

## MBMBaM 748: Gooped and Gagged, Dad

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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 plays]

**Justin:** Hello, everybody, 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! What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog, Woof-Woof" McElroy.

**Griffin:** What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother and Justin McElroy impersonator, Griffin McElroy.

**Justin:** Yeah. You did—

**Griffin:** I was just— we dressed the same.

**Travis:** Yeah, I'm regretting this hoodie instantly.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I'm so warm.

**Griffin:** We look like a *Animorph* going either from Justin to Travis, or Travis to Justin, and me in the middle, I feel like.

**Justin:** I just wear this shirt all the time anymore.

**Travis:** All the time?

**Justin:** Until— I'm gonna wear this until I feel better. [laughs] That's what I told myself.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** And I've had it on for weeks! Hey—

**Griffin:** Do—

**Justin:** Go ahead.

**Travis:** [groans]

**Griffin:** No, you. [sighs]

**Travis:** [continues groaning]

**Griffin:** Well, let's let Travis finish taking his fucking shirt off.

**Travis:** That was a mistake.

**Griffin:** Now the continuity's all fucked up, now, Trav.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** We're a video-forward organization!

**Travis:** But I want— I wanted to wear a gray shirt, like you guys.

**Griffin:** That's not— it's a dark gray, and there's words on it. It's a graphic tee.

**Travis:** It's a heavy charcoal.

**Griffin:** Okay. Man, am I— you can see my nap line right across my forehead, still. That's fucking embarrassing.

**Travis:** We're in perfect form.

**Griffin:** Why are we a video-for—

**Justin:** We shouldn't be.

**Griffin:** We're not ready for the jump to video.

**Justin:** We're not video-forward people.

**Travis:** No, no, no.

**Justin:** You know what I mean? Like, we're not video-forward human beings.

**Travis:** We're audio-handsome. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah. And even that is a *stretch*. You are a 7 in audio.

**Travis:** Yeah. Have you *heard* my voice? Ugh.

**Griffin:** Anyone can be [crosstalk].

**Justin:** I had an unexpected experience. I didn't expect this would happen, but this weekend, I went to my first, um— went to my first basketball game where Charlie was cheerleading.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah?

**Justin:** Leading the cheers with the cheerleaders. I didn't think I'd make a cheerleader, but pfft, who knows?

**Griffin:** Here we are!

**Justin:** Here we are.

**Travis:** It skips a generation. Dad was a cheerleader...

**Justin:** Cheerleader, right, so...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** She was cheerleading, and they cheerlead for some of it, and then a lot of it is just watching fourth graders play basketball.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's a shame.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's what they don't tell you, yeah. Do you think that's how Mom and Dad felt when you were the scorekeeper for the elementary school basketball? They loved watching you write down stuff in the book, and they're like, "But the rest of it..." "

**Justin:** I think I walked. I'm pretty sure I walked [laughs] to the games.

**Griffin:** [giggles loudly]

**Justin:** I feel like I walked.

**Griffin:** I don't think mommies and daddies are required to watch their kids' scoring.

**Justin:** Or encouraged, yeah. No, it's like, a lot of it is just watching fourth graders play basketball. And, man, it's awesome.

**Griffin:** Yeah. What's the fundamentals like, Juice?

**Justin:** Okay, the fundamentals are, first of all, the thing you don't expect—'cause you think it might be boring. You're wrong.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Because the first thing you don't know is, no one's gonna score.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** Like, we're going into soccer territory. Like, we ended the first quarter of this game 2-2. [laughs]

**Travis:** I would've asked the point!

**Griffin:** [laughs] Oh, my goodness!

**Travis:** [crosstalk]

**Justin:** Yeah, so like, every basket is a thriller, okay?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You are also seeing basketball played at a level where even I can identify the issues, which makes it a lot more engaging, right?

**Travis:** Mm.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Wow. Yeah.

**Justin:** I don't understand why— like, for instance, the Spurs beat the Lakers. I don't know why that happened.

**Travis:** Yeah, right?

**Griffin:** No clue.

**Justin:** But I think—

**Travis:** It's a flip of a coin, as far as I know.

**Justin:** I do know Charlie's team was struggling with their one play, which was "Pass it to the tall kid, let the tall kid not shoot it, have the tall kid pass it to one of the short kids, [holding back laughter] and they fall over."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And that play— they executed that play 30 times [laughs] in the game, and they could not get any points up on the board.

**Griffin:** Well, you gonna— and I know you're not a big sports guy, Juice, but some teams can't do it all.

**Justin:** [wheezing laughter]

**Griffin:** Some teams can only do one thing...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** ... but they do it in their special way, better than anyone else, like the Mighty Ducks did.

**Justin:** Right. I also—

**Travis:** Can I tell you the problem, just real quick, before we get too deep in the paint, huh?

**Griffin:** Yeah. That's true.

**Travis:** Is uh, I was gonna make a joke of like, "Yeah, some teams can't do it all." And then I was gonna say, like, an NBA team...

**Justin:** But you don't know— yeah.

**Travis:** ... that I thought was safe to make fun of. I don't even have that.

**Griffin:** What the bad one is?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I don't even know.

**Justin:** You could say the Bills right now, but that feels—

**Travis:** That's not an NBA team at all, Justin.

**Justin:** I know, but it's like, if you're bringing, like, *a* team...

**Travis:** Oh, I could just say Bills?

**Justin:** Listen. So it's 2-2, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** We're getting down to the wire, and it's halftime. And they go out and do some cheers, which is great.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** I'm having— oh, the other thing I didn't tell you: the clock doesn't stop. And almost no fouls are called.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Which is a— that's— let 'em play!

**Griffin:** That fuckin' trucks, dude. Yes. Absolutely.

**Justin:** They let 'em play, dude! Like, they're not calling stuff, because, like, they can't stop. So they're just, like, fighting over the ball, and getting it back, and the game continues.

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Justin:** It comes about halftime, I'm so thrilled and excited, I had—

**Griffin:** Well, you found a fourth grade *Fight Club*, it sounds like, Juice.

**Travis:** Yeah, man! No rules, just right.

**Justin:** I *have* to get refreshments. So I stepped outside of the— at The Boys and Girls Club, and I went over to the refreshment stand, and I did watch a lady drop a hotdog on her foot, which was good. And then I—

**Griffin:** [laughs] [excitedly] Condiments? Condiments? Condiments, condiments?

**Justin:** Mustard and chili. Uh, sorry—

**Griffin:** Yay! [laughs]

**Justin:** I meant West Virginia's secret sauce.

**Griffin:** Color— color of shoe? Color of shoe before drop.

**Justin:** [pleased] Color of shoe was the white Air Force Ones.

**Travis:** No!

**Griffin:** [through laughter] Oh, no!

**Justin:** It was the Air Force Ones!

**Travis:** Did she make a noise?

**Justin:** Cheers by the truckload! Cheers by the truck—

**Travis:** Did she give you an "Oh!" [trailing off] or something when she did it?

**Justin:** No, she got another hotdog out of it, which I enjoyed.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** But I got my nachos and a soda.

**Travis:** Nice. And a free ground hotdog for you.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And then I got to the door of the [laughs] gym, and they're like— I had to wait for, like, 10 minutes - 11, counting the cleanup [laughs] for the hotdog. And I got there, they're like, "Sorry, no drinks or food allowed in the gym."



**Travis:** Huh!

**Justin:** And I'm like, "Well, I mean, I bought 'em," and like, [laughs] I can see.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So I just stood at the door of the gym [laughs], just— that one dad just standing outside, lurking outside the door of the gym, kind of half watching the game and, uh, eating nachos.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And he's really eating 'em fast, too, like his wife is giving him angry looks, like he needs to get back in the room pretty soon. [laughs] So he's kind of horfing the chips.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I think the full name of the club is The Boys and Girls and Hoops Chomping Down on a Good Dog Club.

**Justin:** Yeah. Um, they had Ring Pops, too.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah!

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Cow Tales?

**Justin:** Uh, just chocolate.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** [incredulously] Chocolate Cow Tales?

**Justin:** You're seeing those more and more.

**Travis:** Really?

**Justin:** With a choc— it's like a chocolate outside, with a chocolate cream.

**Travis:** [thoughtfully] Hmm.

**Justin:** Me, I need the biggest Cow Tale you got.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** For me to even feel it, I don't need a pocket-sized one. It's like Charleston Chew rules, with me. I need it to look like a novelty you purchased at the airport.

**Griffin:** Give me a 50-yard...

**Travis:** Mm!

**Griffin:** ... *spool* of Cow Tales.

**Justin:** A joke of it— make a joke of it.

**Travis:** Yeah, make a whimsically-sized one.

**Justin:** I want a Cow Tale so big, you could tell they've had to come up with new preservation techniques.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** To make it all— [crosstalk]

**Travis:** And then, though, they're gonna call it, like, a Mammoth Tale, you know what I mean?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They're not just calling it a Cow Tale at this point. We're gonna have to make— [crosstalk]

**Griffin:** And while we're at it...

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** While we're at it...

**Travis:** Yeah, go off, king.

**Griffin:** Why do they call this fucking candy "Cow Tales"? That's the grossest imaginable sort of...

**Travis:** It is gross.

**Griffin:** ... textural comparison I feel like they could have— when you eat a Cow Tale and it gooshes into your mouth, there's a part of your brain that thinks, like, "Yeah, that's probably what it's like." And that's because they named the candy that. It—

**Travis:** Also, locational concerns of where the cow's tail is located on the—

**Griffin:** Right next to the...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ... yeah, the business end.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah. Okay, this is—

**Griffin:** Gross name for a can— gross!

**Justin:** The reason for this is that, for the longest time, throughout confectionary history - if you watched *The Foods that Made Us*, you know

this - candy-making is seen as a sin. So when you are a candy-maker, you try to make your product seem as unappetizing as possible.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** So you have some of these names like— this is where you get, for example, Cow Tales. Uh, this is where you get Goobers.

**Griffin:** Goobers!

**Justin:** They realize, “You shouldn’t be consuming this. It’s a *Bazooka*.”

**Travis:** Nerds.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Nerds! It’s a B— it’s a— [crosstalk]

**Griffin:** Runts!

**Justin:** *Razzles*. Y’know?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** “Oh, you wanna eat candy, Henry? Oh Henry! You disgust me.” Oh Henry! bar.

**Travis:** Oh, I see. I thought you were talking to Griffin’s son, for a minute.

**Griffin:** Thought you were talking about my son. I was like, calm the fuck down.

**Justin:** No, like Oh Henry! bars, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I thought that was about— ‘cause there was such a twist. You would bite into it, and you’d be like, “Oh, there’s crunchy stuff in here.”

**Griffin:** Those are bad names. I'm saying, specifically, Cow Tales is like, and then the thing looks and feels kind of like, maybe a shaved cow's tail. Um, I—

**Justin:** With the marrow, creamy marrow, inside.

**Griffin:** The creamy marrow within.

**Travis:** Of the bones of a cow's tail.

**Griffin:** It's offensive.

**Justin:** Yeah. I didn't know how much— I was walking a real fine line for how excited to get about the game, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** 'Cause if you're cheering a lot, then it seems like you're putting too much pressure on the kids, but if you don't cheer at all— or the thing that I kept getting— I kept telling kids they need to take more shots on basket.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Huge.

**Justin:** And they were really close. Like, they were so— [laughs] they were right there. So I would kind of say, like, in the way you would at sport, "Shoot, shoot, shoot!"

**Griffin:** "Shots on bas— shots on basket!"

**Justin:** And the kid's right there, playing probably his first basketball game ever, in his entire life, and there's this 44-year-old guy like, "Shoot. [laughs] Shoot, do it, do it!"

**Griffin:** [holding back laughter] That's cool, man.

**Travis:** Bebe's been doing soccer for a couple years now. She's there, she physically present...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... so you could say she's doing it. Oh, this is the same kid, by the way, that one day, middle of a play, walked off the field to me, and said, "I just feel like the other team doesn't care about our feelings."

And I was like, "Okay, baby, you need to get back out there. [laughs] Game's still going!"

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's what the team said to each other in the locker room before every game in *Friday Night Lights*.

**Travis:** "I just feel like they don't care." [chuckles]

But here— all you gotta do, Justin, is learn, like, three or four of the players' names, and then say, like, "Yeah, you got it, Jeremy!" or whatever.

**Griffin:** Don't do that.

**Travis:** Like, "Oh, go! Go, Josh!" And, uh, then you seem engaged, but you only need to do that 10% of the time.

**Griffin:** Yeah. [sarcastically] Shout their addresses, too, Juice, while you're at it.

**Travis:** Yeah. Dox them real good.

**Justin:** Oh. Okay, I don't think that— [sighs] I feel like at a certain point, you kinda [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Figure out their, like, *Minecraft* handles.

**Griffin:** Get their *Minecraft* IDs.

**Justin:** This is— hey, this is an advice show, in case you haven't noticed, and we help people. That's what we do. That's our burden, you know what I'm saying?

**Travis:** Yeah, that's our cross to bear.

**Justin:** Thank you, Travis. I wasn't gonna get religious, but thank you.

**Travis:** Oh, non-denominational crosses. Sorry. Anybody's cross.

**Justin:** Oh, just a general cross.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** They crucified a *lot* of other people.

**Travis:** This is what I'm saying. They never talk about this.

**Justin:** There's plenty in *Superman* stuff. Like, crosses are everywhere.

**Griffin:** Crosses are all over the—

**Travis:** Everywhere!

**Justin:** Templars?

**Travis:** Templars, that's one. X's. I'm saying lowercase T's.

**Justin:** Do you think at some point, I will stop inviting my wife to watch new *Superman* TV commercials like it is a limited first-run screening event...

**Griffin:** Probably.

**Justin:** ... that she's been exclusively invited to, where I have to adjust the lighting? 'Cause there was a new TV spot, and I was like, "Honey, stop everything. [laughs] It's Todd."

**Travis:** No, you have to do it with the same energy that your kids come up to you with, like, a drawing or something that they made. Where they're like, "Look at this!" And then you can go, "Oh, that's great!" So when I bring

a new *Superman* trailer to Teresa, I bring it like, "Teresa, Teresa, look! Look!" So she can go, "Oh!"

**Justin:** Oh, she— you gotta bring the energy, not expect her to supply it. That's a really—

**Griffin:** Audience—

**Justin:** What, Griffin?

**Griffin:** Audience at home, I just want to let you know that my whole family but me is so rock-hard for this flying man.

**Travis:** This one's gonna be it, Griffin!

**Justin:** No, no, no, this one. Yeah, my rocks are super hard for— [crosstalk]

**Griffin:** Listen to me. Please, let me— I don't get a chance to really let this out when we're, like, together, and so, like, I think you guys are so rock-hard for the new— [crosstalk]

**Justin:** This is the *one*, and— [crosstalk]

**Travis:** This is the one, Griffin!

**Justin:** My— feel these rocks. Are they hard?

**Travis:** They're hard. Yeah.

**Justin:** Feel how hard these rocks are, Griff. [wheezing laughter]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Feel how hard are the rocks that I've got.

**Griffin:** It's— but you guys will share the trailer in our text group...

**Travis:** Yeah!



**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ... and be like, "Iconic. Chills." And it's like, the flying man?

**Travis:** We want you to get in on the ground floor, Griffin!

**Justin:** Yeah! Before he takes off. [wheezing laughter]

**Travis:** Before he takes off, and you can't reach him anymore.

**Justin:** Do you know— when he lands and delivers July 11<sup>th</sup>... [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And he will. Do you know how embarrassed you're gonna be?  
[laughs]

**Griffin:** I'm ex— I'm sure the film will be alright.

**Justin:** When Travis and I are, like, fighting, and like...

**Travis:** Your rock's at half-mast, Griffin.

**Justin:** ... we delivered. Like, we're— when he lands and delivers a July 11th, [laughs, wheezes] we're not gonna let you forget it; we're not gonna let you live it down. 'Cause you're sitting here, saying it's gonna be trash, and we're 'like...

**Griffin:** I'm not saying it's gonna be trash!

**Travis:** It doesn't sound like you believe!

**Justin:** History's settled on this, Griffin!

**Griffin:** I'm saying I have never sent anyone, family member or no, a cinematic movie trailer, and been like, "Chills." I'm ov— I'm gooped and gagged, Dad! Shit.

**Travis:** Justin and I are willing to be heard. That's how open we are to love.

**Justin:** You are— Griffin? Griffin? I'm gonna tell you something. You think that you've seen all the different ages there are. But there's not; there's other ones. And when you see some of the others, you may wanna look for things to be excited about.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You may not want young people - Millennials, say - to kind of, like, ram in your sunshine, by saying the *Superman's* not gonna—

**Griffin:** Is this me?

**Justin:** Huh?

**Griffin:** Am I the Millennial— am I the bad— am I the bad guy in this scenario? I'm not saying the movie's gonna be trash.

**Travis:** I'm a cusp.

**Griffin:** I bet it's gonna be great. I bet it's gonna be awesome.

**Justin:** I got *Frasier* paraphernalia, so I don't think I'm a Millennial. I think that rules me out.

**Travis:** I'm a cusp.

[pause]

**Griffin:** I'm a Virgo.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] I'm gonna help people.

**Griffin:** Nah. I couldn't even say my own shit. Go ahead, Juice. Let's do it.

**Justin:** "I'm staying with my partner's family for the holidays." Oh, this one's been in the hopper a little bit, huh?

**Travis:** It's still a good one. You know, sometimes, the questions, they stay good, no matter what.

**Justin:** [laughs] Yeah. "I'm staying with my partner's family for the holidays. Do you think *Barbie's* gonna be good?"

**Travis:** You know how there's, like, Christmas decorations that you leave up through the winter? That's what this is.

**Justin:** Okay. "I'm staying with my partner's family for the holidays."

**Travis:** Could be Valentine's Day.

**Griffin:** Maybe.

**Justin:** "Being a good guest, I offered to make dinner one night, for Valentine's Day. This, it turns out, was a terrible mistake. Brothers, the knives in this kitchen suck immense shit. They are all blunt, and one has a huge bend in the blade. It's impossible to cut anything. I really want to buy them some knives that actually work, but I'm worried it'll come across as passive-aggressive. How do I get them new knives without dishonoring the blade?" Now we're talking!

**Griffin:** [softly] Shit.

**Justin:** This is a question I'm equipped to answer!

**Griffin:** A good-ass question, man.

**Justin:** This is a good question.

**Griffin:** It's a good-ass question, man.

**Travis:** I've been there. I mean, you stay in, like, a Airbnb, or vacation home, or something. You go to make something, and you're like, "What is this?" And it's like, there's one, you know, "it cost three cents when they bought it" knife. And you're like, "Oh, no."

And it's like, I'm more likely to chop my own finger off than cut a tomato in half.

**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Justin:** I get scared. You pick up a knife that's cheap enough, it's scary to use.

**Griffin:** Scary.

**Justin:** It feels bad holding it.

**Griffin:** [unsteady voice] "Whoa!"

**Travis:** "Whoa!"

**Justin:** It feels like you— "Whoa!"

**Travis:** Now, have I cut myself just accidentally on my very expensive, very nice chef's knife? Yes, of course I have.

**Justin:** Of course.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Justin:** But it's a light cut. It's a sexy, like, [makes kissing noise] mm!

**Travis:** It's a light— oh, it's so clean. [laughs]

**Griffin:** It's so clean!

**Justin:** [laughs] [crosstalk] It heals, like, within the day.

**Griffin:** The doctors are like, "This is so clean. Easy-peasy to clean up."

**Travis:** "This is a— was this a scalpel?" And I say, "No."

**Griffin:** "No!"

**Travis:** "It was my fancy chef's knife that I grabbed wrong."

**Griffin:** But there is still something remaining in the life aura of the world, something very feudal, about like, if someone gives you a knife, it's like they're disrespecting your family a little bit. Like, you need this— "Oh, you don't have a blade? [scoffs] You need a blade."

**Travis:** You can do one. I don't think you can do a whole set.

**Griffin:** Absolutely not a whole set.

**Travis:** Not a whole set.

**Justin:** But if you're gonna buy one knife... If you're gonna buy one knife for a person in your life that doesn't have any good knives, what knife are you going to get?

**Griffin:** Budget? Budget?

**Justin:** [weakly] \$50 dollars.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** That's not—

**Justin:** \$100 dollars. \$100 dollars.

**Griffin:** *\$100 dollars?*

**Justin:** Well, you want something okay, but like, you don't want to go crazy.

**Travis:** Are you asking, like, brand— 'cause just a good chef's knife, man.

**Justin:** No, not a good chef's knife. What kni— a chef's knife?

**Travis:** Okay. Yeah.

**Griffin:** I'll go...

**Travis:** Or a paring knife. A really good paring knife, they'd probably use more.

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** This is what I'm saying. I feel like...

**Griffin:** A little life hack?

**Justin:** ... you gotta have at least one really good serrated knife.

**Travis:** [reluctantly] Mm...

**Griffin:** You don't buy a serrated— how are you gonna cut up your sashimi? No way.

**Justin:** Here's what I would get. There's, like, a nakiri knife. Like, Milk Street makes this nakiri knife. [crosstalk] butcher—

**Travis:** So you are talking, like, specific blade.

**Griffin:** He wants specific blades.

**Justin:** Okay, what shape? Like, I want— you want chef's knife. One good chef's knife.

**Travis:** One good chef knife.

**Justin:** That's not gonna hurt anybody's feelings!

**Griffin:** Check this out.

**Justin:** Check it.

**Griffin:** Pizza cutter.

**Travis:** Huh!

**Griffin:** The one— the really— the blade you need in your home is pizza cutter, I think. One thing it does, cut pizza. But a lot of people don't know this: that's a really sharp, circular blade.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's basically, uh, like—

**Travis:** You could cut tortillas with it. You could cut naan. You could cut flatbread.

**Justin:** I have a *TMNT* pizza cutter. And I will say, I didn't use it. If you wanna, like—

**Travis:** A Cicis pizza cutter, where it's the red plastic over a circle that you have to separate to clean, that I probably had for [crosstalk] years.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I love that.

**Justin:** That's really great. I guess I wasn't— the times— I have used knife, though, and it was fine. [laughs] Like, I didn't have any problems with knife. Knife works, like, really good, actually.

**Griffin:** To cut pizza?

**Justin:** Yeah! It's fine for pizza. You can [crosstalk] pizza.

**Griffin:** Yeah, but the triangles get all fucked up if you— 'cause no one has a 22-inch-long knife. Like, the triangles get all fucked up.

**Travis:** I feel that—

**Justin:** I feel like, if you're using a rolling pizza cutter...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** By the time you're three quarters of the way, you're trolling through so much pepperoni and pepper, you're like— you've got a lot behind you, right? You're, like, tearing a big— a gorge.

**Travis:** There's also a lot of challenge to make sure you hit those lines intersecting perfectly in the center, so you don't get one little triangle nubbin.

**Justin:** Oh, so embarrassing.

**Travis:** Oh, I wish— [crosstalk]

**Griffin:** And you put two lines down. You've already decided if it's gonna be an eight- or six-slice situation.

**Travis:** This is also true.

**Griffin:** And you don't even— I hope you were thoughtful about that. I hope you were thoughtful about that before you went in for those cuts.

**Travis:** I'm gonna give question asker— this is a thing one of my brothers has used when doing something like this, and it works every time. Justin will get me kitchen utensils, and as he hands it to me, or as I open the present, he'll say, "It was rated the number one by America's Test Kitchen."

And at that point, it alleviates any sense of judgment on my stuff.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because it's not that my stuff is bad. It's that this one's the best one, according to America's Test Kitchen.

**Justin:** Right. It can't be better [laughs] than what— than this.



**Travis:** It's that this is number one by America's Test Kitchen. So it's like, "Hey, you know how you've been driving around in a car? Here's a private jet."

**Griffin:** Ah, yeah.

**Travis:** Like, there'd be such a step up.

**Griffin:** That would be so much worse for me to have in my life.

**Justin:** I feel like I wish I'd learned earlier that a lot of times, it's better to buy a good one that was made by people that give a crap, and then use it your whole life.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** That's all I'm saying. And I wish I'd learned that younger.

**Griffin:** Yeah. But it's crazy—

**Justin:** I think that that is a nice gift— that *idea* is a nice gift. Like, say, "Here, you don't have to sweat knives anymore. Here you go."

Now, the other thing you could do is, you get a nice knife that kind of looks like their knife...

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Justin:** ... and then, bring over a sharpening thing. And be like, [makes striking sounds]— like, don't use one of the easier ways to sharpen. Use, like, the annoying ones with the blades.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah! Get a barber's strop.

**Griffin:** [giggling]

**Justin:** And then when they're not looking...

**Travis:** [making sharpening noises]

**Justin:** When they're not looking, fucking chuck their knife. [laughs] Just chuck it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And then bring out your knife, and you're like, "Here you go. I think you'll find this to your liking."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And they're like, "Wow, even the handle feels—" whatever. And then...

**Griffin:** You can also assuage a lot of, sort of, like, concerns that you're being judgmental if you do buy them a nice, new knife, and then you get their knife. And then in front of them, you use the nice, new knife to cut the old knife in half.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Then they'll know, like—

**Travis:** Length-wise. [laughs] Like, right down—

**Griffin:** Not length-wise. That seems cra— like, I don't think anyone can do that. Just any clean cut on this old, raggedy-ass knife should be pretty good to convince them that they should've had this knife. They should've had a better knife.

**Travis:** I will also say this. Anybody out there considering getting themselves, like, one really good knife, and really paying for it: it will turn you into, uh...

**Griffin:** Real knife guy.

**Travis:** ... a real weirdo who, like— I have that one nice knife in my kitchen that's like this one. When I use this one, I feel like *The Bear*.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then I see my wife, like, cutting up an apple for my kid's lunch with it, and I'm like, "Mm, oh, uh—"

**Justin:** "Not with my *The Bear* knife!"

**Griffin:** "Not my *Bear* knife."

**Travis:** "We do need— ooh. That's not— mm... "

**Justin:** "Oh, you're cooking tomatoes in that pan? Augh!"

**Travis:** [painfully] "Ooh, that's not really— ooh— we should— ooh!"

**Justin:** "Er, we don't use soap on that one, kids. Remember, I wrote you that 40-couplet limerick about which pans we do and do not use soap on [laughs] to help you remember!"

**Travis:** "But you need to wash that one right away, and then dry it, and then— yeah, but—"

**Justin:** "Oh, is that— how long has that been damp? Ergh!"

**Travis:** [groaning] "Ooh!"

**Griffin:** You could—

**Justin:** I also don't like me, listener. Don't worry. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, me neither.

**Griffin:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Travis:** Listen, I haven't liked myself for years. I gotta live in this head all the time. You only get it one hour a week.

**Griffin:** You could also cook sweet potatoes, and ask for some help. Be like, "Dang, I could use some— could I use some help? Yeah, do you mind cutting these sweet potatoes?" They'll realize pretty quickly, something's terribly wrong with the knife.

**Travis:** There's also a very good chance they don't know how bad their knives are.

**Griffin:** A sweet potato—

**Travis:** That if you got them a good knife, they'd be like, "Oh, I didn't know we could be better than that."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "I did not know that that was bad."

**Griffin:** Have the other knife on-hand while you're doing sweet potatoes.

Oh, this is cool. Fuck yeah, this is it. Cook sweet potatoes. I don't care what kind. Smash `em, boil `em, put `em in a stew. You do whatever.

**Justin:** Yeah, they're so versatile, Griffin.

**Griffin:** They're really versatile.

**Travis:** Make smashed sweet potatoes.

**Griffin:** Call `em in, say, "I need help with these potatoes." Have them cut these sweet potatoes with their old, busted-ass, shitty, dented, dirty, filthy knife.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** They won't be able to do it. It's nature's hardiest, most stone-like vegetable.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Then, what you're gonna do is be like, "Oh, here."

You unfold— you have, like, your knife inside of one of those little beds— you know in *Top Chef*, they're like, "You lost, go home," and they go, and they have to put their knife in the little bed that they made for it, right?

**Travis:** To put their knife to sleep, yeah.

**Griffin:** It's really cute. You pull out yours, and you— [makes swishing sound] you say, "Give that a try." [makes swishing sound] They do it. And then, as you leave, they're like, "Here's your knife." And you say, "It's yours— it's yours, now, chef."

**Justin:** Whoa!

**Travis:** That's what happened to me.

**Griffin:** It's so fucking cool.

**Travis:** *The Bear* and *West Wing* both have similar scenes...

**Griffin:** Both have gift knives.

**Travis:** Where you're passing, you're passing on the blade. It has to be that.

**Griffin:** That's special now. That's special.

**Justin:** I mean, that's the whole thing.

**Griffin:** You've been included in a family story at that point. That's special.

**Travis:** It still has the price tag on it, but it's special.

**Justin:** "You're welcome."

**Travis:** "You're welcome." Use a katana.

**Justin:** "What's the etiquette you have to follow to buy your upstairs neighbor a new vacuum, so they don't wake your fucking kid up? Should I just get it, and leave it at her door, or something? I would pay whatever price I need for this four-year-old [snorts] to get her to nap for another hour. We just convinced her eight-year-old brother he could spend time by himself, meaning without either of us. We're so close to having an hour to ourselves. Please help." That's from *A Couple of Sleep-Deprived Moms*.

**Travis:** Do you think— you know what image has immediately conjured to me? Are there still people who sell vacuums door-to-door?

**Justin:** I don't know.

**Griffin:** Why was it the only thing that we were, as a nation, selling door-to-door, was vacuums?

**Travis:** Because I— there's— I've had a lot of conversations with my friend Jeremy about all of the things that we learned from *Looney Tunes* that were anachronistic before we were even born.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** That it's like, "Oh, I know what that is, from this thing. I know that— the hook that pulls people off-stage."

**Justin:** Sure. It's not been— [crosstalk]

**Griffin:** I've never been to a— I have *never* been to a concert where they get out a little hook, or a cane, and they tug somebody off stage by their *neck*. That's fucked up.

**Travis:** Yeah. I've never seen it. But door-to-door, like, hairbrush salesmen and vacuum salesmen, it's just a thing that, for a long time, it was like,

when there's a knock at the door, it's like a one-in-five chance that it's someone trying to sell you a vacuum door-to-door.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I'm looking at the Rainbow that we had growing up, and it was taking me on an absolute journey.

**Travis:** Oh, hell yeah.

**Griffin:** Oh, baby. Holy shit.

**Travis:** The one with the water in it? You could see that filthy shit going around on the bottom?

**Justin:** It was the grossest— the grossest thing you could imagine. It would fill the bottom of the toilet up— 'cause it was filterless, right? So the idea is, you fill the bottom of the vacuum up with water, and then the dirt goes in the water. But they don't tell you, at the end of it, you have to empty that water into the toilet, and you have to look at what you are.

**Griffin:** You made that.

**Travis:** This is what you did every day when you're not vacuuming.

**Justin:** Like, this muck sloughs off of your fucking corpse every day!

**Travis:** Just remember that when you put that water in, it was clear! Now look at you.

**Griffin:** It was clear!

**Justin:** It was clear before your *filth*!

**Travis:** Now look at you.

**Griffin:** What's wrong with you!?

**Travis:** That was one room!

**Justin:** What's wrong? We checked all the other houses, and nobody's was like this.

**Travis:** It wasn't like this!

**Justin:** Nobody's has this beef tallow gravy they generated...

**Travis:** Their water was clearer!

**Justin:** ... with your slime body.

**Travis:** Look at you. There's so much hair in there! How did that happen?

**Justin:** I was gonna say, you don't even have a dog! Where did this come from?

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

**Griffin:** Say goodbye—

**Travis:** Get checked by a doctor!

**Justin:** Absolutely the worst job.

**Griffin:** Say goodbye to your brother! There he goes!

**Justin:** Really, absolutely. The worst that would happen is, when you were a kid, you would sometimes put off the, like, emptying it out, right? And so you would hook, like, a corner of a carpet or something, and the whole fucking thing would upend, thereby dumping the gross gravy [through laughter] on the carpet.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Ah, yes, move the rug.



**Justin:** The worst job you could get as a kid, where your parents were like, “Go ahead, and—” do you remember— I was thinking about this, actually, the other day— speaking of weird vacuuming stuff, do you remember the powder that Mom used to put on before she vacuumed?

**Griffin:** Carpet Fresh?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** What? Yeah!

**Griffin:** Carpet Fresh.

**Justin:** Think about that, though! When’s the last time you saw anybody do that? That’s wild!

**Travis:** There’s no way that shit is safe around kids.

**Justin:** She put more dirt on the ground [laughs] to vacuum up.

**Griffin:** A lot. Like, a powdering. Like a quarter-inch of...

**Justin:** She, like, dusted it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I don’t think you still do that. I don’t think that’s a known thing.

**Travis:** As a pet owner, I recently, like, a year or so ago, was like, “Yeah, we need to get that powder that you sprinkle out on that thing, and then you vacuum it.”

**Justin:** Yeah, the powder— [crosstalk]

**Travis:** And Teresa looked at me like, “Wha?” And I was like, “Yeah, you know, sprinkle it—” And she was like, “So it’s just, like, powder that you just, like, *inhaled* as you went?” And I was like, “Well, when you say it like that, yeah, there’s no way.” Like, I was probably getting— there’s gonna be,

like, mesothelioma or whatever, like, ads coming up, like, "Did your mom use Carpet Fresh?"

**Justin and Griffin:** [burst out laughing]

**Justin:** "Dang, dude, I'm sorry."

**Travis:** "Dang, that's messed up, man. You should get some money from that, or something."

**Justin:** "Dang, dude, didn't she hear about all the terrible stuff, man? Geez!"

**Travis:** "That fucking sucks, bro! Explains why that water was so crazy grimy, man."

**Griffin:** [laughs] I don't wanna insult Mom's cleaning game, but that Carpet Fresh made the carpet a little too fresh, if you asked—

**Travis:** Yeah, man.

**Griffin:** You knew when that had been applied for a long, *long* time.

**Justin:** I'm looking at the Carpet Fresh now, and there— it looks like it is still in production, from the imagery I can find. But it looks like it was *made* in the 80's.

**Griffin:** Cool.

**Justin:** So we may just be still selling our original Gain or Carpet Fresh.

**Griffin:** So using the same stockpile.

Okay, this is basically the same question as the last question, only you don't like the person you're buying the thing for. So there are some different kind of societal norms and energies at play.

**Justin:** Right.

**Travis:** You could just put a sign that says, "From future you: You're welcome."

**Griffin:** Okay, cool. That's awesome. Yeah, we don't trick enough old neighbors that their time-traveling counterparts have come to bestow them a gift.

**Justin:** What?

**Travis:** No, you're right, Griffin. Put it in a big Longaberger basket with a note that says, "Please adopt me." Like you're leaving the baby at the door.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** This vacuum, their family couldn't take care of 'em.

**Griffin:** A vacuum— a vacuum baby.

**Travis:** An adoptable vacuum baby, yes.

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Justin:** What if, in your hubris, in your rush to act, you get a vacuum that is even louder than the one they have now?

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** But it's even more fun to use. So your neighbor's like, [old voice] "Hey, Jerry, mate, thank you. I'm really ripping ass in that new bedroom."

**Travis:** "It's a riding vacuum!"

**Justin:** "I've been absolutely demolishing this dirt. I love this shit [crosstalk]."

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** "You gotta see this water, man. I slurped up my dog!"

**Justin:** [laughs] "I saw your gift, and that's it! I got run up in vacuuming, and I haven't stopped."

**Travis:** Don't wait; just steal their old vacuum!

**Justin:** Make your neighbor babysit your baby. Then, they wouldn't *think* to vacuum while the baby's asleep upstairs. [laughs]

**Travis:** Then you sneak upstairs, and vacuum.

**Griffin:** And vacuum. That's cool. You buy the apartment above *theirs*...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Then they'll realize, like, "That's really loud!"

**Griffin:** "That sucks."

**Justin:** "I hate it."

**Travis:** Get your baby just used to the vacuuming noise! Just turn a vacuum on every time your baby sleeps!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** My kids are right; I should go back to living in my own filth. [laughs] That's what I deserve.

**Griffin:** [laughs] "What *is* the point?"

**Travis:** If it's only like an hour a day, can you ask him, like, "Hey, from 3:00 to 4:00, could you just not vacuum? Then, I'll give you \$50 dollars."

**Justin:** [cry-laughing in the background]

**Griffin:** Well, yeah, Travis, of course you could do that.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** But they won't want to even risk it. They'll just live in filth. [laughs]

**Griffin:** But that's too scary. You know that's too scary a talk to have with a stranger.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Griffin:** I wouldn't talk like that to a strang—

**Travis:** Way easier to be like, "I'm a door-to-door vacuum salesman, giving out free samples!" [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Adopt this baby vacuum!"

**Travis:** "Adopt this baby vacuum, free!"

**Griffin:** "Free."

**Travis:** "You've won!"

**Griffin:** Buy him a little, tiny rake, and say, "This is what we're doing now."

**Travis:** Ooh, it's zen!

**Justin:** We're back. Rakes are back.

**Griffin:** Rake. Carpet rakes.

**Travis:** Carpet rakes. Hey— oh, start texting them videos of people pulling up their carpet, and finding hardwood floor underneath.

**Griffin:** Oh, my God.

**Travis:** Until they're just so tempted, they can't help it.

**Griffin:** Hashtag #ParkayChallenge.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Sen— yeah, absolutely. You might—

**Travis:** And listen, even if they start pulling it up, and it's like, "Oh, no, there's just, like, old cardboard under there, or whatever," it's too late now!

**Griffin:** Yeah. But then, you're gonna hear their fucking footsteps. Every single footstep.

**Travis:** Mm. And sobs.

**Griffin:** And sobs. Right through that Parkay wood.

**Justin:** Uh, can we take a quick break? Would that be okay, and then come back—

**Travis:** Only if it's to make money!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Okay. That's— now you're speaking-a my language.

**Griffin:** ... 'Kay.

**Travis:** Cha-ching!

[theme song plays]

**Griffin:** So, um, we recorded the rest of this episode pretty early. Like, last Monday. And um, we did it early 'cause Travis is traveling, but then Justin also wasn't around and able to record, so I'm gonna do the whole Money Zone by myself. This is Griffin. Hello.

And I'm nervous. I'm nervous, and I'm not afraid to admit that I am nervous, because this is a part of the show that [sighs] attracts a lot of

attention and commerce, and we keep getting nominated for all these awards for it. And now I have to do it myself; are you sure? Looks that way.

But you know who gives me confidence in my time of great need, is stamps.com. God. We've crushed these ads so many times in the past, and now that I stand at the gates of hell by myself, I'm gonna try and pitch it right over the plate at 1,000 miles an hour.

[stilted tone] I have an unconventional workday, and it's got— that was awful. That was nothing. No one's gonna believe that. I am a person that doesn't like to leave... the house. Stamps.com's not gonna like that, if I say that I don't like to leave the house...

I have flexibility in my work— no. Stop it.

I refuse to listen to the commands and orders of anyone with any semblance of authority over me. There we go; now we're cookin'. I believe in my own personal autonomy, one million percent. And that means that people can't tell me where to spend my time. And with stamps.com, tedious tasks like sending certified mail or packages can be done on *my* time - not someone else's, like the government.

Stamps.com handles all your mailing and shipping needs, wherever, whenever. You can access all the USPS and UPS services you need to run your business, right from your computer or phone, any time, day or night, no lines, no traffic, no waiting, no rules; just right.

You just need a computer and printer. They'll send you the free scale. They're still doing that. And they get rates that you won't see anywhere else, like up to 88% off USPS and UPS.

Have more flexibility in your life with stamps.com. Sign up at stamps.com, and use code "mybrother" for a special offer that includes a four-week trial, plus free postage and a free digital scale. No long-term commitments or contracts. Just go to stamps.com, code "mybrother."

Yes! That's one. Now, I just gotta tell ya' about Factor, and I can— and then we're all living on easy street. And this one's gonna be easy, because we all

gotta eat, and Factor knows that. [odd pronunciation] That's why— [softly, frustrated] I don't know why I said it that way. This would never happen if Justin and Travis were here.

That's why they make it so easy to get good food. They got all these tasty gourmet meals, and they're designed to heat and eat in two minutes. Bing, bang, boom! Zoom, zoom, zoom. Get that food hot, get it in you. Yum, good, and makes your body strong.

Factor arrives fresh and fully prepared, perfect for any active, busy lifestyle. I mean, that's not me, but I do, you know, appreciate having some timesavers here and there. With 40 options across eight dietary preferences on the menu each week, it's easy to pick meals tailored to your goals. Factor can help you feel your best all day long with wholesome smoothies, breakfasts, grab-and-go snacks, and more add-ons!

I've dabbled. I've dipped into the Factor menu, was like, "Oh, what they got popping off this week?" And the answer is, everything that my palate could possibly quiver for. Factor has everything you need, regardless of how you like to eat. They got foods of all stripes. It's a veritable Wonkaverse in there, only it's not all candy. It's real food, too.

Eat smart with Factor. Get started at [factormeals.com/brother50off](https://factormeals.com/brother50off), and use code "brother50off" to get 50% off your first box, plus free shipping. That's code "brother50off," and the "50" in there is a five-zero. So it's like, "brother50off" at [factormeals.com/brother50off](https://factormeals.com/brother50off) to get 50% off, plus free shipping, on your first box.

[Money Zone ends]

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Travis:** Sq— ooh!

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** [resumes guitar tune] [singing] I wanna munch!



**Travis and Griffin:** Squad!

**Justin:** [resumes tune] [singing] I want to munch!

**Travis and Griffin:** Squad!

**Justin:** [resolves tune] Welcome to Munch Squad; it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. I wanna thank Addison for this, uh, important news alert that, frankly, should've come from Mr. Travis McElroy.

**Travis:** Okay, can I tell you something, Justin? You've been doing Munch Squad so long that sometimes, something will pop up in my feed...

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** ... and I'll be like, "Ooh, that seems like a Munch Squad."

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And then you'll start a Munch Squad that very week, and I'm like, "Do I know what this is!?" And I think I know exactly what this is.

**Justin:** You know, the step that I think you missed in there was saying it to me to help me.

**Griffin:** There is a step in there that collaborators do [crosstalk].

**Travis:** I refuse to believe it exists in real life. I thought it was a joke at first.

**Justin:** No, it's not a joke. It's Skyline Spice.

**Griffin:** What's that?

**Justin:** Yeah. It's— Graeter's is doing a Skyline Chili-flavored ice cream.

**Travis:** I have to say, what a betrayal this is, as Graeter's is a shining light of Cincinnati culture.

**Griffin:** Yes. Uh-huh.

**Travis:** And this is grotesque.

**Justin:** It's got oyster—

**Griffin:** And what does Skyline Chili mean to you culturally, Travis?

**Justin:** Yes, Travis, what does Skyline Chili mean to you?

**Griffin:** Culturally.

**Justin:** Culturally.

**Travis:** You know how, when you visit a state or a city that has a— like, "This is the food of this one," right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And there's, like, your diner version, there's your street version, and then like, fancy restaurants and stuff will be like, "Here's, like, the upscale Philly cheesesteak," or whatever, right?

**Griffin:** Sure, sure.

**Travis:** That doesn't exist in Cincinnati. There's only the fast food version. It is a meat sauce. It is not chili.

**Griffin:** A *smooth* meat sauce!

**Travis:** Ooh, boy. Um, if you're looking for Cincinnati food, by the way, just my two cents, Goetta is the Cincinnati food.

**Griffin:** You gotta get to David Goetta's fucking new spot.

**Travis:** Get to David Goetta's.

**Griffin:** It [crosstalk]—

**Justin:** Hey, listen, I like this sweet chili that Cincinnati makes. I always get it when I'm— [crosstalk]

**Travis:** Tastes of chocolate and cinnamon.

**Griffin:** I think it's cool—

**Justin:** You get a little chocolate, cinnamon there; I think it's delicious.

**Griffin:** I don't think it's cool to have this iconic, cultural food for Cincinnati that basically everyone knows makes you blow up a huge fart.

**Travis:** Yeah. I know two people...

**Griffin:** Like, everyone knows it.

**Travis:** ... two people in all of Cincinnati that enjoy it authentically.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And I enjoy it on a hotdog. On a hotdog, it's great. It's hotdog meat sauce.

**Griffin:** Sure. But you and your two friends know it makes you blow up a huge fart.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah!

**Griffin:** Like, everyone knows about— and I love that that's just, like, a brand identity that they embrace.

**Travis:** It's detrimental.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That's what it says right there on the package! Skyline Chili: it's detrimental.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, I think that, uh— Trav, let me tell you a little bit from this press release. It's from your own WKRC.

"In a collaboration that embodies the spirit of Cincinnati, Skyline Chili and Graeter's Ice Cream have teamed up to create a unique new flavor. The creation, named 'Skyline Spice,' combines the iconic tastes of both beloved local brands."

Now, Travis, this is the part I wanna highlight. "Dick Williams of Skyline Chili acknowledged that some might be skeptical of the unusual pairing, but is sure that the new flavor is genuine."

Travis, the man said in the press release— Travis, this is real.

**Travis:** No. [crosstalk]

**Justin:** This is not a joke.

**Travis:** They tricked me with this before, because when Fiona the baby hippo was a big deal, they partnered with the Cincinnati Zoo to make a Fiona hippo thing, and it was not hippo-flavored at all, and I fell for it...

**Griffin:** Hold on. Hold on, hold on.

**Travis:** ... hook, line, and sinker.

**Griffin:** There's no way they said they were making a hippopotamus-flavored ice cream.

**Travis:** Well, they didn't say it was hippopotamus flavor, but there were hippos all over it.

**Griffin:** Your expectation— Juice, you're a little lost in the sauce in this press release, and I need you to really hear what Travis just said, is that he thought that they made a ice cream that tasted like a big zoo animal.

**Travis:** Not exactly like— but, like, it would be remini— like when you eat a pumpkin pie-flavored ice cream, and you're like, "I get it."

**Justin:** There was a part of me that [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** "Hey, so we bought this *Sonic the Hedgehog* cereal when the new movie came out, and it didn't taste at all like Sonic— like I imagined Sonic the Hedgehog's body to taste."

**Justin:** [laughs] Like a hedgehog would taste.

**Travis:** [crosstalk] this episode, this very episode, you were talking about how Cow Tales are gross, because they remind you of cow's tails.

**Griffin:** You're right, Travis.

**Justin:** That's not exactly— that's a huge mischaracterization.

**Griffin:** No, no. He's *exactly* right.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And I'm being a mondo hypocrite right now.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** I take it back; I apologize.

**Travis:** All I'm saying is that, when I saw it, Cincinnati Chili, yes, has a certain cinnamon, chocolaty sweetness to it, but it is predominately meaty...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So when I see a Skyline Chili ice cream, I think I see where the doubt comes in.

**Justin:** Um, you guys gotta hear some of these, okay? So the quote from Graeter's is from a person named Chip Graeter, which is...

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Awesome!

**Griffin:** That sounds like a job someone has at a Pringles factory.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Chip Graeter of Graeter's Ice Cream revealed the idea for the collaboration has been in the development for several years."

**Travis:** Sure.

**Justin:** "Three to five years ago, we started kicking around this idea of collaboration of Skyline ingredients."

**Travis:** Which one was it, Chip!?

**Griffin:** You should know.

**Justin:** Which one was it, Chip? You know exactly the day it was.

**Travis:** You can't? There's no paper trail? [laughs]

**Justin:** Check your emails, Chip.

"William described the new flavor as a subtle blend. 'This is just the spice, just the spice mix, which people love. It reminds us of Skyline Chili, but it's just a hint, and it goes great with the vanilla ice cream—'"

**Travis:** "It's not gross! It's not gross!"

**Griffin:** "Hey, don't get me wrong, it *sucks*, but it's only a little!"

**Travis:** "It only sucks a little, I promise. It's mostly our thing, not their thing. Their thing is bad."

**Griffin:** It's so gross.

**Travis:** "We will let them put just a little of their thing into our thing, but it's mostly our thing which you love, right?"

**Justin:** Yeah. "And when you add the oyster cracker in there that's not salty, but it's sweet, it's a great experience."

**Griffin:** [through crying laughter] It's an oyster cracker?

**Travis:** You put a sweet oyster cracker?

**Justin:** "The duo tested 15 different flavors—"

**Travis:** I think that's just the Nilla Wafer.

**Griffin:** Ugh.

**Justin:** Hold on. "The duo tested 15 different flavors before settling on the final version," and guys, you have to— "We had one that punched too hard with the Skyline flavor, and had cheese bits in it."

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing] [claps] Yeah!

**Travis:** No!

**Griffin:** Hey!

**Justin:** I wanna be there on that day, when this dude's like, "Good news, y'all: I cracked it! You know the secret ingredient we were missing? Queso!" [laughs]

**Travis:** He comes in, like, hair all around— like, just sweating. Like, [desperate] "Is this it!?"

**Justin:** There's chili, like, just straining down his face.

**Travis:** "I don't know!"

**Justin:** "I put cheese *in* it!"

**Travis:** That was the 14th iteration.

**Justin:** [crosstalk] We were all looking at this, and thinking, "Hmm, needs cheese! Let's get cheese in it."

**Griffin:** For everyone that's just kind of been looking at the world, and been like, "How did we slip into this darkest timeline?" it's nice when we see things like this to know, like, there are avenues that we— there are paths that fate could've led us down that would've been a little bit worse.

**Travis:** Is there an ice cream flavor that you guys would be excited that there was cheese in?

**Justin:** Um...

**Travis:** I'm trying to think of, like, what that would go with, that would make me...

**Justin:** I mean, there—

**Griffin:** Apple? Like, a jam and cheese...



**Justin:** There's been a mac and cheese— didn't we just talk about— they did, like, a charcuterie-inspired thing at Baskin-Robbins.

**Griffin:** Okay. [crosstalk]

**Travis:** That doesn't count, though.

**Justin:** Oh.

**Travis:** That's a stunt.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Greatness is above that.

**Griffin:** Greatness is— [crosstalk]

**Justin:** Yeah. "Absolutely Skyline spice is right inside the ice cream, and then a great oyster cracker that stays crunchy in the ice cream." This is the most defensive press release I've ever read of any—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Really?

**Justin:** Oh, and then there's another quote. "Yeah, the oyster cracker makes it. Cinnamon, a lot of cinnamon. But the oyster cracker? Perfect."

**Travis:** "We promise."

**Justin:** "The cracker really ties it all together."

**Griffin:** [through laughter] You had to hit— [crosstalk]

**Justin:** "'Salty and buttery. So Cincinnati,'" said another tester."

**Griffin:** Yeah. He hit— he had in the notes, like, “Hit cinnamon hard. They’re gonna hear ‘cinnamon,’ and they’re gonna think, ‘That’s a thing that goes in ice cream sometimes. That’s a friend who belongs in ice cream.’”

**Justin:** Yeah. “Cinnamon, cinnamon, cinnamon!”

**Griffin:** “Cinnamon, cinnamon.”

**Justin:** “Oyster— no, don’t say oyster— [crosstalk]”

**Griffin:** “Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate!”

**Justin:** “Stop saying oyster, please.”

**Griffin:** Yeah. Um...

**Justin:** Real quick, I just— sorry. I did mean to mention— and to get a little greedy, but I wanted to show you guys these real quick. ‘Cause this is just... this is one you gotta see for yourself, honestly, ‘cause I— um, and I—

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** Awesome. Yeah, no, yeah—

**Travis:** No. No, no, no.

**Justin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** That’s not real, Justin!

**Justin:** I had to check a— yeah, I had to check a few times. “Enjoy soup like never before. Progresso, your go-to for comforting, premium soups, is innova—” it must be a different Progresso. [laughs] “... is innovating beyond expectations this cold and flu season with the launch of the first-ever limited-edition Soup Drops. What’s a Soup Drop? Well, it’s a soup you can suck on, of course!”

**Griffin:** Any soup’s a soup you can suck on, you fucking... loser.

**Justin:** Dolt.

**Travis:** Okay. I'm— we've been doing Munch Squad long enough now...

**Justin:** Mm-hmm!

**Travis:** ... that I believe— and I'm not breaking new ground here, but this is the kind of thing, right, that would have been an April Fool's joke...

**Justin:** Yes.

**Travis:** ... like, six years ago, right?

**Justin:** Before things fell apart, yes.

**Travis:** And now, it's a thing that they're like, "We're gonna make 100 of these, so that—"

**Justin:** Yes. That is a question I get a lot on Munch Squad, Travis, thank you. The difference is, we used to have sin.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** There used to be sin...

**Griffin:** And consequence. Sin and consequences, are the two things we're missing.

**Justin:** [laughs] Sin, consequences, culpability...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ... right? And that all used to happen. That doesn't happen anymore. So there are no what we in the business, in the QSR food industry, call "repercussions" [laughs] for the judgment.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So yeah, Soup Drops, you get a can of Soup Drops.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** [sighs] They look grotesque.

**Griffin:** Now, is it— obviously, it's funny if we take a can of these Soup Drops, and we take a bunch of Werther's Originals, and we replace the Werther's Originals with Soup Drops...

**Travis:** Obviously.

**Griffin:** ... and then we take them to the big hotel that Pop-Pop lives in, and give 'em to all the elderly people there, and that's like a funny, harmless prank. I'm worried if the elderly get their hands on Soup Drops, it's gonna be a thing. Like, they're gonna get *way* into them.

**Justin:** Yeah, this may be a huge thing for them. Like, they love—

**Griffin:** This could be *huge*.

**Justin:** They love nasty drops already.

**Travis:** They've already been sucking on bouillon cubes...

**Justin:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Now, they could just cut out the middleman.

**Griffin:** Yeah, with Soup Drops, soup you can *suck on*. [lowly] "Suck— suck on—"

**Travis:** Soup you can suck on.

**Griffin:** "Suck this, suck my soup! I'm Progresso!"

**Justin:** Here's— this press is wild, man. [laughs] "These savory drops are arriving for a limited time this month..." "

**Travis:** No shit.

**Justin:** "... for National Food Month, right at the height of cold and flu season." Now, this press release came out January 16th, which is halfway through the month. [laughs] So they already skipped a lot of it, I feel like.

So uh, let's see here. Um...

**Travis:** Justin, can I tell you something that's messing me up about this picture?

**Justin:** Mm, yes.

**Travis:** And I think it's just they— maybe they didn't—

**Justin:** It's horrid.

**Travis:** Yeah. It's horrid.

**Griffin:** Soup Drops look so bad, dude.

**Justin:** They look so bad; I can't describe.

**Travis:** On the can, you see a bowl of soup with a spoon hovering over it, with a Soup Drop on it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then next to it says, "Serving suggestion."

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** One. In-spoon.

**Travis:** But you're saying you should serve these hovering over a bowl of soup?

**Justin:** Another bowl— yeah, because they say here, "We—" it says, uh, "Now, there is no spoon needed to dive into the classic taste of iconic Progresso Traditional Chicken Noodle Soup. But you certainly can reach for the real thing if you're looking for that feeling of a hug in a bowl." Now, words are supposed to mean stuff.

**Travis:** Which one is it!?

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Justin:** This sentence says, "Yeah, you can eat it in cough drop form, but you can still buy regular soup at the store."

**Travis:** "Yeah, we didn't stop making the soup. We haven't, like, pushed all our chips in on Soup Drops: soup you could suck. We—" [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Suck that soup!"

**Justin:** Now—

**Travis:** "We're still— we're hedging our bets a *little* bit on this one; we're not willing to go all-in."

**Griffin:** Could you imagine if fuckin'—

**Justin:** I mean, Post just stopped making Oreo O's to make Oreo Puffs, so... stranger things than this have happened.

**Griffin:** Can you imagine if fuckin' Luden's or Ricola put out a new tagline that was like, "Suck this shit! Suck on it!"

**Travis:** "Medicine you could suck, asshole."

**Griffin:** It's fucking— it's crazy, Progresso, for you to come out of the gate with, "Yeah. Yeah, it's soup candy. Suck it!" That's fucking wild, man. This energy is wild, dude.

**Justin:** Man, here's a real fucking barnstormer of a sentence from the person who runs Progresso. "When you're sick, nothing is truly more reassuring than Chicken Noodle Soup, so we thought, 'Why stop at the soup bowl?' We took the beloved flavors of our Progresso Chicken Noodle Soup, and packed them into a fun, savory candy Soup Drop for a totally new way to enjoy the taste you love whenever and wherever you love."

Stop justifying it!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Like, you know what you did. Stop— like, the sentences you're saying are maniacal.

**Griffin:** It *is* new. I think you can stand the s—

**Justin:** It's new and bad. Like, you made a mistake. Just own it.

**Travis:** Well, yeah. You could make a chicken soup inhaler, and I still would feel this way.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I didn't need it in a different state of matter.

**Griffin:** I might fuck with a chicken soup inhaler. That would be good. If you could get some of those good effects of chicken noodle soup, but like, when you're at a basketball game in public...

**Travis:** When they wouldn't let you have, like, your food in there, and you could just do a puff-puff of some soup?

**Justin:** Smart— [crosstalk]

**Griffin:** Just a soup vape, I guess, is what I'm asking for.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I mean, we're close...

**Justin:** "That favorite flavor of Progresso iconic Chicken Noodle Soup is packed into each drop. It's like broth, savory veggies, chicken, soft egg noodles, and a hint of parsley have all been stirred up in a surprising way that's sure to wow your tastebuds. And the best part is, you can enjoy Soup Drops anywhere. In the carpool line, during a grocery run... "

**Travis:** List off 100 places. Just keep going.

**Justin:** "... while folding laundry... " [laughs]

**Travis:** You have to!

**Griffin:** [snorts] Man...

**Justin:** [holding back laughter] "... sitting in the doctor's office, or hiding under the covers. The coziness you crave—"

**Travis:** Being yelled at by your boss.

**Griffin:** Hiding under the covers!?

**Justin:** Listen, guys, the coziness you crave is just one drop away. These are the drops to reach for when you're so depressed, you can't eat soup!

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Whereas soup would be too messy, 'cause you have to sit up to eat soup!

**Travis:** If you're hiding in the rain in a tree outside an enemy's window, and you're worried that the rain would dilute your soup, worry no more!



**Griffin:** That's my issue, is when I'm evading the Babadook in my bedroom...

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** ... I can't eat my soup at the same time.

**Justin:** When you're monitoring the kids you're not allowed to see [laughs] from the car in the parking lot across the street—

**Travis:** You don't wanna risk spilling soup on your lap, and looking like an idiot!

**Justin:** [through laughter] When you're taking pictures of your wife cuckolding you with your best friend, you can't risk the soup—

**Travis:** You need two hands to hold the big zoom lens!

**Justin:** They might see the soup steam from your car window!

**Travis:** Don't [crosstalk] see!

**Griffin:** What if their angle was like, "Everyone keeps burning their genitals and crotch and thighs with our hot, molten soup. We know it's hard and dangerous to eat our food."

**Travis:** "Stop souping and driving!"

**Justin:** "No more lawsuits," says General Mills. "You can't sue us anymore for a hot soup, because you could've had the drops."

**Griffin:** "Hurt yourself with these drops, babies!"

**Travis:** Now, the problem is, is at the end of the drop experience, it turns you into a bowl of soup, and the Oompa Loompas have to roll you out of there.

**Justin:** [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** That's the one problem our boys in RND couldn't fix.

**Griffin:** [singing] "Soup-a, soup-a, doopity-soup... "

**Travis:** [laughs] [singing] "We turned another child to soup."

**Justin:** [laughs] To goop.

Hey, listen, this is where I get irritated, is 'cause you gotta go to [progressosoupdrops.com](http://progressosoupdrops.com) starting on Thursday, January 16th at 9:00 AM...

**Travis:** Sign a liability waiver. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah. "... with additional quantities released every Thursday for the rest of National Soup Month while supplies last." What do you mean "while supplies last"? How many of those fucking things do you have? Just sell 'em, already!

But they're not even selling 'em, guys. "Each order comes with an actual can of [through laughter] Progresso Chicken Noodle Soup... "

**Griffin:** [crosstalk]

**Justin:** "... all for just \$2.49, which is the typical price of a can of Progresso soup, plus just \$0.99 cents shipping!"

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Legal loopholes. That's how they getcha!

**Griffin:** It's a real Trojan Horse.

**Justin:** "Stock up on—" here's the way this ends.

**Travis:** Do you think that that's so when you pop a Soup Drop in, and you're like, "Actually, this is gross, but I do have that *can* of soup... "

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "I've got blue soup balls. [laughs] Stock up on this soup you can suck on!"

**Travis:** No!

**Justin:** "Stock up on this soup you can suck on for comfort, when you really need it, and really just to say you tried it."

**Travis:** "Hey, nasty soup perv!"

**Justin:** "And feel soup-ported this cold and flu season."

**Travis:** Nope.

Unless they're, like, medicated. Give me medicated Soup Drops that are gonna, like, cool my throat, or something, and *now* I'm feeling supported. Otherwise, you're just giving me a bad experience!

**Griffin:** Now, if I could put one of these into an eight-ounce cup of hot water, and then moments later, [crosstalk]...

**Travis:** Bouillon cube, baby. That's what you're talking about.

**Griffin:** No. No, no, no.

**Justin:** No, no, no, no. He wants the candy.

**Griffin:** I wanted— but then you put it in the cup, and it turns into real soup, with stuff. I want to *taste* the soft egg noodles from this thing.

**Travis:** Mm, I see.

**Justin:** I keep going back to when he said it's a savory candy, and I am really getting stuck on that.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Because I know you can have savory *components* [laughs], but like...

**Griffin:** True.

**Justin:** ... is it sweet? [crosstalk]

**Travis:** No, that's—

**Justin:** I mean, is it a confection? Is it—

**Travis:** The closest we've gotten is, like, black licorice, where at that point, it's at most a punishing sweet candy.

**Justin:** Okay. It's like the Swedish salted fish—

**Griffin:** It's an umami...

**Justin:** It's an umami bomb. I wish to God I had these. I would do anything.

**Travis:** For the Soup Bo— for the soup you can suck on?

**Griffin:** Thursday, man.

**Justin:** I really would like to eat one, to see what it's like.

**Griffin:** Set your timer right now, before you forget, for Thursday, to buy Soup Drops.

**Justin:** [gruffly] No, I'll rely on my droogies to get me my Soup Drops!

**Travis:** Can I tell you the—

**Justin:** [gruff voice] That's right, my droogies! You'll be there at Thursday at 9:00, to get me my drops, won't ya'?

**Griffin:** [through laughter] Your little [crosstalk]—

**Justin:** [crosstalk] [gruff voice] PO Box 54, that's a good droogie! Send her to 24706! I'll take all the cans you got! Fuck!

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [normal] Rachel, cut that out!

[gruff voice] Don't cut it out, Rachel!

**Travis:** Oh, no!

**Justin:** [gruff voice] I want all the beautiful little Soup Droppies you can get, my little gremlins!

**Griffin:** [singing] "We'll be gone, but be back soon! Not today; perhaps tomorrow!"

**Travis:** [singing] "Send me soup I can suck on, [crosstalk]—"

[speaking normally] Oh, here's the problem. I know myself well enough. It would just be soup I could crunch on.

**Justin:** Violence rocks local post office—

**Travis:** I don't even have the patience.

**Griffin:** For sure.

**Justin:** Violence rocks local post office when the staff, once again, beats up on the husky boy that keeps doing bad stunts [laughs] and ruining the whole thing with heavy cans of Soup Drops.

**Travis:** "Yeah, we got 100 loose cans of soup you can suck on here, they—they just wrote it on Sharpie, wrote the address, and threw it in a mailbox."

**Justin:** "Yeah, I got something you can suck on, podcaster! Thanks a lot, pal! Really appreciate these heavy boxes. Not since you've made 100,000

boxes of Kraft dinner get delivered here, and we hated your guts so much.”  
[laughs]

**Travis:** No, Justin, I bet the post office is so excited that you’re keeping the youngins using the postal service.

**Justin:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** For sure.

**Justin:** For sure. I didn’t hear you knew.

Hey, folks, thanks so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you have enjoyed yourself. In two weeks, we’re gonna be in Florida, and you better [crosstalk] too.

**Travis:** Deal with it.

Yeah. So February 20th and 21st, we’re gonna be in Tampa, doing *My Brother, My Brother and Me* on the 20th and *Adventure Zone* on the 21st. It’s our first-ever *Adventure Zone* in Florida, so don’t miss it. February 22nd, we’re doing *My Brother, My Brother and Me* in Jacksonville. For tickets and info, go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours).

Um, also, Champions Grove is coming up in May. There’s only four packages available. We’re playing some board games, table games. You could do, uh, DND with our guests. Other games we’re playing, meet new friends, explore the castle...

**Griffin:** Explore yourself!

**Travis:** Explore yourself! Emotionally, spiritually, physically.

**Justin:** Yeah, limits. Explore your own limits.

**Travis:** [Championsgrove.com](http://Championsgrove.com). That’s where you can go get tickets. Go check it out.

**Griffin:** Bunch of merch up in the merch store, including a holographic [holding back laughter] “Dare to Care” sticker.

**Travis:** [laughs] It’s retro!

**Griffin:** 50% of the proceeds from that sticker will be donated to World Central Kitchen. There’s also a Poetry Corner bumper, uh, magnet— not a whole bumper for a car, but a magnet, designed by Dana Wagner. That’s, of course, from my other podcast, *Wonderful!*, that I do with my wife, Rachel. It’s really rad. Also, you can still get the VOD for *Candlenights 2024*. Pay what you want; all proceeds go to Harmony House, and 10% of all proceeds for the month will be donated to World Central Kitchen! So, um, mcelroymerch.com. Go check it out.

**Travis:** Now, here’s what’s happened.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** We’re recording this the same day that the episode in which we announce that we want people to send the fears that they’re gonna overcome comes in. So I need one of you boys to step up...

**Griffin:** Oh!

**Travis:** ... and share a fear.

**Griffin:** A fear that I’m gonna get over?

**Travis:** That you’re gonna be faster than this year.

**Griffin:** Okay. Hmm...

**Justin:** I’m gonna stop being afraid that I’ll let my kids down.

**Travis:** Oh! Wait, woah!

**Justin:** Is that what you mean? Is that the kind of thing—

**Travis:** No, not like I said I was gonna—

**Justin:** I am gonna stop being afraid that if I take more than 1 milligram of melatonin, I'll sleep all day.

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Justin:** Because that is— that is a persistent fear, and I know that it doesn't make sense. I'm 44 years old.

**Griffin:** [laughing] It's like the end of *Army of Darkness*. If you take two melatonin...

**Justin:** I'm 180 pounds; there's, like, no way.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** There's no way it's gonna make me sleep all day.

**Griffin:** No way.

**Travis:** "What happened!? Doctor, Doctor, what happened!?"  
"He took 2 milligrams!"

**Justin:** [through laughter] I woke up one time after I took one-and-a-half milligrams, and I felt like I was hungover, so I'm just gonna— but I'm not gonna be afraid of it anymore. I'm just gonna, like, take one milligram.

**Griffin:** I think that's a decent thing to not be afraid of, but to be, like, observant of. If you stay observant—

**Justin:** Yeah, it's like, I'm careful about it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, I'm gonna keep my head on a swivel. [laughs] My name's Justin McElroy.



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

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

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

[theme song plays and ends]

[guitar strums]

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