As they slowly pan across one of the rooms, you see like an alien figure standing in a corner. And when they pan back, he's gone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And you just see him pop up in different locations throughout the house, throughout the eras. And you see him like scribbling down notes maybe about what he sees in human behavior.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: I'm embarrassed to admit that I did not actually say the names of these movies. Season's Greetings from Cherry Lane is December 5th. December 12th, the one we just discussed, Happy Holidays from Cherry Lane.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: December 19th, you're gonna Deck the Halls on Cherry Lane. "In 1966, a single guy, David's plans for a simple Christmas are dashed when his neighbor, Stephanie—"

Travis: When a time traveler arrives from 2015!

Griffin: "I am from the third era. I warn you—"

Justin: And finds the corpse.

Griffin: [laughs] The corpse—he finds the corpse, the journal, and the key.

Travis: And the witch must be fed.

Justin: A news that she—"Arrives with the news that she won a contest to have Tommy—" Man, I'm gonna read this whole sentence. You ready, guys?

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: "In 1966, single guy, David's plans for a simple Christmas are dashed, when his neighbor Stephanie's Christmas Eve TV special broadcasts live from her house, but used his address."

Travis: What?

Griffin: That's a big one.

Justin: "She won a contest to have Tommy Saunders' Christmas Eve TV special broadcast live from her house."

Griffin: Pretty shitty contest.

Justin: In 1981, John and Lizzie learn that this will be their last Christmas on Cherry Lane, after John receives a job offer in Michigan and Lizzie finds out she's pregnant. In 2000, best friends Matt and Rebecca find unexpected feelings developing as they try to find out who's behind a series of Christmas-themed random acts of kindness. That's one movie.

Travis: Oh, man! I thought it was gonna be murders.

Justin: Murder. Me too, Trav. I was hoping for a murder as well.

Travis: I my thought it was gonna be Christmas murders.

Griffin: I think in the one where the woman is pregnant, the baby comes out, and it's one of the guys from era one. And the whole thing is part of a beautiful cycle.

Justin: It has such incredible—I mean, what I want from these films that I won't get is like you're watching the one in 19—in like 2004, right? And then the 2003 guy knocks on the door and he's like, "I am so sorry to do this. I left a table underneath the garage. If I could grab—excuse me, I'm sorry. You all look busy. Oh, my wife? Still a ghost. Anyway, I—" [titters]

Griffin: "I was just going for a jog in the neighborhood, and I needed to... make soil. And since I used to do it so much in this house, I just thought—"

Justin: "I'm used to it."

Travis: "That's fine, right? You're cool?"

Griffin: "You remember me from the signing when I sold you this house? Anyway."

Travis: "I bought that toilet seat, so technically it's mine."

Griffin: "It's mine."

Justin: So both of the—

Griffin: I'm gonna hire—I'm gonna pay someone on Fiverr to watch all nine of these eras for me, just to let me know if there's any kind of spooky, supernatural, cyclical observations of time—

Travis: Time flat circle.

Griffin: Or if there's fuckin' witches in the attic.

Justin: Guys, there will be reused garments. Like, this is the setup I'm expecting for this. Would you do, if you were doing this shoot, would—do you think they filmed chronologically in terms of like—

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Justin: And like just started in 1950 and they're like, "Okay, the next part of a movie, movie three, takes place in four years. So let's just move it like four years down."

Travis: You would have to! Justin, you if you have to.

Justin: You have to, right?

Travis: Because that way you can show realistic wear and tear on the house, as the house ages like 60 years.

Justin: And they're obsessive about the details!

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: By the time you get to like the 2024 episode, like the roof is like caving in and everything's like rotten and covered in dust.

Justin: We don't have a lot going on in December. Would you guys commit to each one of us watching one of the Cherry Lane movies? And then we can like—

Griffin: Connect the dots.

Justin: Talk about how they overlap and interact.

Travis: If we can recut it into chronological order, and see how it lines up.

Justin: You know, I've thought a lot about what order I'm going to show my kids the Cherry Lane movies.

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: It'll be first part of one, and then the second part of three.

Justin: Yeah, Clone Wars.

Griffin: Clone Wars, is in there for some reason.

Justin: Season two.

Travis: Yeah, I think with four screens set up, you can pause and jump between without having to switch any discs or anything. So we're just gonna—the question is, do you set it up four in a row, or like a two-two?

Justin: That's not enough for me, Travis. I need like Minority Report levels of like manipulating footage. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Like with my cyber gloves. I need to compare.

Travis: Now you see, here they move the doily. And I think that is a cue to us to know change is coming.

Griffin: Here we have—here we have a second appearance of the character I like to call the man in the wall. If you look, the man in the wall has moved.

Justin: It's an incredible house, an incredible, miraculous house where special things happen every Christmas Eve. The only rule, heteros only!

Griffin: Only, please.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Please!

Travis: And also, nothing bad happens to anyone. Why did they have to move out of the house? He got a job, she's pregnant!

Justin: Job—they both got a job.

Travis: Nothing's wrong.

Justin: Their son got a job.

Griffin: Nothing's wrong.

Justin: [titters] Their dog got a job. They all got new jobs.

Travis: Everything's great!

Justin: They're all moving to Aspen. [titters]

Griffin: I need to know if we're getting a new installation of the Yes, Chef Christmas franchise. Dying to know.

Justin: Yes, the Yes Chef—let me see here—

Griffin: Yes, Chef Christmas? It's starting Tia Mowry. It's called Yes, Chef Christmas. And she's in a cooking competition.

Justin: Was that a Hallmark film?

Griffin: It was a Hallmark film, I think. Or was it a Netflix film? Oh, it's a Lifetime film. That's basically the same thing. They're probably not making a Yes, Chef Christmas—

Justin: You know, you say that and it's so offensive.

Travis: I think Lifetime has a lot more murder.

Griffin: Lifetime has—but not in their Christmas movies, rarely.

Travis: Rarely.

Justin: Very rarely.

Griffin: I just love Yes, Chef Christmas because—

Justin: Tia... Tamera Mowry-Housley, excuse me, is busy over there at Scouting for Christmas, which we previously covered.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: In a prior episode. I know she's obviously—

Travis: Did we? I think just you and I talked to dad about it. [titters]

Griffin: I watched all of Yes, Chef Christmas.

Justin: Wait, is that... oh, man, Travis, that's really embarrassing. Is that accurate? I think that may—

Travis: [titters] Yeah, we talked about in the green room in Denver. We didn't talk about it on an episode. Oh, no! The spheres.

Griffin: Oh, it's all... it's all blending together. I just like, Yes, Chef Christmas because it sounds like the Christmas sequel to the Yes, Chef franchise. It is not. The name of the film, first of its kind, is Yes, Chef Christmas.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: And I do need to see if we're gonna get a Time for You to Come Home for Christmas.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, for sure.

Justin: Okay, let's get in a question. I'd love to do a question before we head on.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Travis: Yeah, it's an advice show for the modern era. Where we take your questions and turn them alchemy-like into wisdom.

Justin: Questions and turn them alchemy-like into wisdom. "I host a general trivia night at a restaurant. I have a team of regulars that have been coming almost every week for a year. It's a group of four to eight people depending on the week."

Griffin: Four to eight! So important.

Justin: "They're super nice, and we always have a great time together. Lots of good bits back and forth. There's one problem; they win almost every week. I'm worried people will stop coming or not come at all. Is there any way to deter them from winning and find out their weaknesses? Or should I let them continue to dominate?" That's from *Mystified* in the mid-south.

Travis: You know who's figured this out?

Griffin: Who?

Travis: The Chase? The game show, The Chase?

Griffin: Are we about to have another lengthy conversation about The Chase game show?

Travis: No, no, no, not lengthy, just what they have is they have trivia experts. And the trivia expert, everybody's playing against them, right? So the trivia questions go to the chase and the chaser.

Griffin: [gasps]

Travis: And it's like—

Justin: Trav, that's a good idea!

Travis: Yeah! So you have this team who's like, you're playing against them. And whoever does best against them, wins.

Griffin: I mean, there's another version of this that is 1 vs 100, right? Another sort of similar style experience, where everyone else in the bar gets to be on one big team.

Justin: Oh, I like that, too, Griffin. That really puts them on the pedestal. Or like they have to choose—

Griffin: One representative.

Justin: Yeah, a champion for each round, like The Chase. This is also like The Chase. Can you do The Chase?!

Griffin: Can you just do The Chase?

Travis: Yeah, just do The Chase. You know what would be fun? Oh, this is what you do—

Justin: So is The Chase The Beast in America.

Travis: Yes, correct.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: The next time there's like eight of 'em you say, "You know what would be fun? Two teams of four. See how you guys do against each other."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's really good.

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: Gamify the trivia night.

Griffin: I mean, take a look at—

Justin: Gamify the trivia—[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's about time someone did. Because really, it's just school you're allowed to drink at, if you fuckin' think about it. I feel like look at the subject matter of your questions, if they're crushing it, and pick wildly different subject matter.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't wanna cast—

Justin: Everybody knows about other stuff. I believe this. You just gotta find out what the other people know about, and try to ask them—like maybe before trivia you go around and you're like, "So what's your birthday?" [titters]

Travis: What do—oh.

Justin: And then throw a curveball in, "What's Doug's birthday?"

Griffin: Yeah. That's a good one. "What's in Doug's pocket?"

Justin: "What's in Doug's pockets?"

Travis: "What's in Doug's pocket right now?"

Justin: "Ey! Who's ready to play my favorite game? What's in my pockets?" Now, that was in a live show, now that I'm thinking about it.

Griffin: Yeah, I think you're right. I one time was at a bar trivia, and they did a segment where they're like, "All right, we're gonna list out some names. You have to tell us if it's a Shakespeare character or a Final Fantasy character." And it felt like a light was shining down from heaven like, "Griffin, this is your—you don't know much shit, but this is your moment to impress." I got like 60% right. It was harder than it sounds, man.

Justin: It sounds so hard, man.

Griffin: I was all confident. I know these guys. They all blend together in the head, don't they?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you guys—

Travis: You could just cheat.

Justin: What?

Travis: Just cheat. Just say they got the answers wrong.

Justin: What? No.

Travis: No, don't do that.

Justin: Then they won't come anymore!

Travis: Oh, yeah, you don't want that.

Griffin: Yeah, they are providing a lot of business to this business.

Justin: Yeah, and they like them. They're not personally guess—you could ask them to just like... chill out?

Travis: If they win all the time, do they like winning all the time? Has it start—maybe you could like give them some sort of like deficit that they're starting like four points down, or whatever. And like talk to them about it and be like, "Hey, does this still feel challenging to you guys?"

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Like...

Justin: "Do you think you could cover and then uncover your ears fast, back and forth, so you only hear half of the question?"

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: "Is that something you guys would be willing to do for me?"

Travis: Like every other word? How fast are we talking?

Justin: Yes, that's what I'm saying, Travis, every other word.

Travis: "We're gonna put someone at your table who hums really loudly, while I'm asking the question."

Justin: "I am going to start tazing you all."

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: But you won't know when. So do keep an eye out for that. Don't get too focused on the questions.

Travis: Who's the worst team who always shows up? Put them on their team now.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Right? We're gonna get an average here. "Hey, you guys are always doing really bad, right? You get every question wrong. Cool. You're with them now."

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "And listen, don't respect their opinions at all. Maybe this is the time you guys get all the questions right. Get over there!"

Griffin: "Get on." Can you call in Kenneth Jennings and some other big Jeopardy company heavyweights? Just to have ringers.

Travis: Oh, some ringers? Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. To take them down, to do content on.

Travis: I'll come beat 'em. I'm pretty good at trivia.

Griffin: Yeah, I don't know, man.

Justin: Are you?

Travis: I think I am.

Justin: I feel like Trivia always reminds me—I feel like trivia just kind of reminds me of the only stuff I know is stuff everybody knows. [titters]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, I know a lot of it, but so does everybody else, I kind of feel like. I don't feel like I know a lot of stuff that other people don't know.

Griffin: That's—

Justin: And I there's a lot of stuff that I just don't—you know what I mean? Like—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's, yeah, there—

Justin: Where things are.

Griffin: Uh-huh. I would say there's a alternative to this, which is there's a lot of things that everyone knows that I don't know, also.

Justin: This is what I'm saying, right? Like, what—where things are, what happened is when a lot of—

Travis: When? When happened?

Justin: What happened?

Griffin: What happened and when?

Travis: When happen?

Justin: What happened and when did it happen?

Travis: Sports. [titters]

Griffin: Oh, how do they do it there? How do they do it there?

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: How do they do it over there?

Travis: What led to this happening?

Griffin: Who's in charge—who's in charge?

Travis: Who's in charge?

Justin: Causes and effects, Travis. That's one that I think should be off limits; what caused something.

Travis: I don't know?

Justin: [titters] Or like, who?

Travis: Who can say?

Justin: Who is one that they do a lot at trivia where I'm like, "Star Wars?" And they're like, "No, not Star Wars." Like, okay, well who... I don't know. [titters]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Superman?

Griffin: Which war was it? Is one I won't ever—

Travis: Which one. I don't like which one.

Justin: Which war was it?

Travis: Which one, who did it, when was it, why did it happen, where did it happen?

Griffin: Who's in charge?

Travis: Any of that stuff, I don't like.

Griffin: I don't get it, yeah.

Justin: Presidents.

Griffin: Presidents, no way.

Travis: Presidents. There's a couple of them I know stuff about.

Griffin: Yeah. A couple I know too much.

Justin: There's couple of 'em I know too much about.

Travis: I think a fun trivia night would be more of like an essay thing. Where it's just like open-ended, sit down, here's a piece of paper. Write down some trivia you know, and then I will write down interesting trivia. And it's gonna be much more subjective judging where they're like, "That is good trivia." And they get—and I would get a point for that.

Griffin: This reminds me, I've told the story of the show before, I think. But I used to have a science teacher in high school that had his own Jeopardy machine that you could hook up to a TV with like... like RCA cables, and play Jeopardy. But he would have us write some of the questions, the ones not about human anatomy. And we would play the game and he'd be like, "In this franchise, the fantasy is never final." And I rung and I was like, "Final Fantasy?" And he was like, "I don't know."

[group laugh]

Griffin: He was like, "I didn't write this. Is that right? Whoever wrote this one, I don't know."

Justin: [chuckles] Let's take a quick break, go to the Money Zone. And we'll be right back after this.

[theme music plays]

Justin: "I am on the first day of our first family vacation in several years, and I'm having a problem. I have had to shit for the last 47 minutes, and my family is only halfway through the Cincinnati Zoo. I don't want them to miss out on any of the exhibits because of me, but I'm about to explode. How do I guide them through the exhibits quickly?"

Griffin: Fucking cool.

Justin: "So that we can get to the hotel quicker." And that's from DJ.

Griffin: I wish I was brave like DJ.

Travis: Hey, DJ?

Griffin: I wish I was as—I wish I was—

Travis: There's bathrooms at the zoo?

Justin: No, no, no, no. DJ knows that. [chuckles] No, Travis, DJ knows there's bathrooms at the Cincinnati Zoo. I think we have to accept the premise—

Travis: Yeah, okay.

Justin: That DJ will not be using the bathrooms at the Cincinnati Zoo.
[titters]

Griffin: I mean, and here's the thing about the bathrooms at the Cincinnati Zoo. There's whole swaths of that park that are underserved, bathroom-wise. If you're chilling in Gorilla World, you have a 15-minute walk to the nearest bathroom. That's all there is to it.

Travis: This is true. A lot of it, some of it uphill.

Griffin: If you're exploring—

Justin: I—

Griffin: If you're exploring Gibbon Islands, you're already fucking—just poop your pants. You're not gonna make it. No way.

Justin: There's a lot of people that simply will not use the bathroom in a public place, which I understand. There's a lot of people like me, that as soon as they get to a new public place, try to use the bathroom immediately.

Griffin: Clock it.

Justin: Like I'm setting up a base camp.

[group chuckle]

Travis: Oh, I see.

Justin: On a climb.

Griffin: Leaving dead drops. [titters]

Justin: I'm on recon!

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles] I do that every time I go out to eat.

Justin: "So, how is the—so, what have you thought so far?" I don't know! I just here 10 minutes ago and it's only time for the bathroom.

Travis: There are some people like me, where they just know that even if they desperately need to use the public restroom and are mentally open to it, there's something in their body that's like, "No, not here. No, I'm not gonna let you."

Griffin: Rachel and I went to a nice sushi place last night. And we got there, got our drink orders in, and I was like, "Where's the bathroom?" And they're like, "Right behind the host stand." And I was like, "Cool." So I went to do my base camp set up. And then when I got there, I realized that it really is—you have to walk immediately by and behind the host, at their host stand. Which immediately I was like, this is gonna be a problem. Because I'm at least gonna go in there three times. And sure enough, by the third time she was just like, "Mm-hm. Again?"

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Wow."

Justin: That's miserable, Griffin, I'm so sorry.

Travis: Most of the animals are very similar.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You know?

Griffin: Speak on that.

Travis: Well, like a cheetah, a leopard, a tiger. We get it.

Griffin: Yeah. That's a good point.

Travis: Big cats. Okay. How, really, how different is an elephant and a rhino and a hippo? So, go see Fiona, clock Fiona. You did it! You knocked it out of the park.

Griffin: That's really, really all you need, is a little—

Travis: Pay your respects to Harambe over at Gorilla World. Take a minute, think about how that all went down. A moment of silence.

Griffin: Is there a—I find joking about Harambe incredibly tasteless. But is there a—

Travis: Sorry, who was joking? Griffin, who was joking?

Griffin: No, no, no, you're not joking. I'm saying, you know, in general, internet humor about Harambe I think is quite tasteless. But is there like a plaque or any sort of like recognition of like... his existence?

Travis: See, now I can't tell if I'm... if I'm Mandela Effect—

Griffin: Obviously, this is a huge setup for a joke opportunity. And we all recognize that, but we're not gonna grab it because it's distasteful.

Travis: I remember, like part of my—my brain is like, I remember there being one.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: But it might be because I just want there to be one?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The Cincinnati Zoo does have one for the last carrier pigeon that died there. Which seems like a big oopsie, but that is true.

Travis: Well, when you only have one, Justin, what are you gonna do at that point?

Griffin: Oh my god, they have a whole memorial park.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay, so we're well covered.

Griffin: Oh, but it's permanently closed. So maybe...

Justin: So they need another one for that.

Travis: Out of respect.

Griffin: [chuckles] Right, yeah. Okay.

Justin: And they need a bigger memorial park to put that park in. Hey, I think when you go to see the... like when you see the monkeys at the zoo, people say the same thing every time, "Oh, there's so much like this." And I get it, for sure. But it does—what it means is when you look at every animal at the zoo, the question on your mind is, do I do anything like this?

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Because that's the only way the animals are—the only way monkeys are answering that question for you is if you're asking it when you're looking at 'em. So really the zoo is just going around looking animals like, "Do I do anything like a cheetah?" [titters]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like, you—you look at—

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: The only thing that you're gonna learn from cheetah is like, do I do anything that I recognize is like—like sometimes you'll see cheetah go up to a food and like, it'll eat some food and then run away. And then I'm like, I do things like that, yeah. "Hey, everybody, look at this cheetah."

Travis: I use my butt to balance me when I'm running really quickly, I get it.

Griffin: Uh-huh. I like also doing this sort of aspirationally. Like when you see an elephant pick up a watermelon with its trunk and put it in its mouth and absolutely fucking annihilate that thing. I see that and I'm like, must be

nice. Must be nice to grab a whole watermelon with your nose and cram it in your mouth, and then explode it?! That sounds pretty fuckin' cool to me, man.

Justin: That's also one of those like chase experiences, like because of the context. Like, "I saw an elephant. No big deal. I saw an elephant crush a watermelon." It's like, "I saw Joaquin Phoenix, who cares? I saw Joaquin Phoenix eat a salad at Sweetgreen." It's like, that's something.

Griffin: That's something, there's—

Justin: You know what I mean? Like that's the context.

Travis: Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: An action there.

Travis: There's a reveal to the story.

Justin: The chase experience. [titters]

Travis: At the Cincinnati Zoo, there's also a petting zoo where you can see like goats and shit. And it's like, hey, man, I'm at a zoo. Why would I want to see a goat and a chicken? I could see those—I'm just saying.

Griffin: Well, they're still pretty cool, man.

Travis: I'm saying you could skip that. I'm saying that that's a thing you can bounce off. Hey, man, me personally? The Bug House, I don't need that. I don't need that in my day.

Griffin: The Bug House is a skit.

Travis: I don't need but think about that. Skip right past that.

Griffin: But goats, I see goats about the same amount that I see every other animal, which is mostly at zoos. I don't have a lot of day-to-day goat

encounters. And I thank the sweet lord Jesus Christ, my savior above for that.

Justin: I think it's—

Travis: Have you thought about opening yourself up to more goat opportunities?

Griffin: I don't know how the fuck I would do that, man.

Justin: Speaking of the Bug House, you are not allowed to vape in there. And it's like, do you want me to be high for this or not? [titters]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's kind of like mixed messages. Like, you have a place called the Bug House, like I would like to see it the way it's intended. [titters] You know what I mean? I need to open up my conscience.

Griffin: That could turn bad on you though, huh?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: If you were gonna have a bathroom whoopsie at the Cincinnati Zoo—

Griffin: Best place to shit your pants?

Travis: What area of the zoo do you think would be the best choice?

Griffin: I think maybe around the apes. Because then at least they'll point at you and be like, I get it."

Travis: The apes get it. The apes would look at you and like, "Ah, they're just like us."

Griffin: "Damn, dude, bipedal buddy. Did you just shit right where you stand?"

"Yeah, man."

Travis: "Just like us!"

Justin: Do you ever—

Griffin: Just like us.

Justin: Have you ever been to the zoo or Animal Kingdom or something where the animals are walking around? They have some animals that are allowed to walk around. Because I think next to one of them is where I would do it.

Griffin: Oh, shit, yeah.

Justin: And then be like, "Ew! Everybody, come look. Look at what this nasty duck—"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Look at what this nasty duck did, everybody!"

Griffin: Huge fuckin'—

Travis: "That duck is very sick!"

Griffin: "Look at this huge fuckin' turd this peahen made."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Holy crap, it's thicker than its neck! That doesn't make any fuckin' sense. What a disgusting bird."

Travis: "Something's gone horribly wrong."

Justin: [laughs] "Hey, this guy in a crocodile costume just pooped over here!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Hey, everybody, come look what Goofy did."

[group chuckle]

Justin: "You nasty dog. He's more human than you are, you filthy animal."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I gotta go. I'll see myself out."

Travis: [laughs] I know what's happened here. You know what's happened here."

Justin: "I know what this means. Don't—get your hands off me."

Travis: "I'm gonna go to the gift shop."

Griffin: [chuckles] "You can't prove that's mine!"

Justin: "I'm allowed to buy a shot glass on my way out." [titters]

Travis: "I'm making the decision to leave! I want to make this clear, this isn't up to you."

Justin: "I'm choosing to never return."

Travis: "I'm choosing to leave and ban myself from the Cincinnati Zoo. Please don't tell Jack Hanna I did any of this."

Justin: Hey, guys, what if they had a part of the zoo where you could go and just be—

Griffin: Beast mode for a second? Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] You shed the clothes and you shit where you please. And for half hour—

Travis: That's freedom, man.

Justin: You're the exhibit, man. You're just—there's no judgment.

Travis: You're not worried about deadlines. You're not worried about your boss anymore.

Justin: I'm getting excited about this idea now!

Travis: You're just shitting where you please.

Griffin: Is there—

Travis: They throw you a watermelon, you crush it in your jaws.

Griffin: Is there part of this preservation, this human preservation, where you—there is like an observation window. If you want to run up to the glass and be like, "Come on, guys! We're fucking partying in here." Like you could—

Justin: "Let's go!"

Griffin: Put on a little—or you could just lay down in front of glass and sleep, and not—just hide behind a bush.

Justin: I feel like that—I feel like that's counter to the spirit. I want a break for the—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You just described my everyday life, honestly, right now. [titters]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: I don't want to perform. I don't want to perform.

Justin: I don't want to do it again.

Griffin: That's fair.

Travis: I want to— would love to just be able to just go full meerkat for a while.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like I see people come to the thing and I'm immediately in the tunnels. We're popping out, we're watching out for each other.

Griffin: It would have to be an international water situation. Like you can't have laws in the wild zone.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You can trade places with an animal for 30 minutes. What about that? I see the orangutan I'm like, "You and me, buddy." I give him my clothes, my ID. He's me on the outside for 30 minutes. He gets to walk around, get some caramel corn.

Griffin: He tears your fucking head off your shoulders and throws it in the nearby lake.

Travis: No, it's—

Griffin: And just—

Justin: I think no touchies, no words. That's easy, right, of a human reserve? Like no touchies, no words solves most of it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Most of our problems that have gotten us in—

Travis: When your time's done, you do have to go back to the human world.

Justin: If you start making crude technologies, you will be asked to leave.

Griffin: [chuckles] Get out of here, man.

Travis: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

Justin: If I see you use a lever? Out!

Griffin: If you use a stick to get some ants out of a vial? Get the fuck out of here, you're too far.

Travis: Well, now, it depends on which one you're being. If you're in the chimpanzee exhibit, you can do that. That's okay.

Griffin: I think they should—I think when chimpanzees get to that point, they should be removed from the zoo also. You're too close, dude. Now we're uncomfortable, man!

Travis: I would love to see a human in the elephant exhibit painting. That would make me really happy for some reason. I'd be very—but they have to do it with their nose.

Griffin: Okay, there's something there.

Travis: I'd want to be one of the night cats. Can you imagine you're just walking through the night hunter exhibit at Cincinnati Zoo. And you're looking in, and they've got everything all dark and stuff to trick the animals into thinking it's day—you know, night time. And you look in and there's just me prowling around in one of those containers.

Griffin: Shit. Yeah, Trav, that would be—

Travis: And you be like, "I see him, he's behind that—he's behind that log."

Griffin: That would be extremely scary and off-putting, to see a man in the night hunter exhibit.

Justin: Dressed as Mr. Mistoffelees. [titters] Just—

Travis: [chuckles] "Oh, he's stalking that cricket," or whatever.

Griffin: [panting] "I'm on the prow!"

Travis: "I'm a night cat!"

Griffin: "They don't let me in the wild zone with the other animal-humans."
[spoof the sound of a cat hissing]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "For obvious reasons!"

Justin: "My second interview to be a barista is on Thursday, and I just realized it's Halloween. What costume will impress the manager and land me the job?" That's from Scariesta in Sin Fransisco. [laughs]

Griffin: Very scary. Like that scared me a little bit actually.

Justin: That's really good. Good for you.

Griffin: Hm...

Travis: Do both.

Griffin: I mean, yeah, I think doing both is wild. How long is this interview going to be that you have to wear your costume during it? Unless you just don't want to bring a change of clothes downtown, I guess—

Travis: Well, it shows a level of commitment, Griffin. A level of enthusiasm.

Griffin: You could dress up like a big old coffee bean? "I'm this for Christmas because I'm just wild about these beans."

Justin: For, sorry—

Travis: You dress for the job you want.

Justin: Sorry, did you say for Christmas?

Griffin: I did say Christmas, yeah, I meant Halloween.

Justin: Let's speak on that for a second.

Griffin: Well, I was thinking like there's—

Travis: Yeah. Justin doesn't like it when people say Christmas. Everybody has to say happy holidays.

Justin: Thank you. Happy holidays.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It does make you seem like someone who had better things to do, doesn't it? Which I like.

Griffin: A little bit.

Justin: I like that, though. That's kind of playing hard to get.

Travis: You gotta dress for the job you want. So you dress as a barista.

Griffin: I mean—

Justin: A generic like Kroger, like Aldi brand. [chuckles] The Kirkland barista.

Travis: Maybe a zombie—a zombie barista.

Justin: What? That's scary.

Travis: So you're also spooky—yeah.

Griffin: I don't think it's gotta be that. I think you come out of the back room wearing a barista uniform from this place. And you're like, "This is—I'm make believing that I'm doing this, and you're gonna see what a good job I do." And they can't make you leave, because it's a Halloween costume.

Travis: Dress as a job interviewer and flip the script.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Where do you see yourself—

Justin: Which one of us is the interviewer now?

Griffin: Where do you see—

Travis: Yeah, who watches the watcher?

Griffin: "Where do you see yourself in five years?"
"Asking you this exact same question, five years from now."

Justin: "And tell me, who have you dressed as today for our interview?"
"I dressed as your grandfather's ghost."

[group laugh]

Justin: "I looked him up online. I looked him up online and I'm your grandfather's—I looking exactly—I know. Exactly like him, right? It's wild."

Griffin: I'm dressed—

Travis: "And I researched his whole life story. Ask me anything your grandfather would know."

Justin: "Ask me anything your grandfather would know."

Travis: "What kind of interview is this?"
"Exactly."

Griffin: Exactly.

Justin: "Oh, by the way, I'm your biological grandfather."
"Wait, what?"
"Yes, you heard me right."

Griffin: "You don't know about that shit."

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: "I am dressed as a Google Maps print out of your home address. If I don't get this job, I am going to Talented Mr. Ripley you. Which I don't know if you've seen that film, does not turn out for the real Mr. Ripley. Some stuff to think about."

Travis: "Yes, sir, I am dressed as Borat. But I will be doing this interview with myself, don't you worry. What's that? You want to see [spoofing Borat] my résumé?"

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Sorry, sir, that was the only one. Sorry, just having—"

Justin: Sorry. Your only résumé? [titters]

Travis: Yes.

Justin: I do need it back. [spoofing Borat] My thrift!

[group chuckle]

Travis: "Yes, is pain in my assholes. Thank you for asking."

Griffin: "Thank you so much."

Justin: "One of my friends is a speed Rubik's Cube solver and solves for the team that enters competitions together. Recently, they signed up to an event in my city that's in a week. Unfortunately, one of their team got sick, but has already paid for the ticket. My friend has asked me to step in, as I know how to slowly solve a Rubik's Cube. Brothers, how do I grind my Rubik's Cube skills as does not embarrass myself in front of these elite cubers? That's from Gmail."

Griffin: This is a nightmare that I've had.

Justin: A nightmare which you've described.

Griffin: Yeah, I've a nightmare—

Justin: There's no way to do this. You have to get good at it real fast.

Griffin: It takes a long time. So long,

Justin: Yeah, it takes a long time to do it.

Travis: Okay, let me offer this play; you step up there, you move the cube around really fast. But then you slam it down and say, "This one's broken."

Griffin: Yeah. "This one's actually an unsolvable pattern. This happens."

Justin: Unsolvable.

Travis: Unsolvable.

Griffin: "This happens sometimes."

Travis: "This isn't regulation."

Justin: I've had that happen to me before.

Griffin: A couple stickers in the wrong place, that mother fucker won't get solved.

Justin: You get one of the cubes twisted, and you got—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, that'll happen.

Griffin: Unsolvable.

Travis: That'll happen.

Justin: Unsolvable.

Travis: This one's unsolvable.

Justin: If you're so smart, you do it. You want to prove to me it's not broken? You solve it. Thank you very much. That's—

Griffin: And you slam it down.

Justin: Take it back, slam it down.

Griffin: I use social engineering as my skill.

Justin: Yeah, exactly, that's one option.

Travis: [gasps] He's done it.

Griffin: [titters] Could—

Travis: If your friend hasn't invited you to—they know that you're not bringing the heat, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's—like there's no way your friend thinks you're super—your friend who is superfast and competes in superfast Rubik's Cube is like, "I bet they're also as good at it as I am." That's not happening.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Probably just they need somebody to fill out the team, and you're the only other person they know who's ever solved a Rubik's Cube.

Griffin: Have they—have you wronged them in the past, and this is a setup for a JK Simmons at the end of Whiplash, brutal fucking like—they walk up to you and they're like, "You remember how I said that this was low stakes? These are the fastest speed cubers in the world, and you're about to absolutely shit your pants and have your ass fall out of your pants. I knew it was—"

Travis: "We staked your house on this one."

Griffin: "We staked your house on this one. I knew it was you the whole time, Neiman." And then you walk away, slap. Oh, fuck, you don't know what to do. But then you go back out there. Paul Reiser like, "Don't do it!" Fuck off, Paul Reiser.

Justin: Fuck off. "Your heart will explode; you can't drum right now!" Is that—I haven't seen it a bit.

Griffin: That's basically how it ends, yeah.

Travis: How fast can it be? I'm gonna look up the world record, because it can't be that fast, right?

Justin: For drumming?

Travis: World record Rubik's Cube. I mean, you'll probably have a couple minutes or something to solve it.

Justin: Oh, people can do it—

Travis: Let's see.

Justin: People can do it really—

Travis: 3.13 seconds. Jesus Christ!

Griffin: [titters] Yeah, it's—

Justin: Yeah. If you ever see people do—people get—I thought I would impress a kid one time. Because I saw this kid cubin' at a rehearsal I was at, and I said—

Griffin: You saw a Cuban child at a thing, and you—

Justin: A cubin', cubin'. A cubin'...

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Cubin'.

Travis: He was eating a Cuban sandwich.

Justin: No, I'm so sorry he was cubin', C-U-B-I-N fun apostrophe.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah, a G on there would have really solved this whole issue, Juice. It seemed like you were—

Justin: Hey, Griffin, if I like solving things, I wouldn't be a cuber. You know? Think about it.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Wait, isn't that the whole point of being a cuber?

Justin: Hey, so I told him I could solve the cube. And he's like show—he's like, "You do cube now?" Like, "Yeah, let me see." So I take the cube and I like solve it, it takes me about two minutes. And he's like, "Huh." And then he takes it and he's like... he just sort of looks at it. [titters] It just like solves itself. I don't know, this kid did it in like 10 seconds. And it made me feel... I realized that like just knowing how to do it actually is the lowest possible barrier to entry. It is just the most... the lowest thing you can do to even be—

Griffin: Eligible, right.

Justin: In this world at all. Like you couldn't be in more of a beginning spot than to just be able to do it.

Travis: One of my favorite things of being a parent is moments where I can look at my child and be like, "Ah, this child and I, we're cut from the same cloth. We're so—" Bebe picked up a Rubik's Cube, twisted it three or four times and then went, "Eh." And put it back down! [chuckles]

Griffin: And never touched it again.

Travis: And I was like, "That's my kid! Nice!"

Griffin: That kick ass.

Justin: Wow. Chilling.

Travis: Oh, what I mean is I have no follow through or commitment to things I'm not immediately good at.

Griffin: Yeah. No, I got it. [laughs]

Justin: Hey, Travis? Here's what I'm saying. Explain to me how we're on episode 736. Because we're the best of the best. You know what I'm saying?

Travis: I was good at this right away.

Justin: This is the proof. This is—the proof is in the pudding. You wouldn't still be doing it if you weren't good at it. Think about it that way.

Travis: No, but I'm saying I did it right—oh, I see what you're saying. You're telling me I'm doing it because I keep doing it.

Justin: You know what I'm saying? You must be good at it, otherwise why are you still doing it?

Travis: Well, I'm financially beholden to doing it, is part of it as well.

Justin: Oh, well, yeah, we all have our demons at this point, Trav. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know how this tontine is set up. You don't need to explain it to me.

Travis: Yeah, I can't stop playing the ponies, and so I gotta keep doing My Brother, My Brother and Me. You get it.

Griffin: Right, exactly.

Justin: Right. Most of my—most of my several families across the US are dependent on this show's money coming in. [chuckles]

Travis: Your tour families, as you call them.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Yes. [titters]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: The road fam.

Travis: Yeah, we get it.

Griffin: The satellite fam.

Justin: By the way—

Griffin: The fam from home.

Justin: Jeremy, good luck in science club.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: See you in Indianapolis.

Justin: Marla...

[group laugh]

Griffin: "Can't wait to catch your next science fair in Indianapolis, [spoofs caller ID voice] Carla."

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: "[spoofs caller ID voice intermittently] 'Carla,' you are my favorite 'daughter' of 'eight' years old!"

Justin: [laughs] We are actually going to be in Indianapolis on Tuesday. That's probably tomorrow.

Griffin: Not to see our road families.

Justin: No, we're going to be doing My Brother, My Brother and Me, Tuesday, November 5th, Indianapolis. With Aabria Iyengar, Wednesday, November 6th, we are going to be in Indianapolis doing The Adventure Zone. And then we'll be in Milwaukee on November 7th, with My Brother, My Brother and Me.

Travis: And let me be clear about that Adventure Zone one, it's Roll for Shoes. Which, if you don't know the system, is the most open-ended chaotic thing. The last time we played it—

Griffin: It's so silly.

Travis: It went absolutely wild. And Aabria is joining us, and you're not going to want to miss it. You can get tickets at bit.ly/mcelroytours. And you can also, if you have questions for either My Brother, My Brother and Me show, you can send in the questions to mbmbam@maximumfund.org. And put your city in the subject line so we know who you're sending them to. Same with wishes for Fungalore.

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, if you're coming to that November 5th show in Indianapolis, you should probably definitely vote before you come to the show. We won't have any kind of voting apparatus set up there.

Travis: And don't vote for one of the shitty ones. You know what I mean?

Justin: Vote only for... the right people, obviously. We should have mentioned that.

Travis: Or the left people. Wink.

Griffin: If we say the wrong thing here, Jeff Bezos shuts us—shuts our asses down.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: That's the problem. Yeah, that is true.

Travis: He's standing true over my shoulder right now, breathing *very* heavily. Which is freaking me out.

Griffin: Don't vote for Ronald Gump. And I'm looking at Jeff, and he's nodding his head like, you can say—

Travis: He likes that one.

Griffin: Don't vote Ronald Gump.

Justin: He said that's okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He said that's okay. He said the real Ronald Gump might not recognize that you're talking about him, and his retribution doesn't come down. So, don't vote for Ronald Gump.

Travis: Hey, at the end of this month, I'm gonna be doing Twenty-Sided Tavern in New York City, my off-Broadway premiere.

Justin: There it is.

Travis: First of many. November 27th through December 1st. I'll be playing the trickster role, which is like three different characters.

Griffin: Ooh?

Travis: And—yeah.

Griffin: Ambitious.

Travis: Well, it's—you know, we're playing DN—get this, playing DnD live in front of an audience.

Griffin: Yeah. I love it.

Travis: And making it up as we go along.

Griffin: Kicks ass.

Travis: Yeah, man. Get your tickets at thetwentsidedtavern.com. And I'll see you there, it's going to be an absolute hoot and a half.

Griffin: Yeah. Got some new merch up in the merch store?

Justin: Yeah. The Do Not Drink mug, if you're a McElroy family clubhouse fan—

Griffin: I got mine this morning.

Justin: You'll recognize that and enjoy it.

Travis: There you go.

Griffin: Both of my kids have asked me what the fuck it means that we have a mug that says 'do not drink' on it.

Travis: That's fair.

Justin: You don't show them the intro all the time?

Griffin: I guess we should—I guess they would enjoy that, right?

Justin: I have my kids watch it every morning.

Travis: My kids love it.

Justin: That's how I wake them up, yeah.

Travis: And 10% of all merch proceeds this month go to the First Nations Development Institute. Their mission is to uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of native communities through advocacy, financial support and knowledge sharing. So, go check out mcelroymerch.com, and check out that new mug and everything else that's there.

Griffin: We got a wish here—

Travis: And thank you to Montaigne.

Griffin: Oh my god, I can't believe—this is the first time I've ever—

Travis: For the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. Go check that out.

Griffin: Montaigne, I'm so—I'm so sorry.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: I'm so sorry. I've never done it.

Travis: But that's family is. Meerkats support each other, Griffin. We're looking out for each other. That's what meerkats and I have in common.

Griffin: Is that what you would be, you think, if you went into the wild zone at the Cincinnati Zoo? You would live—

Justin: Why are you starting the fucking show again? I could push you into a well—

Travis: I just really see myself in a meerkat, and the meerkat inside.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: Can I make a wish?

Griffin: Yeah, please, go ahead, Justin.

Travis: [hums] Ayymm-mm-mm-mm-mm-mm—

Griffin: [hums] Hiymm-mm-mm-mm-mm-mm—

Justin: I wish that Haribo gummy sour bats looked a *little* less like flying penises. My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: They are both sour bats... yeah! Yeah, a little bit. 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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