

MBMBaM 746: Long Gone Daddy with Fists of Steel

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

Travis: Vroom-vroom, Trav Nation, it's me, your middlest brother, big dog woof-woof McElroy.

Griffin: [mouths a sound similar to a distant airplane] That could be thunder or the sound of a car engine that is far away. I'm Griffin McElroy.

Travis: I forgot to say Travis.

Justin: Yeah, that's Travis. I'm realizing—

Travis: And that's Griffin.

Justin: That I just—

Travis: Griffin's in my—Griffin's got shotgun.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And we're gunning it.

Griffin: And Justin's in the sidecar—

Travis: And Justin's in the trunk.

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: I'm in the trunk. I'm in the boot, if you will. I'm... you know, I'm realizing, I had this moment, this chilling moment, when we started recording and we were doing our introductions. And then I let my mind drift, as the human mind oft does, to the off—outroductions. And I realized, I don't know—

Griffin: We don't know how that's going to go.

Justin: We did it again.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We did it again—

Griffin: So let's not—

Travis: I mean, I included a Fungalore wish!

Justin: No, can't do that. That was last year.

Griffin: Can we do it like—can we say it's like, instead of a wish to Fungalore, it is a question that make—a question to make the car go?

Justin: It's absolutely a question we should have had on the production meeting that we did yesterday. That is the—that is—

Travis: No, but you know, Justin, art is a living thing!

Griffin: Art's alive, and we should live within it, like Osmosis Jones.

Travis: Yeah! Exactly like Osmosis Jones. That's a man without fear.

Griffin: That is—he's living faster than fear, for sure.

Justin: Now, Travis, it's been a little bit. You were traveling. How are you—how are you doing? How are you feeling?

Travis: I'm traveling faster than fear, Justin. Thank you for asking. I'm feeling great. I'm over my strep throat. I did have a day, speaking of Osmosis Jones, where one day—and this is like before I started my antibiotics. Where suddenly like—and I didn't even have a fever, but it was like my fever broke. And I felt like 25% better instantly. And my first thought, I shit you not, was, there's an Osmosis Jones in there fighting the good fight.

Griffin: Just blasted.

Travis: Just somebody just got absolutely melted by an Osmosis Jones. And I feel better.

Griffin: I mean, it could have been him. It could have been David Hyde Pierce zapped Thrax, if you'll remember, was the bad guy in Osmosis Jones.

Travis: Yeah, he was like a Tylenol, I think, who killed anthrax?

Justin: He was like a Tylenol that killed anthrax—

Griffin: Now, but hold on, Thrax is just the name. He's not anthrax. Because Bill Murray got it from eating a dirty—a monkey's dirty egg off the ground. There's a lot in that movie that reaches beyond like the limits of my capacity to imagine.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: The scene where Bill Murray picks up a dirty egg off the ground and just gooshes it into his nasty mouth has really clearly stuck with me.

Travis: There's a scene where there's a party in a bar inside a pimple, if I remember correctly—

Griffin: That's not important.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: The stuff that happens inside the body is not important—

Travis: No, but I'm saying is that I could try to explain this movie to someone who hasn't seen it, and it's gonna sound like a fever dream or like a made up thing.

Griffin: And he gets anthrax from eating a monkey's dirty egg off the ground. I don't think that's how anthrax—I don't think that's where anthrax came from.

Justin: No, it was from the government mail. [titters]

Griffin: [chuckles] Awesome.

Justin: It went through the government.

Travis: Like Publishers Clearing House.

Justin: Publishers Clearing House—

Griffin: It is so—we are just fucking jazzing right now, guys. I'm loving it, after two whole weeks of basically telling the same joke over and over again. I feel so excited.

Travis: So this week we'll be picking a new name for the year.

Griffin: God, what if?

Justin: This is—okay, this is—okay, this is actually really good. I was trying to figure out why I was feeling so creatively backed up. And I mean... literally, like I can feel it in me. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: The jokes.

Griffin: The bile.

Justin: And like we recorded My Brother, My Brother and Me a couple of times. Why didn't that slake my thirst? And it's like, well, you didn't do any jokes. [chuckles]

Travis: No.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: You didn't do any jokes. And you barely were creative. Like you know what I mean? It was—

Travis: No, at that point, we were Pagliacci-ing around of like people are laughing because of the sad clowns in front of them. But we weren't actually making jokes.

Justin: Yeah, I love this new podcast where a monk whips his back with the cat o' nine tails, until God whispers the future into his ear.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: They did two of 'em this year.

Griffin: We got—we can't—we did—we did it. And one day we'll forget. That's the—that's what I look forward to, is forgetting about this whole debacle.

Justin: No, it's recorded?

Travis: The day in like 2032, when we're going back over the past years, and then we get to 25 and we're like, what was it?

Griffin: I feel a shiver—

Travis: What was it?

Griffin: A shiver will—no, we'll remember the name. I'm saying a shiver will go up my spine.

Justin: What I need to know is, and what I think we should have clarified last week—and I will very briefly mention this and move on. Do we have an asterisk situation, or is this a dual theme?

Griffin: Absolutely not a dual theme. Tummy buddy time stuff I think we can drop in there with—

Justin: You're not even saying it right. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, tummy buddy life I think is gonna end up being like one of those things where like there was an interim, but they still get listed hypothetically amongst the things, you know?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Where it's like if a president like has to undergo surgery and be put under. And it's like for that hour, the vice president was president. That's like tummy buddy life. But when we're listing it in like the proper—

Griffin: I would just assume not mention it.

Justin: It's a brief interregnum. No need—nothing more need be said.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is also an advice show. Well, we do need to said more things. [chuckles] Because—

Griffin: We do need to said more things, for sure.

Justin: We need to said more things.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: "I recently started working at a Magnum P.I. agency, and one of the things we do—"

Griffin: That's not what it—there's no way it says that, right?

Justin: "I recently started working at a P.I. agency—"

Travis: I think it's just pie?

Justin: "I recently started working at a Raspberry Pi factory, and—"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: And these dang things just keep hitting me in the face!

Justin: "I recently started working at a P.I. agency, and one of the things we do pretty often is run background checks for clients. However, the more I run them, the more curious I get about what my background check would show."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "The problem is, we do have to justify every background check. The confirmed story is someone ran a check on a very famous celebrity—"

Travis: Me?!

Justin: "And that understandably raised some red flags with the site we use. We now have to justify every background check to the site, and our bosses. Understandably so."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "My question is, what reason can I give to run a background check on myself?" That's from Curiosity Kills the Cat in Pittsburgh. Now, I want to help you. But first, I want to talk about this spy company! Listen—

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: Hey, pal! Listen, I pay you for the spy stuff, all right? I can use that nasty spy stuff on anybody I want to! And I don't need you judging me about who I'm spying on and being a creepy sneak, okay? I pay you. So you don't judge.

Travis: No Justin, you're missing the point. As soon as you, the customer, say, "Give me a full background check on like Tom Hardy," now there's a reason to do it. But that—because it's money. But the employee can't just do it out of curiosity.

Griffin: If there's a—

Travis: So you can, Justin, you can—you, Justin McElroy, as long as you pay them, I don't know, five dollars or whatever, you can run your nasty, dirty background check on anybody you want.

Griffin: No questions asked. Which does raise the question, if I can just go to a website to get background checks done on anybody I want, anytime I want, why do I need a private investigator? Because it seems like I can do it—

Travis: Oh, you have to pay an annual fee to log into the thing.

Justin: And they have the bookmark saved already, and the password's already in there. It's just like—

Griffin: It's a long password too.

Travis: I've done it, I ran background checks on you guys.

Justin: And also, if someone figures out what you're doing and they try to bring the heat to you, you need a real, a dick—a long-gone daddy with fists of steel who can come be in your corner. [chuckles] And help punch you out of the jam, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, for sure. This guy sounds cool. Tell me more about him, Juice.

Travis: Yeah, I was gonna go down an avenue of like joking about background checks on you guys. But now I'm interested in this—

Griffin: I wanna hear more about this this long-gone daddy—

Travis: This long-gone daddy with fist of steel who's in my corner because I wanted to find out about Tom Holland. Or Tom Hardy? Or both of them. Are they gonna beat up Tom Hardy for me?

Justin: No. That's all the detective stuff that I—

Travis: Oh, okay, cool.

Griffin: There's a long-gone daddy with fist of steel? That's a very selective—

Justin: That's the important part—

Travis: Miles of shoe leather?

Justin: No, it's from a—it was from a Bruce McCulloch song that I was remembering, and then I don't remember any more of it. So, that's it!

Griffin: [titters] Okay.

Travis: You need somebody to hire your P.I. company to investigate you.

Griffin: Yeah, who watches the watchmen?

Justin: You need somebody to investigate the P.I. companies. And that is what I'm offering to you Sharks. [titters]

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: So, a public investigation company?

Justin: Of the private—

Travis: There's a lot of private investigators! Where's the public investigator who just stands on a street corner like, "You guys know... you know Steve?!"

Griffin: There should be a free service that solves crimes. [chuckles]

Justin: Yes, right?

Griffin: Why haven't we invented that yet?

Justin: Right.

Travis: Are you worried—if you guys got a background investigation done on yourself, I figure there's three possibilities, right? One, there's stuff on there you weren't expecting. Stuff on there—like not stuff on there that should have been on there. Or like, yeah, that's me. Which one of those three options—

Griffin: Is the most—

Travis: Is most satisfying to you.

Griffin: I mean, I would want it to be accurate, I would hope. I wouldn't want it to have a bunch of—I don't want it to—

Travis: But that doesn't feel fun. Like if I wanted a background check, and I got a background check and it was like, yeah, that's it.

Griffin: I mean, what do you want to be on there, I guess, Trav?

Travis: I don't know, find out a secret about myself I didn't know?

Justin: You know what I always hoped for? They don't—you don't see this as much because of the internet. But when I was a kid, they used to publish these big lists of people that the government owed money to.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Like, "Come get this money. We got money for you. Come get it." And I would love to discover something like that. That would be great if they were like, "Secretly, the government has \$400 for you. No problem."

Travis: Well, I've talked about it before, I think on the show, Griffin and I have very similar social security numbers. And that's because, apparently, our parents didn't get me one when I was born. And then Griffin was born, and they were like, "We'll just get them both done at the same time."

Griffin: And that's efficient. When you got three rowdy boys, sometimes you gotta look for little corners you can cut.

Justin: And hey, folks, before you start judging our parents, they didn't have like cell phones.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean?

Travis: And I looked it up. Because for a long time I was like, that seems shady. Because they didn't let me leave the hospital with my kids until I had one. And that apparently didn't start until like 1997. But for a long time I was like, there's a story here.

Griffin: Off the grid, yeah.

Justin: If I started talking—if we started talking too much as kids, they didn't have an iPad they could give us. They had to do it the old-fashioned way and turn the lights—

Travis: Just a pad.

Justin: Turn the lights off—

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: [titters] Face down on the carpet and then run out of the room real fast.

Griffin: Mr. Beast wasn't even alive yet.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Mr. Beast was—

Justin: We had real Beast.

Griffin: Mr. Beast was dead. He was unborn.

Justin: Our Mr. Beast—our Mr. Beast—

Travis: He was pre-dead!

Justin: Our Mr. Beast was Mr. Bean. That's how—

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Mr. Beast was just a Mr. Bean in—

Travis: It goes Mr. Bean, Mr. Wizard, Mr. Beast.

Griffin: Our Mr. Beast was an old man who would show up at your house and give you a check from the Publishers Clearing House.

Travis: And we liked it!

Griffin: That was our Mr. Beast. He didn't do anything fun. He didn't make blood sports for everyone to compete in.

Justin: What reason could there be—

Griffin: I got enemied. And there's a version of me out there walking around, maybe you've seen them. They get in a lot of fights and they run a lot of stop signs. And they're getting me in a lot of trouble. So I need to

check my background, because I have forgotten which one of us is the real one.

Travis: Ooh.

Griffin: I watched Enemy on a Plane, and I think that's what happens in that film.

Travis: It's just called Enemy?

Justin: Is it called Enemy on a Plane?

Griffin: It's not called Enemy on a Plane. That would be... cool. It would be a much more condensed version of the film if there were two Jake Gyllenhaals on the same plane.

Travis: To be fair, Enemy on a Plane—

Griffin: I imagine they wouldn't have to look for each other.

Travis: That's how I feel every time I get on a plane and somebody immediately like hits me weird. And I'm like, that's my enemy on this plane. Whatever that—

Griffin: Wow.

Travis: I see them out of the corner of my eye.

Griffin: What a truly—

Travis: They're making faces when a baby's crying.

Griffin: Truly unhinged way to live your life.

Travis: You guys don't do that? You don't create little kayfabe wherever you go?

Griffin: I don't need rivals. Like I already have so many haters crawling out of the woodwork to come and grab my stash.

Travis: Sometimes it's nice to just have a little private ire towards—where you just say, I don't like that person—they'll never know it?

Justin: I have the—I have something like that, and it's the opposite, and it's called getting through the day. And it's where I have to tell myself, you love this person. You're all just trying to get through. Hey, hey—

Travis: I'm not gonna act on it? It's not like, and I've decided to say so.

Griffin: It's a secret—

Travis: It's just like when they do something, makes me feel superior to them—

Griffin: Put a little hate in your heart.

Justin: But you are acting on it, Travis. You gotta, you're—

Travis: Not—hey, judgment.

Justin: Your thoughts have energy. Right?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Justin: You gotta, they're, you're... you're telling your heart that with your brain. Your brain's gonna tell—

Travis: Yeah, powering the plane with my energy.

Griffin: Some people are really susceptible to that stuff.

Justin: Some people are, Trav.

Griffin: I'm a *big* energy guy.

Justin: Have you noticed that, Trav? He's got—

Travis: I've notice that.

Justin: He's more of an energy guy.

Travis: I mean, look at him, he's doing jazz hands!

Griffin: I'm—oh, Travis, even you saying that gave out a pulse... gave out a pulse, a different vibration. And I'm feeling it now. And I gotta say, it put a bad taste in my mouth.

Travis: So what you're saying, Griffin, is that I'm sending negativity to you? And you're—

Griffin: You're doing it right now to me right now. And I'm picking it up with my dish.

Travis: Tell your boss you're looking for a new job, and you're worried about what's gonna show up on your background check. And then if it's bad tell your boss "On second thought, I guess I'll stay here."

Justin: [laughs] "I'm worried about some stuff that may or may not be about to come to the surface."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "And I—this is for you. Because if I'm in your employ when this stuff comes out, it's not good for anybody."

Griffin: Not great.

Justin: And then at the end of the day you're like, "Remember earlier? I just want to say, psych. Psych, psych, psych."

Travis: Psych, psych, psych.

Justin: [chuckles] Psych, psych—

Griffin: Psych, psych, psych. Got you, got you, got you.

Justin: Here's another question.

Griffin: Please.

Justin: "How do I show a hairdresser what kind of hair I want without showing them a photo of Sonic's dad from the Sonic movies played by James Marsden?" That's from Sonic Three is Four out of Five Stars. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's good. That's a great rating for that. That film's so stupid and so much fucking fun. I can't recommend Sonic 3 enough.

Justin: Am I gonna see Sonic 3 by myself?

Griffin: Did you see Sonic 2?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, you gotta see Sonic 3. Love this little guy. Can't get enough off him.

Travis: Why not show them a picture of James Marsters?

Griffin: James Marsters is a different guy.

Travis: Marsden.

Justin: It's one of the hardest things to remember in life, is which one each one is. [chuckles] And this is something that we all struggle with all the time.

Travis: Yeah, I think if it's—it's T—if it's Marsters, they're coming from the top. If it's Marsden, it's a bear in a den. That's how I remember it.

Griffin: Yeah, that's the good—that's the good mnemonic device. You could show them, I'm just spit balling here, a picture of James Marsters from—James Marsden, I did too!

Travis: Ah!

Griffin: You show a picture of James Marsden from any other project. If I could recommend... what is the jury show? Jury Duty? That's a good one. He's great in that.

Travis: What about just like a series of James Marsden from different things? And you're like, "And I could look like this guy from X-Men, or this guy from Sonic, or this guy from Superman Returns."

Justin: And they're like, "Hey, these are all James Marsden."

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Like, "That's weird. I guess you're right!"

Travis: "You know, now that you mention it! Yeah!"

Griffin: What incredible, incredible hair James Marsden has. My lord in heaven—

Justin: Looking at pictures and it's like—

Travis: Consistent.

Griffin: It's so rock steady, but it looks stylish.

Justin: It's like rock steady in a shaggy way. It's amazing. Like, it looks like—

Travis: Yes.

Justin: It always looks great. I mean, this is what I'm like aspiring to, and can never—

Griffin: Juice, I think you're—Juice, honestly, I think you are close, getting closer all the time. I'm looking at your hair, I'm looking at James Marsden's hair, it's not that different.

Justin: The problem is James Marsden's hair in the Sonic movies is not consistent. He's growing with Sonic, isn't he? As Sonic—

Travis: Like an emotional hair?

Justin: If you can pair Sonic 1 Sonic's dad to Sonic 3's Sonic's dad? I feel like as the radical attitude of Sonic has—

Travis: Oh, it's teaching him.

Justin: It's teaching him, helping him to grow, I think he's got a little bit more of a waterfall in the back.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: It's fun. God, he looks so cool.

Travis: Sonic—okay, James Marsden has hair like in a video game where you're building a character and like—Stardew, for example. And you put a haircut on 'em and it's like, that's their hair—

Griffin: It's the plutonic ideal.

Travis: Every time you see them.

Griffin: Standard hair.

Justin: You know what I love about James Marsden?

Griffin: Tell me now.

Justin: There's a lot.

Griffin: I'm getting worked up!

Justin: Yeah. Here's what I love about James Marsden, is that it all seems attainable. A lot of guys—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: A lot of guys—You look at these Brad Pitts, you know what I mean?

Griffin: No!

Justin: And you're like, never.

Griffin: Different! Different echelon.

Justin: You look at James Marsden—and folks, if you don't do this, you're gonna laugh. But you look at James Marsden and there's something about him where you're like—

Griffin: There's something there.

Justin: Maybe. Maybe if I... I guess I could—hm. I guess he's approachable, right? When, in reality—

Travis: You don't mean approachable, like approachable and like talking to you? You mean approachable like—

Justin: No like—

Travis: I could approach that level.

Justin: I could—you know, it's like, I think most straight white men want to be James Marsden. But they can't realize when they've gotten there, and they just keep pushing past it. You know what I mean? Like—

Travis: Well, they wanna be George Clooney, but they would be happy to be James Marsden.

Griffin: No, that's not true. That's not true. I don't want to be him in the same way I don't want to be some sort of space angel. Do you know what I mean? Like, I can't be a horse. I can't just become a unicorn.

Travis: I see.

Griffin: But James Marsden, if I put a... a lot of work—

Justin: A lot of work!

Griffin: Into my appearance—

Justin: Like a lot! Like, yeah, I mean.

Griffin: If I put—

Travis: I don't know, man! He's got a jawline...

Justin: It's not, but—the fact that you're right is immaterial. [titters]

Travis: Okay, I see what you're saying. I get what you're saying.

Justin: Do you know what I'm saying? It's—

Travis: It's a mental...

Justin: It's a mental thing, right? James—

Travis: But I also think that makes it easy to root for James Marsden. Because it's like he's like one of us. You know, like when someone—like you're a... watching the... whatever the one where—oh, what's his face? Marky Mark, Mark Wahlberg, gets to play for the Eagles. And it's like, he's one of us! He's made it! When I see James Marsden out there doing it I'm like, yeah, man, there's a handsomer version of myself—

Justin: Travis? Yes. [chuckles] It's so wild that this super handsome dude that got to be Cyclops in X-Men, I'm still like, come on, James! You'll get—

Griffin: You can get there.

Justin: You can get 'em!

Travis: But you're rooting for James—

Justin: You get what?!

Travis: But you're rooting for James Marsden?

Justin: He's in like the only movies people go see anymore. He was in X-Men. He's super handsome—

Travis: And Superman.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And Superman. And his hair is great. I mean, come on!

Travis: He got cucked by Superman.

Justin: He's fine. He's doing just fine.

Griffin: If I mewed hard enough for long enough, do you think I could get a James Marsden chin?

Travis: If you mewed?

Justin: I'm gonna say yes, even though the answer is no, but I feel yes.

Griffin: I don't think I know how to do it.

Travis: So, he's a sigma chad, is what you're saying.

Justin: I can't to get into labels.

Travis: Is James Marsden a sigma chad?

Griffin: I can really stretch my neck muscles out like... like a fucking frog. Are you guys seeing this shit?

Travis: When I mew, I feel like I'm just hiding a gross anthrax egg in my mouth.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, I'm gonna—

Griffin: I got a Wiki! Do you want to talk more about how handsome and talented and funny James Marsden is? Because if you do—

Travis: We'll save that for the Patreon exclusive.

Justin: There's like—here's like a—here's a thing. I feel like, in my brain, I have a number of likelihood of most people, whether or not they could ever like be on an episode of Clubhouse or something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And James Marsden's is like weirdly high. In a way that I don't think reflects reality, but like—

Griffin: Not at all.

Justin: I'm like at a 30%... like a 20% chance that we could get James Marsden—

Travis: It's weird that that feels right.

Griffin: He has really cast a spell on you, Justin.

Justin: 20% is low, I will remind you. [chuckles]

Travis: Is it?! If someone told you you had a 20% chance of winning lottery, you'd be buying a ticket every day?

Griffin: And those two events are—

Justin: Well, this is all... Griffin told me about your Wiki.

Griffin: Mm-hm!

Justin: Tell me about your Wiki.

Griffin: Hadn't done one in a while. This one was sent in by—

Justin: I know. I know. Missed it.

Griffin: A lot of people. A lot of people sent this one and I do appreciate it. And it's how to have an imaginary boyfriend or girlfriend.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: "Inventing an imaginary boyfriend or girlfriend is easy. All it takes is imagination." Yeah, no shit, man.

Travis: Well, yeah, dude? Well—

Griffin: Of course.

Travis: It depends on, I would say, what your end goal is. Because—

Griffin: You could have a—you're right. Yeah, you could have a non-imaginative imaginary boyfriend or girlfriend. Because you could just—

Travis: Well, I'm saying, if I'm trying to have an imaginary partner in order to convince people I have an imaginary partner, then maybe a powerful imagination is actually detrimental.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: That's true, wow.

Justin: That's true.

Griffin: Yeah, so maybe this whole article we're about to read is going to be wrong. And it's just going to be like don't say anything about them.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Keep it open and empty so that you can not get caught at any point. Here's—let's start out with, "Create your partner beforehand. Have a firm grasp of who they are, where they're from, what they do, et cetera, before sharing them with anyone." So, that's the opposite of what I just said.

Travis: Yes. Huh.

Griffin: So, maybe I was... I think maybe let's go with the Wiki on this one, because they probably put more work into thinking about stuff.

Travis: Can you imagine if you decided, "I'm gonna convince like my co-workers that I'm dating someone." And you show up and you're like, "Yeah, I started dating this new person." And then you spend an hour and a half listing off everything about them. And then they're like, "How long have you guys been dating?" And you're like, "Two weeks." [titters]

Griffin: Two weeks. "It's been a passionate, mostly text-based... mostly text-based relationship."

Travis: "You listed off their height in centimeters?"
"Yeah, man."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Those are the kinds of things that are important when you're getting to know someone."

Griffin: "She's from London, England, so... to make her feel comfortable, I have gone metric."

"Don't give yourself away by taking the time to think up lies on the spot."

That's true. I've been watching a lot of Traders, I think I'd beat ass at that show. Because I can always tell if someone pauses for even a micro second. I catch that shit like Bull. I catch that shit like bull, easy. [chuckles]

Justin: My secret—

Travis: Wait, like Bull from Night Court?

Griffin: Bull. Bull from Bull.

Justin: Bill from the movie Bull. I—a lot—[chuckles] and I think it's a TV show as well. My secret talent in this area would be, if I was trying to like trick people with this kind of thing, is that I genuinely don't remember a lot of stuff that people—or don't know—

Griffin: You have plausible deniability. Yeah.

Justin: Plausible deniability, like where people are like, "And this guy, and this, and this. And yada-yada-yada." Like, I probably legitimately do not—I do not recall if that was the case or not. And I feel like that would be enough of a smoke screen. Like, I believe I do have a Canadian partner. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Of some sort.

Travis: What province? I don't know, man.

Justin: Province? I don't know.

Griffin: You gotta make—

Travis: What are they even called?

Griffin: Make it memorable, I guess is what Justin is saying. Like, pick a name like Jameson Hard Rock. And like you won't forget—you won't forget that.

Justin: Or start forgetting important stuff months out. [titters] Like—

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: Where it's like, "Oh, I drive a... I want to say red." Like, you know what I mean? Like—

Travis: Oh, about yourself too?

Justin: Yeah, where you—where if people later, months later, are like, "Tell me about your boyfriend." And you go up on details.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's like, that's, you—that's par for the course.

Travis: That's them.

Justin: Like you—

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: You often forget—

Griffin: That's helpful for a lot of stuff too, I imagine.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Not just—

Justin: It's called lowering expectations. And it's probably my superpower. [chuckles]

Griffin: "Keep your partner believable. Expect people to ask questions about them. Keep your answers grounded in what you know for sure." Expect people to ask questions about them is interesting. Because—

Justin: This is what you know for sure. [titters]

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Them not being real and all. [chuckles].

Griffin: I don't know that when someone says, "I'm dating someone new—" I might ask a couple questions. I don't think I'm gonna get that deep into what province are they from.

Travis: I also—okay. If you are someone who feels the need to invent a partner to convince people you work—you have a partner, the idea that you're gonna seamlessly slip it into conversation in a way that makes people ask a lot of questions is also expecting a lot from you.

Griffin: Yeah, this is interesting, though, because as an addendum to this point it says, "Either give your imaginary partner an upbringing similar to your own, so you can speak about it with authority. Or model them—"

Travis: "They grew up in my house!"

Griffin: [chuckles] "They are me!"

"Or model them on someone you know well enough to borrow a plausible background, like a best friend, roommate or cousin." That's troubling.

Travis: Maybe not the cousin one.

Griffin: The one's troubling. Yeah. Their name is—

Travis: "Yeah, how did I meet 'em? Our dads are brothers."

Griffin: [chuckles] "Their name is Susan McElroy." Ugh!

Travis: Ah! "No, it's cool, man. We did 23andMe and it's four people back, so..."

Griffin: "It's four, so it's fine!"

Travis: "I think that's cool."

Griffin: "Use the truth whenever possible. Bolster stories about your partner with real details." Huh? "If you tell people about a date or day trip you went on with your partner, use places you've actually been to." Oh, okay.

Justin: Oh, like real details from stuff you've done.

Griffin: Yes, that's awesome.

Justin: Yeah, that's really good. This is kind of lying 101. I love all this. I think this is all great stuff. This person is over complicating it, though. I have found with the... rapid growth in Hallmark original Christmas productions that you really don't need to go through all this trouble.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: If you look around, there is probably someone pretending to be a boyfriend or girlfriend near you, at any given moment. You can hop into one of these productions. [chuckles] Like, you don't—it's scripted, you know what I mean? Or if you fake it long enough, eventually people are gonna start filming scenes with you for inclusion in a Hallmark movie.

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: A Christmas movie.

Travis: And if there's one thing—if there's one thing I've learned from movies and Tv sows, it's that especially if you want to move up in the corporate world, they feel more comfortable giving those kinds of jobs to married people. It's all they seem to talk about in movies.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: So, you should be able to just find another person in that similar position, right? And just say like, "Hey, you also want to be like CEO of a company. I do too."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "But we need to be married before they'll let us do that."

Griffin: This is—you're so far outside the purview of this question. You're so lost in the sauce right now.

Travis: Oh, that's not in there?

Griffin: Getting married—having a sham marriage is actually not involved with how to have an imaginary boyfriend or girlfriend. It was too—

Travis: That's an easy one. Just roll up wearing a wedding ring one day and just like, "I'm marrying you."

Griffin: Okay, you are still so far outside of your jurisdiction in this question and what it's trying to propose.

Travis: Oh, I didn't mean to cross state lines.

Griffin: I'm just saying it's asking how to imagine a boyfriend or girlfriend, and you're saying how to have a sham marriage. And that's different.

Travis: Well, I once again point out, Griffin, that the title isn't how to convince other people that you have a boyfriend or girlfriend, right? Because this is not a good way to do that.

Griffin: This could be fun. Yeah, no, this could just be a fun little exercise for you. "Give a good reason for their absence. When you create your imaginary partner, think—"

Travis: Space.

Griffin: Space?

Travis: They're in space. They're astronauts.

Justin: Not that they need space.

Travis: No, they have too much of it, frankly! They're up there in it. And they're not going to be back here for 45 years, actually. They are traveling to Mars.

Griffin: My boyfriend?! You mean Dr. Gideon... Strong Foot? He's in that—he's in outer space right now on the ISS.

Justin: He's in outer space right now. This is gonna be—

Travis: Yeah, he just—the space elevator doors just closed. He's on his way up, man.

Griffin: Oh, wait, he's—I'm getting a call from him now! I can't hear you over the loud space toilet, Dr. Gideon Hard Foot.

Justin: This is gonna be hard for you to understand, but he is currently hurtling away from me. But he's going to perform what's called a temporal pincer maneuver.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He's gonna slingshot around the sun, through a black hole, and he's actually gonna be here in time for dinner with us tonight.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: But if he's out here now, he will be here later. But in this reality—

Travis: Listen.

Justin: It will just—he will just always have been here.

Griffin: Outer space is really far away, yeah.

Travis: As long as you're imagining this partner, why not go the full—go the whole nine yards, and tell 'em, "The absence, the reason my partner's not here, they are vampire. Can't come out during the day. That's a real problem for them. At night, he's hunting and protecting me from the werewolf faction that's always trying to—" And then they're like, "What? Vampires aren't real." And you're like, "Neither is my boyfriend. So, now who looks stupid?"

Griffin: But it's—

Justin: I just feel like if you're gonna suggest stuff that they clearly said in the question you can't do, then you are really not living within sort of the strictures that have been granted to you. Like they did say to not make it imaginative, and you're like giving them leathery bat wings so they can rule over—

Griffin: So they can fight and suck blood and live forever. It's a fantastical world, and I think it's great. But again, it's slightly outside the purview. Can you point to a little earbud you have in your ear and say, "It's a her."

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: It's a her. I can't—you won't be able to see them because I've got a her in my ear. From the movie Her.

Justin: Oh, it's a... it's a... so we're inventing to impress people, you're inventing an AI girlfriend. [chuckles]

Travis: Vampire? Out of the question. AI girlfriend?

Justin: That is—

Travis: Now we're—maybe just go—

Justin: The big boss upstairs.

Travis: Go a different way. And they're like, "How come we've never met them?" And be like, "Well, it's pretty rocky. Things haven't been going very well between—"

Griffin: It's not a good relationship.

Justin: So you're trying to impress them with a *bad* relationship? [chuckles]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: People won't ask questions. That's actually really good. No one's gonna ask questions after that. "How are things with you and Samantha?"

Travis: "We actually don't get along very well, but..."

Griffin: "Bad. We simply do not like each other very much."

Travis: Yeah. "But neither one of us is ready to pull the trigger on it. So you know what I mean? Like—"

Griffin: "Be consistent. Come up with one story, 'the tale of my amazing new partner,' and stick to that one story with everyone you know." They put it in quotes.

Justin: Did you write the title of that story? Or did they—

Griffin: No. "Come up with one story." Parentheses, quote, "The tale of my amazing new partner." Quote, end parentheses

Travis: "What's that, Suzan? You'd like to hear the—hear the tale of my amazing—"

Justin: "The tale of my amazing—"

Travis: "Sit down by the fire!"

Justin: "Let me favor you with it, Suzan."

Travis: "Derek! Play upon the pipe! Accompany me."

Justin: "Ah, yes! A tale I know well!" [titters]

Griffin: They suggest keeping a diary of events you've done. Also keeping up to date with weather in the city where they live, so that you could talk about, well, "She's trapped in the freak blizzard," is what it says.

Travis: It's starting to feel like a lot of work.

Griffin: It is a lot.

Justin: I just, I gotta tell... I wish... If you want to convince people you're everybody—if you want to convince people you're not weird and you're normal, you gotta stop doing weird things. [titters] Like you got—you're trying to convince people that you're a normal, cool person.

Griffin: Yeah. And that's all we—and that's all we need! That's all we want for you on this show.

Justin: That's good. But you have to live within that truth. And for me, that means not looking at the weather in the city where your imaginary girlfriend is. That's why you're weird! You have to stop doing things like that.
[chuckles]

Travis: Trying to be weird enough that you become cool is not going to work.

Justin: Exactly! Like, I'm so—like, no one goes so off the rails that they find themselves back on other rails where they're like, "I'm so weird that everyone thinks it's like cool and working for me."

Travis: "I convinced everyone I'm cool by being so weird."

Griffin: This this next step seems... impossible.

Justin: God, I miss TikTok. That would have been such a huge sound.

Griffin: Fuck, TikTok... Is it getting—do you think it's still gonna be there by the time this episode comes out?

Justin: By the time this episode is up, this is TikTok—

Travis: I'm thinking there's a last-minute Hail Mary.

Griffin: Hail Mary, for sure.

Travis: It's gonna save it.

Griffin: Come on. So, this one's impossible. "Enlist someone you trust to help."

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: "Coach them on who your partner is, what they look like, how they interact with people, what they like and what they don't like to talk about." If I had this person in my life, I wouldn't need to invent an imaginary boyfriend or girlfriend. If I had someone who I could trust so deeply that I could get them in on the con of my imaginary boyfriend or girlfriend, any sort of intimacy needs or human connection that I need, I have in that *incredible* friend!

Justin: Could you thread the needle on a romantic comedy where a guy enlists the help of his girl best friend in inventing a girlfriend, and he doesn't see the girl that loves him is right there because he's so busy inventing a girlfriend that doesn't exist?

Travis: That is definitely a movie that already exists.

Griffin: That's 10 movies. [chuckles]

Justin: Gotta be a movie.

Travis: Now, here's what's more interesting, right? Especially if your co-workers like have been in relationships for a while or are married. Don't invent a fake boyfriend or girlfriend. Invent a fake potential boyfriend or

girlfriend that you're like, "Oh, there's some sparks." Right? Like, "I don't know. I really like them. I don't know how they feel about me." That's interesting. There's tension there.

Griffin: There's tension.

Travis: Once you're like in the relationship, after a while it's like, "Okay, cool, man. Please stop talking about this person."

Justin: That's also all I want to hear about too.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If you're like, "Ooh." Like, I'm 44. If you like, you think there's something sparking with you in the flinty coffee shop guy, like great, man.

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: Let's hear about that!

Griffin: Especially if I start to suspect you're making it up. Then I'm gonna get really, really curious.

Justin: Even more! Oh, then I want every single detail.

Griffin: This next step is where I think it maybe goes too far. And it is to give your partner an online presence.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: Here is where you've lost me. [chuckles] You're catfishing yourself. You're Matt-fishing, if your name is Matt.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, you're just fishing I think at this point.

Travis: You're actually putting catfish into the water, is what's happening.

Griffin: You're seeding, you're farming.

Justin: It's a—you're—yeah, what is that called? You're opening up the... the plane—

Griffin: The sluice.

Justin: And just dropping thousands of pounds of catfish. [chuckles]

Travis: You've set up your own like trout cannon, or whatever they're called.

Griffin: You're seeding the pond.

Justin: I saw that happen once when I was a reporter for the Ironton Tribune, I was there when they drew this—brought this huge stupid truck. [chuckles] And they sent a reporter, man! This huge stupid truck to the back of Lake Vesuvius. And they just opened it out. And there's about a million of the most fucking confused fish you've ever seen in your entire life.

Griffin: [laughs] Ah, man.

Justin: Just blasting out of it!

Griffin: What a party.

Justin: Guys, there was probably 200 fucking people just like, "Yeah! Woo!" And I was one of 'em, because that's amazing!

Griffin: Yeah, that's a lot of fish.

Justin: There were so many fish!

Travis: I wish, Justin, that you had the scientific capabilities to interview one of those fish. Because the story they're gonna tell of like, "I don't know, man—like, I don't know what's happening. I don't know where I am."

Justin: I hope to God—

Travis: Fucking fascinating.

Justin: Guys, if you are good at internet and you start digging through the Ironton Tribune website, you could probably find a picture that I took.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Of 100,000 fish?

Travis: With the headline, "I don't fuckin' know man. It was wild."

Griffin: "Look at all these fish!"

Justin: Like, "Check this shit out."

Griffin: Let's go to the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: I'll tell you who's really got my number, who ran a background check on me and knows everything that they need to know to do what they need to do, and do it right. And that is Stitch Fix. Stitch Fix I've been using for a while. Always look forward to getting a box of duds. But using Stitch Fix taught me about my personal style. And so, I found some brands elsewhere that I found, and I liked the clothes, liked the way it fit. You know what's happened, guys? Stitch Fix has started to send me stuff from those freaking brands. They've got me so dialed in, their oracles, their fashion oracles have seen my future, and they know exactly what I like. I'm keeping everything in these boxes—

Travis: Griffin, can i try something real quick?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Here's the thing about these duds, they're no duds. What do you think?

Justin: Yeah, I like it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: These duds aren't duds. There's probably a cleaner—

Griffin: These duds aren't duds.

Justin: There's no duds—no duds here.

Griffin: No duds here.

Travis: No duds in these duds!

Justin: No duds.

Griffin: So, all that was to say that Stitch Fix is good at what they do, and that is sending you stuff to try on, and then you keep what you want and you send back what you don't want—

Travis: And they all explode.

Justin: They don't explode?

Griffin: What explodes?

Travis: With fashion? Because they're not duds.

Justin: No, come on.

Griffin: Oh, like, these are live fire—like these are fireworks.

Travis: No, I know it's not there.

Griffin: I don't actually think—let me see, hold on. Yeah, the copy doesn't mention anything about jazzing up their whole brand and like what their whole identity is. It doesn't say—let me... no. There's some stuff in here about like you get a stylist and then they like figure out your—

Travis: It's a circus of value.

Griffin: Yeah. But it doesn't say anything about "Jazz up a tagline for us, Travvy." Is not—

Travis: Well, no, that's implied. There's an assumed service.

Griffin: Yeah, okay. Yeah, cool. I do like Stitch Fix a lot. It's got personal styling for everyone—

Travis: I'm wearing Stitch Fix right now.

Griffin: Yes, I have Stitch Fix jeans on. And they've always—they know what makes my tuchus work.

Travis: They do.

Griffin: Personal styling for everyone! Get started today at stitchfix.com/brother. That's stitchfix.com/brother.

Justin: You know, eating great, nutritious stuff doesn't have to be hard. It can be easy, actually. And that's a surprise to you at this point in your life. You've been told lies. That's right. I'm here to tell you the truth about Marley Spoon. Hi. You want to fast track your way to eating well, without the stress? Check out Marley Spoon. They give you over 100 recipes to choose from every week. They got cozy comfort food, like a beef stroganoff. Or maybe something lighter fare, like a—

Travis: More like stroganon.

Justin: Salmon and creamy mustard dill sauce tray bake. Imagine. They just launched a new 15-minute express recipes. That's going to be great for me and my busy family. They put three of these in the menu every week. You got a few extra minutes to spare. They also have 20-minute options too, if you want to—when you're pressed for time. And they got—

Travis: Justin?!

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: Do they have anything from Martha Stewart?

Justin: Yeah! They got at least two of Martha's incredible recipes every single week. And if you're, you know—gotta check that. If you don't trust Martha, who can you trust?

Travis: Do they have any recipes from French Stewart?!

Justin: That is—

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, they do.

Justin: Yeah. Actually, Travis—

Griffin: They won't—he ghost wrote a lot of these. That man's got a palette you would not believe.

Justin: This new year, fast track your way to eating well with Marley Spoon. Head on over to marleyspoon.com/offer/mybrother. And use code My Brother for up to 27 free meals! That's right, up to 27 free meals—

Travis: That's like a whole year.

Justin: One last time, that's—[chuckles]

Griffin: That's...

Justin: It's not. [titters]

Griffin: It's not, man.

Justin: One last time, it's—yeah, I love Marley Spoon. [chuckles] I eat two every month.

Griffin: They send you these two week turbo meals, each one worth 140,000 calories.

Justin: They stuff you up so bad!

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: You wouldn't believe it! And if you try to—if you try to slice it up, they know. [chuckles]

Travis: In one.

Justin: They won't send you anymore. [chuckles] They're never gonna do this again. We always fuck up and there's not enough advertisers for us to keep doing this. We've gotta stop doing this.

Griffin: Marley—okay, let's be clear then. Marley—

Justin: Just be—

Griffin: Marley Spoon doesn't send you giant brick-like 120,000 calorie turbo meals. They send you normal meals.

Justin: Normal sized meals. Head on over to marleyspoon.com/offer/mybrother and use offer code My Brother for up to 27 free meals.

Griffin: And make sure you use our promo code, My Brother, so they know we sent you.

[break]

Dan: The Flop House is a podcast where we watch a bad movie and then we talk about it.

Elliott: Robert Shaw in Jaws, and they're trying to figure out how to get rid of the Ghoulies. And he scratches his nails and he says, "I'll get you, ghoulie."

Dan: He's just standing above the toilet of the harbor. [chuckles] No, I was just looking forward to you going through the other ways in which Wild Wild West is historically inaccurate.

Stuart: You know how much movies cost nowadays? When you add in your popped corn and your bagel bites, and your cheese fritters.

Elliott: You can't go wrong with a Henry Cavil mustache. Here at Henry Cavil Mustaches, the only supplier—

[group laugh]

Dan: The Flop House. New episodes every Saturday. Find it at maximumfun.org.

[break]

John: Eggos, I'm John Hodgman.

Janet: Et eggos, I'm Janet Varney.

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

Janet: Every episode, we will spotlight one state and discuss its official symbols, the motto, flowers, birds, beverages, songs! And even official state muffins.

John: Plus, we'll hear from guests whose lives have been inspired by the state's iconography and from residents who call that state home.

Janet: Bring some snacks, a map, and your travel journal, because this podcast is a virtual journey like no other!

John: Audi nostrom E Pluribus Motto qualibe talia lunai de Maximum Fun!

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

[break]

Justin: "When should I stop telling people to have a good night? I work overnights at a truck stop, typically from 10PM to six AM. And my heart says morning starts at five AM, because that's the time they announce a new day in Animal Crossing. But it feels weird to wish people good night at 4:30AM. Am I wrong about when morning starts? Is there a time-neutral way to wish someone well?" That's from Time Sensitive in Texas.

Travis: I wanted to talk about this because this—I have a couple, and I know these are me, weird hang ups about this. And one is like 'good morning' feels like such a greeting.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: 'Good night' feels like such a like parting.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: It also feels weird at like 11:30AM that I would say 'good morning.'

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But then it's like, well, afternoon isn't 'til afternoon—like, there's so many of like—

Justin: Isn't it weird?

Travis: It feels weird.

Justin: Isn't it weird that if you walk up to someone at a truck stop and they're like, "Good morning," you'd be like, "Oh, good morning." If you walk up to someone at a truck stop and they're like, "Good night."

Griffin: [chuckles] "I love you."

Travis: This is what I'm saying.

Justin: "Should I leave?"
"No, good night."

Travis: Good night.

Justin: "What do you—do you want me to... should I go?"

Griffin: But there's a different—this isn't 'good night,' this is, 'have a good night.'

Justin: But if they say—now, explain this one to me. 'Good evening.'

Travis: Oh, God.

Justin: Like when they say that, that's—

Travis: Don't let them in!

Justin: That's fine!

Griffin: 'Good evening' is welcoming. 'Good night' is 'get out of here.' 'Have a good night' is a blessing. 'Have a good night' has a power and an intention behind it. And I think that it's really strong. And I love a 'have a good night.' I'll take a 'have a good night' over a 'good morning' morning any day.

Justin: This is what—this is what—I think this is what Griffin is hitting on here, right? I think it's about what's in front of you.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Ooh.

Justin: So if you... if you think this—it's a judgment on the person, I think. Because what you're really saying is, 'have a good rest of your day.'

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: But this person seems to be starting their day, that makes sense. But if they seem to be wrapping up, like heading to bed, then it's 'good night.' But I think it's contextual to the person.

Griffin: Okay, that's interesting—

Travis: What about—what do you guys think about 'have a good one?'

Griffin: I *love* 'have a good one.'

Travis: Hey, have a good one.

Justin: I love 'have a good one.'

Travis: As like you finish your transaction at this truck stop, you say, "Have a good one." Could be have a good drive.

Griffin: I will—

Travis: Have a good sleep. Have a good night. Have a good morning.

Justin: That's probably my number—have a good one is like... for me, it's a simple combination of 'have a good one, hang in there.'

Travis: Yeah. Stay safe.

Justin: Stay safe.

Griffin: Stay safe! [chuckles]

Justin: Stay safe.

Travis: Stay safe. Keep your head on a swivel.

Justin: Keep your head on a swivel, keep—oh! And if I like the person, sometimes they'll get a keep it sleazy.

Travis: Yeah, that's nice!

Griffin: Or takers take—take her sleazy, yeah.

Justin: Take it sleazy, that's a good one.

Travis: Yeah, have fun out there.

Justin: Hang in—hang in there is usually—

Travis: Hang in there, chin up.

Justin: Hang in there is a good one. Because I think everybody needs to hear that. Like I think everybody would welcome a hang in there. It's a good confirmation that your situation requires hanging in there. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: I'll tell you where we could really improve this whole thing. Because obviously the fabric of society is just unraveling before we—

Justin: And we're—

Griffin: We need to—

Justin: We're work—I'm working on that.

Griffin: We gotta re... we gotta fuse it back together and make a little bit more connection in our life. Instead of 'good morning,' let's swap out the 'good' part for something more direct or actionable.

Justin: Oh my God—

Griffin: Strong—

Justin: What if they walk in and you're like, "Bad morning." [chuckles]

Griffin: No, no, no, that's not what I'm saying either, Justin. I'm saying give them a direction like 'strong morning.' "Brave morning."

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: And then you're telling them like you're gonna—you should be brave this—be brave today.

Travis: Have a powerful day.

Justin: All I ever want is for us to just—now, a lot of our like—the things that we say are from sort of our navel or mariner history. And it's especially common and—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Do you mean about like us as McElroys? Our naval history?

Justin: Us as a people. And like I feel like the—I always am very drawn to greetings and stuff about the sea, right? Or the winds.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Justin: May they wind—you know what I mean, the wind—

Griffin: Fair winds.

Travis: May the wind—

Justin: Fair wind!

Travis: Be in your sails.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Fair winds find...

Travis: Calm seas.

Justin: Find you on the sea of—you know.

Griffin: Yeah. Even you saying that there gave me douche chills, Juice, if I'm being honest. If anyone hit me with a, "Fair winds, traveler," I—

Justin: Fair winds.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: No, okay. But if I walk into a truck stop at 2AM and the person behind the counter is like, "Fair winds, traveler," I will... I'm good. That will help me out immensely.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: I would be fucking stoked, actually. And I will probably linger, because that's pretty cool.

Griffin: As a shop keep—as a shop—as a vendor or shop keep, you can hit me with a, "Fair winds, Traveler."

Justin: Fair winds—

Travis: Okay, how many times would they have to say, "Greetings, weary traveler," before it becomes so natural—

Griffin: That I don't like. There's no profession that can—no, an inn keep, a hotel manager could hit me with a, "Greetings, weary traveler." I will turn around, I will get on Hotels Tonight, I will find a different lodging.

Justin: You're not going to—

Travis: "Warm your bones by the slurpy machine!"

Griffin: No, I don't need that from—

Travis: "Come in! Sup upon our pretzel dogs."

Griffin: If it's gonna be novel, it has to be a goodbye. Because I need to be... out of there. I need to know that I'm not about to hang out with—

Justin: No, no, if it's a goodbye though, you've opened yourself up to like the, "Sorry, what'd you say?"

Travis: "What was that?"

Justin: And then you'd have to be like, "I said fair winds, traveler. May... may rises glory keep thee. Sorry, I just—"

Griffin: Rises glory keep thee, yeah. But then you get—you know what you do, Juice? You can leave then, because you're done with that, you don't have to hang out in that moment.

Justin: Yeah, that's true. You don't want to stew in it regardless.

Travis: If you hit 'em with "Greetings," and then say, "Fair winds, traveler," I feel like you've started to set the tone—

Justin: You've opened the door to them being a character.

Travis: Yeah, like, "Ah, greetings."

Justin: It is good. Travis, that's good. That is good. If you open—if you give someone a little hint that like, "Hey, I'm kind of a cut up. You're gonna want to watch out for me. I've got..."

Travis: I don't think you can animate it. You can be like, "Ah, greetings!" "Oh, greetings." And then you can hit 'em with "Fair winds, traveler" right at the end.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they're like, "Oh, there's a bookend here. Now the pattern makes sense." Now, when they pay, you do have to say, "That will be 20 coin of the realm." And just see how that plays out. [laughs]

Griffin: See, you're making me uncomfortable—

Travis: "Aah! 13 of the king's silver!"

Griffin: I mean, it's fun—

Travis: "Are you willing to barter? I'll take three chickens for this Slim Jim!"

Griffin: I need to be warned before going into this business that there is going to be some creative anachronism taking place inside of it, or else it is entrapment. If there's a sign on the door—if it's decked out like a tavern and there's chickens outside the gas station, I know like, okay, going in here, it's gonna be a medieval times experience for me and my kids. Then that is okay.

Travis: That's true, yeah.

Griffin: I can't walk—

Travis: If I roll up and it's just a Sunoco, and then there's just a sign on the bathroom door that says 'privy.'

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. If you—

Travis: But that's the only thing in the whole place.

Griffin: You pop into a 7-Eleven and there's a sorcerer behind the counter, I'm not ready—I wasn't ready for that.

Travis: But I love it. It depends on how long I've been traveling at that point. If I'm 10 minutes away from my house—

Justin: How weary are you?

Travis: I'm not ready for that. If it's like hour eight of the drive and there's a sorcerer at the 7-Eleven?

Griffin: No fucking way, man—

Travis: I'm good for another four hours of driving.

Griffin: Four AM... four AM feels good to me.

Justin: See, I think it's six, man.

Travis: Good dawn.

Griffin: Six AM?!

Travis: Sunrise. I think it's sunrise. Because then it's dawn and then it's morning.

Justin: 6AM is the—is for me the cut off where if we have like a flight the next day for tour, and I know that I have to wake up before six. That to me is like—

Griffin: You're waking up the night before.

Justin: This is a problem. Like, this is a huge—like, it's like, I'll recheck that like, certainly I'm not doing this math right? I can't be waking up before six AM.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: That's not right.

Travis: Okay, but all joking aside, guys, it's midnight, right? Night, dawn, morning, afternoon, evening.

Justin: You're trying to quantify something that can't be...

Griffin: There is no—there is no firm time—

Travis: Night ends when the sun comes up?

Griffin: When does evening begin?

Travis: Afternoon—five o'clock. It's five o'clock somewhere.

Justin: Afternoon? You said afternoon, that's interesting. Afternoon.

Griffin: So maybe there's not a firm limit on these things.

Travis: It's five o'clock.

Griffin: It's all abstract, it's all—this is what we're trying to—

Travis: Okay, but we know that like sun goes down, night begins. The sun comes up, day begins. That's—

Justin: If someone come—if someone at 4:30 is like, "Have a good night."

Griffin: That's crazy.

Travis: Enjoy the rest of the night.

Griffin: It's 4:30, it's time to—it is time to go. If I'm up at 4:30, it's the next day. If I'm in the gas station at 3:30, maybe I have—I'm coming home from a very long—

Travis: Then here's the problem. It's a societal problem and not a time problem. We need to—

Justin: Problems with our society?!

Travis: Yeah. We need to start having indicators that let me, the shop keep, know if you're heading home or heading out.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Right? So that way, if you're heading home, right? After a night shift and you're going to bed, it is night for you. You're going to bed.

Justin: Oh, but you—

Travis: You've just woken up and it's still early. It's morning for you.

Justin: Normally, this would be very difficult, but you are, as a truck station attendant, one of the—is supremely well positioned to see what they're putting in their body, right?

Travis: Ooh.

Justin: If you're my grandpa, Dan, when he was up late driving for the railroad and he would stop at a truck stop, he would get a chocolate milk and a big ball of Excedrin, for the caffeine and for his headaches. That was his thing. If I see someone getting a big bottle of Excedrin and chocolate milk, they're not going to sleep. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Are you sure about that?

Justin: They got a lot—

Travis: His best vehicle for caffeine was Excedrin?

Justin: I know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I know. That's why he was such an unhappy person.

Griffin: If I—

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: We should just have—

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Oh, okay. [guffaws]

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

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

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

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest brand eating. And I got two big stories, that's why I had to cut us off previously. I got two big stories. Here's the first one. Pop-Tarts, Krispy Kreme, they're doing it.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Yeah. Pop-Tarts, beginning today for a limited time at participating shops—and I don't have a Krispy Kreme in Huntington, so I'm probably gonna have to drive Charleston. Pop-Tarts is doing a Krispy Kreme collabo. Krispy Kreme popping off the new year with three insanely tasty new donuts. We got a Pop-Tarts frosted strawberry donut, which is an unglazed shell. Always so appetizing when they put it that way. Filled with strawberry filling, dipped in shortbread icing and topped with shortbread pieces, sugar sprinkles, strawberry filling drizzle and a frosted Pop-Tart bites piece.

Griffin: That's a lot of shit, man.

Travis: Hey, Justin? Can I... have a moment to say something about these donuts and Pop-Tarts? One, it's really blurring the lines, because this is in a wild—like Pop-Tarts and donut are not that far apart—

Griffin: They're friends.

Travis: In the like, if I'm breaking down by species phylum kingdom whatever.

Justin: Sure.

Travis: Right?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And so to say, we put strawberry icing and like a cream cheese topping, so now it's like a Pop-Tart donut. And even looking at this picture, at least for two out of the three styles, they've gone to the effort of just gluing on a little Pop-Tart.

Griffin: A little Pop-Tart. Yeah, the little Pop-Tart fascinator on some of these is what I really want to get to.

Justin: Yeah, I love that. There's a tiny—

Travis: But the third design, you don't even get that.

Justin: Well... that's true, but it's a donut based on a Pop-Tart. So like I don't know what you...

Travis: But you can't tell me strawberry icing, the new thing in donuts.

Griffin: It's strawberry filling, a shortbread icing with pieces of shortbread on it. And sugar—

Travis: This just feels so corporate.

Justin: They don't make Pop-Tarts bites—

Travis: This doesn't feel inspired the way that donuts normally do. This feels like a cash grab.

Justin: Yeah, it's a cash grab. That's true, Trav. That's actually like... wow, I hadn't even thought about that.

Travis: Yeah, man. I think they're just doing this to sell donuts.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I expect better—

Travis: I don't think this was about the passion or like—

Justin: I expect better from Kellanova, a leader in global snacking, international cereal and noodles.

Travis: Usually, they're in it for the heart. You know—

Griffin: Yeah, the art and the heart.

Travis: They have the heart of a snacking company.

Justin: They do—they're doing a brown sugar one and a chocolatey fudge donut one. "Krispy Kreme and Pop-Tarts are coming together for the very first time, and you know the result will be crazy good," says Dave Skena, Krispy Kreme chief—

Travis: Ah, Dave.

Justin: Chief growth officer.

Griffin: You need to pick a voice for Dave Skena, Justin.

Justin: Well, Dave Skena's voice—

Travis: Can I tell you—

Justin: Count Donut does it is different from the Dave Skena voice when I do it.

Travis: It actually, for a second I thought, why is this so weird to me? And then I realized Count Donut's not here.

Griffin: It's true, yeah.

Justin: Yeah. "Krispy Kreme and Pop-Tarts, fans will love kicking off the order this delicious collaboration." Now what is—let's check in with Kellanova. What did they have to say about this? [in a deep voice] "Pop-Tarts aren't just for a toaster. They can infuse culinary creativity to delight consumers. Krispy Kreme has done an incredible job of bringing this opportunity to life, combining their iconic donuts with the beloved flavors of Pop-Tarts, to create a truly one-of-a-kind experience for fans of both brands. We're proud of this partnership to bring crazy good to donuts and donut lovers in unexpected ways."

Travis: Can you... words mean things. And saying a one in a lifetime—once in a lifetime experience—

Justin: Once in a lifetime.

Travis: The idea that I'm gonna eat this donut and then begin to weep, because nothing will ever match that exact experience again? That's like this is...

Griffin: I fuckin'—

Travis: I'll never know this again.

Griffin: I also love when a press release refers to me as a consumer. That's awesome.

Justin: Because that's—

Griffin: That makes it feel like this press release should be barking at me from a loud speaker in the corner of my house. And every morning they deliver a hot and fresh—oh, hey, who's this?

Travis: Huh.

Justin: You know who that is?

Griffin: That's... it's one of the Mannings.

Travis: The younger Manning, I believe. Elisha.

Justin: Yeah, as—when I start to... when I start this—before I start this press release, I just... I got this up for you guys. And you can just kind of tell me what's happening here while I pull the press release—

Griffin: It looks like Eli Manning is holding a bottle of Hidden Valley Ranch—

Travis: A human bottle of ranch is holding a real bottle of ranch.

Griffin: And he's squirted either some of himself or the ranch dressing bottle onto a big pepperoni pizza.

Travis: And his face and body language is a shrug.

Griffin: He is making the littlest stinker face I've ever seen.

Justin: Now, what do you see—

Travis: He's apologize—like, I don't know, man—

Justin: Let's get more details, though. Let's get more details, guys. What else do you see? Give me more clues, what else you got?

Travis: So, it's... Hidden Valley Ranch has partnered with Pizza Hut.

Justin: Right?

Travis: To make a signature ranch pizza. And then I see just down here at the bottom, Justin, "Score a one-of-a-kind, resin-encased collectible..."

Griffin: And then you've cut of—

Travis: Is it bottle of ranch? Or pizza? Or Eli Manning. [titters] Get a resin-encased Eli Manning. No, a pizza!

Griffin: A resin-encased collectible Pizza Hut pizza that Eli Manning has signed with ranch dressing.

Travis: Holy shit. That's what we're seeing scrawled across the pizza.

Justin: Yeah. So, we've got three images here that you can use for this. One of these three—for the big game, you gotta have big prizes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And the new easy squeeze bottle from Hidden Valley Ranch is so... exciting and powerful—

Travis: Can you scroll back up? The second image is killing me.

Griffin: It's so fucking good, man.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh my God, even the 10 other winner's prize—can I tell you, the 10 other winners will receive a year's supply of Hidden Valley Ranch and Pizza Hut pizza.

Justin: So you wanted me to—

Travis: Scroll back down just real quick.

Justin: This is what you wanted? You wanna see the images?

Travis: Yeah, so here's—these are images you could use, I guess, to tell your friends like we could win this, or we'll use this, right?

Justin: Right.

Travis: So the first one is just the picture, it has the logo. And then ranch on one side, pizza on the other. And then the third picture, bottle of ranch, pizza. The middle one—

Griffin: Sitting on a yard line at a football field.

Travis: Yes. The middle one is a very close up of just a hand holding the pizza. As if to say, in case you were wondering what it looked like when Eli Manning will scrawl his name in Ranch, a little something like this.

Griffin: Some clumsy, I will say, layer mashing happening in the photo edit.

Justin: They're changing the game with the launch of their brand-new easy squeeze bottle. Making it even easier—

Travis: Thank God.

Justin: To add ranch flavor to everything.

Griffin: I will say that's next level. I fuckin' hate that I have to put ranch dressing bottles upside down, where they then rest on the very small nozzle end of the bottle. Top heavy the whole time, threatening to fall over—

Travis: I'm willing to bet—

Griffin: And knock over my other condiments.

Travis: That here, easy squeeze actually translates to, we used thinner, cheaper plastic, so it's easier to crush it in your hand, like a Coke bottle.

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: "To celebrate, they are teaming up with Pizza Hut and football legend Eli Manning to create the one-of-a-kind Hidden Valley Ranch signature pizza, delivered by Pizza Hut. This unexpected collectible is a crave worthy Pizza Hut—"

Travis: Unexpected is doing a lot of work there!

Justin: "This unexpected collectible is—" Yeah, forbidden, it should probably say.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: This unforeseen collectible.

Justin: Ungodly. [laughs]

Travis: Unimaginable collectible.

Justin: This unfathomable collectible is a crave-worthy Pizza Hut pepperoni pizza autographed by Eli Manning, using the precision and control of the new—[chuckles]

Griffin: The precision and control afforded by these easily squeezed bottles.

Justin: Hidden Vally Ranch easy squeeze bottle, preserved in resin for eternity—

Travis: You haven't tested that, Pizza Hut! You don't know!

Griffin: You could encase this ranch-covered pizza in a 10-by-10-foot Lucite cube, and I would still be able to smell it. You could put this mother fucker in carbonite, I would smell it from the other room.

Justin: PSA, the largest and most respected third-party authentication and grading company for trade—oh, sorry, PSA is the name of it. This is not a public service announcement. [titters]

Griffin: Oh, okay, cool.

Justin: PSA, the largest and most respected third-party authentication and grading company for trading cards memorabilia will authenticate the prize pizza—

Travis: A pizza. [chuckles]

Justin: And they're—yeah, like, "Hey, Vicky, you won't believe the day I had today. I watched—I had to watch Eli Manning sign a pizza with ranch. And then sign a paper that said, yup, he did it."

Travis: Yeah, that sure is that one.

Justin: "Our new bottle design is a game changer for ranch lovers, making it even easier to enjoy every drop of Hidden Valley Ranch without the mess."

Griffin: I don't think about ranch dressing coming in drops.

Justin: It's more of a stream?

Griffin: It's a viscous—there's a viscosity. There's no dropping that's going to happen.

Justin: If a recipe called for five drops of ranch, you would—

Griffin: [chuckles] You would lose your mind.

Travis: Also, imagine if someone said, "Oh, yeah, baseball, this new innovation is a real game changer. We made it a little easier to swing the bat." That's not really game changer?

Justin: The game has changed for ranch lovers, though, I think is fair.

Griffin: Yeah, because the—

Justin: "And one lucky winner will receive the one-of-a-kind Hidden Valley Ranch signature piece encased in resin. And the 10 runners up are—will receive a year's supply of Hidden Valley Ranch and a Pizza Hut pizza to create your own signature moments."

Travis: Yeah, but you gotta think about, one, the taxes you're paying—

Justin: You tell me how much I need in a year.

Travis: The taxes you're paying on winning that pizza, you're gonna end up having to give back at least 30% of that pizza. But also, when I win that resin-encased Eli Manning signed pizza, do they also provide free security for

me and the pizza for life? Because I've just become a target. You know what I mean?

Justin: You have a one-of-a-kind piece of art there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And are they gonna look after you? No, you gotta look after yourself.

Travis: This is what I'm saying. Who's gonna keep me and my family safe—

Justin: Hey, Trav? Here's a question, who pays the taxes on this pizza that you've—

Travis: That's what I'm saying, Justin!

Justin: Is that my problem? Do I have to deal with that?

Griffin: You gotta stop—

Travis: Eli Manning—

Griffin: You have to stop zooming into Eli Manning's face.

Travis: That face is actually saying very clearly, "I'm not responsible for this."

Justin: So, thank you. So you can go get that pizza, if you want. I will say this—

Travis: Or you could just buy a pizza and some—

Justin: They say—

Griffin: Yourself?

Justin: On the actual thing, the website, it says that the pizza is dehydrated and you should not consume because it won't be safe to eat. Do you know how sad it is that they have to hedge against the possibility? They're only doing one. So they have to hedge against the possibility that the one singular pizza they make like this is going to end up in the hands of the one person on Earth who would try, who would be like, "Yum-a, yum-a."

Travis: You guys remember that—

Justin: "Thank you!"

Travis: That heartbreaking scene of The Walking Dead where they were all out of food, and the only thing left was their Eli Manning signed pizza? And they had to break open the resin.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Open. Yeah.

Justin: "It's dehydrated, that means we have to mix it with zombie piss."

Travis: [chuckles] I thought the show took a weird turn in season 33, but—

Justin: When they mixed zombie piss with Eli Manning's dehydrated resin—

Travis: And they used zombie Eli Manning's zombie piss to do it. It was a good cameo, I can't believe they got him.

Griffin: There are still some good episodes. The whole original cast got eaten up already, but there are still some good episodes. The Eli Manning Lucite pizza arc was—lost me a little bit and then—

Travis: But the robot stuff is great.

Griffin: It's great. And like Negan? We're loving him!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. I know I've enjoyed getting to record it. I'm very excited.

Travis: Hey, Florida. Or Flo Rida. February 20—

Griffin: If Flo Rida wanted to come to our shows—

Travis: Oh my God, are you kidding me? February 20th and 21st, My Brother, My Brother and Me and TAZ are gonna be in Tampa. It's our first live TAZ in Florida. And then February 22nd, My Brother, My Brother and Me is in Jacksonville, Florida. Tickets are on sale now. More info and ticket links, go to bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Griffin: We got a new plush that we've been working on in collab with Youtooz. It's a Miggy plush. Miggy Mackerel from the McElroy Family Clubhouse, a streaming program you can watch on our YouTube channel every Tuesday. It's only available for a little bit, though. It's only available 'til January 28th. So go to miggy.youtooz, that's Y-O-U-T-O-O-Z.com, and grab yourself one of these while supplies last!

Travis: Speaking of, there's only a couple of Champions Grove packages left. It's the gaming event that I put on, now in its second year. Memorial Day weekend.

Justin: It's fun! I did it and I liked it, and you're not better than me.

Travis: And there you go.

Griffin: True.

Travis: So go to championsgrove.com for all the information and to see the remaining packages. Also, we've got a Wake Up And Do Good shirt in the merch store. And all proceeds from that shirt go to the Transgender Law Center, which organizes, assist, informs and empowers thousands of individual community members towards a long-term, national trans-led movement for liberation. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

Griffin: Thank you so much—

Travis: So go check that out.

Griffin: To Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. Let this powerful music start your year off so right. And then let's end the show very quickly. Let's just end the show very quickly. We don't—

Justin: Here's the new—

Griffin: No, we don't have the thing.

Travis: Maybe we should share personal fear?

Griffin: No, go ahead, Juice. Juice had it.

Justin: Doop-doop-dew-dew-dew. That's all, folks.

Travis: You do still need to say your name, though.

Justin: No, I don't want to say that. I... I don't want to put my name on something that doesn't have an ending. You know what I mean? Like I really am proud of the whole episode and—

Travis: Could we recreate like if the three of us—

Justin: Recap the episode? Yes, that's—

Travis: No, like recreate, like imagine like we're gonna create a sound bath, but it's the three of us getting into a car, turning on the engine, and driving away really fast. Like, do you think we could make the sound of that?

Justin: We already did sound baths.

Travis: Ah, damn it, you're right.

Justin: Like, we did it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And we did wishes. And now...

Travis: We could do The Distance by Cake acapella?

Justin: Okay, let's just—I mean...

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, let's—

Justin: No bad ideas.

Griffin: He's going for [yells] speed!

Justin: [mouths guitar sounds]

Griffin: That was sort of—

Travis: He's all alone! All alone. All—in his time of—

Griffin: [yells] Reluctantly crouched at the starting line!

Travis: Starting line!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: That's not gonna be it, fam.

Justin: By the end of the year, it's gonna be sick!

Travis: We're gonna have it—

Griffin: We'll figure it out. I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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