

The Adventure Zone: Abnimals - Setup

Published September 19th, 2024

[Listen here on mcelroy.family](https://mcelroy.family)

Travis: What's up, you radical TAZ fans? I'm your game runner, Travis McElroy, hi everybody.

Griffin: We are about to be so rich.

Travis & Justin: Huh.

Griffin: We are about to get so rich off this one.

Travis: Oh boy.

Griffin: I think that this has the potential to be our most lucrative one yet.

Justin: So—

Travis: You goin' just by toyetics?

Justin: Yeah, this— Yeah.

Griffin: The toyetics on this one are through the roof, dudes.

Justin: Let's the— Let's just say this. What's up, kids? If you've never listened before, we're the McElroy Brother, and our dad Clint, so McElroy Guys. [chuckles] But whatever.

Travis: But he's not a nark, don't worry, he's a cool dad.

Griffin: He's a non-nark.

Justin: He's a cool Dad and he's like—

Travis: He's sitting backwards in his chair.

Griffin: No.

Clint: I'm cool, man.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know if your parents have ever told you about *The Adventure Zone*, or your guardian, or whatever. But that's this, and we're gonna do a story just for you to hang out with them.

Clint: [snorts] [chuckles]

Justin: And everybody to have fun together. Now what's that mean? We're gonna try to avoid profanity. Now that's interesting, kid, I should mention, I'm not—

Travis: Why did you say "try," Justin? I don't like that there's—

Justin: Now, I will try.

Travis: — there's a low-level of commitment there.

Justin: I will try, our editor Rachel will succeed. [wheezes]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: In not letting there be any profanity in here. I gotta say, kids, I'm really excited. I'll be honest with you, I cuss in front of my kids, so I don't know, I feel like I'm living kind of a glass house double standard here.

Griffin: I do not, and I got both of them just to the sides of my desk, they are watching me like fleshy statues that look a lot like me. And they have tears.

Travis: I've never cussed in my entire life. So.

Griffin: That's a—

Justin: So this isn't gonna be boring, it's gonna be fun.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Promise.

Clint: Okay, what about minced oaths? Can we like—

Griffin: Minced oaths.

Clint: Poop? Darn?

Justin: Okay, I would like to ask a favor.

Griffin: “Darn” is okay.

Clint: Darn is okay?

Justin: I would like to—

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I would like to not say “darn.” [wheezes] Please.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: What about “shucky darn?”

Griffin & Justin: [simultaneously] Absolutely not.

Justin: Someone will find that offensive.

Griffin: No.

Clint: What about “ding dang it?” “Ding dang it.”

Griffin: Oh, I’m gonna be—

Travis: Horse apples.

Griffin: I’m gonna be sick from all this profanity.

Travis: Okay. So, I’m gonna start from the beginning. So when we were discussing what was gonna come after *TAZ Versus Dracula...*

Griffin: Which is not for you, kids! That one's got— That one's rated NC—

Travis: Unless you're awesome.

Griffin: [mutters] Well yeah, maybe.

Travis: Yeah, if you're cool. And so the— part of the discussion that we kinda got to was like, choosing a thing, 'cause I wanted to run the next one. I think it was Justin who was like, "You need to think about like what's the thing that makes complete and total sense that you would be one like telling the story, and that like it just is a perfect fit."

And for a while now, I've had running segments on *My Brother, My Brother And Me* about abnimals, which is my term for... primarily, it was like, the late '80s then through the '90s and early 2000s different TV shows that were like animals with muscles.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: In places they should not be.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: So beginning with *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* in like 1987, and then you had like *Street Sharks* and *Biker Mice From Mars*.

Justin: In my head, it's always like— I always think about *Animorphs*, because I always think about like if *Animorphs* got stuck halfway through.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah.

Justin: You know, like if halfway through you got like, "Ah, stuck!"

Travis: If the *Animorphs* gets to stuck.

Griffin: And they also all— They also all skateboarded.

Justin & Travis: [simultaneously] Yes.

Griffin: And ate hot dogs.

Justin: And if you sneeze mid-morph, you get stuck in the morph.

Griffin: Lot of people don't know that.

Justin: Everybody knows that.

Travis: Now, for me, the term "abnimals" kinda expanded beyond just like *Street Sharks*, *Biker Mi*— I mean, I think it fringes into like *Dark Wing Duck* area, little bit, *Tail Spin*. I would say like there's areas of like *Toxic Avenger* cartoon that's in there, which was a wild— By the way.

Griffin: Wild choice.

Travis: Wild call.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. There in the '90s. Basically— And you'll see this in *Abnimals* where we have it broken down into three categories of like animals that kind of evolved rapidly, like your *Ninja Turtles*, people that mutated with animals, like *Street Sharks*, *Battle Toads*, that kinda thing.

And then you have like aliens, which both includes like other planets or like fantasy other dimensions kind of things, like your *Gargoyles* and I wanna say *Cowboys and Moo*— No, *Biker Mice From Mars*, it's right— they're from Mars. Where it's just a planet where they are that.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And in discussing that, like in talking about it, it also then just made complete sense to try to embrace the kind of Saturday morning cartoon feel of it, which is where that concept comes from. And if that's the case, why not make it so like everyone can listen? And maybe not be embarrassed that you're listening to it while you drive your kids to school.

Griffin: No no no.

Travis: Maybe that—

Griffin: Oh, hold on, wait. We can't promise that.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: You may still be embarrassed.

Travis: Oh yes, okay.

Griffin: To listen to this show, we are... I think in our peak cringe era.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Justin: 100%.

Griffin: It feels right to me, and so like you'll be embarrassed by it, but it won't be— like you can play it for your friends at church, kids.

Travis: Now I also can't promise that, Griffin, because I have peaked my cringe so many times in just in the last decade and a half, I don't know how much more cringy I can be personally.

Clint: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: And there might be complicated morality things that you shouldn't play for your friends at church.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, you get it.

Clint: So the no cursing.

Griffin: Yes.

Clint: No Satanism.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Well.

Clint: Right?

Travis: Now hold on.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: We're gonna have a very positive, Christian message in this one.

Travis: Can't promise that either.

Griffin: Like—

Justin: Skibidi.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Ohio.

Justin: That's.

Travis: We started with that concept and made up a rule set. Let's see, who do we wanna start with when we discuss— We'll kinda go over the rules a little but when we go through the character sheets, but... Let's start with Griffin.

Griffin: Alright. Well, for this season of *The Adventure Zone: Abnimals*, I will be playing Navy Seal. He is a seal, he is big boy, ocean commando, and former member of the Royal Seals, a te— an all seal-based team of heroes.

He is not, nor has he ever been, an active-duty service member of our armed forces. This is something he must make very clear any time he is introduced. He is not—

Travis: Navy's just his color, right?

Griffin: Navy is his— is the color of sort of his armor, that was his assigned color in the Royal Seals. However, he was not aware that that is

a type of like army guy. And so— Or I guess navy guy. And so he did— There were accusations of stolen valor that were placed at his feet that led to his— his removal from this honorable animal hero team.

Travis: Did we start life as a seal or a person?

Griffin: I think he started life as a seal. I think it would be weird if he was a person first, and then got turned into a seal. So a—

Travis: Okay, so he evolved rapidly.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: To this anthropomorphic seal person, got it.

Griffin: Yes, that's right. So, yeah he's a ross seal, which is a very round type of seal. Big bug eyes, big bulldog sort of flappy mouth, big beefy, well blubbery body. He's got a big suit of sort of future armor. On the scale of shirt pants both or neither, I think he's both.

Clint: Very good.

Griffin: But I also think that is leaves little to the imagination.

Travis: Oh okay.

Griffin: The abs are in full effect.

Travis: So it's a scanty both.

Griffin: A scanty armor. He also has a signature item, which is a mechanic in the—

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: — the game that Travis has devised, that he uses a lot which is basically like the Flood Pack from *Super Mario Sunshine*. It's a sort of double-barreled hydro-blaster jetpack that he can use for sort of propulsion or spray combat purposes.

Travis: Yeah, or just like, I don't know, if somebody is— Well, it's salt water, isn't it. I was gonna say if they're thirsty, but you wouldn't want that.

Griffin: I bet he's got a filter that he can slap on there.

Travis: A Britta.

Griffin: A Britta that he can mix in there. And yeah, he's sort of the— the heavy of the group, I'm imagining. Sort of the Raphael, but without all the baggage.

Travis: Mm, a non-toxic Raphael.

Griffin: A non-toxic Raphael, who's sort of, you know—

Travis: Your kids can eat this Raphael, and you don't even have to worry about it.

Griffin: No problem.

Travis: It's not recommended, there's not a lot of vitamins in it.

Griffin: No.

Travis: But they're not gonna get sick.

Griffin: No Mr. Yuck sticker on this Raphael. Yeah you know, in a bit of a career slump. Was ridin' high with the Royal Seals, but is sort of in a rebuilding phase with this new, ragtag Abnimals team.

Travis: So the way that the signature item works is any time you attack with something, or attack in general, it's— you have 2d8 of attack, but if you're attacking with your signature item—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: — it's a 3d8 attack.

Griffin: This is a very eight-based system.

Travis: Yeah. Correct.

Griffin: You have— There's 3d8s that we roll to determine success or failures, more 3d8s means more chances for success.

Travis: That's correct.

Griffin: So you're signature item helps you to do that.

Travis: So then we have two sets of kind of specialization and skills. You have your Abs skills and your Animal skills, and Abs is anything that you have learned... in training, or you know, educated yourself on.

Justin: You can train— You gotta train abs.

Griffin: You have to.

Travis: Right.

Justin: You don't just get abs.

Travis: Right.

Justin: You earn abs.

Travis: And Animal—

Justin: That's how you remember, that's stuff you earn.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like you earn your abs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You earn your abs, and Animal is anything—

Justin: In the hall— In the church. In the iron church.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yes, thank you. And then Animal skills or Animal moves are anything that is inherent to the species that the player character is.

Griffin: Yes, Ross seals have this cool thing where they can make these insane noises, with their, you know, neck stuff.

Travis: What?

Griffin: That they have inside— on the inside. They just make like crazy—

Travis: With their neck stuff? No, that's what I don't care about the noise part, Griffin. Could you not think of throat?

Griffin: Yeah, I guess—

Travis: And like vocal cords?

Griffin: [chuckles] I guess that's what I was thinking of. They have these vocalizations they can do to like communicate long distance, so that's one of—

Travis: So that's one—

Clint: That'll come in handy.

Griffin: Yeah

Travis: Yes, that falls under the "Skill to Pay the Bills."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Unlike regular TTRPGS, everybody can like, you know, check for a thing or lift up a thing or do that stuff, right? But each character has like special skills that are related to kind of their abilities and their animal, which are the Skills to Pay the Bills.

Griffin: Correct.

Travis: So Griffin, what are Navy Seal's Abs Skills to Pay the Bills?

Griffin: Ab Skills, Hydro-propulsion, with his Splash Pack. He also has a skill called Bulky Boy, that just means he's been to the gym a lot and he's hard to knock down.

And then on the Animal side, Siren Song, he's got this crazy loud voice he can do stuff with, and Bug Eyed, 'cause man look at a picture of a ross seal, these are good dudes, and their eyes are huge and crazy looking.

Travis: Excellent.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And we'll talk all about what those do when they come up in the game. And finally, as far as specialization goes, each character has Mondo Moves.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And these are moves that are conditional, if blank happens then you can do blank. And once again they're broken into Abs and Animals. What are Navy Seal's—

Griffin: So—

Travis: — Abs moves?

Griffin: Yes, he has an Abs move called Torpedo, where is he is submerged in water, he can launch himself at an enemy at tremendous speed, closing large gaps and dealing a bunch of damage. That is facilitated by his Splash Pack.

And then there is on the Animal side, Blubber Shield, which lets me take damage for an adjacent friend. Or I also have Baby Doll Eyes, which is that if me or one of my teammates fails a diplomatic roll of some sort, I can bat my huge, adorable eyes.

Travis: I gotta look at these eyes, hold on.

Griffin: To try and repeat the roll.

Justin: They're really good. Griffin—

Travis: Aw, yeah! Aw, man! These are good boys.

Griffin: I'm not here—

Travis: Oh my god, so cute!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Griffin, do you have a stolen valor kink, or is it just like an unrealized path in your life that you never went down.

Griffin: Yeah, I think it is specifically—

Justin: And you're trying to explore that side of you?

Griffin: It's just about the Navy, I guess. Like I've never wanted to be— That's not my life.

Justin: But it could be.

Griffin: But I think I look at the Navy.

Justin: It could be, huh!

Griffin: I look at the Navy, and I'm like, "They've got a lot of great ideas over there." [laughs] "They're cookin' with—" And I'm just talking about sort of aesthetically.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like that's my aesthetic. What they do—

Justin: This is the thing about— Also, the Navy can't be problematic, because they're just following orders.

Griffin: And it's just— No.

Justin: And you feel like you can't be mad at them.

Griffin: And it's not Army, right? Army is like, "We go into your place and we like mess it up, and we do like all kinds of wild stuff." People have some thoughts about it. Navy, "We're just—"

Justin: "Where's the beach?" Yeah.

Griffin: "We're some boat friends on the beach, having a great time."

Justin: And it's just boats.

Travis: And we should make it clear, we don't know anything about the Navy.

Griffin: I don't know anything.

Clint: Well, now wait a minute! Well now wait wait wait. We have maritime blood running through our veins.

Travis: Oh my god.

Clint: Go back to the Titanic.

Justin: Burser Thomas McElroy.

Griffin: I thought it was—

Justin: Harver McEl—

Clint: No, Herbert. Herbert.

Griffin: I just had a great idea. We should have a swear jar, and actual swear jar, that we have to put money in. And then at the end of the season, whoever has sworn the least, gets all the money.

Justin: Donate it.

Travis: I don't want you guys' dirty swear money, I wanna donate it.

Griffin: [mutters] Well, that's—

Justin: Yeah, I will donate it. Well that's bad, 'cause that incentivizes swearing. [chuckles]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: That's true, that'll the—

Griffin: I—

Travis: That'll be our MaxFunDrive bonus.

Justin: "I'm doing it for the kids!"

Travis: All the swears we cut out, [chuckles] all in one long track. And then, like any good, you know, rule system, there is advancement that is based off of like when you score a perfect attack, or when you fail a roll, or all those kinds of things. When it's set up, you can spend it, but once again, we'll get into that as we go. Dad, tell me about your character.

Clint: My character is Roger Mooer. He is primarily a spy. He's a cow.

Travis: Yes, okay, yes.

Clint: He is like an in— master of infiltration. Well, he thinks he's a master of infiltration. He's a Charolais cow, C-H-A-R-O-L-A-I-S. He's all white.

Griffin: Oh wow.

Clint: Except for a—

Griffin: Oh, this is a beautiful animal.

Travis: Oh my god, you guys have chosen beautiful animals.

Clint: Isn't he beautiful? And he's that—

Griffin: So furry, like wildly furry— like fuzzy furry.

Travis: He does look like he had a perm.

Clint: Roger has a lot to work with.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: He has like a— two black circles around his eyes, almost like a bandit mask.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Cool.

Clint: And when he does his infiltration, he covers that with a white domino mask.

Griffin: Ooo.

Clint: So that he can blend right into any situation.

Travis: Where it's all white and very bright.

Clint: If it's snowing, yeah.

Travis: Okay, yeah yeah yeah. He's kind of an arctic cow.

Clint: Yeah, he—

Griffin: This guy look like a sheep who got hu—

Travis: Who got big?

Griffin: Who got like really wasted—

Justin: Big sheep.

Griffin: — and got freaking huge, dude.

Clint: Oh, Roger is very—

Travis: A sheep made a wish on a Zoltar machine or something.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, exactly.

Clint: Roger is very fond of his hair.

Travis: Yeah, I would be too.

Clint: And uses that, 'cause he's kind of a, again, thinks he's a master of disguise. Now he's an alien.

Travis: Mm.

Clint: From another galaxy. He was in a different Abnimal-type group, and they're all—

Travis: The Barnyard All-Stars.

Clint: The Barnyard All-Stars, and they were all very jock-oriented, very sports-oriented, and Roger loves the dance. His usual cover is as a competitive ballroom dancer.

Justin: Mmm.

Clint: And so all of his skills and moves are basically—

Justin: Mooves.

Clint: — derivative of dance.

Travis: Hey Justin, I got that and I love it.

Griffin: It's very good, there's gonna be a lot of that, guys. Lot of it.

Clint: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: Quick question, GM.

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: Is this an all-animals world?

Justin: Is it GM or GR? 'Cause you said, "game runner." What's the— your term? You gotta make for your thing.

Griffin: Yeah, what do you prefer? You made this game.

Travis: Um, Master Travis? No, that's not it.

Griffin: No, that sucks.

Travis: I think game— [sighs]

Justin: Zookeeper?

Griffin: Zookeeper's pretty cool.

Clint: Mm.

Griffin: Zeke?

Justin: Hey! You know what? ZK is—

Griffin: ZK.

Justin: At least it's easier to remember.

Griffin: Yeah, it sounds cool to.

Travis: Yeah, I'm gonna go with ZK. Yeah, I'm gonna go with Zoo Keeper, that was—

Griffin: ZK.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, ZK. Listen. Is this an all-animals world?

Travis: No.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So this is more in line with... There are a lot of Abnimals and a lot of teams, ever since the Convergence.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But primarily, the citizens of River City are still human.

Griffin: I need a guarantee, right now, from all of us, that we will not kiss any humans.

Clint: [wheezes]

Griffin: We will not have a Sonic the Hedgehog or *Gargoyles*-esque sort of intra-species romance arcs.

Travis: How dare you like cut that off for your fellow players, Griffin. But yeah, that would be icky, so if you guys wanna— [chuckles] Just as a— No, I don't wanna start with that energy. Anybody can kiss anybody they want to—

Griffin: No!

Travis: — as long as it's consensual.

Clint: Yeah!

Travis: Nope.

Clint: Don't be cuttin' into Roger's arsenal here. I mean.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: You just don't want Dad kissing my characters, and that's fine Griffin, that I get. I understand that completely.

Griffin: If there's any animal babes...

Travis: Yeah, okay.

Griffin: Nice.

Travis: So, Roger's an alien who was with the Barnyard All-Stars, is no longer with the Barnyard All-Stars.

Clint: Mm-mm.

Travis: Cool. Tell me about Roger's signature item.

Clint: His signature item is called the Cattle Prod. And there are these little metal caps that fit on the tips of his horns. And they act like a taser. They can shock.

Travis: I love that. I love that.

Griffin: But he have to like punch your head into a enemy to use it?

Clint: He has to get pretty close to them, yeah. Has to get pretty close.

Griffin: Can you hack with them? I don't know if our team has a hacker.

Clint: Mm.

Travis: We'll see.

Clint: That's for future development.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess so.

Clint: That's for future development.

Travis: The thing about the *Abnimals* ruleset is it's intentionally very flexible and vague.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because I don't know if you guys have watched any of those references I made earlier recently.

Griffin: They're really not going along— Yeah.

Travis: But they're not physics and science driven.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So I'm not super worried about it.

Clint: His skills.

Travis: Yes.

Clint: He is a master of Moo Tai.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Which is— [wheezes] Which is a bovine fighting style.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Clint: So he can use his hind legs to front kick or sidekick. He can use his front legs to block, jab.

Justin: [chuckles] Okay.

Griffin: Awesome, you've really thought this out.

Justin: Why are you making mechanics? [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Yeah!

Justin: Which way does max— Which is mapped to X and which is mapped to A, Dad?

Clint: X—

Justin: I need to make sure I have the combos.

Clint: Triangle, and then L2 is sidekick.

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: And then his other Abs skill—

Justin: Put `em all together, he deploys his udders, and he does his udder blast, and he calls it Udder Madness.

Griffin: Now—

Clint: No, I'm saving the udders, I'm saving the udders.

Travis: Justin, I don't wanna— Listen Justin, I don't wanna get too far into cow biology here.

Justin: That's why he has to press all the buttons, Travis, let's leave it at that, okay?

Travis: Oh, it's a special combo that makes him—

Justin: It's a special combo.

Travis: — suddenly have an udder.

Justin: Yes.

Clint: Okay.

Justin: It's Udder Madness. It's not Udder Normal. [chuckles]

Travis: Okay, that's fair.

Clint: Udder Madness, oh I'm stealin' that, yeah. His other skill is Cow-nterfeit. He can speak most animal languages.

Griffin: Ooo.

Clint: And imitate each one of them perfectly.

Justin: [quietly] I don't like that one.

Clint: Animal skills.

Travis: You don't like animals having other languages?

Justin: I don't like Cow-nterfeit. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, just the pun itself you don't.

Justin: I feel like he should limit him to per character. [chuckles]

Clint: No, there—

Griffin: No, no.

Justin: No, okay.

Travis: No, Justin. Dad's fully embracing this, and I'm loving it. Bah bah bah bah bah.

Justin: Okay, yeah you're right, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Travis: Now tell me your Animal skills.

Clint: Animal skills.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Prehensile Power. Where he can use his tail like a whip. Or a somewhat short rope, or like binding somebody.

Travis: I love that.

Clint: And see each—

Griffin: Now hold on— Now wait one second.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: You can use your tail to bind somebody, but then they're just like on you at that point?

Travis: Tied to his butt, yeah.

Griffin: Tied to your butt?

Clint: Yeah, right next to those hind kicking legs.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Clint: Get it?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Mmm.

Clint: Come on, I've thought this out, baby. I've thought this out.

Griffin: It sounds like it.

Clint: And the— his other Animal skill is CH4U, where he— [chuckles] he burps a cloud of methane gas, which can be very disorienting, and is most effective up close, like if he's interrogating somebody.

Travis: If he burps in someone's face.

Clint: Burps in somebody's face, it's a cloud of methane gas.

Griffin: How mu— What is his carbon footprint? How much of the current sort of climate crisis do you think Roger Mooer is like kind of solely responsible for? A lot of it?

Clint: I think like nine% of it.

Griffin: Okay, that's a lot. That's a lot.

Travis: nine%'s so much, Dad!

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Clint: In defense of the world, I mean, you know. Is—

Griffin: You have to destroy the world sometimes.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Just to fix it.

Clint: Yes. So his—

Travis: So just to be clear, just 'cause it just occurred to me, Roger is a member of the— or former member of the Barnyard All-Stars. All the Barnyard All-Stars are not cows.

Clint: No.

Travis: It's a world of various barnyard animals.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: With different sets of skills. Which three of your Mondo Moves are you starting out with?

Clint: I think I'm going to start with Wango Bango Tango.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: When somebody grabs Roger or attempts to grab him, he can counter grab that opponent and put them into a disorienting spin.

Travis: Love that.

Clint: And then I think I really think I wanna go with the Night Foxtrot.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: When he hears a techno beat, [chuckles] he can do a fluid acrobatic tumbling dance, like the French dude in *Ocean's 12*.

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: [cackles]

Justin: From the sheet.

Clint: That's right.

Travis: You got that on the sheet.

Justin: It's right there on the sheet.

Clint: Yeah. You know, the Night Fox.

Griffin: It's so wild that—

Travis: Now originally, there was a misprint where Dad mistyped and it said, "The Grinch dude from *Ocean's 12*." [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: And it took me way too long to figure out he meant "French dude." [wheezes]

Clint: [laughs] You remember when Jim Carrey stole all that art.

Travis: You remember.

Clint: And then the Animal move I'm gonna do is... Scourge of the China Shop, which in close quarters, he whirls around like a dervish and wrecks everything.

Travis: Okay. And that's Roger. Last but not least, Justin, introduce us to your creation.

Justin: Hey. I'm playing a character named Axe-O-Lyle. And he's an extreme firefighter and axolotl. He's both.

Travis: Now Justin.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: I do need you to—

Justin: Some people can be two things.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: No that's great, I love that. What makes—

Justin: He really can have it all.

Travis: Okay. Extreme firefighter—

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: — was a thing I needed to ask you about—

Justin: Right.

Travis: — when you told me you wanted to be.

Justin: Yeah, so an extreme firefighter is someone who— Like a firefighter fights fires.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But if you need to fight a fire in a situation that is otherwise dangerous, you call in extreme firefighters. So if there's a fire in an airport, firefighters. If there's a fire in an airplane, extreme firefighters.

Travis: Oh wow.

Justin: Do you understand me?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You couldn't expect regular firefighters to like— They're like the SWAT team of firefighters, basically.

Travis: I love it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So they're— And they're all used to like extreme environments, extreme conditions, extreme action and adventure and excitement.

Travis: Yeah, okay. And did Axe-O-Lyle start as an axolotl? He mutated, right?

Justin: Yes. Well, Axe-O— I didn't have to invent anything for axolotls, guys. They are wild.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Axe-O—

Travis: But did he start human, I guess, is what I'm asking?

Justin: No, he started as a regular pet axolotl that his owner read on Reddit that you could inject iodine into them to force them to metamorphize, even though that is not something that happens in the wild. There's experimentation with that. So he actually accidentally gave him cosmic iodine.

Travis: Aw man.

Justin: Which his father had in the house from his experiments.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And the cosmic iodine transformed him into the extreme firefighter Axe-O-Lyle.

Travis: Excellent.

Griffin: I feel foolish because I realize I'm the only one that didn't think about how did my guy become a super-powered bipedal seal man. I didn't get— I didn't think about that, it's just that's—

Travis: Well, it's part of the Convergence.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Clint: And we'll cover all that.

Griffin: And we will not cover what that is. Sure.

Travis: Well, the Convergence is the catch all term for the two-week period where suddenly a lot of animals—

Griffin: [chuckles] Right.

Travis: — suddenly existed.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Yeah. Like for a while there was only the one set, the Green Back Guardians.

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah.

Travis: Who started in the '80s. Because they ate some microwave lettuce, right?

Griffin: We can't. We can't right.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: We can't.

Griffin: We can't, yeah.

Justin: It's just gotta be revealed slowly, Trav.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They don't deserve all of it at once. You gotta lift the skirt up slowly.

Clint: [chuckles]

Travis: Now Axe-O-Lyle.

Justin: You know, tantalize. [chuckles]

Travis: You mentioned the metamorphosizing.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Because Axe-O-Lyle was formerly a member of Amphiba Force.

Justin: Right. Absolutely. That was his last home after he— I mean he's always on call as a volunteer extreme firefighter, and that's something that is tricky is that work can sometimes call him away at inopportune moments.

He was with the Amphiba Force before this team, but it eventually got weird for him because he was the only one that didn't actually naturally morph. 'Cause axolotls don't do that, naturally. They could, they just don't, they're really weird.

Travis: As an adult, you mean?

Justin: Uh-huh, yeah. They don't metamorph a lot, they don't go through metamorphosis, but if you give them iodine, they will just become somethin' new, no biggie. Just like real *Pokémon*, it's insane.

Travis: Weird!

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: They're wild, yeah.

Travis: Axolotls are wild, man!

Justin: Yeah, man. Yeah yeah yeah. Are you hopin' that he has teeth? He does not. There is no teeth.

Travis: I wasn't hoping that Justin, that was not— I had no investment emotionally in it whatsoever.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: So you're telling me the axolotls transform into adult salamanders with an injection of iodine.

Travis: What?

Griffin: They never become fully matured salamanders in the wild?

Justin: Yes, this is what I'm telling you.

Griffin: That is the wildest animal fact I've maybe ever heard.

Justin: There's— Oh, okay. Let's— They're only in one place. [chuckles]

Griffin: South America?

Justin: There's only one pla— No, it's Lake Xochimilco, it's in Mexico City, it's the only place they are, in their canals. Around that area, they're just there. They're wild, no teeth. My powers are based on the axolotl, and it's all—

Travis: Well before we get to that.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: I wanna hear about your signature item, Justin.

Justin: It's a hatchet, man.

Travis: Called Hatchet Man.

Griffin: It's a hatchet man?

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: It's called Hatchet Man. In the Amphiba Force, the guys all had named weapons that they loved, and they would be like, "So what's up with that hatchet?" and I'd be like, "It's not a weapon, it's a tool. It's a hatchet, and I use it for extreme firefighting."

They're like, "But what's it called, what's its story?" and I would keep tellin' `em "It's just— It's a hatchet, man. It's just a hatchet, man." And then eventually they were like, "Axe-O-Lyle never goes anywhere without Hatchet Man."

Griffin: I see.

Justin: And so I eventually just had to go with it. They just started calling it Hatchet Man.

Travis: Okay, tell us about your Abnimal skill, your Abs Skills to Pay the Bills.

Justin: Yes. Okay, so Axe-O-Lyle has some of his Ab skills that are from his times in the extreme firefighter, like Extreme Exfiltration. When a structure or environment is in danger of destruction, I have a practiced sense of the best path of escape.

Travis: Excellent.

Justin: I have Extreme Hiding because I can use camouflage to hide in the environment. That's just axolotls, so— but I have practiced that skill to where I can use it. 'Cause it's not like perfect, it's not invisibility, it's like a— it's something that I've had to learn how to do. It's also not natural to me.

My last Abs skill is another one that requires a lot of focus and concentration, because axolotls [chuckles] have gills and they also have lungs, and they only use their lungs sometimes, if they feel like it. [chuckles] So I can manually activate my lungs to help me breathe in challenging environments, rather than just relying on my gills.

Travis: Yeah. Of course.

Justin: My Animal skills are Limb Regeneration, and—

Griffin: Man, I was gonna ask how often that's gonna come up, but given the history of *The Adventure Zone*, every four episodes.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Or so, someone gets something lopped.

Clint: Somebody loses an arm, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, you wanna know somethin'? I'm gonna switch these two, I think Extreme Hiding should be Animal, and Anything's A Drum should be Abs. I'm gonna switch those two.

Anything's A Drum, he's exceptionally skilled at improvising melee weapons in his environments, since he does not have a weapon that he

carries with him. The— He is— He's very adept at like finding melee weapons in the environment.

Travis: Perfect.

Griffin: What is his Hatchet Man if not—

Travis: It's a tool.

Clint: It's a tool, baby.

Griffin: It's a tool.

Justin: It's a tool.

Griffin: Stop calling me "baby."

Clint: It's a Hatchet Man.

Justin: Yeah, it's twice now you've— It's twice in one show you've called Griffin "baby," it's gotta stop. [chuckles]

Clint: It's not on the list.

Griffin: I think it's weird.

Travis: I think he's getting into—

Justin: You gotta stop it.

Travis: — kinda Roger Mooer kind of a, "Eh, baby."

Justin: No, I like— I was inspired by *Teenage Ninja Turtles: the Movie*, where they keep their weapons on their back the entire movie.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Justin: And never take them out.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: They're literally just there the whole time, they don't use them.

Griffin: I love that.

Justin: So you'll see them like get sausage links at one point, and use those as nunchucks.

Travis: Yeah, yeah literal.

Justin: It's like, "Dog, you have nunchucks."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "You have them, it's—"

Travis: Yeah, but—

Justin: "No no, I'll use this."

Travis: — the shell makes it really hard to reach back there.

Justin: I assume maybe that's it.

Griffin: Their arms are so little, yeah.

Travis: Tell me about your Mondo Moves as Axe-O-Lyle.

Justin: Okay, my Mondo Moves. I have Nocturno Sense. In a darkened environment, and when not in active peril, Lyle can use sound and chemical detection to understand more about his environment, enemies, et cetera. But that doesn't work in danger, and it doesn't work when it's bright, it's only when it's dark.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: But exceptional in the dark. This is a Animal move. It's called Don't Look At Me. If Lyle loses multiple limbs at once, he can regrow

them, but the noises he makes in the process are so embarrassing, he's unable to continue fighting opponents and hurting.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Clint: [sighs]

Griffin: And that's a power?!

Justin: So if I lose one in a fight, okay. If I lose more than one, I have to lay down and grunt in a way that is— I can do it, I can come back from that, but I can't keep fighting.

Travis: Uh-huh. Okay.

Justin: 'Cause it's too embarrassing.

Clint: [giggles]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: What's the use case for— I guess if you're in a fight you lose a bunch of limbs.

Justin: Okay, truthfully, I wanted to use my Mondo Move as a way of like... creating a limiting factor—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: — around my ability to regrow limbs. 'Cause I didn't want it to be a thing where I'm alwa— Young axolotls will eat parts of their brothers and sisters for energy.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: 'Cause they know it's just gonna grow back.

Griffin: NBD.

Justin: So it's just like not even a big deal.

Griffin: Got to.

Travis: Cool, man. Wow. Axolotls are horrifying and beautiful.

Justin: Oh. Sexy. That's the only thing about Lyle is like he's like really sexy.

Travis: In a rugged way?

Justin: In every way.

Travis: Woo, okay.

Justin: Yeah man. No, I don't—

Travis: What's he—

Griffin: My character's also—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: My character's also sexy.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I've encountered this playing with a bunch of different teams, not just us, I didn't know you could just do that.

Justin: No, he's the hunk— he's the hunky one. [wheezes]

Griffin: Darn it.

Travis: I'm gonna say—

Justin: [through laughter] 'Cause he's an axolotl.

Travis: I'm gonna say—

Clint: My picture's pretty sexy, guys.

Travis: Yeah listen, I don't wanna force this on you guys. If each of your characters wants to assume they're the hunky one, I'm on board with that.

Justin: Can I make a— Let me make a suggestion, because we will have younger people listening, I hope. Let's just make a rule that none of us say the word "sexy" again.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: That was the last one, actually, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Hunky, there we go.

Justin: That was the last time.

Travis: We can say, "hunky?"

Griffin: Hunky's good.

Justin: I don't think we even need to talk about it, like you know?

Travis: Okay, cool.

[transition music plays]

[ad break]

[transition music plays]

Travis: So, that's the characters, and you— we'll learn everything about them I'm sure as we play on. The world that we'll be playing in is River City, USA. Time, now. The Convergence has led to— there are quite a few Abnimals teams throughout the city.

We already mentioned the Royal Seals, Amphiba Force, Barnyard All-Stars. There's other notable ones like the Dragon Riders, and Code Name

Bird. Of course the Unicore, the mercenary unicorn group. We'll get more into it as we go and talk about all those teams, but primarily this is still, you know, human population.

But that said, at this point, Abnimals are such a common kind of occurrence that these aren't like hidden from sight, scientists must not know we exist level. So you guys don't need to worry about like going out during the day, when you're talking to people, or anything like that.

Here in the city, in fact, maybe the biggest entrepreneur, the guy who owns— Anything that's "River City First Blank" is owned by Walter Russell, who is a half-man half-walrus. He owns River City First Bank, River City First News, all these different places. So he's well-known, Abnimals are not hidden here.

There's also, surprisingly, very diverse environments, biomes here in River City. Part of the town is a swamp, part of the town is a desert, part of the— So everybody's comfortable here, everybody's comfortable here.

Griffin: Seaside? Seaside city?

Travis: Oh yeah. Seaside.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: With a long river, as the name would denote, running through the center of the city to the sea. So we even get a little bit of like marshlands there in the delta where it meet.

Justin: Varied, varied you would say.

Travis: It's varied, incredibly varied.

Justin: Got it.

Clint: Ballrooms? Are there ballrooms?

Travis: Of course there's ballrooms, don't worry about it. Don't you worry. In our many beautiful hotels. The Abnimals presence began in the 1980s when the Green Back Guardians came upon the scene, and they

were the only ones for a long time. But then they mysteriously disappeared in 2004.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: One day they were there, one day they weren't. But also by that point, they'd cleaned up a lot of the town. Their main opponent, Dr Killdeath, had actually at that point gone into politics, and I think by that point had made mayor. He would later become governor, and then retire. But they disappeared in 2004.

The Convergence happened in 2010, six years later, at which point there were a whole bunch of new Abnimals teams on the scene. As far as when you guys actually joined the kind of Abnimals scene in River City, that's up to you. But my question now is how recently were you all removed or quit your team? Your previous team, I should say.

Griffin: I would say Navy Seal's sort of excommunication is pretty fresh. I would say it's probably just sort of a couple months. He is very much in the rebuilding phase of his life and career.

Travis: Is there a new seal on the team to replace you?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: What's their color?

Griffin: Um... Hmm.

Justin: Don't like. [chuckles]

Clint: Yeah. Come on.

Griffin: Fuchsia.

Justin: Tell the truth. Tell the truth, Griffin.

Griffin: Fuchsia.

Travis: Fuchsia Seal. Okay, gotta hurt. Yeah.

Griffin: And I hate him. Hate his guts.

Travis: That's gotta hurt.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And Royal Seal is led by Golden Seal, who is the seal prince of—

Griffin: I hated his guts too.

Travis: Ohhh, okay. 'Cause he booted you?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Cool man. What about Roger? Roger, when did you leave or were removed from the Barnyard All-Stars?

Clint: I think Roger's been out for a long time, he's pretty much a... a lone wolf. I mean he's a competitive dancer.

Travis: He's a cow.

Griffin: He is a cow.

Clint: Yeah, a lone— That was in quotes.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Clint: And I think he's been out for a long time, and you know, especially since he'd been establishing this cover as a competitive dancer. You know, he's gonna try to make it on his own, going from partner to partner, trying to, you know, set up this whole cover identity as a competitive dancer. I think he's been out for a long time and I think he's got quite the reputation.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: Really established this cover.

Travis: What about you, Axe-O-Lyle?

Justin: I'm not sure I'm out. I haven't gotten a call from 'em in a long time.

Travis: Mmm.

Justin: But it was always kind of like a "You call me in when the situation merits." Like I always felt like I was kind of on the fringes anyway. So when they would call, it's just gotten like more and more sporadic. I'm not 100% that I'm out.

Travis: What was the—

Justin: Nobody's said like, "You're not in it anymore."

Travis: What was the normal length of time between calls, and how long has it been since they last called you?

Justin: It's usually about two to three weeks, I would say, is the typical.

Travis: And how long has it been since they last called you?

Justin: 13 months.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: [wheezes]

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: It's been 13 months, but they— I don't know, you know?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Things change.

Travis: Maybe there just haven't been any fires lately.

Justin: There just haven't been any fires, it has been really rainy. So maybe that's why.

Travis: Yeah, that's a— Yeah, okay. How long have the three of you been operating as kind of a team?

Griffin: Four days.

Travis: Or do you see yourself as a team?

Justin: Oh, interesting.

Clint: Mm.

Travis: What'd you say, Griffin?

Griffin: Four days.

Justin: Classically, I feel like two of us would know each other, and then we'd meet the third one. Doesn't that feel... That feels right, right?

Griffin: I think given the proximity of our biomes, it feels like Axe-O-Lyle and Navy Seal have probably run into one another.

Justin: Okay, I like that, yeah.

Griffin: At the— At some of the wet parties.

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: Which is parties that sort of—

Justin: We know.

Griffin: — ocean and river animals throw. Okay, you know what a wet party is.

Justin: Yeah, it was implied.

Travis: It's obvious, yes.

Justin: It was very clear from the words, Griffin. You painted a picture.

Clint: And I don't think the Venn diagram has a lot of crossover with Roger. I mean—

Justin: Could you—

Clint: Lyle and Navy don't really seem like the followers of competitive dance, I don't know.

Griffin: We are of a similar build though. We probably go to a gym specifically for big boys.

Clint: Maybe.

Griffin: So maybe.

Travis: Mm.

Clint: Maybe.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Maybe that's how—

Justin: I like that connective tissue.

Clint: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, that's good.

Griffin: We go to the— [chuckles] We shop at like the— whatever the animal equivalent of Big 'n' Tall, like animal warehouse is.

Clint: [chuckles]

Travis: I—

Clint: Heifer and Tall.

Travis: River City First Clothes For Big Boys.

Griffin: Yeah, exactly.

Travis: Okay. So was it that you two, Lyle and Navy, started working together, and then were like, “We need to” no pun intended “rope in a third?”

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And was it— Okay.

Griffin: There were some underwater fires that maybe we had to deal with. That feels—

Justin: Whoa, that’s extreme.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Yeah, a sub.

Griffin: That’s pretty extreme.

Clint: Fire in a sub could be—

Justin: Yeah, underwater fire could be— Regular firefighters are not ready for underwater fire.

Travis: No.

Clint: [laughs] No-o.

Justin: That doesn’t make sense. They’re like freaking out.

Griffin: They were like—

Clint: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: There were these billionaires who did a deep-sea sub exploration.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And there was a big fire, and it made the news. And— But in this universe, we got it, folks.

Travis: Yeah, we did.

Justin: [cackles]

Griffin: In this universe, no problem.

Travis: Love that.

Griffin: We got there.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And was it that something about in order to reach the thing, you needed some like spy infiltration skills, and you're like, "I know a guy. We'll bring him in."

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: [chuckles] "I know a guy at the gym." [snorts]

Travis: "I know a guy at the gym who says he's pretty sneaky.

Griffin: Yes. We had to sneak into the ocean. It was shark territory.

Travis: Oh boy.

Griffin: And we don't mess with them.

Travis: Yeah, I would imagine that the Royal Seals have a lot of issues with the sharks.

Griffin: Surprisingly, it's actually killer whale— maybe it was the orca, the—

Travis: Oh, there you go.

Griffin: That's a lot.

Travis: The Orca-nization?

Griffin: The Organization, that's very good.

Justin: Organization.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Very good.

Travis: So you guys did this undersea rescue, it was successful.

Justin: That is so important. [wheezes]

Travis: Yeah. Maybe not—

Griffin: I don't think it got much acclaim though, 'cause I don't think that billionaires would want this to come out. And so I don't think this is like a "And then we became famous."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Situation.

Travis: But it was— it went well enough that the three of you were like, "Maybe we do like another and see how it goes, and maybe keep this thing."

Justin: I think we realized... that the problem with all the groups is that they're so specialized.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: You know what I mean? That's the problem with a lot of these guys is like if you have a frog problem, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Mm.

Justin: But what if it's a problem that like requires a lot of different approaches?

Griffin: Exactly.

Justin: You know what I mean? A lot of different skillsets that aren't so targeted, you know what I mean? I think we all are sort of in between our specialties, you know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Where we're not hemmed in.

Griffin: And a lot of teams will—

Clint: We're fluid. We're fluid.

Griffin: A lot of teams won't allow there to be two big boys.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: That's true, Griffin.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Like a lot of teams are like, "We have our big boy, we have our little guy, we have—" But us, there can be overlap.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Well a lot of, in this world right, because the Green Back Guardians were— They became kind of the template for—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: — these things, right? So it was like, "Okay, so if you mutate, if you evolve, right? If you're an alien within a species, you're gonna join this group, 'cause that's where the other ones are." So it's also not like necessarily chosen, it's not like, "Ah, we work together the best," it was like, "Well, we're all seals, so."

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Yeah. It's just like— It's so short-sighted, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: And Roger doesn't really see himself as a big boy. I think Roger sees himself as the agile.

Justin: I mean, comparatively, you may be. 'Cause we didn't really cover this I feel like in the character set up, but I do think it's worth saying, at least for me, like Axe-O-Lyle is also very strong and tough.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like he didn't real— Like that's the implied for all of us, right?

Griffin: I think so.

Travis: Well that's that thing, once again with the Abnimals theme, kinda where they're all giants.

Justin: Yeah, they're like big and strong.

Travis: And beefy, and they're like, "And he's the strong one!"

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm like, "What are you talking about? You're—" And it's like, "He's the best one at fighting," it's like, "You all fight the exact same way."

Justin: So good, yeah.

Travis: So you guys haven't been together long, right?

Griffin: No.

Travis: We're maybe looking at—

Justin: No, I think we're still learning.

Travis: Okay, but you're not new to the scene, right/

Justin: No.

Travis: You guys were all in these other teams.

Griffin: Right, exactly.

Travis: So a lot of it is like learning to work together, learning like how your skills fit and stuff like that. Okay, well I think we've covered a lot of stuff, and you know, in the next episode we'll be doing like an actual episode with like story and stuff.

But the last thing I would cover before we went... What's your guys' like radical favorite food? So to recover your hit points, you'll need to eat something radical. It doesn't necessarily have to be your favorite food, but of course you would prefer it to be. So what is your character's like favorite radical food?

Griffin: Sushi.

Travis: That makes a lot of sense.

Griffin: Thanks.

Travis: Is there like a specific kind?

Griffin: Philadelphia roll. [chuckles] No.

Travis: Philadelphia roll.

Griffin: No.

Travis: I don't think there's fish in that one, I think that's just cream cheese and onions, isn't it?

Griffin: [chuckles] Cream cheese and onions? I don't think so, I'm pretty sure— Maybe there's imitation crabstick in there.

Travis: Smoked salmon, cream cheese, and cucumber, that's it. And it's sometimes made with imitation crab instead of salmon.

Griffin: Nah, I really don't think he is— I don't think he's picky.

Travis: Does he go spicy mayo on there? Little spicy?

Griffin: Absolutely cannot handle spicy food.

Travis: He doesn't do spicy food, okay. Interesting.

Griffin: Cannot handle spicy food.

Travis: I'm gonna write that down, I'll remember that. What about you, Roger? What kind of extreme food does Roger prefer?

Clint: Moo-sli.

Justin: Gross.

Travis: I said extreme food. No-one's ever like, "Aw yeah, dude!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Now that's—

Travis: "Just lend me some of that muesli, brother!"

Justin: Moosli.

Clint: Moosli.

Travis: Come on.

Griffin: No, we get it.

Clint: Moo—

Griffin: It's just the least extreme food imaginable.

Justin: Like—

Travis: You just— You picked it because it had "moo" in it.

Clint: You could put anything— You can put anything in muesli. You could put fruit, you could put vegetables. Like—

Travis: It's still basically granola.

Justin: You can put anything in anything, Dad.

Clint: Oats! You know.

Justin: That's how things work.

Clint: Like cows eat.

Travis: I said extreme!

Clint: Okay, muuuesli!

Griffin: Can I—

Travis: Saying it louder and longer doesn't make it extreme, Dad. It makes it—

Griffin: What if—

Clint: Okay, put an X at the end of it. "Muesli-XX."

Justin: Okay now wait, hold on. We're getting somewhere with "Muesli X." [wheezes]

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Muesli-X.

Justin: 'Cause the idea— Muesli X is like a scientifically engineered special muesli that Dad has to get from the cops or somethin'. [chuckles]

Clint: Well, and he has to— And it's what keeps him able to live on this planet.

Travis: I love that.

Griffin: Hell yeah.

Justin: [cackles]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: If he doesn't eat muesli, he dies.

Travis: Yeah, Muesli X.

Clint: Yeah, if he doesn't—

Justin: Muesli X!

Clint: Muesli X, if he doesn't eat Muesli X, then he can't li— he can't breathe the atmosphere.

Justin: I love that.

Travis: Okay, yes, I love this.

Clint: He can't live on the planet. Yeah.

Travis: Provided by Barker Innovations, is the kind of scientific developer.

Griffin: Guys, that— there is not a picture of muesli that exists on the internet that makes it look good.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It all looks like—

Travis: It serves its purpose, Griffin. That's muesli's whole thing. It's there, it does it.

Clint: I don't think he— I didn't say he likes it. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He needs to eat it to live, it makes him poop now, just with the amount of roughage.

Travis: No no no, Roger has four stomachs. Roger—

Clint: Four stomachs, baby.

Travis: Roger— His ability to digest is amazing.

Griffin: No, that's three. That's the third time that Dad has called me "baby" in this one episode.

Justin: Yeah, sorry, you gotta stop.

Travis: No, that was the royal baby. That was the baby of the world.

Clint: That was the royal baby.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I didn't think that was directed at you, Griffin. But we're gonna have a swear jar and a baby jar.

Griffin: I guess. Oh.

Travis: And Justin, finally Lyle, what's Lyle's favorite radical food?

Justin: Well I— Axolotl's have an important place in the Aztec culture, so I thought I'd honor that with chocolate. The guy's wild about chocolate.

Travis: Aw yeah, baby, I love that. Aw see, I just said baby, I'm so sorry everybody. What's happening?

Justin: What is going on?

Travis: What's happening?

Justin: Stop it. Everybody, stop it. [chuckles]

Travis: I don't know what's happening.

Justin: It can't not have been a problem for 11 years—

Griffin: And then all of a sudden it's a huge problem.

Justin: — and then one episode it's a problem for everybody all at once.

Travis: I don't know what's happening. I lost—

Clint: I love it, adult.

Travis: Alright, toddler, I think it's great. [chuckles] Alright, so that—

Justin: Grown up so fast.

Travis: They grow up so fast. I think that's a great starter on all of our characters, we're gonna be pack with an actual like episode next. But here at the end, a special treat, we wanted to play for you our theme song for *Abnormals*, written by Eric Near in conjunction with Justin McElroy, and performed by Jonathan Coulton.

Justin: With additional lyrics by Jonathan Coulton.

Travis: With additional lyrics by Jonathan Coulton, so please enjoy the *Abnormals* theme, and we'll be back with the next episode. We'll see yah then.

[*Abnormals* theme song plays]

[ukulele chord]

Maximum Fun.
A work-owned network...
Of artists-owned shows...
Supported directly by you.