MBMBaM 750: A Thrupence and Nine

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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 playing]

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. It's an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, vroom-vroom, your middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog, Woof-Woof" McElroy.

Griffin: What's good, Trav Nation? It's me, Griffin McElroy, playing hurt—playing sick. Isn't he brave?

Justin: Isn't he brave?

Travis: I forgot to watch the Super Bowl, and I—

Justin: Oh.

Griffin: This is— this isn't gonna be [crosstalk], I don't think.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: The absence of comedy is not... funny. [laughs] Do you know what I'm saying?

Travis: Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Well, I just mostly don't want to talk about the Super Bowl, man.

Justin: Oh. Well, okay.

Travis: Okay, what do you want to talk about, Griffin?

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Lost my fucking pants on that one, didn't I?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, man. Yeah?

Griffin: Went big for the— here's the thing. I don't follow sports, and so really, the legalization of sports gambling is especially unfair to me.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause it's like, I'm gonna be bad at it. Like, I'll do it, sure, but I'm gonna be pretty bad at it, and that's not fair.

I looked at the past, what, 10 Super Bowls. You know what I kept seeing? Chiefs, Chiefs. Won every time. So I was like, "Okay. So I'll get double my money." But it didn't work that way.

Travis: And they're not very forgiving, gambling stuff...

Griffin: No!

Travis: ... I've learned. It's like saying like, "Well, see, but I didn't know what I was doing."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You don't get the money back, which is weird.

Justin: Uh, I would like to take a moment if I could, Travis— because you did miss it, I would like to take a moment to compliment Mr. Lamar...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: ... on his halftime show.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Well done, Mr. Lamar, on the halftime show. That was fantastic.

Justin: Specifically, I wanna compliment one thing.

Travis: Yeah. Please.

Justin: That man...

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: And I don't— here's what I'm gonna say. I'm gonna do a little table setting that will surprise no one who is a long-time listener, or even short-time listener of this show. I do not follow this cultural exchange between Mr. Drake and Mr. Lamar. I was not up-to-date on it. I have since tried to read up a little about it—

Griffin: And we've been good. Like, we've been really good and haven't said anything about it, I don't think.

Justin: We haven't said anything about it. And musically, if you give a shit what a 44-year-old man thinks about music, I don't know what to tell you. So here's what I would like to say...

Travis: It's a good song.

Justin: It doesn't—

Travis: Okay.

Justin: No one gives a shit; that's the point!

Travis: Oh, okay. Okay.

Justin: For you to say what you think of it is like...

Travis: No, because I learned about it from TikTok.

Justin: ... you're wasting air. No one gives a shit.

Travis: I learned about it from TikTok.

Griffin: That's good private work you did. Thank you.

Justin: Here's a point I want to say. The fact that you would be at the Super

Bowl...

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: ... at the Super Bowl, which is like the biggest show...

Griffin: It's so big, you can't say the name at nice places.

Travis: Yeah. The crown jewel of trademarked sports.

Justin: ... the biggest thing. And people would be like— so it's your moment, right? This is your moment as an artist where, like, if you look at—

for example, I will use Prince in his iconic halftime show.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Love it.

Griffin: Oh, exquisite.

Justin: The playing the guitar. And it's like, "This is me as a performer,"

right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I've got all these other styles, right? I'm blending rock. I'm blending R&B. Also, the weather can't stop me; I'm an immortal being."

Travis: And in fact, the weather is—

Justin: "I'm bigger than the weather."

Griffin: "I famously have a rain-based song, and the weather is really working for me right now."

Justin: I have such love in my heart for someone that they would come to him, and they would say, "Mr. Lamar, how will you be spending this capstone moment?"

And Mr. Lamar said, "Well, I think what we could all agree on is, I will need to spend a few minutes of it being mean to Drake." [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And everyone's like, "Wait, what?"

Griffin: That goes without sa— the Pepsi representative's...

Justin: It goes without saying.

Griffin: ... shaking their head "yes." That goes without saying.

Travis: "No notes. No pushback on that, Mr. Lamar. Of course."

Justin: "And how direct— will it be kind of, like, about the feeling of being an artist in the world and competing with a—"
"No."

Griffin: "No."

Justin: "What I think it'll be instead is I will look directly at the camera, and I will say, 'Hello, Drake."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "It's me. Hi, it's me. I'm looking and speaking directly to you,' at the *Super Bowl*!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I got your ex-girlfriend to do a funny dance at you! God, that's mean!"

Travis: I saw a tabloid-y post thing that during the Super Bowl, Drake was in Australia. And all I could think is, like...

Griffin: He had to be as far from it...

Justin: [laughs] As humanly possible!

Travis: Yeah, imagine...

Griffin: A seismic... [makes wooshing noise] Yeah.

Travis: Imagine finding out the Super Bowl's coming up, and there's an element associated with it in which you, Griffin, or you, Justin, is like, "Man, I *gotta* get to Australia during this weekend."

Griffin: I mean, there's probably—

Travis: "I cannot be in any hemisphere related to what's happening."

Griffin: There had to be part of him that was like, "Maybe he won't play it." Like, holding out hope, like, "Maybe he won't—" like he saw the announcement, like, "Who'd they get? Oh, him? He doesn't like me... Well—"

Justin: "He's not a fan." [laughs]

Griffin: "He doesn't like me. Maybe he won't do it, though."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [through laughter] You think that afterwards, they should've cut to, like, an awkward headshot for a formal rebuttal? [laughs] Like, from the Outback.

Griffin: Yeah. Just Drake shaking a bottle of Aquafina water as he raises it to his lips, Marco Rubio-style.

Justin: "What Mr. Lamar often forgets is, actually, *he* is wack, and I actually am cool."

Griffin: "I am the cool—"

Justin: "I am actually good rap."

Griffin: I will say this about Mr. Lamar's halftime show, and people are gonna get mad at me, 'cause I say this every year: could've used more Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I could've just used— just split the crowd at one point, and just hear [mimics guitar twang] and it's like, you know, "Okay, so we do get a little bit of Red Hot Chili Peppers over here. Just a little bit of spice."

Travis: Do you remember when it was, like, a big kerfuffle that, like, Flea's bass wasn't plugged in or something, and he was like, "Yeah, man. I'm jumping all around. It's a Super Bowl; it's hard to hear."

Griffin: "It's a football field. You want me to run a cable across that whole thing? No way, man."

Travis: "I don't know what to tell you, bud."

Griffin: Do we want to do some advice?

Justin: I would love to help people.

"I work in retail, and I've been noticing '69' come up in people's total fairly recently."

Travis: It's your angel number!

Justin: "So it doesn't feel like I accidentally emphasize it, but maybe I'm just in my head about it. How can I be less awkward telling customers they owe \$.69 cents?" That's from Miner 69er.

I'm assuming that you owe something that *ends* in \$.69 cents, not that you are selling any— 'cause, like, I don't think anything costs \$.69 cents *these days*.

Travis: These days? In this economy?

Griffin: Maybe one-tenth of one egg.

Travis: Get 'em. Now, ooh, here would be my concern, is that without even a subtle nod, now you're leaving the window open where they feel *they* must acknowledge it.

Griffin: Okay, that's interesting. There's a moment hanging in the air. You are, in some ways, doing a great service by taking that moment and pinning it down, so that they are not expected to.

Justin: You could also lie and say \$.70.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: And then they'll say, "Um, sorry, I— I'm looking at the total. It does clearly say `\$.69.''' So that doesn't work—

Travis: "Would you like to round up to \$.70?"

Justin: "Would you like to round up for uncomfortableness?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Would you like to round up for awkwardity? The kids are awkward; they need your help now, more than ever."

Griffin: "You know what? \$.68 cents, and I'll take a penny from the kids. And they'll give— I'll give the penny just to get out of this. Please."

Travis: Mm, sounds good. What about either side saying, like—

Justin: Don't you like at Spirit Halloween, when they're like, "Will you be generous? And as a reward, I'll write your name on this wall. [laughs] Thank you."

Griffin: "Awesome. My greatest wish. I've always— now, the memory of me will never die, that Spirit Halloween has put me up on the ofrenda."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] Or they say, "Here's two bracelets."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "My kids'll wanna buy them; I would rather you keep them. Thank you."

Travis: Perhaps you could start doing, like, an old-timey, like, "Nine and 60!"

Griffin: Oh, that's cool.

Justin: Oh, it's nine and 60 pence.

Griffin: Nine and three pence. [pause] Is that right?

Justin: [laughs] Three score.

Griffin: Nine and three score pence.

Travis: A thrupence!

Griffin: A thrupence and nine.

Travis: "Ah, here's your change, milord."

Justin: "A thrupence and nine piece!" [breaks into coughing laughter]

Griffin: [laughs] "Babe, tonight... it's Valentine's Day, baby. You know what I'm thinking? A thrupence and nine."

Travis: [crying laughter] "M'lady."

Griffin: "We'll get something for both of us."

Justin: Maybe you could just start rounding to "'nuff said." Like, "Your total is \$13, 'nuff said."

Travis: [questioning grunt]

Justin: "You know what's up."

Griffin: We should— I feel like we've trod this ground before, but if we just had more sex numbers, then 69 wouldn't be as noteworthy when it did appear every time.

Travis: We should have them, 1 through 100.

Griffin: Well, I'm not saying every number, 1 through 100, has a designated sexual position. `Cause I-

Travis: Well, which ones do you leave out? 13.

Griffin: Um... I mean, I'm not saying every number needs to be one, but if there were like three or four sex numbers, then you would get...

Justin: It would be less weird. Or if there were other funny numbers, right? There's 420, which is always...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: There is 420. We should— what we need to do is once a week, you rotate the numbers to different numbers, but they mean the same thing.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So that way, you could never keep track unless you're checking, you know, my website...

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: ... where I will update the numbers in real time...

Griffin: That's awesome.

Travis: ... for a fee.

Griffin: Be like, "Baby, you know what I'm thinking? It's Valentine's Day. It's time for— shit, hold on. The damn thing won't load. ... 75?"

Justin: [laughs] Do you guys ever find yourself, when you're out amongst unknown people, and you do have an opportunity to say the funny sex number...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... or 420, do you ever find yourself putting a little extra on it?

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Just in case. Just to see, maybe as a little feeler, to see if the other person's a fellow wanderer like yourself. A fellow journeyman [laughs] who could get a quick little bust up out of 6— you know what I mean? Maybe we could just share a warm, quick chuckle. [laughs] You know what I mean? Like, that's harmless fun, just recognizing when it's a funny sex number.

Travis: Sometimes just—

Justin: So you give a little—but you just give a *little*. Like, a little bit.

Griffin: A little bit.

Justin: Like a [crosstalk].

Griffin: Give me an example. Show me an example, say, "This egg costs,

uh... "

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. You need like plausible deniability, right, so it's

like...

Griffin: Right, so this egg costs \$1.69. Like, \$1 dollar, \$.69 cents.

Justin: How much? Okay.

Griffin: \$1.69.

Justin: "And that'll be, uh, \$1.69. [snorts]"

Griffin: The laugh felt a little bit...

Justin: [laughs] It's the sound.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's— I'm gonna do it again, 'cause it's almost imperceptible.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "That'll be [with slight emphasis] \$1.69. [snorts]"

Griffin: No. It's a tonal...

Travis: No, I figured that you'd be more like, "Oh, that's [with faint

surprise] \$1.69!"

Griffin: That's— Travis, that was really good.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Juice, you do it like Travis just did it.

Justin: Yours is weird! Travis, yours is scared! Yours is scared.

Travis: Yeah, yeah! No, I'm nervous.

Griffin: No, Travis' felt— that felt super natural to me.

Justin: You're like a boy caught with his hand caught in the cookie jar.

Griffin: He hung the world's smallest lantern on it. I thought that that was

exquisite, Travis.

Justin: Let's hear yours, then.

Griffin: Mine? Okay.

Justin: Just like a—

Griffin: "That'll be a dollar [slightly raising tone] \$0.69."

You hit it up at the end, and they're thinking, like, "Why did he hit it up at the end?" And then they go, "Oh, 69. That was his way of acknowledging it. I no longer have to stay in this."

Travis: Oh, can I try it again?

Griffin: Sure, Trav.

Travis: Okay. "That'll be a dollar \$0.69. Awoo! [laughs] Awooga-wooga!"

Justin: I don't— I think the second "awooga" is weird.

Travis: That was too much?

Justin: That was too much.

Travis: Okay, let me try again. Let me try again. "Oh, that'll be a dollar

\$.69. Get it?"

Griffin: That wasn't— okay, the "get it" was— you know that that was— can you just, when the number appears on your cash register, look at it and just

go like, "Ew, gross!"

Like, if it does appear and it's like you're checking him out for one egg, and it's \$1.69, you just look at the register like, "Oh, God. Oh, get that off of there! Yuck!"

Travis: Is this person— sorry, is this person buying a single egg at the grocery store?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I didn't know you could do that.

Justin: If it's like a— like a...

Griffin: It's all anyone wants to talk about.

Justin: If it's in a really nice bodega.

Travis: I can buy a egg?

Justin: Or counter eggs.

Griffin: An artisanal, single egg.

Justin: Counter eggs, just eating counter eggs...

Travis: Like an ostrich egg?

Justin: ... will stay good for a while.

Griffin: Direct.

Justin: I used to get a kick out of— in retail, it was very not-uncommon for the total to be 666, and people would have to buy more. And I always wondered if they were trying to get that going at Blockbuster. 'Cause I got 666 a lot, and it made me wonder if they had, like, combos of items where that would be a very common total...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... and they would try to get people to buy more stuff.

Travis: Mm!

Justin: And here's what I will say: if I found out about a company doing that, I would shut them down. And they are not currently operating.

Travis: Oh, I see!

Griffin: Okay. I think that's maybe the reason why.

Justin: So maybe they ran out of rope, is all I'm saying.

Travis: Maybe Blockbuster was an inside job.

Justin: Maybe— yeah. Thank you, Travis, yes.

Travis: What combination of things, Justin, do you think that they could do some market research to be like, "The person who cares about 666 is always getting, like, this copy of *Mac and Me* and Sno-Caps"?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It was usually just, like, a package of ACT II popcorn, and a box of Jujubes, and an insistence that the Jujubes tasted *better* when you bought 'em at Blockbuster...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... even though it was just the same...

Travis: But no movie with it? Wait, there were people stopping at

Blockbuster to get snacks?

Griffin: Just for the—just for the cuisine?

Justin: [laughs] Hey, guys, people stopped at Blockbuster for everything. It was really a community hub where you didn't have to spend a lot of money.

Travis: Yeah, kind of a ma-and-pa general store?

Justin: [giggling] Yeah, it was kind of a hang spot where you could come and defraud a company until they went out of business, and turned into an amp dance studio.

Travis: It was great for a hub for local news, what was going on in the community.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It was a great place for, uh, teenagers to go in, and play *Super Mario 64* literally for hours [through laughter] during the summer, 'cause they had nothing else to do.

Uh, here's another question. "Brothers, my son won his school spelling bee as a 4th grader this year, and I couldn't be more proud. He's participating in the city-wide bee, but I don't know how to support him during the competition. Can I hoot and holler when he spells the word right? As a terrible speller myself, I don't know anything about spelling bee decorum." That's from Rejoicing in Richmond.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, it probably doesn't take too long sitting in those to figure out what is called for.

Justin: Play it cool for the first 20 minutes. Like, for the first 20 minutes, you try to stay completely motionless and silent. And then after you've clocked everybody and how they reacted, basically any outcome. That's when you can start reacting.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, okay, but you know that there's not that kind— you're not gonna get the same level of reaction from round one words...

Griffin: No.

Travis: ... as you're gonna get for, like, round eight.

Griffin: Once you get into the freaky stuff.

Travis: Yeah, once you get into, like, the five-syllable words or whatever...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: ... I think that you would be safe with a "Superb! Extraordinary!" if you can hit some—

Griffin: I think you can just say, "Superb... "

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... at room volume.

Travis: "Superb."

Griffin: "Superb." Don't yell it, but they'll hear it. It's a quiet room; you don't need to project.

Travis: Maybe like, uh— like you're clapping— like imagine you're in the audience of an opera, and the main soprano or whatever has just finished a beautiful aria. And you spring to your feet, but all tightly-wound, right? Like,

even you can't believe you've been moved to this show of passion as you clap. [clapping] "Yes! Excellent!" Right?

Griffin: I think that is, typically, the reaction. But I think you have to wait until they're done with the word.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: I do know that.

Travis: Don't clap mid-word when they hit the silent letter.

Griffin: It would be great— it would actually be pretty easy, I think, to sabotage other kids if you could, mid-word, just bust out, like, a [hisses through teeth painfully] "Ooh!"

Travis: "Ooh!"

Griffin: Even if they're doing it right, just to get in their fucking heads.

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: "Yikes."

Justin: [laughs] I would be terrified that my kid would look at me for any sort of guidance...

Griffin: "Help me, Papa."

Justin: ... on spelling of the word. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, "Please, Dad. Will the word into my head, please. Send it to me somehow. What's the next letter?"

Travis: Here's the thing. I think, as a parent, if I had to attend a spelling bee for my child, I'd be so excited for them, first, but though, two best

outcomes. Of course, best outcome, they win. Second-best outcome, they go out real early, right? Because if they're not gonna win...

Griffin: It's— yeah.

Travis: ... I don't know how I feel about being there the whole time.

Justin: Right.

Travis: Right? And so, like, I think I would more worry about not how to celebrate, but how to lose graciously in a way that if my kid went out on the first round on her own, I'd be like, "Whoa! Okay!"

Griffin: That's a lesson.

Travis: "Bye!" [laughs]

Griffin: This is how I feel about *Survivor*. On *Survivor*, the winner is, at the end, whoever gets the most jury votes. The runner-up is the person who got voted out first. Because everybody else lost, but that person's time-to-cheeseburger was much lower than everybody else's was.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughing in background]

Griffin: They can go to Outback whenever the fuck they want to. They didn't win, but neither did anybody else. So first out's not a bad way to go.

Travis: It's more video game time for both me and the child.

Griffin: I was in a spelling bee. I was like, whatever it was, county-level or whatever. I won one spelling bee, and then I went to the next, qualifiers or whatever the fuck. And I almost made it. There was some bullshit about, like, "Oh, we can only start the last round when there's five contestants left," and so I kept spelling words right, but there wouldn't be five contestants left, so they had to do the round before over and over again. And finally, I missed a word, and *that* was the one where they had five

contestants left. Mom took me to McDonald's afterwards, I was *so angry*... I got a—

Justin: Oh, Griff, I'm so sorry.

Griffin: I got a McFlurry, and then— I was so fucking angry, and as we were driving out of the drive-thru, I saw where somebody else had thrown their McFlurry at the wall at the side of the McDonald's, and I remember thinking, like, "You know what? My problems aren't so bad."

Travis: "Cause I still want this McFlurry more than I wanna throw it"?

Griffin: "I do wanna eat this McFlurry, and I'm not gonna let my impotent rage..."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "... force me to not have this dairy experience."

Travis: Because now you're still mad, and you don't have your McFlurry.

Griffin: I'm mad, I'm hurt, I'm smart from learning all the words. I'm not gonna use that shit again. Thank you so much, spelling bee.

Travis: And you know, if you drop your McFlurry in the parking lot, I bet McDonald's is pretty forgiving about giving a child another one. But if you're like, "Yeah, I dropped my McFlurry, and I dropped it hard against your wall..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [laughs] ... I doubt that they're gonna be like, "Oh, yeah, of course! Yeah, let's get you another one!"

Griffin: No, you didn't gotta be Dexter to figure out the pattern on this one. This was very clearly a McFlurry had been yeeted at the wall, pretty good.

Travis: Griffin, do you remember what word you went out on? Does it haunt you?

Griffin: Uh, I believe it was "conscience," which is...

Travis: Do you want to—

Griffin: ... that one gets you every time. It's just "con," "science—"

Travis: Do you want to do it again now, and have a bit of...?

Griffin: C-O-N-S-C-I-E-N-C-E. Like, I'll never fuck it up again for the rest of my whole life.

Justin: Wow, dude. That's— you've got that, huh?

Griffin: Yeah, I got that dead to rights.

Justin: You got that on— yeah, you got that.

Griffin: Let me make sure I do got that.

Travis and Justin: [laugh]

Griffin: Yeah. No, yeah, I do got that.

Travis: What do you think happened in the moment, if you were gonna break it down, do you think? You just got the heat of the lights, the murmur of the crowd, maybe... got to you?

Justin: [simultaneously] Got to you?

Griffin: Um, I just spelled it wrong, guys. I dunno. I got a lot of 'em right. I should've made it on. I should've— could you imagine how different my life would've been if I had won that, and then went to state...

Justin: Oh, my God. Forget about it.

Griffin: ... and then went to country, and then I got famous for spelling?

Travis: Yeah, like at the spelling Olympics? I bet there's an international.

Justin: Gotta be an international.

Travis: That must be tough, though, for kids that speak different languages.

Griffin: Yeah, hey, that's not— how do you do that? That doesn't seem fair.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's true. They should bust out words from other languages. That would really throw those kids for a loop.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Travis: Must be tough.

Griffin: "Spell this one in kanji, motherfucker. Think you're so smart?"

Travis: [laughs] I doubt the spelling bee officials say that.

Griffin: The judges of spelling bees—

Travis: "You think you're so fucking smart!?"

Griffin: The judges of spelling bees should be bitter, middle-aged former

jocks.

Justin: [giggling]

Griffin: Like, "You think you know everything, huh, Dougie?"

Travis: "Spell this word while I chuck tennis balls at you."

Justin: "Hey, check this out, Poindexter. Got a pop culture word coming for you. What's Elton John's best song? Go."

Travis: [giggling in background]

Justin: [through laughter] "Wrong. It's *Crocodile Rock.*"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Huh!

Justin: "Dork. You're out."

Griffin: "You got all the answers, Elijah. Why is my marriage failing, Elijah?"

Justin and Travis: [burst into laughter]

Justin: "Why am I going home to an empty house? I mean, other than you and your sister, but... " [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. "I'm proud of you, by the way. You're doing great."

Justin: "Proud of you, son."

Griffin: "You're doing so good."

Travis: "Your next word: alimony."

Justin: "Disappointment."

"I'm a piano teacher, and I often get gift cards during the holiday season at the end of the school year. A majority of the cards I receive are for Starbucks, but I'm not really a Starbucks kind of guy. I much prefer a card for Dunkin'. How do I drop the hint? I definitely have shown up to lessons with Dunks in-hand, so I need some other strategies." That's from Brewing in Boston.

I mean, I will launch out, just to get ahead of this thing and say, there's a lot of Dunkin'-branded merchandise awaiting for you to help spread the word...

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: ... that you and this brand are basically synonymous. I mean, America runs on Dunkin', and so can your wardrobe, honestly. There's a lot of great looks to choose from.

Griffin: But your position on their donuts is that...

Justin: Oh, if this per— sorry. [laughs] I was trying—

Griffin: The business is called Dunkin' Donuts. I was shocked to hear you so vociferously...

Justin: Yeah, sorry. I was trying to—

Travis: I think it's just Dunkin', now, actually. I think they dropped the "Donut."

Justin: I was trying to approach this in a helpful way, but I will say that yes, Travis, it is just called Dunkin', because they realized they could no longer call them donuts with any sort of, like, clear conscience. It's America's worst donut. Uh, one of our great brands, but truly inedible with the main product that they are named after. Just truly despicable, despicable donuts, but they do have a lot of merch.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So if you start wearing their merch, then I bet that it'll get to a point where it would be insane to get you anything else.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do they have a jingle that you could incorporate into piano lessons?

Griffin: The Dunkin' Donuts company?

Travis: I'm saying if they had some kind of Dunkin' Donuts jingle, that that was like the only thing you taught your students...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, yeah, I got it. [singing jingle] "Da, da, da, da, da, Dunkin'!"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That was cool.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And now our third participant in the piano recital. Uh, once again, it's Steve playing, "Da, da, da, da, da, Dunkin'!"

The third time you've heard "Da, da, da, da, da, Dunkin'!" today, so...

Griffin: That hits, Juice. That has a good...

Justin: "Da, da, da, da, Dunkin'!" It kind of sounds, at the end—

Griffin: Well, hold on. It turned into Mario, a little bit there. [to the tune of Super Mario Bros. theme song] "Da, da, da, da, da, Dunkin'!"

Justin: "Da, da, da, da, Dun-kin'!" That has the benefit of sounding not unlike the *Super Mario Bros.* music.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [singing] "Drink our drinks, don't eat our eats! Don't worry about our sandwiches; they are burnt."

Justin: [singing] "Every food we made tastes like a break."

Travis: [singing] "The hashbrowns were an absolute mistake."

Justin: [singing] "We sell eggs folded in half, and bacon that is sweet for some reason. It is all so raw..." [devolves into laughter] It's a bad restaurant.

Griffin: Yeah, it's— yeah. How come all your drinks taste like, when you drink it, like they need to clean out the machine?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That's always my reaction when I drink a drink from there, is "They need to clean that machine out."

Justin: Why does it taste like they *did* clean out the machine, and that's what's in your cup that you are drinking?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Aw, shoot. Anyway, now that we're done being elitists, I will say that—

Justin: It's not elitist.

Travis: It's not elitist! It's not good.

Justin: There's many cheaper donuts that are— the donuts at Jolly Pirate probably cost less, and they're gonna be a lot better for you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Any place in America. Dunkin' is not your best option.

Griffin: Some places, though, in America, are a Jolly Pirate's Donuts desert, in that they don't ex— it's harder for—

Justin: Yes. What I suggest, in those cases—

Travis: That's true. Then you drive to the closest Tim Hortons...

Justin: Or you're gonna have a lot of outlets for Krispy Kreme.

Travis: This is also true.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Your local McDonald's probably has Krispy Kreme. The local gas

station probably has Krispy Kreme.

Travis: Well, support your mom-and-pop—

Justin: Your mom-and-pop Speedways...

Griffin: And dop. "Hey, kids, it's me, Dop. You talking again?"

Travis: Adopt a mom-and-pop donut shop, and stop...

Griffin: That's good.

Travis: ... nop...

Justin: You guys ever been to Krispy Kreme, where you can watch 'em

being made?

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Travis: [simultaneously] Oh, yeah.

Justin: It's a little factory in there.

Travis: It's like going to the slaughterhouse, and picking your steak, and

saying, "Kill that one." I get it, Justin.

Griffin: It's not. It's not like-

Travis: Yeah, you know, you're watching 'em come out, and saying, "Ah, freshly-born donut." I get it.

Griffin: Can you go to Starbucks...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: ... spend all the gift card, buying all the— buying a bunch of drinks, and pastries, and then take *those* to Dunkin' to sell to *them* in exchange for Dunkin' store credit?

Travis: Hmm.

Justin: Hoo. Okay.

Griffin: Can you go to a Dunkin' employee and say, like, "Do you like Starbucks? Maybe we can do some sort of swap."

Justin: You—

Travis: Now, Griffin, can I say, I would put money on the fact that there's a thing in a manager's handbook at Dunkin' that has specifically had to be put in that outlaws that. And it says, like, "We can't exchange the goods and services from Starbucks in exchange for goods and services from Dunkin' Donuts."

Griffin: What I do with my money as a Dunkin' employee is my business.

Justin: Is no one's— yeah, it's no one's business.

Griffin: And if I want to buy someone's Starbucks gift card off of them, [gruff voice] for \$.50 cents on the dollar, um...

Travis: Oh, if you're getting that kind of deal on it, you'd be a fool not to.

Griffin: Well, I never miss a trick, Travis. When there's a run on the Starbucks banks, I'm always in there, buying up everybody's lots.

Travis: Because then you take those gift cards, and you find out what are the hot mugs and travel cups that everybody's dying for. You get those, you sit on 'em. That's your nest egg, right there.

Griffin: Hey, how kickass would the scene in *It's a Wonderful Life* have been if Jimmy Stewart's guy, he didn't have money; instead, he had, like, a Starbucks gift card with \$1,000 bucks on it?

Travis: If people kept coming in and saying, like...

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: [laughs] For sure.

Travis: "I wanna help," and they were just dropping, "There's like \$2.56 left on this card, if you wanna use it. Um..."

Griffin: And someone's, like, "Potter's buying up all the shares for \$.50 cents on the dollar."

And Jimmy Stewart's guy has to be like, "Okay, hold on. Is anybody spending their money on coffee?"

Travis: "Yeah, I'll go out. I'll get a bunch of coffees for everybody."

Griffin: "You guys seem really freaked out, but if coffee's all you need, I can cover that— how much coffee do you need? And please don't be greedy."

Justin: "How much coffee do we have to bring you before you won't kill yourself? [laughs] 'Cause we're just..."

Griffin: "Me and my wife just—"

Justin: "... picking up a pile."

Griffin: [tearfully] "We just got married, and I was gonna take her on the most kickass Starbucks trip ever."

Travis: "We were gonna do it from Starbucks to Starbucks."

Griffin: [tearfully] "I was gonna take her to the Starbucks that I always dreamed of. I saw it on all of my *Starbucks* magazines... "

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "... and be like, 'Babe, whatever you want.""

Travis: "When I worked at that mom-and-pop coffee shop when I was little, and I'm pulling the handle and making fire come out for some reason, I'd always wished to go to that Starbucks shop. And I was gonna do it!"

Griffin: "I was gonna do it, too."

Travis: "You need— sorry, you need a *venti*? No, you don't. Hey, no, you don't."

Griffin: "Don't need a venti. Come on."

Travis: "You don't need a *venti.*"

Justin: "You need to get more sleep, is what you need to do."

Travis: "You need to get more sleep!"

Justin: "You need to go to bed early tonight."

Travis: [in old voice] "I'd like the flaming rum punch."

"They don't have those at Starbucks!"

Justin: Alright, boys. Let's take a break. We'll head on over to the Money Zone.

Griffin: Yeehaw!

Travis: [makes vrooming sound]

Justin: Whoa. Exciting.

[theme song plays]

Travis: Do you guys—

Justin: It's a new month.

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: It's a new month, and that means—

Griffin: Both of you do the ad the way you were going to do it,

simultaneously.

Travis: It's also not a new month. This is coming out on, like, the 17th.

Justin: Oh, my God.

Travis: It's the middle of the month! No, what were you gonna say about a

new month, a new start?

Griffin: Are you the only person alive in the country for whom time seems to be moving at an accelerated rate, and it is not absolutely creep-creepin'

along?

Travis: We're halfway through!

Griffin: Wild.

Travis: What about it— yeah. Keep going, Justin. It's a new month.

Justin: [laughs] It's a new month, uh, February, and that means that it's

time to start getting your finances in order.

Travis: I will say, Justin, that this attitude of "It's a new month, and time to get your shit together" at the 17th *is* how I feel every— I'm like, "I should've gotten my shit together back at the beginning of the month."

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Next month, I'll definitely—"

Justin: Yeah, okay, so let me rephrase what I was saying. It's a completely nondescript time of the year.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But it's not super late in the year...

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: ... and it's a good time— it's not too late for you to...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's still time!

Justin: There's still time for you to think about your money. Rocket Money is the best way of doing that, 'cause you can sign up with Rocket Money. They're gonna look at your, uh, subscriptions, they're gonna look at your accounts, and help you to figure out the best way to save a few bucks, and take control of your finances.

Travis: They will not look at your private browsing history.

Justin: They will not.

Griffin: Yeah. Unless you ask 'em— unless that's, like, part of it.

Justin: No. They can monitor—

Travis: They could be a financial accountability and a spiritual [laughs] accountability partner.

Griffin: Spiritual buddy.

Justin: That's right. Great point, Trav, they can monitor your spending to help you, uh, reach your financial goals.

Travis: And your sinning.

Justin: And your sinning goals. [laughs] If you have goals for how many offenses you want to commit in the eyes of our Lord, uh, yeah.

Travis: I guess it could be how many, or how few. I was thinking how few, but if you were like, "This year, [laughs] I'm turning it up to 11..."

Griffin: It says here, Rocket Money has over 5 million *nasty* users, and has saved a total of \$500 million dollars in canceling subscriptions, saving *nasty* members up to \$740 dollars a year, when using all the app's premium features.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know why they would say—

Justin: [through laughter] Sorry, it says, "filthiest features."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Wild.

Travis: And it says, "in your area." And it just keeps saying "We have the filthiest features in your area."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And they're looking for you.

Justin: [laughs] Now— oh, my God, it's an animated GIF. I need to expand.

Ooh.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Oh.

Travis: Oh, my.

Justin: I wish I hadn't done that.

Travis: Oh, my God.

Justin: Yikes.

Cancel your unwanted subscriptions, and reach your financial goals faster with Rocket Money. Go to rocketmoney.com/mybrother today. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother. Rocketmoney.com/mybrother.

Griff, take it away!

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: What our— what you can't see from— so our brother just had a coughing fit like his doctor would tell him he needs to move out West to [crosstalk], good for the lungs!

Griffin: That was good.

Justin: Now, he's trying to pass it off as...

Travis: Move there. You gotta live by the sea!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Not really.

Justin: It's a good joke for the three of us; it's not really for the listener.

I'm glad Travis [laughs] has slowed down enough to explain it.

Travis: Do you want to convince a loved one that you're trapped inside of a

box?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Then Aura Frames is for you!

Griffin: Great. Easy way to do it.

Travis: Yeah, you can constantly upload new photographs to it using Wi-Fi to make it look like you're trapped inside of the Aura Frame. Or, I guess you could also give it as a gift...

Justin: Mm, yeah.

Travis: ... or have it in your own home. And those work too, if you don't want to do the "I'm trapped inside this box" kind of thing. Either way is fine.

And you know what? It's that time of year where it just feels like, oh, there is occasion after occasion after occasion coming up to give gifts for things. You know, we've got tons of birthdays, graduations, all kinds of things coming up. Um, and Aura Frames is there for you.

We have an Aura Frame that we use any time we get home from a trip; any time we get home from seeing friends or doing things with the kids, we just immediately upload our photos there, so we don't forget, so they don't become trapped on our phone. And it's the number-one digital picture frame, voted by Wirecutter. I highly recommend them.

The best part is, it comes with unlimited storage. All you need is the free Aura app and a Wi-Fi connection, and you can upload as many photos and videos as you want, year-round.

Right now, you can save on the perfect gift that keeps on giving by visiting auraframes.com. For a limited time, listeners can get \$20 dollars off their best-selling Carver Mat frame with promo code "mybrother." That's auraframes.com, promo code "mybrother," all one word.

Don't forget to mention that we sent ya' to show your support for the show. Terms and conditions apply.

Justin: We sent ya'!

Travis: We sent ya'!

Griffin: We sent ya'! Tell 'em the McElroys sent ya'!

Justin: [growling voice] Tell 'em!

Griffin: [evil laugh]

Travis: Tell 'em I'm coming, and hell's coming with me!

Justin: [progressively growlier voice] Tell him I'm coming! Tell him I'm fucking coming!

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: Did you guys like *The Limey*? [crosstalk].

Travis: Yeah. It's been a long time since I thought about it, but...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... I did enjoy it.

Justin: It was actually, like, a pretty good Terence Stamp.

Travis: Yeah, it was a really good Terence Stamp!

Griffin: Yeah, it felt really good.

Travis: You really put your Terence Stamp on it.

Justin: Thanks, Trav.

Travis: You're welcome, man. It has my Terence Stamp of approval.

Griffin: [laughing softly]

Travis: I would like to have a little rubber stamp that's a picture of Terence

Stamp, that I could put on things to show my stamp of approval.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Um, I do have a wikiHow. The Wizard is here; he's come down, and he is here. A bunch of people sent this one in. Thank you, everyone.

Uh, it's how to grind.

Travis: Hmm?

Griffin: "Feel like getting freaky on the dance floor? Wanna send a sexy message, or just have some suggestive fun? Grinding is a form of dance that requires you to move your hips in a circular motion that matches your partner's, and to let loose and have some fun. Once you know how to grind, you can show off your sexy moves at any party or club. Read on to find out how to do it." Um...

Travis: I'm so thankful for this, because when I Google how to grind, I get such a variety of topics, and then I get very confused.

Griffin: A lot of business bros...

Travis: A lot of business bros...

Griffin: "I have five— I have five days in my day!"

Travis: ... a lot of skating, um...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... both inline and board.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Um, I get a lot of meat related stuff. Which I think...

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: ... I would get in trouble for doing that on the dance floor.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, it's for— it's not, um— you'll lose your food handler's license, doing that.

Travis: Indeed.

Griffin: I do take umbrage with "Once you know how to grind, you can show off your sexy moves at any party or club." I can think of, um, 100 parties or clubs where that would not actually be appropriate, or acceptable.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah. That's— most clubs, actually. Elks Club.

Griffin: Elks Club, can't do it.

Justin: That's just to think of one.

Travis: Golf club.

Griffin: Golf club, can't do it.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Justin: Club Dread.

Griffin: [snorts]

Travis: Club Penguin.

Griffin: Birthday parties of *most ages*. Of nearly all ages, I will say, it's not— like, that's a big one for me. Christmas party is not— you're probably not gonna do it a lot, uh, there.

Travis: Well, depends on what kind of Christmas party.

Justin: If you're religious.

Griffin: I'll tell you, I can think of fewer parties where you *can* grind at than parties where you shouldn't grind at.

Justin: I actually am sitting here, thinking, I don't think there's a Christmas party where it's appropriate, because even in an office setting amongst adults, I would prefer, as an HR director, that they not grind.

Griffin: I don't want— I do not want you to grind.

Travis: If the cast of MTV Spring Break had...

Justin: The cast of MTV's The Grind, we'll say.

Travis: ... if they had, like, a Christmas party for their company, they'd be like, "Let's—" but even then, you wouldn't want to work off the clock.

Justin: No.

Griffin: Well, yeah, but also they're wearing suit and ties in the Viacom, like, headquarters in Manhattan.

Justin: And they haven't done it for [laughs] 15 years.

Travis: I'm trying to actually think—

Justin: But they're all pretty confused as to why they're doing *MTV Spring Break* again in the year of our Lord, 2025.

Griffin: When the cast of *MTV Spring Break*, Travis, is *working*, do you think they work at the beach? Do you think their job is at the beach? They are prof— those are young professionals of the Viacom corporation.

Travis: Well, sometimes. I mean, when they're on location, filming, they're working.

Griffin: Yeah. That's-

Travis: That's work for them.

Justin: That's work.

Griffin: It doesn't feel like it, though.

"Approaching your partner. Listen for the right music. While you're waiting for some hip-hop or house music to come on, scout the dance floor for some partners that you might want to grind with." That's insane. Uh...

Justin: [laughs] That's hugely inadvisable. I mean, just beyond the pale.

Griffin: I mean, as a thought—

Justin: So unwise.

Griffin: As a harmless thought exercise, personally, like, I can't control what you think, man. But...

Justin: [laughs] But I will say this: scoping the floor for babes is one of the most highly-detectable human activities...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... that is known to exist. We are all on a 100% swivel for it 100% of the time.

Griffin: 100% of the time.

Justin: You will never go through that unclocked. Ever, ever!

Griffin: Evolutionarily. Genetically, we are good at this.

Travis: And not only that, but human beings can clock it when done naturally. Now add the spice of, "You've been told to do it by a wikiHow article."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Oh, yeah. They'll see that all over your face, man. [laughs] All over your face.

Travis: Oh, you've got a neon sign above your head.

Justin: You're sunk already. Just reading this, you're sunk, buddy!

Travis: You had to look up [laughs] how to fight him.

Justin: Travis, that should— it should! The first page should be like, "You shouldn't."

Travis: No.

Justin: Like, "Look how you got here."

Griffin: And meanwhile, while you're over there in the corner, waiting for a hip-hop or house song to come on that you can grind to, I'm on the floor. I've been grinding to everything. Because that's the secret, is consistency.

It's not— you can sit and wait, and wait, and wait all day, and miss the whole dance.

Travis: But if you can't grind to some Gin Blossoms, then what are you even doing?

Griffin: "Find your partner. If you're brave, you could go up to a potential partner, and ask, 'Hey, you want to dance?"

I do feel like you do have to be pretty specific, and say like, "Do you want to grind," and not just say "dance."

Justin: [crosstalk].

Griffin: 'Cause there's lots of different dances, but there's really only...

Justin: "Would you like to grind off me?"

Griffin: ... there's only a few that involve... *rubbing* like that.

Travis: I would also say, um...

Justin: Yeah, rubbing is racing.

Travis: ... we need— I think that this being an optional step, to ask if they want to be ground upon...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: This is not optional. It's not optional.

Griffin: No. No, I'm saying—but "dance" doesn't cover it.

Travis: No!

Justin: No. No, it doesn't cover it.

Griffin: Dance doesn't cover it.

Travis: What if they're picturing a waltz?

Griffin: Yeah. A foxtrot.

Travis: If you can waltz and grind at the same time, though...

Justin: Is there music where the grind is implied?

Griffin: [thoughtfully] Mmm...

Travis: Um, "Pony" by Ginuwine.

Griffin: "Bump n' Grind"?

Justin: [crosstalk].

Travis: "Gonna Make You Sweat"?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "The Rhythm Is Gonna Get You."

Griffin: Uh, "Place that Booty on My... Groin."

Travis: [laughs] I love that one.

Justin: [laughs] And gyrate. And gyrate away, my queens.

Travis: One of Celine Dion's best.

Justin: The pleasure overtakes us both.

Griffin: Celine Dion presents, "Put that Booty on My Groin, and Gyrate,

Queen."

Travis: And other hits to make love to.

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: That's the album that the theme from *Titanic* was on; did you know that? "My Heart Will Go On."

Griffin: That's a track— if she busted that out at one of her shows...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ... that building would go thermonuclear.

"Holy shit. Is she really playing 'Put that Booty on My Groin, and Gyrate, Queen'?"

Justin: What do you think the funniest song Celine Dion sings i— [laughs] like, what do you think the funniest song at a Celine Dion concert is?

Travis: Mm...

Griffin: Okay. "Mack the Knife."

Justin: [laughs] That's about as—

Travis: When she does Ray Stevens' "The Streak."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts." Like, "This used to make us laugh... Ray Stevens is a comedy genius." [laughs]

Travis: Oh, yes, according to "The Streak."

Justin: "The Streak"! Don't look, Ethel.

Griffin: "Get into position. Usually, the guy gets behind the girl to start grinding." I don't need instructions on this; thank you, wikiHow. "However, you can always grind face-to-face."

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: *What*!?

Travis: Or side-to-side.

Justin: Yeah, I guess you can. It's not—

Travis: If you wanna leave room for the Holy Ghost.

Griffin: That's insane— that feels like such an edge case. That feels like such a huge outlier that it's insane you felt like you had to include it. It's like saying, "You can dance, *or* you can dance on the ceiling."

And it's like, yeah, I guess, if I was in a special room, like in *Breakin' 2:* Electric Boogaloo, but...

Travis: I would make the argument that if you are someone who is about to engage with face-to-face grinding...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... you don't need a wikiHow article to get you there. Like, there's a level of confidence and skill associated with it. You don't wanna go for that your first time. Why even introduce that as a possibility? That should say: "This is possible," parentheses, "(do not attempt, read further)."

Griffin: Yeah. Right.

Travis: "In the advanced article, we'll discuss the possibility of face-to-face grinding."

Griffin: Here's where the [crosstalk] fall off.

Travis: They might as well say, "You could grind with three people at the same time."

Griffin: Exa— yeah. No. I guess— like, I guess so, sure. I guess so. There's not, like, a *law*. There's no law against front-to-front grinding, but it's like, why are we doing it that way? That's so antithetical to the spirit of the thing.

This is where wheels fall off for me. "Part two. Grinding." Awesome.

"Step one. Move your hips in the same circular motion. Well, normally—" I don't wanna read all this.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "The girl's hips should move in a circular motion; the guy's hips should match that motion." Two thi— my two reactions to this. One, if you go counterclockwise to it, do you both burst into flames from the legs-down, just from—

Travis: No, but that's just minimal contact. 'Cause then you only get one contact at one degree of the circle, right?

Griffin: I also—

Justin: You might also get stuck together. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But also—

Travis: What your rhythm gets off!? And now you're just missing each

other!

Justin: Or dry humping.

Griffin: Also, I don't think that's right!

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: I don't think— I went to a lot of, you know, formal dances in my youth where grinding was taking place. I don't remember seeing perfectly—like a—

Travis: [laughing] No, yeah, yeah. You don't want an NPC waiting.

Griffin: There's not a circular [crosstalk].

Travis: You don't want *Mortal Kombat*, like, before they fight, circling.

Justin: Idling animations, yeah.

Griffin: It's like-

Travis: Listen, I'm an ally. I'll just say it. I think it doesn't have to be boy or

girl. Anybody—

Justin: Wow. Hey, I haven't celebrated you, Travis. Thank you.

Travis: Thank you very much. Anybody can grind on anybody, you know

what I mean?

Justin: Wow, wow, wow.

Griffin: That's huge of you.

Travis: I think grind is grind, is grind, is what I'm saying.

Griffin: That's so good, Travis!

Travis: Hump is hump, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Really lovely and beautiful, and thank you so much.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: And it's lovely and cool.

Travis: Yeah. Anybody can dry hump anybody on the dance floor, as long as they're consensual, you know? As long as they're being safe.

Griffin: It's not taking place— it's not a thing where you *explore* the plane with your move— like, you've added an axes or two to the movement, and thrown your credibility into question in a big way, wikiHow.

Juice, you look uncomfortable. Do you not like talking about this kind of stuff?

Justin: Uh, I was a generation before grinding, so there's a part of it that owes this—

Travis: Before my generation invented it? [laughs]

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Yes, when your gener— it would've been very unseemly, when I was a child, to have ground. And I feel like me commenting on it at this point is tantamount to ageism. I feel like I'm the judgment of the old. I never had my chance to grind, you know? I didn't have that opportunity.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: This is why our age gaps make this so wonderful, because, you know, you were before grinding. I was prime grind. All I did was grind, 24/7. And Griffin was post—

Justin: Right.

Griffin: It was already ironic for me.

Travis: Yeah, Griffin was post.

Griffin: Yeah, it was ironic for me. When we were grinding, it was like, "Pfft, yeah right!" We'd yell that over the music. "Yeah right! Can you imagine?"

Justin: You know, it's interesting, as things come back around. That is a phenomenon where, like, suddenly, I've found my kids— this was with Charlie, who's a little bit more trend-aware, who would be into stuff that was a thing that was cool when I was a kid that I know about. And they hate that, which is so surprising to me! 'Cause I thought it'd be more of like, a...

Griffin: "Cool!"

Justin: "Interesting, we have a common—" No, that makes it bad? [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, it makes it badder that I know of it. It's worse. It's like a bad— it's bad. It's not common ground; it's just that they hate that I know of it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a bummer.

Travis: But it doesn't make them not like it anymore. They just hate the fact that you know about it.

Griffin: How-

Justin: And I try to keep my mouth shut. [laugh] You know...

Travis: Yeah, that's the way to go.

Justin: I try to keep it to myself, you know what I mean?

Griffin: But do they know how important their approval is to us?

Justin: Yeah. They know that as well as they know their own names, and they kind of dangle it in front of me all the time.

Travis: Charlie and Cooper approve of me left and right.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause I'm not their dad, right? So—

Justin: But they gotta push me to— they have high expectations for me.

Travis: Yeah. Well, they push you 'cause they love you.

Justin: And they have no expectations of you. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But I'm—

Travis: And they know I'm not going anywhere with my life.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: And they provide you the support that you need to achieve those goals that they do set for you, Juice, which I think is—

Justin: They do not.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: No, they don't. They yell at me for apples, [laughs] is what they do. That's—

Griffin: That's weird. Wait—

Travis: But you don't see— Justin, you don't see the motiva— they come to me every day, at the end, they're like, "I hated having to yell at him for apples."

Griffin: They really don't like it.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: "I hated having to do it. But if I don't do it—"

Justin: "I hated yelling at him for apples, I hated biting into it, but not even finishing the bite, [holding back laughter] so there's just teeth marks, and then setting it down to rot."

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: "And I talked about how hungry I was for an hour and a half before he gave me that apple, and then I took one bite. And I hated having to do that!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But if I don't do that, he's not gonna be the best Justin he could be."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I hated screaming at him that I was missing something, so I couldn't go to sleep, and not knowing what the something was."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "And— but insisted that there was something. I hated to do it, but you know, he's never gonna achieve greatness unless you push him to his limits."

Travis: And look at you, Justin! Almost there.

Griffin: Almost.

Justin: Look at me now.

Travis: So close.

Griffin: Great progress!

Justin: Closer than ever, one assumes. Closer than ever.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I do just— last thing. I wanna leave this one behind, but there is a section called, "Improving your technique." And the first step in it is, "Do the side-to-side grind. Dancing in the exact same way can get old after a while, so once you and your partner have been grinding the traditional way for a while, go for the side-to-side move. This way, the—"

I'm gonna adjust the language here a bit. "This way, the little grinder moves to the left, while the big grinder moves to the right."

Travis: The little spoon. [laughs]

Justin: Gender-neutral grinding instructions? [laughs]

Griffin: "Little grinder's, and big grinder's on the right, so they're always on opposite sides. Though you'll be turned away from—"

Justin: That's just how sides work. I don't need a wikiHow article for that. [laughs]

Griffin: No, but I think there's-

Travis: Is this one of those challenging things where you're, kind of—

Griffin: It's almost like a Grease choreography, like...

Justin: Oh, okay. I got it, I got it. It's like a horizontal grind, rather than a—it's more of a lateral grind.

Griffin: It's important you keep your synchronized, perfectly-circular motion. As long as you guys are doing the exact same motion, there will be zero friction whatsoever, and that's the goal, people.

Travis: Yeah. Wearing slippery pants is important, too.

Griffin: I see so many people grinding, and you can hear the fabric moving together, and it's like, wrong! Wrong, wrong!

Travis: No corduroy; you could start a fire.

Griffin: You need to synchronize your circular motion, so that you do not move against each other *at all*.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: At all. That's the way that it is intended to go.

Travis: And hope no one sees you.

Griffin: Can't let anyone see you do this dance. It is of paramount importance.

Travis: This is important. If I was a DJ, and— I don't know how I'd feel. Like, would I feel respect for the first couple grinding, like, I've started, with dance?

Griffin: I would—

Travis: But how soon!? If it's like, first song plays, and *immediately* someone's grinding, is it like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, I get it. Okay.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, Trav, famously, most weddings do have a special kickoff event for dancing.

Travis: Oh, I was thinking, school dance. I wasn't assuming this was beginning at a wedding reception. Not kicking off right away.

Griffin: Oh. That would be kickass, though, if the first dance ended, and you and your partner just ran out on the dance floor, gasping for air, like, "Oh, thank Christ!"

Justin: [wheezing laugh]

Griffin: "Oh, thank God, we can grind!"

Travis: "Now that we're married! [giggling] Now that it's legal in the eyes of

Christ."

Griffin: "God, you guys picked the longest first dance song fucking ever."

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: "I was grinding in my chair! These hips gotta grind!"

Justin: [inhales] [imitates rock guitar]

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Alright!

Justin: [imitates guitar riff] I lied. [continues guitar] [singing] I wanna

munch!

Travis and Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] [singing] I want to munch!

Travis and Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [continues and stops fake guitar singing]

Travis: Took me a second.

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast, profiling

the latest and greatest in brand eating. Travis, go ahead!

Travis: It took me a second to connect that "I lied" to when we asked if you had a Munch Squad and you said no, and not just a little confession from [crosstalk].

Justin: [laughs] I lied about it.

Griffin: The new Zodiac Killer...

Travis: "I did it!" [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: I just want to celebrate, uh, Little Caesar's for returning to a grand tradition that, honestly, has been sadly missing a little bit, and that is the press release for the thing that absolutely did not need a press release, and certainly not one that is this long.

"Little Caesars Reveals Super Bowl Ad Featuring New Bacon & Cheese Crazy Puffs. Little Caesars—" which it says here, "Little Caesars, the third-largest pizza chain in the world, and the official pizza sponsor of the NFL, is featuring a breakthrough ad in Super Bowl LIX featuring Emmy winner Eugene Levy and showcasing the all-new Bacon & Cheese Crazy Puffs that will leave fans saying, 'Tastes like whoa!' long after the big game concludes."

Griffin: "Tastes like whoa"?

Justin: "It tastes like whoa!"

Griffin: "Happy tastes good, like whoa."

Justin: Now, I think you guys are saying at this point, "Oh, Eugene Levy in a Little Caesars commercial. Cool." No, no, no. They're not done. Come back.

"The 30-second spot showcases Eugene Levy in a hilarious, jaw-dropping moment of astonishment..."

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: "... where the irresistible flavor of Crazy Puffs causes his iconic eyebrows to comically disappear. Adding to the fun, Levy's daughter—"

Travis: Wait, to—

Justin: Sorry, what?

Travis: To disappear?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Fade from existence?

Justin: You're already laughing, right? But "Adding to the fun, Levy's daughter, also known for her role in the Emmy-winning series *Schitt's Creek*, makes a cameo, infusing the ad with a playful family dynamic."

Travis: [forced laughter]

Justin: [forced laughing]

Griffin: I can't wait to watch this fucking thing, man.

Justin: Well, you're gonna. "Little Caesars has a history of partnering with Hollywood stars and top talent to deliver culturally-relevant campaigns..."

Travis: *Do* they?

Justin: ... like when starring Eugene Levy and his daughter, Sarah Levy, from *Schitt's Creek*. "By featuring Eugene Levy, an acclaimed and beloved comedian, Little Caesars reaffirms its commitment to bold and memorable storytelling."

Griffin: Yes, dude! Holy shit.

Justin: "Levy's charisma and universal charm [holding back laughter] enable the brand to connect with audiences in innovative ways, extending its reach beyond traditional food marketing."

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: You know that the—

Justin: They had the fucking [shouting] *vision* to put Eugene Levy in it!

Travis: The draft of this, I'd present it to somebody, I'm like, "Am I making

too bold a claim regarding what people associate?"

Griffin: No!

Travis: When you're like, "We have a history of using big stars," and stuff, or like, "our commitment to storytelling," is that weird for a pizza brand?

Griffin: Yeah. When I saw the Little Caesars commercial, my first thought is, "What are the implications of this? What are the implications as a brand for Little Caesars, that this hap— what's it all mean, and why did they decide it?"

Justin: Eugene Levy. He's like a storyteller? I think—

Travis: What I was so excited to see— because I feel like they lost their way for a while in regards to storytelling, and they were mostly focused on making pizzas.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And now that they've recommitted themselves to storytelling, I can't wait to see what the LCU gets up to these days.

Griffin: Well, they had a story that worked, and it was little Roman guy with a spear taps on the ground, and then two pizzas flip upside-down—

Travis: And he likes both of them. He's excited about it.

Justin: They didn't have to do ads for the longest time, because their pitch was this: "We will give you two pizzas."

Travis: Yeah! [laughs] "You know how everybody else gives you one pizza?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "We'll give you two."

Travis: "We'll give you two. That's the story."

Justin: "You can buy one, and we will give you two pizzas. That's our

model."

Travis: "Please?"

Justin: They don't do this model as much anymore, but that was the model for a long time, is that [laughs] you had to take two pizzas.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: "This spot launches Little Caesars' newest campaign, spotlining its wildly popular Crazy Puffs line. Joining the top-selling Pepperoni Crazy Puffs and Four-Cheese varieties, Bacon & Cheese promises to be a fan favorite, which a blend of mozzarella..."

Travis: Nice promise.

Justin: "... muenster, and cheddar cheeses, pizza sauce, and topped with Applewood smoked bacon, a buttery garlic-flavored drizzled, and parmesan cheese." Now, I know what you're thinking. Now that you know all about Eugene Levy, and the Puffs, and the ad, there's certainly nothing else that could be in this press release.

Travis: Yeah. What could there be?

Justin: Here's another quote. "This ad is all about celebrating the bold, craveworthy fun that is Little Caesars..."

Travis: Thank God.

Justin: "... and the addition of Bacon & Cheese Crazy Puffs takes it to a whole other level!"

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Justin: "..said Greg Hamilton, Chief Marketing Officer."

Travis: How long is this ad!?

Justin: [with rising excitement] "With Eugene Levy at the helm, we've created a spot that's as deliciously entertaining as Crazy Puffs themselves. Working with such an iconic talent showcases our commitment to delivering not only amazing flavors, but also *unforgettable* brand experiences!"

Griffin: Can you guys fucking imagine what it was like on that set, just between everything?

Justin: [yelling] Electric!

Griffin: First of all, busting up because Eugene is doing his thing. And his eyebrows are gone? That's fucking really—

Travis: And then they're probably also tearing up because of the family element of it...

Griffin: That's what I'm saying.

Travis: ... of now his daughter's there in a cameo.

Griffin: And they know what they're doing is *important*. Like, it's important, and it's a tough time, but if this is gonna—

Travis: This ad is 53 minutes long!

Justin: It's seconds, but okay. Listen, here's the thing, guys. You won't be able to hear this, so what we'll do is [laughs] any time there's words, I'll just say 'em, okay? Is that— does that—

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Thanks.

Griffin: Oh, this is gonna be insane.

Travis: Yeah, it's like...

Justin: So he's get— also, he's coming out, and he's uh— it's Eugene Levy, and he's got some Crazy Puffs, and he's about to bite one.

[ad plays]

Eugene Levy: Alright! Little Caesars, Crazy Puffs. Whoa!

[quirky music playing]

Travis: Huh.

[man screams]

Female Speaker: Is this little Becky?

[baby coos]

[woman screams]

High-pitched Voices: We're not worthy. We're not worthy.

Sarah Levy: Birthday cake comes in. It is so cute, it— my dad's eating

Crazy Puffs again. Don't ask.

Male Speaker: Whoa. Have you tried the new bacon ones?

Eugene Levy: There are *bacon* ones?

Little Caesars Mascot: Pizza, pizza!

Travis: Horrifying.

Griffin: It's pretty scary. I don't want my eyebrows to fly away from my

face.

Travis: Or terrorize the public!

Griffin: I don't want my eyebrows to fly off my face, and land on a strange

baby that I don't know. That's—

Travis: Seek out my daughter for some kind of comfort and guidance...

Justin: Embarrass my daughter [laughs] at her fancy... lunch that she's

having? Unbelievable.

Travis: I love the implications, here, too, the deeper implications that Eugene Levy, noted movie star, comedian, public person, has lived such a sheltered life that eating just what appears to be the Cheese Crazy Puffs is enough of an experience to drive his eyebrows off his face.

Griffin: Yeah. What do you think it's like, having a body feature that's so memorable and prominent that it becomes the absolute cornerstone of an entire Super Bowl ad?

Justin: I feel bad, 'cause he's gotta feel trapped. Like, he may have days where he *wants* to shave 'em off.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But he can't.

Travis: Do you think him and Peter Gallagher ever get together and just,

like, talk about what it's like?

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: It's probably hard.

Justin: Don't you, boys?

Travis: Do you ever think about just fucking 'em?

Griffin: Do you think Eugene Levy's ever, like, "No one ever talks about my

huge balls."

Justin: [wheezing laughter]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Because his eyebrows is, like, the number-one thing that people

associate him with.

Travis: I bet he says that all the time.

Griffin: But if he had huge, huge balls, and he would be angry that no one

knows about that.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Wouldn't you be so pissed?

Travis: I'd be so mad. Huge, beautiful balls.

Justin: [through snorting laughter] The next Super Bowl ad is gonna be

crazy. They have a new fucking shrimp alfredo flavor—

Travis: He eats, and you just hear a loud "clunk."

Justin: [through laughter] Blows his balls on the spot.

Griffin: The fucking press release is like, "Family is important to Little

Caesars."

Justin: [uncontrollably cry-laughing in background]

Griffin: "That's why in this commercial, Eugene Levy's huge balls get blown off by our Shrimp Alfredo Crazy Puff."

Travis: "His son, Dan Levy, shows up to be like, 'Oh, no, Dad! Not like this!"

Justin: His best friend, Martin Short, is like, "Oh, no, not again!"

Travis: "Not your balls! Not your big, beautiful balls, Eugene!"

Griffin: "When his comedian son, Dan Levy, from *Schitt's Creek*, is rollerblading and trips on his dad's huge balls as they roll away from his body because of the Crazy Puffs, that means family to Little Caesars."

Justin: By the way, everybody from *Schitt's Creek* in the main cast has— is in a Super Bowl commercial this year.

Griffin: Good for them, man. Get that.

Justin: What an achievement.

Griffin: Good for them. Get that.

Justin: What an achievement.

Uh, thanks so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed—I'm in tears. [laughs] Oh, man.

Travis: And thank you, Eugene Levy, for...

Justin: Thank you, Eugene Levy, for your huge balls.

Griffin: We're just goofin'.

Justin: Just goofing and having some fun.

Travis: Unless you *do* have big, huge balls.

Griffin: I don't know, I don't want to talk about it anymore.

Justin: It doesn't matter. I don't want to talk about it anymore.

Travis: Hey, but what I do want to talk about, this week, My Brother, My Brother and Me and Adventure Zone is coming to Florida. It's our first-ever live Adventure Zone in Florida. We're doing TAZ vs. Romeo vs. Juliet, and My Brother, My Brother and Me on either side of that one. So you can get all the info, get the tickets at bit.ly/mcelroytours.

If you have questions that you want us to do at the *My Brother, My Brother and Me* shows, then email it to mbmbam@maximumfun.org, and put which city you're gonna be at.

And also send in uh, what— your "gonna be faster than fear" this year that you want to be read at the show, and we'll do that as well.

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Travis: Also, coming up here in May, Champions Grove 2025. Uh, we got a couple packages left. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the fun. Justin, you were there last year!

Justin: I was, Travis. I had a great time, and I think anybody that goes is just gonna have the time of their lives.

Griffin: And he buried a great treasure.

Travis: Yes, friendship—

Justin: I buried a body.

Travis: And yeah, it's a body of a friend! So...

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: ... go dig it up! Friendship is the best treasure. Uh, check that out at championsgrove.com. Come hang out at a castle in Hocking Hills, Ohio, with me and some other RPG creators, and play some games, and make some new friends, and have a great time. Uh, championsgrove.com.

What else, boys?

Griffin: We got merch over at mcelroymerch.com. I wanna highlight a *Wonderful!* Poetry Corner bumper magnet for your car, designed by Dana Wagner. If you're a fan of, uh, my wife's knowledge of poetry and how she shares it so generously on our podcast, *Wonderful!*, then you can make that known to the world over at mcelroymerch.com.

And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to World Central Kitchen, which uses the power of food to nourish communities, and strengthen economies through times of crisis and beyond.

And thank you so much, also, to Montaigne, for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You."

Justin: If you are looking for ways to get involved, looking for places to donate, we do have a list of the organizations and nonprofits that we've worked with or donated to over the years, if you want to check that out. It's at mcelroyfamily.carrd.co.

Griffin: Um, do we have a wish?

Travis: We do—

Justin: We do.

Travis: Well, not a wish; we have a fear.

Justin: Not a wish.

Griffin: Well, I still call 'em wishes.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay. That's incorrect.

Griffin: It's a wish to get over a fear.

Travis: Justin, do you wanna read it?

Justin: I'd be happy to, Trav. "This year, I'm going to stop being afraid of my Pokémon team getting jealous if I spend too much time with just one of them."

My name is Justin McElroy.

Griffin: It's a real mechanic in the game. Like, if— some Pokémon only evolve—

Justin: My name's Justin McElroy. I shouldn't have to hear about Pokémon.

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]

[guitar chord plays]

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