

MBMBaM 752: A Complex Story About Beans

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

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

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

Griffin: This is untenable. This is—

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

Griffin: This is Griffin. It sounds like you are trying to tell me a little secret. Trying to lean over—

Travis: Oh, see, I thought he was drunk.

Griffin: You're drunk and trying to tell me a little drunk secret.

Travis: We're at like a family wedding kind of deal, and you're drunk and you're like—

Griffin: Here comes uncle Justin.

Travis: Oh, he's gonna tell us something about aunt, you know, Josephine, that everybody knows but nobody talks about.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And here comes Justin to tell us about it.

Justin: I got... okay, well, I got a root canal. And this is a time that they could get me in, because there's emergency, because my mouth hurts so bad.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And this is the time they could get me in, 11 o'clock. Okay?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And that is a time that I have to after that do My Brother, My Brother and Me here.

Griffin: Oh, so that's—

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: That's where I start to run—

Justin: And the thing—the thing is, Griffin—

Griffin: Into issues.

Justin: Can I tell you something?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is the time I do my job. You know what I mean? Like, this is the time I do my job.

Griffin: For sure, for sure.

Justin: And this is the time when the professionals—

Travis: I can't believe—Justin, I can't believe that you would do your job and record My Brother, My Brother and Me at the same time.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That kind of split focus?

Griffin: That's weird.

Justin: No, no, this is my job, Travis.

Travis: What?!

Justin: This, My Brother, My Brother and Me, is my job.

Griffin: So the thing is—and obviously, there's nothing implicitly funny about making fun of the way someone talks. I want to say that out loud to acknowledge it. What I'm saying is that the time we record this show is and can be quite flexible. We're your brothers and we love you, and we record this bad boy good five days in advance. So...

Justin: I love you too, man. Thank you so much.

Griffin: But it feels—and it feels to me like you were almost—you sent us a video from the car like, "I'm fucked up. Let's do this, baby."

Justin: [chuckles] No, I wasn't.

Griffin: And then—

Justin: No, it wasn't—

Griffin: It almost seemed like you wanted to do the—like you wanted to see what happens.

Travis: And it's also important to note, on the job aspect of it, like if you were a pitcher and you had just gotten some kind of thing done to your arm that made your arm numb, and you were like, "Put me in, coach. I'm ready to pitch."

Griffin: Or if you were a podcaster and you accidentally glued a kazoo into your mouth, and then you were like—

Justin: Okay, but here's—

Griffin: Our podcast doesn't go up for five days. "I've got this kazoo in my mouth. We gotta roll, baby!"

Travis: [mouths kazoo sounds]

Justin: If Wade Boggs pounds too many brewskis the night before, and then morning—

Travis: Yeah, he gets—but he calls it getting bogged down, please.

Griffin: Yeah, yea, yeah.

Justin: And then the next morning he's gotta go out and hit home runs, okay?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's when he does his job. Do you understand? 11:30 on Wednesdays is when I do my job.

Travis: It's 12:15.

Justin: Yeah, I was a little late because of my root canal, I don't know if you heard, Trav.

Griffin: [chuckles] I heard and continued hearing your every word.

Justin: It held me up a little bit because he was drilling into my tooth.

Griffin: Yeah. I'm just saying—

Travis: Hopefully a dentist, right?

Griffin: Tomorrow, Friday, Juice, for me, wide open, pal. I'm saying this bad—this baseball game can play anytime we want it to.

Justin: But the only reason to reschedule, there's only one reason, is if I can't do my job at the time I'm supposed to do my job. And Griffin? It's time to go to—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, man! For—

Justin: It's time to really go to war.

Travis: It's time to make the doughnuts.

Griffin: Yeah, like—

Justin: If I didn't have to work right now, I'd do what I always do when I'm not working. I go to my kids' school and I pull 'em out. [chuckles] I could teach them more than you people ever could. If I didn't have to do my job, I'd do my other job, take my kids out of school and teach them everything they need to know.

Travis: Justin, I'm worried that you're—

Justin: My kids are in school! That means I'm doing my job right now.

Griffin: Right, right.

Travis: I'm worried that you're—the numbing has moved beyond your like lip and mouth to like your brain. Are you okay?

Griffin: To the parts of your brain that exercise restraint.

Justin: Okay, I mean... it was not the most pleasant experience.

Travis: So like any—

Griffin: Dude, yeah!

Justin: So I guess I'm feeling a little shaken up, you know—

Griffin: Okay, but I didn't—I also didn't Skype you guys into my vasectomy, right? Like I didn't—

Travis: No matter how much we asked.

Griffin: I didn't make you a part of that—

Justin: I think... I think the difference is—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: For the shows that you missed because of your vasectomy—

Griffin: Right.

Justin: This is when I—

Griffin: No, no, no—

Justin: This is when I do my job.

Griffin: Don't say that to end—that sentence—that ending doesn't end that sentence. You can't say, "Because of the time you took off your vasectomy, this is when I do my job."

Travis: We only have so many—

Justin: That was the choice that you made for you, right? You used your—

Griffin: The choice I made for me was to record the episodes—

Justin: You used your sick days on that!

Griffin: If I may, it was to record the episodes of the podcast that I would have done during vasectomy time at a different time. Do you know what I

mean? That was the choice I made. And you have made a different one today.

Justin: Okay... yeah. But I have—when I left the tooth doctor, my tooth doctor, Dr. Chomp, he said to me, "Justin—"

Griffin: Hold on! What?!

Justin: [chuckles] "Make 'em laugh today. Will you go out there and—I did my big job, didn't I, Justin?"

Travis: And then he took a big huff off of the nitros that he had.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: And then he was like, "You go out there and you do the same thing for them."

Justin: Yeah. He said, "Justin, I'm feeling—I gotta be honest with you, I'm feeling kind of low." And I was like, "That's too—I hate to hear that, Dr. Chomp." And he said, "Just promise me, like I did my job, right?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I was like, "Yeah, you did—"

Griffin: And he said, "This is when I do my job." Is what he said.

Justin: [chuckles] He said—well, no, because he has already done it at this point. He had lit his cigarette—

Griffin: "Just now is when I do my job."

Justin: So he had lit up—he had lit up in the office and he would like, "That was when I did my job." [chuckles]

Griffin: He rippin'—

Justin: Just then.

Griffin: Hold on, he's—this dentist was rippin' darts in his own office?

Justin: I don't know if it's a dentist or not, because my dentist won't do the root canal. And so I don't know if this guy's a different guy.

Griffin: Why won't—are they afraid of it?

Travis: It was cosmetic. It was a—

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, it was a—

Travis: A cosmetic root canal.

Justin: It was a cosmetic root canal!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Yeah. I was having some neon put in there.

Travis: Elective.

Griffin: Yeah. Well, you just, you had ugly roots before. I think we can all agree, you're—

Travis: Yeah, you gotta get your roots done.

Griffin: Your gnarled tooth roots.

Travis: Do you think—

Griffin: Your busted roots—

Travis: There's ever a time when like Dr. Chomp goes to like the therapist and he's like, "My tooth hurts so bad i can't laugh." And th therapist is like,

"Well, you gotta go see this amazing dentist. His name is Dr. Chomp." And he says, "But doctor, that's the problem. I am Dr. Chomp."

Justin: "I am Dr. Chomp," I mean, that's haunting, Trav—

Travis: Well, because it has to keep going up, right? Because if you're the clown Pagliacci making the dentist laugh, okay, cool. Now, who's taking care of the dentist's teeth, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Who tooth doctors the toothdoctorsman, you know?

Justin: It's really—Trav, killer point, man.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: As always.

Travis: We don't think about this, but life is about community.

Justin: I wanted to—

Travis: And finding people. It takes a village to take care of teeth.

Griffin: It takes a village—

Justin: Trav, do you want to speak on this? I see at the top of here a Groundhogs Day update/clarification. Is this a question or is this—

Travis: Well, so we talked—

Justin: A breaking news or—

Travis: We talked—

Justin: What have we got here?

Travis: A lot about Groundhogs Day a couple weeks ago, round about Groundhogs Day. We got an update from Alexis, who lives in Punxsutawney. First of all, telling us that the people of Punxsutawney, by and large, dislike Groundhogs Day. Because of the huge flux of Groundhog heads who come in—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: And just fill up and take advantage of the city's small infrastructure. But—

Justin: Would you say they take advantage or would you say they hog it? Because I'd say they—

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Oh, man.

Travis: But Alexis also shared, "There's some very weird things about the holiday that I think you'd enjoy, such as the inner circle. Phil's closest group of pals who make sure he gets the elixir of life every year so he can continue making his predictions." Also, to answer Teresa's question, because we talked about it on Shmanners too, the inner circle doesn't have to guess if Phil sees his shadow, they ask him directly in groundhog ease, which only the president of the inner circle can understand. Phil and Phyllis have also recently become parents to two little groundhogs, Sunny and Shadow.

Griffin: I don't need to know about the groundhogs family. Everything else you said kicks ass.

Travis: Well, as far as I know, only Phil and Phyllis get the elixir of life.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Which is heartbreaking.

Griffin: It's nice that they give 'em to both of 'em, and it's not just Phil or Phyllis who then have to watch as spouse after spouse—

Justin: Oh, you should listen to musical on TikTok about this exact subject, because it is heart wrenching. Listen, the—Alexis, I do have to quibble with one thing. Everyone hates in Punxsutawney, hates that everybody comes in to like see the groundhog and do all the groundhog stuff. And then you're like, "Pss-pss, come close though. It is actually so cool, and actually cooler than anybody knows about." Like, why are you trying to make it more appealing? Now I definitely, definitely want to come and see this crazy inner circle and everything.

Griffin: Yeah, you—

Travis: I don't know what the nightlife scene is in Punxsutawney, but I bet if you're in Phil's inner circle, you own that town.

Griffin: Oh, dude, you run that shit. You will never—you will never buy your own weed if you're part of the inner circle. No way.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Someone's got you.

Travis: How do you think you learn—

Justin: Someone's got you.

Travis: Groundhog ease?! You know, you gotta reach a higher plane!

Griffin: That would be cool, if this person, this elected official, I guess, did have a sort of cult of personality about them. Like, "Yeah, man, one day I ascended the mountain top. I claimed the great power within. And now I can speak to groundhogs. So—"

Travis: Ah! But you know that every time that happens, like that elected official knows that like he is still living in the, let's call it what it is, shadow of a great man that like, yeah, he's high up there and he's wielding the power, but he is the right hand to the true king.

Griffin: To the real—yeah, to the—

Travis: The groundhog. There must be a moment when that elected official goes to pull Phil out of whatever hutch they keep him in so that he doesn't—

Griffin: I don't think they yank—do they yank him?

Justin: They freeze him, I think. I think they freeze him.

Griffin: They freeze him?

Justin: I think they freeze him—

Travis: Between?

Justin: Between the days. Because they've had the same guy going for a long—

Travis: It's the elixir of life.

Griffin: That's the elixir of life.

Travis: The elixir of life keeps him eternal. But there must be a moment when he goes to pull him out where he thinks like, "This bastard. I could—oh... He's gonna... he's gonna take all the limelight for me."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But I need him! Oh, but I wish I didn't need him! I'm so jealous and I love him so much at the same time.

Griffin: That's the thing, because he can speak groundhog, he's this—the elected groundhog conduit knows that Punxsutawney Phil is a real shit head,

a real problematic fave. And he wants nothing more than to throw him right on the ground anytime he pulls him out. If only you guys—if you guys understood some of the shit that—Punxsutawney, they pull him out of that hole, and he immediately starts screaming just the worst stuff you've ever heard or imagined.

Travis: Griffin, you took three years of Groundhog ease in high school, right? Would you say you're fluent?

Griffin: I took three years in high school and I took one double credit AP class in college, which they don't usually offer those. And so, yeah, I mean, I can speak—I can... I can read it, but I can't speak it, which sucks, because they definitely can't write.

Travis: Yeah, if you found yourself—like if you woke up right now in the middle of like a groundhog complex of tunnels, do you think you could find your way out?

Griffin: I got it, yeah, yeah.

Justin: You gotta hand it to us, right? A lot of shows don't have the guts to go on a full, protracted groundhog run a full calendar month after Groundhog Day has passed. But you can't come to us here in March, we are still gonna be all about groundhogs.

Griffin: We haven't—

Travis: That's the thing. Christmas has a long lead up, but Groundhogs Day has a long tail. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Ironic.

Travis: You gotta remember it.

Justin: Maybe if we brought him up a bit more, there'd be a bit of accountability.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Maybe if we remembered him in April and we were like, "Huh, this is weird. This doesn't exactly line up with what you were talking about. Let's check in in May. What do you think, Phil?"

Travis: Or why don't we let him predict other things?

Griffin: Yes, please, God!

Travis: You know what I mean? Why are we just asking him that one time of year like is there gonna be more winter or not. Right? Like we all agree on his prognostication abilities. And yet we're not asking him about global markets. We're not asking him about... you know, anything related to like, "Hey, what does the future look like? Do we need to get on this problem?" How are we—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he's like, "Ask me about winter, boys."

Griffin: Justin is just looking more and more impressed with how much meat we've carved off this old, stinky bone!

Justin: [chuckles] In March! Let's do a question, just for old time's sake. [titters] Longtime transgender listener, first time question asker, "I'm going to be on testosterone soon and plan on doing a weekly vlog where I talk about the changes happening in my body. One I'm really looking forward to is my voice lowering. Here's my conundrum. I want a cool sentence to be able to say each week to measure how my voice changes. I thought about doing a sentence every..." Feen-feen... phoneme? Like the sound, it's like the sound.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: But they all sound lame. "So, I'm coming to the coolest men I know about. I just need a cool sentence, preferably with lots of sounds." That's from trying to be a Cool Cat in Kentucky.

Travis: Isn't that—what's the one—what's the ones that—the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog?

Griffin: Tripped over the lazy dog. Yeah, but that doesn't sound cool!

Justin: That's typewriter.

Travis: Oh, yeah, because that has every letter in it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That doesn't help—

Travis: What's one with a lot of sounds and sounds cool?

Justin: Well, you know what, Trav? Let me tell you... let me see if I can find one real quick. Hold on.

Travis: A lot of vowels would have to be in there, right? Like, "Oh, man, the beans fell on my foot. Ow!"

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: "Hey, man, the bean—hey, maan, te beeans feell on my foot." There's a lot of really good stuff to—

Travis: "Are those your beans or our beans?" Does it have to be just one sentence? Could it be a complex short story about beans and the ownership of them?

Griffin: Maybe. Are you doing—are you good, Juice?

Justin: Yeah, sorry, I was—

Travis: These good ones are phonemes.

Justin: I told you guys that those—I was—what I was doing. So I thought we would wait for—I was trying to look up a sentence that has all of the—

Travis: And leave dead air?

Justin: Phonemes in it. What?

Travis: And leave dead air?

Justin: I said that I was doing it and you guys continued to like—

Griffin: It's just usually when we set up a bit as a question, we joke about the answer instead of saying—

Travis: We don't intense research—

Griffin: [in a whiney voice] "Ooh, got it! Let me... let me get onto Encarta and—"

Justin: They talk about how they were—

Travis: Encarta! [chortles]

Justin: They said the sentences were not cool, so I was curious what the sentences were and what we had to do better than.

Travis: Well, then maybe we're coming at this from the wrong direction. Maybe we should start with—

Justin: It feels that way!

Travis: We should start with a cool sentence and then add sounds to it.

Griffin: Add sounds to it! Make it—

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Funny, in a funny way. Don't forget what Dr. Chomp—

Justin: Car time. Car time... dude. That's ah, I, oo.

Griffin: I, oo.

Travis: We can throw an, "It's car time." *It's* car time.

Justin: Eh—

Griffin: It's—

Justin: Car. Eh...

Griffin: It's car time—

Justin: Ah—

Griffin: Baby dude!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Baby dude. Little man?

Griffin: Babee dude.

Justin: Eh are I'm, little man. Little ma-an.

Travis: Baby man?

Justin: Ca-ar time man. That's it, I think.

Travis: No, I think we're getting hung up on vowel sounds.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Those are some of 'em, though. Like I know—

Travis: That is some of 'em.

Justin: It's hard 'cause—

Griffin: We're getting into some pretty—we're getting into some pretty experimental audio right now, and I'm here for it.

Justin: Man, if only we had a reference point, you know what I mean? If only we had a reference point for what we had to—

Travis: It's car time, baby man. Boot that shit up.

Griffin: Boot that babee.

Travis: Boot that nasty—boot that nasty trunk.

Griffin: Uh. Trunk-uh.

Travis: Uh. Dundo, dundo, dundo.

Griffin: Between this and our naming—two naming of the year episodes, this has been our most sort of grutable season of My Brother, My Brother and Me so far.

Travis: I think maybe just the opening line from Tool Time might work. Of like, "It's Tool Time with Tim and Al!"

Justin: It's Tool Time. It's Tool Time.

Griffin: You know what would be great, is, you could learn every part of an acapella song maybe by like the brown derbies or something like that. You could do Joel's—you could do Joel's fuckin' Downeaster Alexa, if you so choose. And you learn every part! And you start with whichever one feels more comfortable. And then you'll hit these thresholds where it's like, okay, here I go. [sings] 'Down on the down—' Oh, nope! It's time to move down a level. And then all of a sudden—

Justin: Oh, you'll just gradually harmonize—

Griffin: Now you're—

Justin: With yourself over time.

Travis: Oh, yeah, then you can layer them together later.

Griffin: You alto that. Yes! And then when you come in, I mean, I don't know how deep—how deep it can possibly go. But I've heard some pretty deep voices in my time. You could get that good baby back ribs.

Justin: Oh, Griffin.

Travis: Baby back ribs is good.

Justin: [sings] 'I want my baby back, baby back, baby back.' Because that gets like lower, and I feel like you could kind of test the bounds a little bit. Like you start here like—

Griffin: We've definitely—

Justin: [sings in a high voice] 'That Chili's baby back ribs.' And then you go like, [sings in a low voice] 'Barbecue sauce.'

Griffin: When I said—

Justin: Like you bring it down.

Griffin: [titters] When I said—

Justin: Take it how low you can go. [sings]

Griffin: When I said learn every part of an a cappella song, the first one in my mind was not the Chili's baby back ribs song.

Justin: That's the only one.

Griffin: It's the one everyone knows, I guess.

Travis: All the other ones are just kind of iterations on that theme.

Justin: I'll go by my Coney Island baby. [chuckles] That's one. It's that one and [sings] baby back babes.

Travis: I'm trying to think of like really cool like hard ass lines from movies.

Griffin: An a cappella song? Unfortunately, I—

Travis: Well, that's—

Griffin: There isn't one.

Travis: Pitch Perfect. Something from Pitch Perfect.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Is the only a cappella movie I can think of.

Justin: What's, what's like, Trav, what do you think is like a cool movie?[chuckles] Like what's a—

Travis: Like a cool movie—

Griffin: Yeah, it can just be a—it doesn't have to be singing.

Travis: It can be like a dog chasing cars, is a good one. Do you wanna see a magic trick?

Justin: But he's not like notably like low voiced, right? Like, I think you—it's like... maybe like a Ving, "That's just pride fuckin' with you." Maybe you get some... some like... something like, some Ving Rhames. Or...

Travis: Clancy Brown.

Justin: Who's like a notably low voice?

Travis: Clancy Brown has a deep—

Justin: Oh, Clancy Brown! What's some of your favorite Cortex lines from the Crash Bandicoot games?

Travis: Ooh! That's a good—that's a good question! Oh, how do you choose? [titters]

Griffin: Definitely—the one I have tattooed across my chest. "Crash Bandicoot, set that wumpa fruit down. I'm so disappointed in you."

Justin: That's the—that—

Travis: That's a good one!

Griffin: Have you seen that ink?

Travis: There's a lot of sounds in there!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Have you seen, that's—that might be it. Crash band-eh-coot, set that wum-pa froot... 'T' isn't one of 'em. Down!

Travis: I'm very disappointed in you.

Griffin: I'm very disappointed in you. [chuckles] Maybe it's a threat and you wanna—see, it's not just the timber. It's not just the pitch of the voice that is changing. The amount of sort of intense energy you're able to bring—

Justin: Implied threat.

Travis: Ah, the—oh, that's a good one from Tombstone. Johnny Ringo, "You look like somebody walked over your grave." Is a good one.

Griffin: That's—

Justin: Tombstone is always the greatest repository for like, I mean...

Travis: Smoke that—what is it? Skin that smoke wagon? Is another good one.

Justin: Skin that smoke wagon, yeah!

Griffin: Whoa.

Travis: So it's—

Griffin: I don't—

Travis: Maybe the most befuddling way to tell someone to draw their gun that you could ever do. Like I think—

Griffin: Dude, yeah! I didn't—

Justin: Skin that smoke wagon!

Griffin: I didn't put that together until you said that. If I was in a Wild West duel with the guy, with Val Kilmer, and he said that, I would be like, what? I would look around for the smoke wagon—

Travis: [chuckles] What do you mean?!

Griffin: What do you mean, dude?

Travis: What do you mean?

Justin: I got it. "Oh, yeah. [sings] Oh, bum-bum-bum."

Travis: [whispers] Chicka-chicka.

Griffin: [whispers] Chicka-chicka.

Justin: [sings] Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum.

Griffin: That's so good!

Justin: It's the funnest thing to do with your mouth, basically. And you can do it at the beginning and end of every episode. And if you ran out of things to say in the middle, you can just like bust it out and everybody would be pretty excited to get to hear it, I think.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's a good one.

Justin: Ferris Bueller's day off, always a hit.

Travis: Oh, is that what that is?

Justin: It was, Travis, actually, yeah.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: You could get the guy from that song as a guest on your first episode.

Justin: Crash Test Dummies?

Griffin: Was it Crash Test Dummies who did the—

Justin: No, I thought you were just talk—he's like a really low-voiced guy, I just thought you were talking about Crash Test Dummies out of nowhere, Griffin. That was like really random. [chuckles]

Travis: [sings in a low voice] Oh, it was the [garbles] gurr—

Justin: [garble-sings in a low voice] Burr-go.

Travis: [in a low voice] Oooh. [garbles] Der-der-mer-der-bo-bo-bo.

Justin: [in a low voice] Boh-beh. [chuckles]

Griffin: Am I losing my mind or have we done a contest on this very show to see which of the three of us can get the lowest on Baby Back Ribs?

Travis: Griffin, this is episode 752, we've done everything before.

Griffin: I have done all the jokes.

Justin: It's not about finding new things, it's about how do we revisit the questions we've already answered for ourselves, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. That's beautiful.

Justin: It's meditative.

Griffin: It's beautiful, meditative and kind of lazy.

Justin: The questions can change—the questions are the same, it's the answers that get different.

Travis: Are you saying we could have just reused the question list?

Griffin: It seems like you'd want it to be the other way around.

Justin: It would be more grammatically and like from an oratorical perspective, it would be more satisfying to put it that way. But no, I don't think it works that way. "I recently started a new job, and within my first two weeks, several people there had birthdays. They're apparently a big birthday office and always bring in doughnuts to celebrate. I personally love doughnuts, but never ate any that were brought in because I felt anxious of the new job. And nothing makes me more uncomfortable than eating in front of strangers.

Fortunately, about a week later, my birthday came around. I showed up to work expecting to be greeted doughnuts, but found they had gotten me a coffee instead. My new coworkers proudly told me they noticed I don't like doughnuts." Sorry, I missed a line here. "Noticed I didn't like doughnuts, and very thoughtfully got me a coffee instead. I was so—it was so kind of them, and they were so excited to have gotten me something that I liked that I didn't want to correct them, and I just played along. Now I'm getting more comfortable around them, and they brought in more doughnuts today.

I want to eat one, but I didn't know how to break it to them that I actually do like doughnuts. Brothers, how can I start eating doughnuts at work without seeming like I lied about being a doughnut hater?" That's from Doughnut Lovers Dilemma. And man, this one doesn't feel like any fault of your own. A lot of times people come to us and we can tell them they've already messed up. I don't—this wasn't a mess up. Like this seems like an actual—people found like an actual new problem. This is not one that I've heard about before.

Griffin: This is original.

Justin: This is original. Good job.

Travis: I think that there's a way to use this to actually be a benefit—beneficial in this situation.

Griffin: How so?

Travis: You're going to tell them, the next time there's doughnuts, you're going to say, "Can I be honest, guys? I guess it's just that I've never tried doughnuts before."

Griffin: Okay. "I've been too scared."

Travis: "So I'm nervous—"

Justin: [chuckles] Heh-ho! Okay.

Griffin: "I haven't had the right group of people to help me get through that journey. But if you guys want to do a little team building right now."

Travis: "I just don't know where to start with doughnuts." And then they're going to be so excited to share doughnuts with you, you're probably going to get more doughnuts than if you had just started eating doughnuts to begin with. Because then you can have one doughnut and be like, "I've been missing out. My whole life I could have been having this?!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then they're gonna be so excited to share doughnuts with you.

Griffin: Yeah, and then you'll get to eat like 100 doughnuts. You'll be living good. Can you... can you walk into the kitchen where the doughnuts are, and pick one up and be like, "Oh, sweet, hole buns." And then people are like, "What?" And you say, "These are hole buns, the buns with holes in them?"

Justin: "One of my favorite foods." [titters]

Griffin: "Bun holes, one of my favorite foods." And they're like, "Eh, that's doughnuts." And you say, "This is doughnuts?! I like this! I like these. I thought these were hole buns. You're saying these are doughnuts? I like those a lot, actually."

Justin: Maybe you could go to someone the next time there's doughnuts and say, "I was just curious who I paid the money to to join your doughnut club, that I'm assuming there's some sort of doughnut—I don't know why I was never invited, but I would really like to get into doughnut club. So, if I could sign up somewhere or something like that to get in on doughnut club."

Travis: Or like, "So how much is it to eat a doughnut? I haven't had any cash with me—"

Justin: Try to buy one. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Just come up like, "Hey, I finally remembered to bring money on Donut day. I have three dollars, is it—how many is it"

Travis: "Is that enough for a doughnut?"

Justin: "Is that enough for a doughnut?"

Griffin: "Do you take Apple Pay?"

Justin: They'll probably make you the boss.

Griffin: "You do Apple Pay for Doughnut?"

Travis: "I can Venmo, I set it up today."

Griffin: "I can probably Venmo."

Justin: "I have two dollars, can you cut one in half?"

Griffin: [chuckles] What do you go for? What do you go for to give the appearance of your first doughnut? Because the easy sell is you walk in and be like, "You know what? Fuck it. I'm gonna try eating a doughnut." And then you walk over. Do you go with one that has like fuckin'—

Justin: What if you—what if you like—[chuckles] maybe you try an éclair. And then you're like, "You know what? I like this so much, maybe I've been wrong about doughnuts this whole time. Like, I'm gonna give doughnuts another shot, because I like, I tried the éclair that you guys brought in and actually like this. And if doughnuts are anything like éclairs, I think I could really get into it."

Travis: Here's the problem, though, J-Man, I think if you take a bite, and you've never had doughnuts before in this kayfabe, right? And you take a bite of an éclair, and you don't act at least a little shocked that there's something inside of it that you're like, "They didn't fully cook this one! It's raw in the middle, look at it gooping out!" You gotta, I think you'd have to play it up big to be surprised that there's stuff inside it.

Griffin: Yeah. Pick up a powdered—

Travis: For them to buy the story.

Griffin: Pick up a powdered sugar doughnut, and by the end of it, be a mess. Be an absolute mess.

Travis: Start coughing a lot.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And they'll be like, "That has to be the first time that they have eaten a powdered doughnut." Because there's some tech to it that you do need to practice.

Travis: Pick up a powdered doughnut and ask them for a wet nap to clean it off so you can eat it. "This one's all dusty! This one's all dusty, I think it's really old. Can we clean this doughnut off so I could try this one?"

Griffin: "This doughnuts covered in small, colorful pills and... I don't know why I'd eat that. It seems like it would make me pretty sick."
"They're sprinkles."
"Okay..."

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: "I'm fired? Okay, yeah, I get that."

Griffin: "I am fired."

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Justin: That trucks.

Travis: "This is a doughnut factory? Okay, cool. Thank you."

Griffin: Before we go to the Money Zone, can we talk about some recent communiqué we received from our father, Clint McElroy? A recent text message.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Dad... my daddy's a gamer.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Griffin: Maybe only just Elden Ring for the past three years, or however long that game's been out, but he's a real gamer. He has all the video game consoles. And Sunday night, he texts the three of us and says, "Why does—do any of you know why this keeps happening to my Xbox?"

Travis: Can I pause real quick? Griffin, before you keep going, you have to know, context wise, we get texts like this about things related to computers and—

Griffin: A lot.

Travis: His tech setup constantly. This was intentional and sincere.

Griffin: Yeah, this wasn't, you're, this is—our dad is not pulling Punk'd on us. This is a real thing to happen.

Justin: No.

Griffin: Are you pulling it out?

Justin: I think that if I have—hold on, I'm gonna see if I can, for posterity's sake...

Griffin: Yeah, so, exact wording here, "This keeps happening to my Xbox. Any ideas?" And then the image that he did also send to us is the welcome splash screen for the PlayStation 5.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: It says at the top of the screen, "Welcome back to PlayStation 5. It does say that on the screen."

Justin: And then dad sends that image, and it says, "This keeps happening to my Xbox. Any ideas?"

Travis: And even... there's nothing clearly indicated, outside the fact that it's PlayStation on Xbox, that he could be talking about what's wrong.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Just simply the image.

Justin: The issue us not immediately apparent.

Griffin: Yeah. What advice did he think we could give about your Xbox showing PlayStation shit? Well—

Travis: How close—how close is your Xbox to your PlayStation, man? It might be bleeding over.

Griffin: Plug your phone—

Justin: Some cross contamination might be happening here.

Griffin: Plug your phone into the Xbox, we will integrate with the systems and we're gonna patch through an update that should get you taken care of.

Travis: We're gonna need to—

Griffin: I would celebrate.

Travis: Get you a little reboot guy in there, and he's gonna take care of this right now.

Griffin: Be a great prank to play on one of your Sony crony friends.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Or one of these—

Justin: Like you boot it up and it's like, "Oh my god!" And then you rush to cover the screen like, "Oh, no, no one look!"

Griffin: "I would never!" But all your Sony crony—

Justin: "I would never, you know me."

Griffin: Buddies are there. They're kicking your ass. It's too late, they're already beating your ass into the ground.

Justin: I should have followed up on this to see if dad ever figured out what the problem was, but we just kind of razzed on him and didn't ask what he meant, so...

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: I should have followed up. I should have—

Travis: What if we—

Griffin: Sorry, daddy—

Travis: What if it turns out that this was his Xbox and that's why he's so—he's reasonably perplexed by this question.

Griffin: He's scared.

Travis: And you're like, "Hah! You stupid dumb shit." And he's like, "Okay, then I don't know."

Justin: This is the same guy that restarted Elden Ring like four times because it would just mysteriously like get deleted. [titters] Or something like—

Griffin: It's, I—

Justin: Something that's untenable.

Griffin: I understand struggling with tech stuff as you get older. It's already happening to me. There's some tech stuff that I'm like, I don't—

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: I don't get it. But it is 2025, I feel like everyone should have gotten the net about the input function of the TV remote control. We have so many buttons on there that give you to TV channels, TV channels, TV channels. No one uses fuckin' any of those anymore. They use one button that makes it switch between all their other shit that they—so input button, that's gotta be on the freshmen level curriculum, I feel like.

Justin: Yeah, I absolutely agree, Griffin.

Griffin: The only—

Travis: I hope he figured it out.

Griffin: The only button to push.

Justin: Hey, let's... let's take a brief break. And then when we come back, we will do more of this. How does that sound?

Travis: More of the same!

Justin: But different.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: And more.

Justin: And more.

[theme music plays]

Travis: You know, everybody, I'm ready to admit, it has been hard for me. And I'm just ready to admit it. I need glasses or some sort of corrective lenses to see.

Justin: Wow, Trav?

Travis: I know.

Justin: So bold, dude?

Travis: Yeah. People see me in glasses and they think, "What a cool, stylish, fashionable person." But it's not! Just—

Justin: Griffin walked out. Griffin walked out of the recording—

Travis: He walked out when I said it.

Justin: Because he's so embarrassed.

Travis: Yeah, when I said I had to wear glasses. And he was like, "My brother? A nerd?" And he walked out. But I've been able to hide it all these years, because when people see me wearing glasses, they're like, "So stylish, so fabulous. It must be that he is a stylish or fashionable person, and not just someone whose eyes are shaped wrong, and his cones and rods are all messed up."

But that's what it is. But thanks to Warby Parker, I can fix my vision and look good doing it. Because Warby Parker designs every frame in house, and their collection includes silhouettes, colors and fits, made to suit every face, even my big old noggin. And you can shop them online, at home, in stores, at over 250 retail locations across the US and Canada. Warby Parker glasses start at just \$95 and include prescription lenses with anti-reflective, scratch-resistant coating.

Griffin: We're talking about Warby Parker?!

Travis: We are!

Griffin: I fuckin' love these guys. Wearing 'em now.

Justin: These glasses look so slick, it almost makes me wish I didn't have perfect vision.

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay, it's not perfect, just different vision.

Griffin: Yeah. Me and Travis didn't choose to have different vision and then record the podcast. Do you know what I mean?

Justin: So this is a choice? You think I had a wisdom root canal for fun?

Griffin: Again? No.

Travis: And then immediately recorded a podcast after, yes—

Griffin: That's the part—

Travis: That's where the choice part—

Griffin: That's the part where the choice was made.

Justin: You guys there—the thing is, one thing you're missing though, this is when I do my job.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: Okay? This—

Griffin: So, can—

Justin: I'm at work right now, okay?

Griffin: Do you want me—yeah, get started with Warby Parker's virtual trial and you can try on glasses and sun glasses, seeing the realistic color, texture and size of each style, right from home, right now! Or head over to warbyparker.com/mybrother right now to take the home try on quiz and pick five pairs of frames to try on at home for free. That's warbyparker.com/mybrother. [Warbyparker.com/mybrother](https://warbyparker.com/mybrother).

Travis: Justin, tell me about stamps! I'm old enough, I can handle it.

Justin: You're ready for the truth? Well, I'm sorry, Travis, but the mailman has not been taking the envelopes where I ask him to because he likes me so much. It's because I've been putting stamps on them.

Travis: What?!

Justin: I've been cheating the system. I've been slipping him these little pieces of paper, and in exchange, he will take the letter wherever I want to go. But—

Travis: It's a life hack, I see.

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: I know, but I found a way to make it even easier. I used to have to go to the post office or big bear to buy these things. But now? I'm getting them at stamps.com. They handle all my shipping needs for me, Trav. They got USPS, UPS and big savings, man, like up to 88% off. How's that grab you?

Travis: So, I don't have to go to the Post Malone office just to get stamps anymore?

Justin: No. No, you don't. You can just get 'em on the internet. But they'll send you a scale. Post Malone office? [chuckles] That's—

Travis: Oh, I'm sorry, I say—

Griffin: Where are you going—

Travis: I say his full—

Justin: What are you talking about?

Travis: Sorry, I say his full name.

Justin: That's a singer!

Travis: I don't—I don't know him personally, so just calling him by his first name feels weird. So I like to use his full name, Post Malone Office.

Griffin: What do you guys think Post Malone's office looks like? How do you think he's decorated it?

Justin: I'll tell you, if they're anything like his Oreos, they're fuck—it's a fuckin' delicious—

Griffin: A fuckin'—well done—hey, Mr. Malone—

Justin: Well done, Post—

Griffin: Well done!

Justin: Well done on your Oreos, Posty. We all had 'em backstage.

Travis: I didn't, I was sick, but—

Justin: Travis was sick, but I've had 'em and they're good. You did a good job.

Griffin: I was sick too and the Post Malone Oreos made my health better.

Justin: They didn't pay for this. They didn't pay for this.

Travis: No.

Justin: Do you want to ship Post Malone Oreos? You can. You can ship whatever you want. You can do it for up to 88% off. Sign up stamps.com and use the 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, use the code MyBrother.

[break]

Speaker 1: In two weeks. [with a reverb sound effect] Two weeks.

Speaker 2: Put on your Gecko shorts and grab your pods, we're celebrating Max Fun Drive! '90s style.

Speaker 1: Support the shows you love.

Speaker 2: And get some rad, retro-themed gifts.

Speaker 1: Meet up day, bonus content and more.

Speaker 2: So don't miss it. On the world wide web, March 17th.

[break]

Narrator: Somewhere in an alternate universe, where Hollywood is smarter...

Presenter 1: And the Emmy nominees for Outstanding Comedy Series are...

Presenter 2: Jetpackula.

Presenter 1: Airport Marriott.

Presenter 2: Thrapple.

Presenter 1: Dear America, We've Seen You Naked.

Presenter 2: And Allah in the Family.

Narrator: In our stupid universe, you can't see any of these shows. But you can listen to them on Dead Pilots Society. The podcast that brings you hilarious comedy pilots that the networks and streamers bought, but never made. Journey to the ultimate television universe of Dead Pilots Society on maximumfun.org.

[break]

Griffin: You really put some stank on there.

Travis: Yeah, I like that.

Justin: [gently mouths the Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [mouths the Munch Squad riff at an incrementally louder volume]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: [mouths the Munch Squad riff at regular volume and sings] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [sings] Doo-doo-doo-doo. I want to Munch. Squad. [sings] Doo-do-do-do-do-doo-doo-doo.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast. That's how The Beatles sound.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Oh, okay. I was about to say, the Munch Squad intro is I think a good thing to do to like test out lower, newer voices. It has a lot of really cool stuff that you—

Travis: It covers eight octaves.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: I... this is a different kind of... this is a different kind of one than what we would normally do. Because normally we're profiling sort of the movers and shakers in the fast-food industry.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And today, I just... I learned something a few weeks ago and... it's been going around in my head a lot ever since I saw this like, this factoid being reported by my friend, Fish Boy on TikTok.

Travis: Okay, hit us with it, big munch.

Justin: You ready?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Ringo Starr has never had pizza.

Travis: Wait... according to who?

Justin: Ringo Starr, talking to Jimmy Kimmel said, "With pizza, you don't know what you're putting in it half the time." He said he's never had a pizza!

Griffin: Those two thoughts existing in the same head is... "I've never had pizza." And also, "You can't trust what people are putting in pizza these days." Those two thoughts seem insane to be held together in a marriage, in a union.

Justin: This is where I feel like I want to be, I, this is... he has food sensitivities, so I understand that. And I feel like if any podcast has been at the forefront of food insensitivity acceptance, it is My Brother, My Brother and Me. This is an absolute safe place for people with food intolerance.

Griffin: Yeah. Did you see how we didn't do the tummy buddy time motto? Yeah, that was for that exact reason.

Justin: This is a perfectly safe space. But so he says it's about onions and garlic and other spices that he's allergic to. And my man, just make one without that!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: It is pizza, baby! Just make one!

Griffin: Yeah. It's a circle with sauce and cheese, and you don't even honestly need those.

Justin: It don't need to be circle, it don't gotta got sauce or cheese! It's the loosest conceptual arrangement of food!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do you guys ever find yourself like saying some—like an opinion or something without thinking about it? And it's a real bold and brassy thing where you're like, "Oh, I don't care for mustard. Like, I hate mustard. Right? And then people are like, "Oh, man, really? Why?" And then you think about it after you said it and you're like, "I mean, I don't hate mustard, I just don't pick it." But now you're like locked in and you've said it. Is it possible that Ringo Starr was thinking about like he couldn't remember the last time he had pizza.

Griffin: And it came out wrong.

Justin: Hey, let me help.

Griffin: Oh, okay, good.

[excerpt plays]

Ringo Starr: I'd do it in a second! The fans'll dig it. They've waited long enough. I've just got to get the other lads to agree. I think I can convince them. I'll say, "Lads! The time has come to eat our pizza, crust first.

David Jones: Good idea, Ringo.

Micky Dolenz: Cool!

Announcer: Stuffed Crust Pizza from Pizza Hut. With cheese baked into a—

Travis: Eh, hm!

Announcer: You'll want to eat it crust first! Now with free garlic dipping sauce.

Ringo: Wrong lads!

Announcer: Large, just 99—

[excerpt ends]

Justin: So, yeah, that's a pretty—

Griffin: That's the fucking wildest thing I've ever seen!

Travis: But he doesn't take a bite!

Griffin: He doesn't take a bite of pizza, that's a good point.

Justin: He doesn't take a bite! That's 100% true. But like, Ringo, what are you selling me, dude?!

Griffin: What are you selling me?

Travis: That was—

Griffin: You can't—the whole thing of your commercial can't be, "Gotta get the louts back together." When two of the lads are dead! You're not going to bring—

Travis: Yeah, that's wild to begin with.

Justin: At this point, I think just one lad would be dead. But you are right that he was quite dead, he died—

Griffin: You're still not—

Justin: A month to the day after I was born, so I know he was dead.

Travis: All I'm saying is, if you review the footage, he never takes a bite of the pizza.

Griffin: He didn't eat any of the pizza.

Justin: Yeah, Trav, I 100% agree with that. And I'm not trying to be like, gotcha, you did take a bite. Because this is what [Fish Boy??] said in his TikTok too, which is very true. It is him endorsing pizza.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: As a concept. He is saying like, "Pizza's got my seal of approval, My, I love pizza." And now he's telling Jimmy like, "You don't know with pizza, it's really messed up. I won't eat it." Just—

Griffin: What a nasty impression —

Justin: What is it—

Griffin: What a nasty impression that was.

Justin: What a nasty thing to not eat pizza, Griffin!

Travis: A spiteful impression I would say, Justin.

Griffin: A spiteful, nasty-spirited impression.

Justin: Can I say though, it's normally much more open-hearted, but I, the—there's the numbness.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Did he—

Justin: It's I've lost some of the lip control.

Travis: Did he say that he was allergic to things in the pizza? Or just say, "You don't know what's in there."

Justin: The reporting from People Magazine is—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I've never had a pizza or a curry. I'm allergic to several items. With pizza, you don't know what you're putting in it half the time, or the curry. So I'm pretty strict with myself, because it makes me ill immediately."

Griffin: I fully understand that. I fully, fully get that. But curry is, again, a pretty loose food zone that you could—

Justin: Yeah, man!

Travis: But I could believe that. Because the thing is in a pizza that I try to wrap my mind around, the number of times that I have been places or events or hanging out with people, and by no action of my own there has suddenly been pizza there. And I'm eating it without really thinking about it. And he was a young man who must have done so many, as I believe they're called, gigs, at different places in like the '60s touring—

Griffin: People must have been throwing, *throwing* pizzas at The Beatles!

Travis: This is what I'm saying! There must have been so much incidental pizza in The Beatles experience that you're telling me at every turn he was consciously avoiding it, even from a young age, to be like, "I don't know what shit's in there."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And listen, he did a lot of drugs with all the other guys, right? The guys did *a lot* of drugs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And we're really certain that at no point *anybody* was like, "Guys, it's 3:00AM, right? I just got this new thing from the States. They're calling it pee-tzaa." [chuckles]

Travis: Wait, Mick Jagger's there?!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [spoofing a British accent] Yeah, me and Keith love it. And you boys have got to try it too.

Travis: Holy shit!

Griffin: [in a calm, monotone voice] Hello, it's me, David Bowie. Have you heard of the American invention of pizza? It's quite—

Travis: [yells] And I'm Andy Warhol!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [yells] Aflac!

Travis: [yells] I love this shit! You gotta eat it!

Griffin: [in a calm voice] Well, it's quite luxurious, isn't it?

Justin: And listen, I know we got people from all over the spectrum of neurodivergence who listen to and create these programs. And I want to

say, I know there's other reasons people avoid food. He didn't fuckin' say that. He said he's allergic. So I'm saying make a pizza without the things that you are allergic to, Ringo! Please, for the love of God.

Griffin: What—

Justin: At this point, the man's in his 80s, it's just to keep the streak alive!

Griffin: If he—

Justin: And I'm saying, get one in there, Ringo!

Griffin: If he puts down a piece of bread and puts down some sort of alumen-free red sauce on there and like a slice of cheddar. And then he puts that in the toaster oven for a minute and a half on blast, and then takes that out and eats it. Can we say, "Ringo, you've done it, you've done it. Now you've had pizza, you've done it."

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: That's all it is.

Travis: But—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Can I... can I make my stance clear here, boys?

Justin: Yeah, please, yeah.

Travis: If he had said in this interview, "The first time I tried pizza, I had a severe allergic reaction to it and I've never eaten it again." I would say, 100%.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I believe that that's true.

Justin: Fool me once, pizza, shame on—

Travis: Right.

Justin: You. But—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But the idea that without ever trying pizza, he's just always, always had the awareness of like, "I will never."

Justin: I will never—I will not ever eat pizza. Ever!

Travis: That's—

Justin: And it's also, I think, an interesting—if we can send jokes out of the room for a second. I think it's also an interesting example of the roll that privilege can play in our lives, right?

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Because if I had tried to live a pizza-less existence, I wouldn't have made it through the past week without it causing severe strife in my friends and family.

Griffin: [chuckles] How—

Justin: Like it would have been a major issue like almost immediately.

Griffin: How challenging would life be if you were like Ringo Starr? And for Ringo Starr, every pizza is a tombstone pizza.

Travis and Justin: [chortles]

Justin: I'm not gonna...

Griffin: That's a tough road.

Justin: Let's read another question, because like legitimately, we're not gonna say anything funnier than that.

Travis: No. We might have never said anything funnier than that.

Justin: "My D&D group wants to start hanging out outside of campaign sessions, which is great! Problem is they want to do an escape room. All of them are reportedly very good at the activity. Our DM even used to work in an escape room. Brothers, I am terrible at escape rooms. So I guess the thing I'm asking for is escape room hacks to impress my friends. Failing that, how do I keep my cool and have a good time?" That's from No Sherlock in New Hampshire. Oh, boy.

Travis: You know what's not appreciated in escape room group dynamics?

Griffin: What's that, Travis?

Travis: The hype person.

Justin: Mm-hm!

Travis: The person who's—

Justin: There's a lot of—yes, that's a great—

Griffin: A lot of moral management that does—

Travis: Well, because everyone—you do an escape room, everybody wants to be the hero. Everybody wants to put the pieces together, everybody wants to do the final twist of the thing. Having somebody who's like "you're solving the shit out of that puzzle" there would be amazing.

Griffin: I could never do what you—no, I wouldn't like that. I need someone to get in there when I get too cranky. Because I'm stumped, but I don't want a hint—

Travis: Oh, somebody who brought GORP to keep your blood sugar levels up, maybe?

Griffin: Snacks would be good, yeah. I'll never say no to that.

Justin: I have a—I have kind of a patented escape room assistant, right? And I—and I would—and I would highly recommend it. And I do not break the bank, intellectually speaking. And I... I'm in circles of people that run circles around—

Travis: Wait, sorry, what?! Hey! Hey, don't—

Justin: No, no, no, it's—

Griffin: What you talkin' about?!

Justin: We all have our strengths, right? I can bake and do what's—like whatever. You know, like—

Travis: And like I'm physically strong and incredibly intelligent.

Justin: And charismatic!

Travis: And talented.

Justin: A go-getter.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Don't forget.

Griffin: And I—and I—

Travis: And good—and good at escape rooms.

Griffin: And I'm...

Travis: You're dependable.

Justin: Know when to keep quiet. That's a huge—that's a huge skill. But anyway, the—at the escape rooms, I'm not a smart person, so I kind of hang back, right? And I'm watching—

Griffin: Not a very nice person either.

Justin: I was kidding about that, Griffin. You're like super smart.

Griffin: It's too late.

Justin: Like, you guys both do a good job. I hang back. I'm like kind of a sniper. And I look like I'm like thinking about all of it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then I wait for my moment when something maybe occurs to me, and I don't say anything, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then eventually I'll do like one thing and it'll seem like—

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: You know what I mean? Like I've just been waiting for—but the thing is, I'm actually not computing anything that is happening. I'm just kind of like looking at where the action is. And just kind of like being happy that people can figure it out, because it's—I can't keep up with it.

Travis: That's very good. You could also, if you end up finding a black light, a little black light flashlight, being the black light person?

Justin: Oh, that's a good one. Or write down person.

Travis: Or write down person, solid.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hold the flashlight person. , Be the person who goes, "Did we ever figure out what's going on with this key?" Right? Just like keep reminding everybody all the things you haven't figured out yet.

Justin: I will tell you guys, honestly, what I spend a lot of time in escape rooms doing is I'm a big organize the props that were already used.

Griffin: I love a good organizing.

Justin: And I like, like to put 'em into like used and not used piles, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like to sort the piles. I could do that. I like just sorting piles, you know, I can remember which things we've used and not used.

Griffin: A lot of... a lot of places won't tell you this and—but they don't like screen for it or anything. But you can bring some props with you that if it turns out is part of the thing—like bring a powerful magnet, bring a black light.

Travis: A bolt cutters.

Griffin: Bring some bolt cutters. Bring an airsoft gun. Bring a compass. Bring—

Travis: A big drill.

Justin: A drill, like a knife to get out of a place.

Travis: Yeah, your own door.

Justin: Bring C4 charges to blow the door. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Bring five cans of different sizes. And a container of water.

Justin: One thing that I might try is you stand near the door, there's usually a light switch there, right? And a lot of times in these escape rooms, the lights go off and a secret is revealed. So what I would do is wait 'til halfway through the escape room when no one is thinking about it and be like, "Hey, guys, what about this?" And then you flip the lights off, right? If there's a secret revealed, brilliant. Turn the lights back on, everybody's like, "Oh my God. How'd you do it?" If there's no secret, you just open the door and leave. [titters]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: You're gone, right? The lights are off and you disappear. Because you can't—you're not gonna—

Travis: Now there's a new mystery!

Justin: Yeah, you're embarrassed, you don't want to stay there, so you leave!

Griffin: Yeah. You could also try to convince them that they've actually been in an escape room for a really long time. Longer than they think they have been since they walked in. So you could say like, you know, you're all trying to stop the bomb from Dr. Blood Knife. And you can be like—everyone's stumped and you'd be like, "Guys, I think that we've been in Dr. Blood Knife's hideout since we entered this building. And the person working outside who told us not to smash all the furniture and smash all the lights and absolutely tear all the wires out of the wall, was one of Dr. Blood Knife's minions, or perhaps Dr. Blood Knife himself. So we need to start demolishing this place, because that was a faint, that was a—that was a lie. And it's time for us to get serious about—"

Travis: I think the most heartbreaking part of Dr. Blood Knife's backstory is how his intention was to like do good and like work with like Doctors Without Borders and stuff. But then anytime anything—when evil would happen, they'd be like, "Well, it must be Blood Knife." His name's Blood Knife. And he's like, "That's just my name. That's just a family name."

Griffin: That's what made him so nasty and made him set up the—

Travis: Yeah, eventually, he had to be evil because of that.

Griffin: And you're in an experiment! You are in an experiment of one of—one of Dr. Blood Knife's experiments by participating—

Travis: And the way to escape is kindness. To have some faith in humanity and believe that block—Dr. Blood Knife isn't responsible for it. And that's the real escape, is through Jesus Christ.

Justin: Wow! Did not—

Travis: And it's forgiveness.

Justin: Expect that turn. Wow, Trav!

Griffin: Get 'em saved. Slip the cashier a twenski and be like, "Can I get some Nintendo Power Help Line on—"

Travis: Nice. Being the—

Griffin: "The escape from Dr. Blood Knife."

Travis: The person who breaks the hint kind of barrier. Because everybody wants to ask for all the hints all the time, but they don't want to be the person who says, "Should we get a hint?" And being the person who is both strong enough but willing to appear weak enough to say like, "I think we should get a hint."

Justin: I've never, Travis, I—that's so funny you say that. I have never heard someone ask for a hint where the tone is anything other than like, I'm kind of getting a vibe in the room.

Griffin: Yeah. [titters]

Justin: Like we're starting to kind of maybe wanna get a hint. Like no one's ever been like, "I don't know!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "I don't know!"

Travis: "I'm way behind! I got nothin'."

Justin: "I'm lost!"

Travis: "I got nothing figured out!"

Griffin: You can—

Travis: "I'm getting tired and cranky!"

Griffin: You can establish yourself as like the hint controller. And you stand in front of the hint button and you say, "If you want a hint, you're going to have to fight me for it." And then people are really going to feel like—

Justin: The bully. The bully of—

Griffin: The bully the group. And then that way, people are gonna feel like—

Justin: "We're so close!"

Griffin: "We really need to grind on this. We can't—I don't want to have to fight our friend in order to get the hint."

Travis: But what they don't know is you're just leaning back against the button every 10 seconds, and then you're whispering out whatever you hear.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? And you're like, "I think it's this, guys." And they're like, "Whoa! Derek knows everything about this thing!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But you got an inside man.

Justin: Hey, thank you so much—

Travis: You're welcome.

Justin: For listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. And thank you to Justin McElroy today for—

Griffin: His heroism.

Justin: Doing his job even though he didn't feel like it and he didn't want to do it. His brothers insisted, and he did it anyway, because that's how—that's what a professional does. That's what a pro does. You're welcome, doc.

Griffin: I'm proud of you.

Travis: Thank you again to everybody who came out to Tampa and Jacksonville. We've got more tour dates announced for the Twenty Thunder Drive Tour. We're coming to Virginia, North Carolina, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio.

Griffin: That's real—that's real America.

Travis: Yeah. And, well, Ohio is where I live, so I just, I have a lot of reference for it, which is nice. All The Adventure Zone shows are going to be different versions of TAZ Versus. We just did one down in Tampa and it was an absolute blast. I mean, I was sick, but I still did a great job, because I'm a hero too.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: That's right.

Griffin: A lot of bravery.

Travis: Tickets are on sale now for those shows. More info and ticket links are available at bit.ly/mcelroytours. Go get those tickets now. And go ahead,

we've only got like I think two or three packages left for champions grove. If you haven't gotten those yet, go to championsgrove.com and get those now!

Griffin: Got some new merch. We got a Vasecticon hoodie designed by Evan Palmer that I absolutely adore. A hot dog—[chuckles] 'hot dog man drains you dry, if you know, you know' pin, from the most recent run of Monster Factory. A bunch of stuff over at mcelroymerch.com.

Justin: You'll like it.

Griffin: 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to Harmony House, which helps to end homelessness in the Huntington area through permanent housing and supportive service programs.

Travis: I also want to say something I'm incredibly excited about. We're partnering with Kin Ship Goods.

Griffin: Hell yeah!

Travis: To release a shirt designed by Pepper Raccoon. It's @PepperRaccoon on Instagram. They are a West Virginia based company who I love very much and we have many of their... many of their things, clothes and stickers and stuff like that. And I had the idea for a shirt celebrating the birth of Huntington. Because Huntington, West Virginia was born when Collis P. Huntington was given a traffic ticket, or a parking ticket for parking his horse in Holderby's Landing. And they said, "You gotta pay the traffic ticket." And he said, "I'm about to like build a whole thing here." And they said, "You still have to pay the ticket, man." And he said, "Fuck you. I'm building my own town." So the shirt is, it says "Born of spite."

Griffin: It's so sick.

Travis: It's a sick-ass shirt.

Griffin: It's such a sick shirt.

Travis: You can go to kinshipgoods.com/mcelroy, and go check it out and get it now. Thank you to Kin Ship Goods for partnering with us and all the amazing stuff that they make that I wear all the time.

Griffin: Thanks to Montaigne also for the use of our theme song, my life is better with you. It's a slammer. It's a fucking ripper.

Travis: And don't forget, if you have a faster than fear you would like us to read at the end of the episode, email that in with 'faster than fear' in the subject line. Justin—

Justin: Do we have one right now, Travis?

Travis: We do! Will you read it, please?

Justin: Yeah, Travis, I'd be happy to, man. This year I'm gonna stop being afraid of a train chasing me through the woods, like in Wrongfully Accused. A fear that has lauded me for 25 years. [chuckles]

Griffin: Amazing. So many wonderful things in this world—

Justin: My name is 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 "My Life Is Better With You" by Montaigne plays]

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