

MBMBaM 758: Ostrichhood

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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 to My Brother, My Brother and Me! An advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: Oh, wuddup, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis 'Vroom-Vroom' McElroy.

Griffin: And hey, it's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30 guy, Griffin 'Built Ford Tough' McElroy!

Travis: I want to ask you guys a question.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: It kept me up last night—a little bit, not a super long time. Now, I want an honest answer. Clear your minds. And this is not should—

Griffin: That's not possible. Travis, if that was possible—

Travis: I know, yeah.

Griffin: The thing you just said to do, if I could do it—

Travis: Yeah, that's fair.

Griffin: Do you realize how much better my life would be?

Travis: And I want to make this clear, this is not should or would. But could... can human beings ride ostriches?

[pause]

Griffin: This kept you up?

Travis: Yeah, because I realized my only point of reference for it was like I've seen it like in movies or cartoons or something, I think?

Justin: Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, I mean, I think is a gentleman—

Travis: That's a cowboy who rides an ostrich.

Justin: A cowboy rides an ostrich. But like yeah, I—

Travis: Which I assumed, by the way, I mean—

Griffin: But that's not—

Travis: It's not seasonal, but that cowboy just doesn't know where to get a horse.

Griffin: That's not—

Justin: Can I clarify if ostriches are real?

Griffin: They are, yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Big. Big, big, big, big, big.

Justin: I get confused with them and Pegasi.

Griffin: And emu. Emus They're the same. Those are the same animal. And they should be reclassified as such.

Justin: Dodos?

Travis: They're gone.

Justin: They're gone.

Griffin: Not as big. So, this kept you up?

Travis: Yeah! Because like when I picture an ostrich and I think about the whole... design—

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: It doesn't seem like a human being should be able to ride it.

Griffin: I guess—that's not my—I guess that's—I guess my issue is like when one of my thoughts keep me up, they're usually more me centric, and less focused on the load-bearing capacity of flightless birds.

Travis: Yes. Oh, I have those too, Griffin, but I'm—

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Travis: Like, those are normal human thoughts.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then I have the ADHD brain thoughts.

Griffin: Yeah! Maybe that's it.

Travis: That's like sometimes—yeah, sometimes my brain's like, "How did fountains work before electricity?" And that'll keep me up for like four days.

Griffin: Now, that—can I say something, Trav? That's a good one.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: The ostrich thing is like.... easily Googleable. The analog fountain thing is... medium Googleable.

Travis: Well, I'm 41 years old, Griffin, and I've processed through a lot of the good ones already.

Griffin: Oh, I see.

Travis: Now I'm down to the snicklefritz of, is it possible for ostrich to support the weight of a grown human being?

Griffin: A kid! A kid?

Travis: A kid, sure.

Griffin: But no one's gonna let their kid in there with that giant bird of prey?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: No way! It's a good question, though, Trav.

Travis: I looked it up.

Justin: Oh, what's the answer?

Travis: Apparently, one, this isn't gonna surprise you guys, a lot of ethical concerns about it.

Griffin: What do you mean?

Travis: That ostriches, like I said, are not—unlike a horse, which has... everything about it seems built to convey.

Justin: Yeah. I mean, we... we've... well, to be more accurate, Trav, we've *built* horses. [titters]

Travis: Yeah, built Ford—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Built horse tough, but—

Justin: Built horse tough!

Travis: But ostriches are not built for that. But apparently, up to—and this is the most specific weight I've ever heard, a hundred and—

Griffin: It's gonna be so much—so much lower than I want it to be.

Travis: 163 pounds.

Griffin: Okay, actually... that may be a—it would be tough. It would—there would be some lifestyle changes that I, frankly, am not like wild about.

Justin: Yeah, I don't want to be out with the girls and have to think like, do I have that next piece of cheesecake, or do I want to ride an ostrich?
[chuckles]

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You know what I mean? I don't need to be—

Travis: Especially if you're right on the border, because this isn't—163...

Justin: That's so specific.

Travis: Like that means they put 164 pound person on there and the ostrich crumpled.

Griffin: Oh, Travis, and even that—

Justin: Ostrich is like, "Fuck you. Off. Off, off, off. No, no, no, no."

Travis: "No! No, no, no, no."

Justin: "No, no, no, off, off, off."

Griffin: It's really—

Justin: "That's too much. That's too much. I'm sorry."

Travis: "Are you wearing like a heavy coat or something? This isn't—" [titters]

Griffin: [titters] It's funny—

Justin: "Take your keys out of your fuckin' pocket, man!"

Griffin: It's funny that—

Justin: "You're killing me!"

Griffin: It's funny that you think that they started with 164, and didn't have to walk it down from like 215. And then they—they flew a lot of flags half-mast in ostrich land during that.

Justin: I think they just John Proctored it from 30 up. You know what I mean? Like they just kept adding one pound people.

Travis: More weight.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah, more weight.

Griffin: I like—

Travis: I do like—ah, that—okay, well, let's make a boyhood style movie.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: Where it's a—they start with like a 30 pound kid. And every day, as the child grows, they put it back on the ostrich.

Griffin: Back on the ostrich, yeah.

Travis: And they're like, "Are we cool with this one?" Weigh the kid. "Okay, great."

Justin: There's that—I do like that one... there's like a four minute long sequence in Curious Tale of Benjamin Button, where he is de-aged enough where he has the physical capability to ride the ostrich, and the mental capability to ride the ostrich, right? They line up. And there's like a week where it's—

Griffin: Great week.

Justin: Just him riding the ostrich.

Griffin: Kick ass week.

Justin: It's like four minutes of the movie is like, finally, those two—I stopped everything else I was doing in the story. [titters] To just like—

Travis: And that happens at exactly the midway point of the movie.

Justin: That's where you can go get—it says intermission at the bottom of the screen.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] You can go get snacks if you want.

Griffin: Let's—

Travis: As you just—you just see the shot of just him on the ostrich. And it's a wide shot. He's far back there—

Justin: [titters] He's having the time of his life.

Travis: Just going back and forth.

Griffin: I think we're overdue for a glow up on these big, flightless birds, of the ostrich. I think that we don't think about these guys a lot because... they're played. But also, because they are so gross and weird-looking. Like their neck and head looks like a worm, and the way it goes into their body is like fucked up. Like it goes—your neck goes into your side? Cool, ostrich, that's awesome.

Travis: Why do their feathers stop?

Griffin: Why do the feathers stop there? A lot of great questions. Now, if we could... give 'em a cute little beak and cover him in bright yellow feathers, given him two big—

Travis: Ooh, like—oh, I—

Griffin: Two big bright wings. Long legs. A cuter sound that he makes.

Travis: Mm-hmm!

Griffin: And we have chocobos! And we have them be... you know, boutique. These are—this is a boutique mount. All of a sudden, I think ostriches are gonna be back on top. Still gonna have the ethical concerns of riding on them. Which, if you didn't know, every Final Fantasy character is under 163 pounds. [titters]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: That's just the way it works. Fucked up that that's part of it, but...

Justin: This actually dovetails into something nicely that I—

Travis: Okay?

Justin: Current events that I'd love to take your guys' temperature on.

Griffin: We're all low now. We all like this lowlife—

Justin: Do you know that—you know we brought—now this—this is the conversation. Do you know we brought back dire wolves?

Griffin: I saw—

Travis: Yeah, Joe Manganiello is pumped about it! [chuckles]

Justin: Joe Manganiello is pumped. A lot of people are pumped about this. Let's talk—because I saw George R.R. Martin, who, if somebody's gonna know if 'em dire wolves—be this guy, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I saw—I saw a picture of him. And the story is, we brought back dire wolves! [titters] Which I, I will admit, in my initial ignorance, thought that they—and this is why I had to ask about the ostrich, guys, because I have completely lost track of which—

Griffin: For sure.

Justin: Of these guys we made up and which ones we didn't.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Absolutely.

Griffin: It's a full-time—

Justin: Dire wolves are—

Griffin: It's a full-time job! Keeping up with that—

Justin: So apparently, these guys were real. They were roaming around—

Travis: Man—

Justin: And this...

Travis: Sorry, but just on that, Justin, my search bar today, it's Unicorn Day. And it pops up and it says, "Unicorn Day. Were they real?" And I didn't know that was a scientific question. Anyways, go on, Justin. Bringing back dire wolves.

Justin: Okay, thank you. So... we did it. So the headline is, "US company resurrects the extinct dire wolf, or some version of it." So, here's the thing that's fucked, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This company did not bring back these incredible, real, ice age predators that roamed across the...

Griffin: The tundra?

Justin: The tundra! Right? It—they—what they did was, this is—okay, this is a—the company is calling them dire wolves, and is referring to this as the world's first successfully de-extincted animal.

Travis: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: Outside experts are more cautious!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Describing the pups as genetically modified gray wolves!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Because the process used to create them involved editing the genes of the species to add dire wolf traits.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, what they say is—what they say is—in the thing is that we—this is a quote. "We define de-extinction success as bringing back the functional ecological traits that made dire wolves unique contributors to their ecosystem, and our dire wolves are an example of that." So, here's what they are saying.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We found wolves and we glued some shit to 'em.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That makes them a lot like dire wolves.

Travis: We painted them.

Justin: And we're calling this a W in our book. And George RR Martin was like, "Fucking good enough for me." And Joe Manganiello's like, "Sounds good." So I'd love to get a counterpoint of, fucking don't do this! Are you crazy?!

Griffin: Yeah... yeah.

Justin: Wolves are killer, right? We love wolves!

Travis: *Love* wolves.

Justin: Wolves are so—

Griffin: *Love* wolves.

Justin: Do you know how safe wolves are for us, as a people? Wolves are so safe that they don't keep statistics on wolf attacks. That's because they just...

Griffin: They're chill.

Justin: Don't.

Griffin: Like, they get it

Justin: Why are we gluing things on to them to make them worse?!

Griffin: Well, because we won, wolves. Like we beat wolves. We figured out everything about wolves, and they're not a threat to us anymore. And we—

Justin: So we're nastying them up?

Griffin: Getting it spicy, yeah.

Travis: Well, this is—

Justin: We're giving them a little mohawk, you know?

Travis: This is—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: We're giving them like big—it says—in the story, it says that these are... bigger than gray wolves would be at this time.

Travis: This is—

Justin: Because of the... stuff they did to 'em? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Sure.

Justin: "Man! I—"

Travis: Justin?

Justin: "Just wanna make really big wolves!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: This is what I've learned—

Justin: I don't know! I feel like these are on a rough enough trajectory that we don't need to make—

Griffin: Huge wolves.

Justin: Super big wolves!

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Right?!

Travis: This is what I learned from the documentary Jurassic World.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: When they were like, "We brought back dinosaurs. But we get that that's not enough. So we fucked with the genetics of this dinosaur to make it better at eating people and hunting you and killing people." And I look at them and I go, you know, what would be better? Smaller dinosaurs that I could keep in my office, in like a fish tank, and they're perfectly happy. So Justin, to your point, bigger wolf? No, no, no. Give me... small wolf. And now I'm saying it, that's a dog.

Justin: That's a dog.

Griffin: That's a dog.

Travis: That's a dog!

Griffin: We did that one.

Justin: That's also bad.

Griffin: Wait—

Justin: We don't want to mess with them, right?

Travis: Dogs?

Justin: Wolves!

Travis: Okay.

Justin: They're fine. I don't want 'em more scary than they are. By the way, on the Facebook post that George RR Martin put up, where he's like, "We did it. Mission accomplished." [chuckles] He's in front of a big banner. "We did it, dire wolves are real." PS, not a single comment, by the way, missed the irony of—[chuckles] George RR Martin living to see the un-extinction of dire wolves before he's finished—

Griffin: Finishes his books, yeah.

Justin: Publishing his books! [chuckles] Like, the extinct creature beat him to market.

Griffin: Right, time has already—

Justin: Of course that was all the comments, because that is *the most* /important thing about this, is that he has not finished the book series. That's the number one thing.

Travis: I will also say, man, this feels like if I needed to do some like serious housework, and instead spend an hour like reorganizing my 3D printer filament. And then I was like, "Mission accomplished!" And it's like, hey, do you think bringing dire wolves back from extinction—

Griffin: Now I—

Travis: Was like our number one—

Griffin: I will say, you never know which scientific developments lead to the next. If creating these huge, nasty, turbo wolves, in some way they're like, "And in doing so, cancer? Gone." Now, all of a sudden, I'm listening. Now I'm listening.

Travis: Yeah. "These wolves eat cancer!" [titters]

Griffin: "These wolves eat cancer out of the air."

Justin: I used to think I have a generalized anxiety disorder, and now I've learned that I'm just good at worrying about stuff before other people realize they need to.

Griffin: You're a trendsetter, dude.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, I'm ahead of the game on this one, guys. Listen, I was right about Trump, and I'm gonna be right about dire wolves! [chuckles] But you still have a chance to do something about the wolves, right?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Come on!

Griffin: Now, what is that, Juice? You tell me now. Because it seems to me like the horse is out of the barn! And by horse, I mean giant wolf is out of the barn. And if it's... if it's us against them, I'm not comfortable with the optics of that.

Justin: What I'm saying is—

Travis: I'm joining up.

Justin: What I'm saying is, and this is just us three, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: No one's listening.

Justin: This is just us three. Maybe it would be nice, maybe we could use a boost as a people, as a species.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And re—[titters]

Griffin: And re-extinct them?

Justin: Re-extinct the dire wolf.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah—

Justin: Like victory over the dire—like, like, we could use—it's a little win, right? It's a pyrrhic victory, for sure.

Travis: If there are any—

Justin: But because they're not even—

Travis: Dire wolves listening—

Justin: Real dire wolves, but like... yeah.

Travis: I understand that we domesticated you guys into dogs. You can domesticate me as a pet. I don't want to die. I will turn. I will turncoat so hard to join!

Griffin: Oh, Travis is on—firmly on team dire wolf then.

Justin: You flipped. Okay, that's interesting.

Travis: No, if they're listening. If they're not listening, Justin, I'm totally on your side. But I don't know how powerful these bad boys' hearing is.

Griffin: Yeah. Probably—can I guess?

Travis: So, if any dire wolves can hear this.

Griffin: [titters] If you're in the fuckin' settings menu of the wolf, genetically speaking—

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: You could probably crank a lot of different kind of heuristics all the way up to top apex point.

Travis: I'm just saying, if they can hear this right now, I'm on your side, dire wolf.

Griffin: Now! Now! Now! Can we genetically modify the dire wolves to make them big enough to ride?

Travis: Okay...

Griffin: I wanna—I'm—dire wolves? That's so 2000 and late. You know what's so 2025? Wargs. Give me a warg any day of the week.

Travis: I love a warg.

Griffin: I'd love a warg that I can ride around on. Because guess where the warg can't bite? The guy on his back. And it's not gonna be ethically bad, because we're gonna make the wargs love it to be ridden. And they can carry so much more than 163 pounds.

Travis: But don't make them love it too much!

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: I don't want it to feel weird that I'm doing it.

Justin: Was there ever a dire ostrich?

Griffin: That's interesting.

Travis: There could be, Justin.

Justin: "I'm a film student at a local community college, and I have a part-time job working in a bookstore on the weekends. Recently, I've discovered one of my co-workers is also interested in film and enjoys writing scripts. I was so excited to hear this, as we could use more script writers in the program, because most people focus on wanting to direct or operate the camera. Only problem is, he only writes fan scripts about He-Man. How can I convince my co-worker to write other characters? Or at least, the very least, switch the character's names to non-copyrighted ones." That's from Scripty in SC.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Well, guys, I think what this person is asking us to do is to create our own—right now, to create our own Creative Commons—

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: He-Man.

Griffin: He-Man, yeah.

Justin: For the public imagination.

Travis: Yeah, because you don't want to cut He-Man out. I think many movies, maybe all, would be made better if He-Man was there, not necessarily destroying things, smashing through things, punching things. Like think of like, most movies are made better by The Rock being in them, a large man with powerful muscles, commenting on things.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He-Man could be that.

Justin: Well, what about... names? I mean, right off the bat—

Griffin: Hm... Boy-Guy.

Justin: Muscle Champ.

Travis: Boy-Guy.

Justin: Muscle Champ...

Griffin: Muscle—what was that?

Justin: Muscle Champ is not as good as Boy-Guy.

Griffin: Muscle chimp... Prince Muscle Chimp is... pretty cool.

Justin: Prince Muscleton.

Griffin: But he's not—he's not—that's two different guys, is the Prince and He-Man, from what I—

Justin: Prince... okay.

Travis: Yeah, Prince Muscleton would be his normal—

Justin: I actually think it's even better if no one guesses that Prince Muscleton is actually...

Griffin: Boy-Guy.

Justin: Boy-Guy. [chuckles] Why is he a boy? That's not like a part of the He-Man mythos, is it?

Travis: You know what? Inclusivity. They/them. Just call him They-Them.

Justin: I don't know... I don't know about that.

Griffin: But it's not following the convention of He-Man, is—

Travis: They Person.

Griffin: Yeah, that—but that doesn't sound great... Boy-Guy, however, I think drips off the tongue, and I think gets you close enough to the sort of original syntactic—

Justin: Okay, Boy-Guy.

Griffin: Idea.

Justin: Prince Muscleton become Boy-Guy.

Travis: But Boy-Guy, I've heard it too many times now and it's starting to feel like, ah, real girl's girl kind of deal. Like, "Ah, he's a real boy's guy."

Griffin: When that one lady wrote the 50 Shades books, those started out as Twilight fan fiction.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And then they turned into the best-selling sex books that have ever been released. And made three bonarific film adaptations out of those. So, who's to say that this is not gonna happen for their He-Man script?

Justin: When Griffin says sexiest book, he's not counting Go Tell a Watchman by Harper Lee.

Travis: Of course.

Justin: Just wanted to clarify.

Griffin: No, yeah, I haven't read that one. I do understand the erotic nature of it is... boiling.

Travis: Man-He.

Griffin: Scalding hot. Man-He... Manny.

Justin: Manny.

Travis: Manny.

Justin: [chuckles] Manny the muscle king!

Travis: Me-han.

Griffin: This was not sort of the... question?

Justin: It's what they wanted.

Griffin: don't think—

Justin: What is the essential nature of a He-Man story? It's man, hides, muscles. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, man hides muscles—

Justin: So, what are some other muscle hiders—

Travis: Fights skeleton...

Griffin: Yeah. I don't really—can I say something? Lump this dude in with Snoopy, I have no feelings about He-Man what the fuck so ever. He's—

Justin: You missed that generation, huh?

Griffin: Yeah, I did, by about 25 years. That dude is so fuckin' old.

Travis: That's not it!

Justin: [titters] Okay.

Griffin: He's pretty old. And he has a bunch of weird friends and a big purple cat. And it's like—

Travis: Green.

Griffin: You lost me.

Travis: And here's the thing, here's what I will say that I enjoy about old-school He-Man and his cat. You had a big, muscley prince in a tight, tight fit, making it clear he's a big muscle prince. And the big muscle prince had a pet tiger.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then he would become He-Man, and his size did not change at all.

Griffin: No.

Travis: And his tiger got armor. And everyone's like, "Who the fuck is that guy?"

Griffin: Who the—who is that? Who is it?

Justin: Yeah, this is... Absolutely—

Travis: I think there needs to be more of that.

Justin: It's absolutely fair absolutely. Absolutely. The Tiger Cringer, is what you're—is the name of the tiger. And the tiger also gets more brave with the armor. But it's like, that seems—

Travis: So would I.

Justin: Yeah, me too. [chuckles] Like, you know, like—

Griffin: Yeah, it's armor.

Justin: Cringer is scared! Like, give him the fucking armor so he's not scared.

Griffin: It's fucked up that you take the armor away from him ever.

Justin: Yeah! Prince Muscletan has the sword. Like he could at any point be like—lop someone's head off. Like he has no reason to be afraid. [chuckles]

Griffin: But the tiger can't put the armor on—

Travis: Cringer's not in control of it!

Justin: A sniper! Assassins from Skeletor could kill Cringer like—

Griffin: No problem.

Justin: From an assassin's bullet, 100 yards, no problem. Grayskull—window shatters, Cringer's dead.

Travis: Cringer is also just wheezing off of He-Man's power.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Cringer can't be like, "I'm freaked out by the power of Grayskull. *I* have the power!"

Justin: Right, it's dark. It's 2:00AM, right? [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I'm like, I want to go to CVS, but it's like late and I don't want to get—like, I would just like the armor, please. If I'm going out, like—

Travis: He has to ask like Prince Adam like, "Hey, could you He-Man out so that I get the reflective—"

Justin: [yells] "I'm in bed!"

Travis: And Prince Adam was like, "No!" He's like—

Justin: He said—he said, [spoofs He-Man] "I'm in the shower!"

Travis: [laughs] "I know, but I've got to do stuff, there's—"

Justin: Griffin, that took you so long to laugh at! You really did miss out on He-Man.

Griffin: I did, yeah. I don't know who he is. And I've been pretending for a really long time.

Justin: [chuckles] Like years.

Griffin: Like years and years and years. I don't know fucking anything about him. I think in the... entertainment economy we find ourselves in right now, I cannot comfortably say that writing about He-Man exclusively is a bad idea. Because it does feel like it's time. Like, if I don't know who this fuckin' dude is, that's a huge market potential for He-Man. If it—maybe it kicks ass. I don't know. It seems pretty busted. It seems like a semi-nude royal man who transforms with a magic sword, like... and then he has a tiger.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like, that's what it seems like to me.

Travis: I'm pretty sure we all saw the Masters of the Universe movie together.

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, when I was a zygote. I don't remember it! It's old, old, old, old, old. And I'm young, young, young, young, young, young, young.

Travis: The only thing I remember is it being the first time I ever saw a post credits scene—

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Travis: That then—

Justin: Skeletor comes back out.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Sorry for the spoilers. [chuckles]

Travis: Then from that moment on, when Clint McElroy would take his sons to go see a movie, we did not leave until the lights came up.

Griffin: In case Skeletor comes back out. Yeah.

Travis: And can I tell you! Skeletor never came back at the end of other movies.

Justin: No.

Travis: Which I think would have been a wild but breathtakingly artistic choice.

Griffin: Pretty cool. Sure. Sure, sure, sure!

Travis: Yeah. End of Marley and Me... [titters] Skeletor!

Griffin: [chuckles] "You're kidding me! The dog—"

Travis: Ow!

Griffin: "You—the dog dies?! Christ almighty!"

Travis: "I sat through the whole thing!"

Justin: I'm—

Travis: "God damn it!"

Justin: "I'm attending a friend's wedding soon, and learned that a former Olympian will also be attending. This person is semi-famous, yes, multiple gold medals, and competed in swimming. What are some good ways to

strike up a conversation with Michael Phelps?" And that's from admire—American admire—no, it doesn't say that. I don't know who it is. American Admirer in... apple up—apple at... Apalachicola?

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: Hm, okay.

Travis: There's no way it's Michael Phelps, right? Because no one would describe Michael Phelps as semi-famous.

Griffin: Probably not Phelps. Yeah, I'm pretty sure that they would say like he's a per—he was an athlete. He won 90 gold—

Travis: Like the most famous American Olympian.

Griffin: He won 90 gold medals.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's like—

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Well, that leaves us just with the one—

Justin: So, we got—there's a lot of options we're not going to be able—I'm looking here... multiple golds... Other than Phelps, it could be Mark Spitz, Caeleb Dressel, Matt Biondi, we—Ryan Lochte. Right? We don't know—

Griffin: Could be Lochte, if I—if that's—

Travis: Yeah, could be Lochte.

Griffin: Some of those—some of those—

Justin: It could be Katie Ledecky! Jenny Thompson!

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: Amy Van Dyken.

Griffin: Some of those—

Justin: Dana Vollmer.

Griffin: Some of those maybe don't brush up too. Maybe some of those—like, you see Lochte, maybe.... you keep him—you keep him over there.

Travis: Yeah. Keep him—

Justin: I mean—

Travis: Locked down.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Justin: I don't think you can be a former Olympian.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: I think once an Olympian—

Travis: You just are?

Justin: Always an Olympian. [chuckles]

Travis: Well, yeah.

Justin: Compete at that level? I think that you never can turn the competitive thing off. I'd be worried at a wedding... how am I going to beat these people to the buffet? You know? Is there going to be a—is everything going to be a competition? Like, "Oh, I took the biggest bite of cake." Like, "Great, Ryan."

Griffin: Well... I mean—

Justin: "Very good." [chuckles]

Griffin: You'll—

Travis: If it's Lochte—

Justin: "Very good, Ryan!"

Travis: Yeah, that's probably.

Justin: Yeah, "Not everything's a competition, Ryan."

Griffin: You will have an advantage based on sort of your—because I'm assuming it's not like an aquatic wedding. Like a wet—

Travis: No, I'm sure they would mentioned. Yeah.

Griffin: It's not a wetting. It's a wedding. And so like you will—you will have the sort of terrestrial edge. They may be able to take you in the water, absolutely, but they have spent so much of their life in the water that like their bone density is all fucked up, and you will be stronger and faster than them on land. Pretty much guaranteed.

Travis: Now if it's—if it's one of those things where it plays out like a hilarious America's Funniest Home video, where like the bride falls in the water, they're over a lake. Oh, no, big windy, or whatever. Oh, falls, the guy trips.

Griffin: That doesn't sound funny?

Travis: I know, right? But they're always on there. There's whole episodes.

Griffin: Every episode of America's Funniest Home Videos, a bride falls in the water during her wedding?

Travis: Yeah, man. And—

Griffin: Christ Jesus?

Travis: And an Olympian has to jump in and save her.

Justin: And the taffeta, the many layers of taffeta pull her down to the briny depths. [chuckles] And you watch a—

Travis: Unless an Olympian is there!

Justin: Yeah, you watch someone die in every episode maybe. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. I bet if it's your wedding and your spouse, your new spouse, falls in the water and starts to drown, that feels pretty bad. And then an Olympian, a handsome Olympian, jumps in and saves her. You're like probably 99% like, "Oh, thank Christ. Oh, thank God. My beloved, my beloved." But then there's also part of you that's like, "It would have been cooler if I did that."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It would have been cooler—

Justin: "I wish I had done that."

Griffin: If I was the one who jumped in to save my new wife.

Travis: I mean, it's a rented tux. And I had to take that into account.

Griffin: And I'm not good at swimming. Not good at swimming.

Travis: Not good at swimming.

Griffin: Not at all. And I—also, *I knew* that Phelps was here.

Travis: Yeah, right?

Griffin: So like, I kind of figured he got me, and he did, which is great. And I'm, again, so stoked.

Travis: Because it would be more embarrassing if you jumped in first, and then Phelps jumped in after you, and Phelps saved your bride, and then you were like, "I guess I'll swim back."

Justin: Oh, no, no, no, Phelps would save you on the way. And it's like, "Phelps, I didn't need..." He's like, "No, it's fine! I'm already out here saving your new wife. I don't mind to save you too."

Travis: "It's not an extra trip for me."

Justin: [chuckles] "It's no problem."

Griffin: And then you start to think, did Phelps engineer this situation in some way to cuckold me on my special day?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Classic Phelps.

Griffin: And the answer might surprise you.

[pause]

Justin: It's no. [titters]

Griffin: It's no. He probably didn't do that.

Travis: He doesn't need to!

Griffin: Doesn't want to, probably, I don't know.

Travis: Okay, I'm just saying that if he did want to, I don't think Michael Phelps would have to engineer an elaborate scheme to impress other people.

Griffin: Did you guys ever know an aspiring Olympian growing up?

Travis: Yes, I took—

Griffin: I did too.

Travis: I took wrestling classes from Olympic wrestler Ken Chertow.

Griffin: Oh, that's right.

Justin: Fuck!

Griffin: That's right.

Justin: Yeah, I forgot about—

Griffin: I forgot.

Justin: Man, I haven't heard that name in 20 years—Ken Chertow.

Griffin: That man oversaw a spar that I had with my friend Steven, where he busted my nose, gave me a bloody nose. Thank you, Ken Chertow, good look—

Travis: Not Ken Chertow. Ken Chertow didn't bust your nose, did he?

Griffin: No, Steven did.

Travis: Okay. And all I know about Ken Chertow, as far as like bringing up wrestling to him, seems like what he was about. But it was in wrestling class, so I think that that tracks.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I have a—I had a friend who was a swimmer, and like had Olympic dreams, and swam every day for lots of time a day. And like had the bleached hair and all the stuff that comes with like being a professional in the water person. And that must be a frustrating set of skills to possess and not be able to do anything with... like in most of the earth.

In most of the earth that you walk and most of the places that you go in any day to day. You gotta be thinking the whole time like, "Gosh dang it. If only this Home Depot was underwater. If this was an underwater—if this was an

underwater, you know, grocery store, then my skills would be like, I would be kicking everyone's ass here, no problem."

Travis: Yeah, but Griffin, when you're like Usain Bolt and you reach the shore, as you've been running across the entire country, and you're like, "Now I have to stop and turn around."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Right? Because most of the Earth is covered with water. So while the day today, I agree with you. But as far as getting around, Michael Phelps can hit the ocean and swim to Europe.

Griffin: What is the most practical Olympic sport that's going to equip you with skills—and obviously you're going to say running or something that's like, yeah, of course, because we all do it. But that's not funny.

Travis: Shot put? Because you throw stuff. I mean, the ability to throw stuff that's heavy, the farthest?

Griffin: I throw more than I—just looking at my D&D verb set, at my text parser adventure game set, I throw more than I swim, guaranteed.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Guaranteed.

Justin: This is a real—this is—okay, so I think there's two—there's two viable answers, right? Is the triathlon, the biathlon. And really—

Griffin: That's cheating!

Justin: No, no, no, it's not cheating. It's about two very different approaches to life. Triathlon is run, swim, bike. Biathlon, by contrast, is ski and shoot.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: So this is like—

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Justin: Which is your approach to life?

Travis: Tag yourself. I'm—

Justin: Which are you?! Are you the kind of person that shoots someone and then skis away from the problem? [chuckles]

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: Or are you the sort of person that just keeps running, right?

Travis: I'm a ski and shoot, if I'm being honest. The downhill is doing a lot of the work.

Griffin: Yeah. I'm pretty sure it is cross country, I don't think they make 'em—

Travis: I mean, even then!

Justin: No, that's really—no, Griffith, important distinction.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because for my life, it is about shooting at something and then slowly inching away while everyone watches me. [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Justin: It's not a fast, thrilling—

Griffin: As sick as it would be to turn it into sort of a rifle-based Downhill Jam—that would be fuckin' sick, actually. Get the skis out of there, we snowboard. We snowboard and it's—

Justin: Shot in midair. All shots are midair.

Griffin: Yes. 360—

Travis: Snowboard and paintball would be wicked awesome! I'd be so into that!

Griffin: That would be cool.

Travis: Ugh, now I'm picturing it...

Griffin: So, don't talk to them about swimming. They probably don't want to talk about swimming.

Travis: But don't not talk to—if they bring up swimming, if they bring it up—

Griffin: If they bring it up, fine! If they—but they're not gonna fuckin' bring it up, man! There's no way they're gonna bring it up. Unless it's like a swimming pool wedding. Which is cool that—I don't know why those don't exist.

Travis: Oh, but Griffin, what if it's a gray area where like you're getting some punch with them? And they're like, "Man, this is a pretty deep punch bowl." And you're like—

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: "Ooh, are they hinting at they want me to say something about 'I bet you could swim in there.' Ah, no, there's no way they want me to say that. They're looking at me... they're looking—they're still waiting for me to respond and their eyebrows are getting higher."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "And their forehead and—ah, should I say something?"

Griffin: They'd be like—they'd be like, "Hey, do you think that this wedding venue has a floor like the gymnasium in *It's a Wonderful Life*? That it splits open and turns into—" Like, if you're a professional swimmer, you gotta be keeping your head on a swivel like, "I wonder of this... of this building splits open to reveal a pool underneath that we can all jump into and have the time of our lives. Until our dad had a stroke? Oh, no! We gotta get out of here!"

Travis: How—but that was a very unique experience to kind of one person in *It's a Wonderful Life*. It wasn't like a third of those people swimming in the pool had to scramble out?

Griffin: Well, I would say—I would say George Bailey's dad having a stroke affected that whole damn town, Travis.

Travis: Fuck, Griffin, you're right.

Griffin: And if you don't understand that—

Travis: I missed the point of it.

Justin: And there's a big—

Griffin: You missed the point of it entirely.

Travis: Hey, do you think that the kid who opened the floor faced jail time—criminal charges for—

Justin: No, it was a fuckin' prank, d de. Calm down. [chuckles]

Griffin: Now—

Justin: I'm tired of you trying to—

Griffin: When he closed the floor and gooshed all those people, that was a fucked up part of the movie. But you know... Capra's got a sick mind. I don't need to see a picture of Coach Ken Chertow.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know why you thought i needed this.

Justin: I will say, it is unfortunate that Ken Chertow's website lists some of the wrestlers he has coached, and Travis is not listed. [chuckles] So that is—

Griffin: That's sad.

Justin: I will say, that is unfortunate.

Travis: Probably because I was very bad.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah... but that's not your fault.

Justin: You didn't say long enough for the Chertow system though. [titters]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I bet.

Griffin: Think of all the practical skills you got from the Chertow system, Travis.

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Justin: Let's take a break! Okay? Let's go to—

Travis: [sings] Money Zone!

Justin: Let's go.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Justin, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: I want to start a website.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: And listen, I know I have big dreams.

Justin: I'm listening.

Travis: I know I do. And my dream for a website is that it would be beautiful. That it would let me maybe sell products and my time. That it would be very user-friendly. That it would have cutting-edge design. But here's the thing, you guys know this, I'm an idea man!

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: I'm kind of a blue sky kind of guy.

Justin: You can barely think.

Travis: I *barely* think. I only dream.

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I don't know how to do this.

Justin: No thoughts, only dreams! [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah. No thoughts, only dreams. So...

Griffin: No dreams, only do!

Travis: I'm willing to offer you guys each \$500 to build me a website.

Justin: Wow. Travis, that's unnecessary.

Griffin: Great. Yeah, I'll take it.

Justin: Because Squarespace—

Griffin: No, no, no, Justin, shut—Justin, shush! We'll take it!

Travis: No, I am curious as to what Justin was saying.

Justin: I was just gonna say that it's... I'm sorry, I shouldn't have blown up the spot, but Squarespace does make that really easy. Like, you don't need to pay a bunch of money? Squarespace can help you make a world class website, because they got templates.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: So you can—*they'll* give you the templates to make it look great. And you put in your photos, you sell your stuff.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: But it's gonna look good because they already had designers make it look good. You understand?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you know how tight money is for me, Juice? Do you know how big a change \$500 would make in my life?

Justin: I do. I do, Griffin. But you're gonna earn that the honest way, because you can set up a business with a Squarespace website. Sell stuff! Get your—you get your business going with this website. So you don't need to steal, anymore.

Griffin: I'll tell the boys that the reason that Easter is canceled this year is because I had to earn the \$500 I'd so desperately need the honest way. Because Uncle Justin said I had to. And they'll—I bet they'll understand.

Justin: Well, this is good news for you then, Griff. I got a free trial offer.

Griffin: Oh, great.

Justin: Head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use offer code My Brother to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Travis: See, now that I find myself with a thousand extra dollars, Griffin, I'll pay you \$1,000 to ruin Justin's credit.

Griffin: That should not be too difficult, if I'm being completely honest.

Travis: Awesome. Awesome.

Griffin: Hey... How am I supposed to cook a meal? How am I supposed to cook a meal? Because there's so much happening all of the time. And sometimes it's—

Travis: Where do you even get a meal?

Griffin: Yeah, exactly, Travis. Thank you so much. Certainly can't cook it because—

Travis: No.

Justin: Well, that's actually—that's weird that you guys are saying that, because I recently have really been enjoying a lot of great dishes like Mediterranean and deep pan chicken or roasted salmon. Maybe even a low-carb chicken and zucchini noodle salad.

Travis: You know, Justin, it's that kind of attitude that makes me want Griffin to ruin your credit.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know why you keep bringing up my credit today, Travis! [chuckles]

Travis: It's just when Griffin and I are talking about how hard it is for us to like prep and cook a meal and you're like, "I can do it."

Griffin: "I do it all the time."

Travis: "I can do it."

Justin: Well, no, no, no! I use—I—it's Marley Spoon, guys, it's—I use Marley Spoon. It's—

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: You don't remember this?

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Justin: Yeah, they got over 100 recipes. You can choose the stuff that looks good to you, the things that you actually want to eat. And they make it really easy to make it. So you can make it a home, right? Delicious.

Travis: In my home?

Justin: Delicious food that you make in your own house, Travis!

Travis: I don't have to go to someone else's house?

Justin: The same place where you shower and sleep, that house.

Travis: Someone else's house, you mean? [titters]

Griffin: I appreciate that, Juice. I have a pretty refined palette, as you know. And the sort of foods that I require are maybe a little bit more elevated. So like, these days, I'm only eating like Martha Stewart's best bean and cheese enchiladas.

Justin: Yeah, that's—yeah, that's Marley Spoon. This is—that's what—

Griffin: Oh, you're kidding me?

Justin: Yeah, Martha... Martha's DNA is all over this thing. She—

Griffin: Well...

Justin: Is shepherd—

Travis: Well, I don't know about that, Justin. I don't know about all that, Justin.

Griffin: I don't think you should say that.

Justin: There's fingerprints everywhere!

Travis: There's—yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah... You could make a—

Travis: She's not getting away with this one!

Griffin: You can make—

Justin: Stop! Stop it! This is not in the podcast!

Griffin: It is in the podcast. You can make a colony of new Martha's with Martha's best mac and cheese carbonara, guaranteed. A lot of DNA in that one.

Justin: Yeah, and there's express recipes that—this has been nice, because we've been starting to do more rehearsals at night for summer theater, and there's not a lot of time to cook. But they've got recipes you can make in 15 minutes, and it's like a real, actual dinner, not fast food. It's something with a lot of nutrition in it, that you feel really good about!

Griffin: Yummy.

Justin: Delicious.

Griffin: Yummy stuff, guys,

Justin: Yeah, this year, fast track your way to eating well with Marley Spoon. Head to marleyspoon.com/offer/mybrother, and use code My Brother for up to 27 free meals! That's right, up to 27 free meals with Marley Spoon. One last time, marleyspoon.com/offer/mybrother for up to 27 free meals. Make sure you use our promo code, My Brother, so they know we sent you.

[break]

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: All right!

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: In my hour of need.

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

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

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

Travis and Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating!

Griffin: What have you prepared for us?

Justin: And rather than say what we're going to be talking about—

Griffin: Oh?

Justin: I'm going to show you guys. And the lead off is going to be how you react to it.

Griffin: Okay, great.

Travis: Huh...

Griffin: Yeah... okay.

Travis: Wait.

Griffin: Fuck... yeah, okay, so my initial—

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Just for me, Juice, it was, yeah, okay, fuck. So, it was—

Justin: Yeah, that is recorded for all of posterity.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Here's what I—

Justin: How Griffin—

Travis: Love about this image, Justin.

Justin: Yeah. Tell me about the image, Trav.

Travis: There's like an upfront hit where it is such a weird consistency on a pizza. And I see the tin that says "pizza caviar." And then in little print—

Griffin: That's sort of the thing that caught my eye.

Travis: Yes. And then in little print above "pizza caviar" is Pizza Hut logo.

Justin: So, that is interesting, Travis, it's... you get hit with the initial feeling of how bad it is to look at this, before you know what it is. And then you see that it's pizza caviar from the tin. And that feels bad in a different way.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Because then you're despairing that you—that this is the moment in history in which you are alive.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: And then you see the Pizza Hut on there and you're like, "Hm, okay, I'm listening."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, "Oh?"

Travis: I'm—

Griffin: It used to be—it used to be kind of cool like, I'm alive at the same time as David Bowie and Prince. That's pretty sick. But I also, unfortunately, lived long enough that now there's pizza caviar. And the image we are looking at, it does look like a fairly burnt-up little personal pan pizza that is covered in what I could only describe as marinara Dippin' Dots.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: That's a really good call, Griff.

Travis: I'm also, I'm not a designer. Like, I'm not—I don't claim to have an especially good like grasp on color theory.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But the fact that they put this very red pizza, on a different red—

Griffin: What looks like the cover—like the red leather-bound tone—

Travis: Like a crocodile skin?

Griffin: Yeah, something like that.

Travis: It's a very aggressive image.

Griffin: Very challenging, yeah.

Justin: Pizza Hut is putting an indulgent twist on the caviar craze sweeping foodie culture—

Travis: What?

Justin: With the launch of pizza caviar.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Justin: The first of—yeah, man, caviar bumps.

Griffin: Caviar bumps—

Travis: But here's the thing.

Griffin: In a big way.

Travis: Can you call a thing that has existed for, I believe, hundreds of years—

Justin: No, no, no, no, this is a specific craze, Travis. Caviar bumps refers to putting caviar in your hand, and letting your body warm it, and then just eating the caviar like that. They're all the rage. Or at least they were in mother fucking 2022, when the New York Times wrote that caviar bumps are all the rage. So this is—

Griffin: Coming in a little late.

Justin: Yeah, a little late, Pizza Hut, on this one.

Travis: Also, gross.

Griffin: Now it's tinned fish! Caviar bumps are out. Tinned fish is in, in a major way.

Travis: Now it's caviar lines. You gotta just—

Justin: It's a—

Travis: Snort the caviar straight up.

Griffin: Snort it right up there.

Justin: This is a first of its kind innovation that transforms the fine dining trend into something completely unexpected. Caviar has—

Travis: Yeah! I would say, on paper, that whole sentence is true!

Griffin: I thought you were gonna say unacceptable. Which is also—

Justin: [chuckles] Also, "Caviar has been elevating some of the world's most beloved comfort foods with the unexpected high-low pairings popping up in upscale restaurants and gracing social feeds across the country. In true Pizza Hut fashion, the brand asked, why just place caviar on your pizza when you can reimagine it entirely and create a bold new food category? Inspired by the rise of caviar bumps—"

Travis: Three years ago.

Justin: Three years ago, "These bite-sized pizza caviar pearls are made to taste like pepperoni and designed for dipping, dunking and bumping. And—

Travis: Thank God—

Justin: Snorting.

Travis: They're bite-sized. Can you imagine if they were bigger than bite—like—

Griffin: Dodge ball size.

Justin: I would say they're nostril-sized, if you want to be honest about it.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: I'm ready to do these beloved bumps.

Griffin: Also, can you give me—and it's imperative that you give me the exact phraseology, of design to taste of pepperoni? What was that again? Hit me with that again.

Justin: Yes, the exact... "These bite-sized pizza caviar, pearls." And again, I do want to touch on, it's an edible product. As my brother said, bite-sized is an—they're very tiny. They are in no way bite-sized. They look like tapioca.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "These bite-sized pizza caviar pearls are made to taste like pepperoni."

Griffin: Made—

Justin: They're made—

Griffin: Made to taste.

Justin: To taste like pepperoni.

Griffin: Like! Made—

Justin: Pepper—

Griffin: Made—

Justin: *Made* to taste!

Griffin: To taste.

Justin: Like!

Griffin: *Like!*

Justin: Pepperoni. So—

Griffin: Pepperoni.

Justin: They're not pepperoni. They're not made of pepperoni. They don't taste like pepperoni.

Griffin: The intention was there.

Justin: The intent of this product is that the flavor is reminiscent of pepperoni. That was our intent at inception!

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Our goals were pure!

Travis: To bring it all back around, these are to pepperoni as current dire wolves are to dire wolves.

Justin: Yes, Travis! These are the—[laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Dire wolves were made—

Justin: That's 100%!

Griffin: To taste of dire wolves.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That is a similar situation. Yes.

Justin: "Crafted to replicate the look and feel of traditional caviar, without the fish, pizza caviar delivers a bold, smoky pepperoni flavor in a fun, new form."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "And pizza caviar is the star of the brand-new Pizza Caviar Bump Box."

Travis: The more they explain it and like the process and the outcome, the more like alien it feels when they're like, "We intended to replicate..."
[chuckles]

Griffin: This seems like a joke press release.

Travis: "Caviar."

Griffin: Like a fake press release someone would write in a book written in the year 1990, about how shitty the future was gonna be.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And then it's being word for word kind of delivered—

Justin: Let me show you guys, look—look—look at the—look at this tab. Can you see this tab? Can you see what I'm highlighting here?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: This is an asterisk after the first mention of pizza caviar. If you take the asterisk down, here's what it says. Here's what it—

Griffin: So that's pepperoni-flavored water and agar-agar based caviar-style pearls. That is my favorite Limp Bizkit album.

Justin: [Oh, shit??]...

Griffin: So—

Travis: Caviar—wait, pepperoni-flavored *water*, and agar agar based caviar-style pearls.

Griffin: It's also so sick of them to get on the agar agar trend, a good fuckin' maybe 9, 10, 11 years after the fact? And I—it's so—I mean, I'm more excited about this pepperoni-flavored water. Let me just get that. You don't have to Wylie Dufresne it, man! Just let me get it raw and wriggling, you know? Just the juice for me, thanks!

Justin: The pizza caviar—okay, so this is the Pizza Caviar Bump Box. It's a luxe, limited-time twist on My Hut Box, Pizza Hut's signature combo meal. "The box includes one personal pan pizza and a choice of three plain boneless wings or fries, all topped with—"

Travis: Three?!

Justin: Three! Three wings are the number of wings you'll have!

Griffin: What's the correct number of buffalo—

Justin: All topped with bursts of pepper—

Griffin: What's the correct number of buffalo wings to eat with caviar? Because I think three actually sounds pretty right to me.

Justin: Yeah, that's a good—that's a good number. One little tiny thing that they do want to mention—that I want to mention about this, is that Pizza Hut's new product innovation, the Pizza Caviar Bump Box, will be available exclusively at the Pizza Hut located at 932 8th Avenue in New York City, from April 10th to April 12th, from 4-8PM, while supplies last.

Travis: I gotta go!

Griffin: It must be so fucking annoying to live in New York City all the time and just want to go to Pizza Hut to get a normal pizza one day, and yet they are always like—every chain is always doing the wildest shit. And you are the lab rats. Because you live in a populated city where all these marketing firms are based. You have to suffer for that and eat these pepperoni pearls that are made of pepperoni water, just because you live in the same city as the major marketing firms.

Travis: It also must be such a huge strain on the infrastructure of New York City, when something like this happens, and there's just this flood of people rushing to New York City for these two days to get their hands on these pizza pearls. It must be such a strain on the city and its economy and everything. It must be so hard.

Griffin: I will say, it probably is easier than the average amount of difficulty to obtain pepperoni-flavored water in New York City, than it is—

Justin: Probably.

Griffin: Than it would be in like DC or any other major—

Justin: Now, I wanted to draw your guys' attention to something else here in this press release. "A luxe, limited-time twist on My Hut Box, Pizza Hut's signature combat meal." And we see the double asterisk here, right? So, let's—will you guys come down with me, down the page here, and—

Griffin: Yeah, take me.

Justin: Trav, will you read the—what's at the double asterisk?

Travis: Oh, yes, of course. This is available April 10th through 12th, at the location you said. "Three boneless naked medium wings only! Availability, pricing and participation varies. Pizza caviar is pepperoni-flavored water and agar agar based caviar-style pearls."

Justin: I shit you not, it's in there twice!

Griffin: So—

Justin: Under both of the asterisks. They don't even want to take a fucking chance!

Travis: Also, I can't stress enough, there's only one location listed.

Griffin: And yet—

Travis: And then "participation varies."

Justin: Tell me that this isn't an AI generated thing, guys! Please tell me it's not. Because there's no way that they have to specify you can only get three wings. And also, it's only available at this one restaurant?!

Travis: But participation varies, Justin!

Justin: I came all the way here to be four wings! Please!

Travis: So I might go to that restaurant and be like, "Hey, this is the one location where you're doing the pizza bump caviar." And they're like, "Yeah." And I'm like, "Cool, can I have some?" And they said, "Yeah, we're not doing that shit."

Griffin: Yeah, or they said—

Justin: "Yeah, but you should also know that we legally have to tell you it's pepperoni-flavored water and agar-agar base caviar-style pearls, is what we have."

Griffin: "That is important for you to know. You can have it. It will cost you \$300."

"It costs that guy like 20?"

"Yeah, the pricing varies. We want more from you."

Travis: Grow Up.

Justin: Grow up.

Griffin: Grow up.

Justin: "Do you want the caviar or not? You came all this way. It's pepperoni flavored. "

Travis: "Eh, I'll take it."
"We knew you would, you nasty dog."

Justin: Yeah... I guess you have to. You can—I mean, I still don't understand if pizza caviar is available only at this location, or if the Pizza Caviar Bump Box...

Griffin: Yeah, no.

Travis: Here's the other thing, Justin.

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: If I were to add—let's say I get wild, I add caviar to a personal pan pizza.

Griffin: Now, wait, what kind?

Travis: Regular—

Justin: Pizza caviar?

Travis: Regular—

Griffin: Regular caviar.

Travis: Fish-based caviar.

Justin: Not a pepperoni-flavored water and agar-agar based caviar-style pearls. [chuckles]

Travis: Yes. I'm talking your grandma's caviar.

Griffin: Bog-standard fish egg, yeah.

Travis: Right? I have added caviar to the experience, right? Flavor experience, all that. If I'm adding pepperoni-flavored caviar to pepperoni pizza—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: All I've added is a slight consistency—

Griffin: You've, yeah—

Travis: Difference.

Griffin: You've turned it in—you've turned it into Orbitz.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: But pizza. Yeah, it's like, you love pizza, you know this flat... this flat, savory cake, it's gonna drive you absolutely insane. But what if we had little jelly balls, little boba pizza for you? Would you like that?

Justin: Perhaps.

Griffin: Would you like that?

Justin: Perhaps.

Griffin: Probably not!

Travis: Probably not. That's why we only did it at one restaurant, because we don't have the strength of our convictions. Give me—

Justin: We don't believe in it.

Griffin: An aerosolized pepperoni.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: Please? Give me—

Travis: Give me a pill form of a pizza! It's 2025, I want to eat a pizza in a pill!

Griffin: I want pizza pills and pepperoni sprays!

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: *All* day long—

Justin: Caviar dreams!

Griffin: Caviar dreams and pepperoni—

Justin: And by caviar dreams, what I mean specifically is, I want pepperoni-flavored water and agar-agar based caviar-style pearl dreams.

Griffin: So important. But we've been—

Travis: This is what my grandparents envisioned when they came to this country!

Griffin: They fought for this!

Travis: Pizza pills! [titters]

Griffin: They fought for this one!

Travis: And caviar bumps!

Justin: The folks—

Griffin: We've been good boys! And we deserve pepperoni spray.

Travis: We've earned this!

Justin: That is gonna do it for us on this episode.

Travis: I get that we don't get jetpacks!

Griffin: Yeah—

Travis: But pizza pills?!

Griffin: Give me pepperoni spray, please.

Justin: We really appreciate you listening. We really appreciate you joining us. We hope you enjoyed this episode of our podcast, because we tried our best. We always do.

Travis: Yeah, this was our best, and I'm sorry that that's true. But I hope you liked it.

Justin: I have a couple of appearances we want to tell you guys about. We're going to be at Dragon Con in Atlanta, in late August. So, make sure you get the details on that at bit.ly/mcelroytours. We're also going to be at the Harmony House Ren Faire. That is going to be on May 3rd. The exact times and specifics of that are going to be coming up, but you should—if you could be in Huntington May 3rd, we're going to be there. As well as at Origins Game Fair in Columbus in June!

Travis: We're everywhere.

Justin: We're everywhere.

Griffin: Yeah, we're doing some shows in Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio as well that have been announced. And some of them are TAZ, some of them are MBMBaM. All the TAZ shows are gonna be TAZ Versus. And again, to get tickets and find out more about those shows, bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Travis: We've also got merch in the merch store, if you haven't checked that out, including a Miggy Mackerel spinner pin. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the National Immigration Project.

Griffin: Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It is an—

Travis: Indeed.

Griffin: Honor to use it.

Travis: And a privilege.

Griffin: Montaigne's got some—it is a privilege. Montaigne's got some new shit popping, and it really cranks. And I congratulate them on their creative... mastery.

Justin: Journey.

Griffin: Journey. Their creative mastery journey.

Justin: [chuckles] As one says.

Travis: Hey, I've got a Fear here that I'd like to read.

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

Travis: Okay. "This year, I'll be faster than my fear of belly buttons. Just because it happened in Neo, doesn't mean it'll happen to me."

Griffin: Absolutely, it could happen to you any day.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: They're real, and they're coming!

Justin: [titters] 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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