MBMBaM 763: The Revenge Pope

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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: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis 'Vroom-Vroom' McElroy!

Griffin: And it's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30 media luminary, Griffin 'Built Ford Tough' McElroy. Another tough—another tough week for the 30 Under 30 crowd, by the way. I don't know how close you guys keep tabs on this, but every once in a while, a think piece does get written about how many—dang many of us went to jail for fraud and other bad stuff. [titters]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And it's like, yeah, man. I mean, I barely squeaked on there. I don't like... I know I say it a lot, but I don't really own that. You know what I mean?

Travis: Do you feel bad, Griffin, that you haven't committed fraud or ended up in jail yet? Like, that—like maybe you haven't squandered your potential enough?

Griffin: I cannot stress to you enough, Travis, how disruptive to my whole life jail would be.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It would be-

Travis: Well, that's why they're called disruptors, Griffin.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Well, they should be called disrupted, if they are being the ones imprisoned. But no, I don't regret that. I don't want to do that stuff. I live in fear of the fact that I don't want to accidentally do fraud.

Travis: I thought you were just gonna stop at the end of, "I live in fear."

Justin: Yeah, "I live in fear."

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure, yeah.

Travis: Yeah. You're afraid you might accidentally commit fraud.

Griffin: I'm afraid I might accidentally commit fraud, because I don't know what it is. And I don't—

Travis: It's basically, you say you're gonna do something, and then you don't do it. Have you ever done that?

Griffin: I mean, all the time. [titters]

Justin: I—[chuckles]

Travis: Oh, boy-oy-oy...

Griffin: All the time. Little stuff, but like-

Travis: Well, Griffin, I'm wearing a wire.

Griffin: Oh?

Travis: This has all been...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I'm part of the 40 Over 40 that are sent to-

Griffin: Shit...

Travis: Collect the 30 Under 30, and bring 'em in.

Justin: It's kind of like that... it's kind of like that old like, which is libel and which is slander thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Which I—it's a conversation I've had so many times that I start to wonder like, am I publicly lying about people too much?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is that too much a fixture of my life that I'm having to figure out—I have to remember all the time which crime is which.

Travis: Is it too late to add that into our intro? To like add—and like, if any of this sounds like libel, it's slander.

Griffin: It's not.

Travis: Don't worry about it.

Griffin: It's just slander. And I think that's the good one. This is one of those things that I definitely, definitely learned in my journalism ethics classes, and now I just think I remember. But I bet you if I did even a cursory Google search, I would realize I don't know either.

Travis: I don't remember any of the botany class I took in college, but yours seems more important to your everyday life—

Griffin: For this exact moment, yeah.

Travis: Now than mine is, yeah.

Griffin: Okay. I mean, let's keep each—let's mirror each other, because we have so few other support systems in our lives. And I'll let you guys know if it seems like you're starting to do fraud. And you guys—

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Like check me too.

Travis: Yeah, cool, man. Because-

Justin: That's a good—yeah.

Travis: I know it would be disruptive to your life, Griffin, but in many ways, it would also be disruptive to my life if you went to prison. Because I don't think they let you podcast from there.

Griffin: It would wreck our whole shit, man, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And god, I hope this clip isn't—like, I have no intention of committing any kind of major crimes. And I'm saying that now—

Travis: The more you say it, though.

Griffin: I know, it sounds suspicious the more I kind of emphasize it, but this clip is going to be uncomfortable, I think.

Justin: Are we on similar haircut schedule, guys? I'm looking around—

Griffin: I think we have synced up, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I think we've synced up, guys.

Travis: Well, it's that time of the year, when a young man's fancy turns to haircuts. You know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think it's about a week or two before we go to do live shows, is about when we start—

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Griffin: That's about when I do it, yeah.

Justin: To think we should probably go get a haircut. [chuckles]

Travis: Hey, guys, is this anything? [sings] 'American pontiff! Stay away from JD!' Is that anything?

Griffin: Stay away from JD?

Travis: Yeah, JD Vance, he kills popes.

Griffin: Oh, "American pontiff, stay away from JD." It's something...

Justin: It is something.

Travis: Because the other one was [sings] 'he is an American pope!'

Griffin: No, no, no, no, the Lenny Kravitz, keep the—stay on the Kravitz.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Always good on Kravitz.

Travis: [sings] American pontiff!

Griffin: How bad do you guys wish that Protestants also had like a king? How dope would that be? Like, I'm so jealous of my Catholic friends. I have so many Catholic friends, you guys.

Travis: All right, we get it.

Griffin: Because they have like a—the one guy who's like, it's cool. But on Protestants it's like—got like 80 different people. And they're all—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Saying different shit.

Travis: It must be nice to have a religious king that you can, one, point to to justify things, but also, to blame things on.

Griffin: Right. Is Justin-

Travis: It's like, it all goes up there.

Griffin: Leaning out of frame anytime we talk about the pope for like—it kind of seems like you were afraid there would be a Sinéad O'Connor sort of situation. Is it... is it really—are you that uncomfortable with it? Or what do you think is going to happen?

Travis: Okay, it's an audio podcast, so doing hand puppets—

Griffin: It's an audio podcast, no one can see you're making little snakes with your hands.

Justin: Yeah, hand puppets won't work. No, the truth of the matter is, gentlemen—-

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: I did something in my chair this morning—

Griffin: Fuck, man.

Justin: I pulled a lever. [chuckles]

Griffin: Justin, I thought for sure you were hiding from the bit.

Justin: No! I did something to my chair this morning during Besties, this morning. And I podcast so... consecutively. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I don't have the time to get in here and really figure it out. So the problem is, if you review the video footage that has been taken of me today, there are at least four of me leaning back a little bit, and then absolutely falling. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And there's a couple minutes of me fiddling with the chair and thinking what fuckin' lever did I pull that made it so I can't lean back without falling anymore? And guys, that's the truth of the matter. That's where I'm at.

Travis: It's not that you're uncomfortable discussing the pope?

Justin: No, I love discussing the pope. I love discussing the pope. Sydnee is actually a little disappointed that I don't—I'm not following—I wasn't following it more closely. She texted me like, "White smoke." And I'm like, "Ah, man."

Griffin: It seems like they cracked it, I... I don't know a ton about the process.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But it seems like they cracked this one pretty fast, huh?

Justin: I think that all the popes looked at America and thought, "They have been crushing it."

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, sure.

Travis: That must be it.

Justin: That is-[chuckles] "We have got to get onboard the hype-"

Travis: "American leaders are doing it right."

Justin: "We gotta get on board the hype train. America fever." Which is what they should call COVID. [chuckles] America fever is just—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Sweeping the globe, and we gotta get— "America, you've earned it," says God.

Travis: You've heard of the American—the British invasion. Now it's time for American fever. Here's what I think happened.

Justin: Tell me, Trav.

Travis: JD killed the old pope, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: JD Vance—

Justin: So interest-keeps--

Travis: Well, I'm not saying-

Justin: It's just like, you keep saying it. [titters]

Travis: He directly did it. But I'm saying, he was there, and then three days later, pope was dead. That's all I'm saying.

Justin: Hey may have killed the pope in the sense that like a spoonful of sugar could cure your hiccups. If you happen to—the hiccups leave you after you eat some sugar. It's just like—

Travis: I'm just saying that, in some way, JD Vance is attached, rather—either causally or historically, to the pope's death.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And then they looked through American pope's tweets and saw him bad mouthing JD Vance at some point.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then they were like, "Oh, cool. We're gonna put him in. Take that, pope killer Vance."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And now... now he's there for payback. This is a revenge pope.

Griffin: Oh, cool!

Justin: I—guys—[laughs] it's my most embarrassing thing that with—I will say, when the new pope got up to do his address, I had a moment where I thought, "Ah, man, he knows Italian." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I was so—I was so impressed!

Griffin: That is cool.

Justin: I thought he was about to bust out like a fully American like-

Griffin: "Hey, what's up, you guys?"

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Thanks—

Justin: Exactly!

Griffin: "Hey, dudes! Thanks a ton! I'm gonna kick ass!"

Justin: When I heard American pope, I think in my head I was picturing John Goodman. You know what I mean? [chuckles]

Griffin: [titters] Yeah.

Travis: Mm-hm. Yeah, that this was a like, "We looked through the pope family tree, and it seems the last living pope is John Goodman."

Griffin: Everyone-

Justin: Yes, exactly.

Griffin: Everyone cares so much about the nationality of the pope. I want to talk about pope size. Give us a *huge* pope. Give us a John Goodman sized pope. A *big*, burly, pope.

Travis: Just mound—-a wall of pope.

Griffin: A *huge mound* of pope!

Justin: Big ol' wall o' pope.

Griffin: Big ol' wad. Give me that.

Justin: But I'm proud of that-

Griffin: What are you doing—what are you doing?

Travis: You think he learned Italian after becoming pope? [chuckles]

Justin: No, I think that he learned Italian way before that. I'm just embarrassed to think that it like—I was really impressed by how good his Italian was. And then I thought, you probably don't get to that level unless you gotten pretty good at Italian.

Travis: Well, you would probably have a hard time getting around in Vatican City and stuff, asking for directions, trying to find where the bathroom is, ordering food, if you didn't speak Italian.

Justin: Yeah, that's true. That's probably, that's... true.

Griffin: I actually heard, guys, the night before they sent that smoke up to say "It's Leo, bitch," they...

Travis: It spelled that out when it went up. [titters]

Griffin: It spells it out like a skywriting thing. He didn't know any Italian, but then they were like, "Hey, we're gonna pick you tomorrow, but first you got a cram for this big Italian test." He learned it all in one night. And that was one of his—

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: That's one of his three miracles.

Travis: Morpheus showed up and put the chip in his brain.

Griffin: Put the chip in his brain. And he took that test the next morning, and the principal of the Vatican came up and said, "You did it. You did it, son." And then he became the pope.

Justin: The whole thing's just so neat. I just wish we had some-

Griffin: Anything! Any kind of neat-

Justin: Like anything cool like that.

Griffin: Stuff. Ritual, whatever.

Travis: I've gone to—I've gone to Catholic mass with Teresa a couple times, you know, when I was trying—-still trying to impress her parents, before they found out what I did for a living. And I love all the showmanship—

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: The pageantry.

Griffin: You should-

Travis: All the dogma stuff I'm not wild about, but I like-

Griffin: Right, as-

Travis: The incense and stuff. That's chill.

Griffin: When you roll up to the mass, you should be given a little like punch card, and you tell them like which parts of it you want to—that you'd like.

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

Griffin: Because like all the stuff about like the chanting, and then you pass a cup around, or whatever, it's like, whoa. This is—this is like arcane magic! But then when you talk a long time about—

Travis: Yeah, I'm not wild about that part.

Griffin: That part's not my fave.

Travis: If I could leave before that part starts.

Griffin: The censures, the braziers?

Travis: Love that.

Griffin: Fuck yeah, dude, here for it. Dark Souls, man, I'm here for it.

Travis: Hell yeah, dude!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But then-

Travis: When you can trade in all the souls you've collected for upgrades? I love that part.

Griffin: And you can always tell too, the transitions need a little bit of work. Because it'll be like [spoofs Latin chanting] amis-deum-flavun. And they have like the censers throwing smoke around and they're like, "This weekend, I went to Denny's with my kids." Like, ah, man... can we not take a smoother step from ritual into liturgy?

Travis: I think, Griffin, if the priest starts talking about hanging out with his kids, there's a lot of question marks happening in the room at that point.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess they're not really supposed to have those darn things, huh? [titters]

Travis: [chuckles] No, they're not, Griffin.

Justin: Not extended families, no. They can have a couple kids. [chuckles] But if they get like a lot of kids, it starts to get like, hey...

Travis: I think the kids have to happen before—

Griffin: They'll let one-

Travis: The priesthood part. You can have kids grandfathered in, I think.

Griffin: Well, where are we getting new priests, guys? This doesn't make any fucking sense.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: They just keep finding 'em.

Griffin: They just keep finding 'em, yes-

Justin: My pah-pa was a priest. Hold on, wait. [titters] Wait.

Griffin: Wait.

Travis: Wait. Hold on-

Griffin: Hold on.

Travis: Hold on, hold on.

Griffin: That should have ended his line.

Justin: "This summer, I'm going to meet Walton Goggins at a convention. I'm absolutely petrified I'm going to shit the bed. The last convention I went to in 2023, I waited in the autograph line for hours to meet an actor I really admire. As soon as I got up to the table, I completely froze. I barely remember the conversation. We share a name. He asked how I was finding it, and all I remember saying was, 'It's misspelled a lot, actually.' And he was kind enough to laugh. My question is this, how do I face down Walton Goggins and not completely black out like last time? Or maybe even make a good impression."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Who's that from?

Justin: That's from in a total—well, it's In a Total Tizzy in Texas.

Travis: But I assume it's from a Travis. They talk about having the same name as an actor they admire, must be me, right?

Griffin: [titters] Yeah, man.

Justin: I imagine, yeah.

Travis: They've seen my work in Seeso's My Brother, My Brother and Me.

Griffin: Yeah. Texarkana Waltz.

Travis: Texarkana Waltz in college, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: In college, they definitely—

Justin: I—

Griffin: On the stage there.

Justin: I feel, and I think it's because of the accent, Walton Goggins is like one of the very, very few celebrities that I feel like I would say hey to. Like I feel like I—just from the—just from the accent, I feel like it would be a rare enough thing for him to encounter somebody from... you know, has a little bit of a twang, if you will.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And I feel like it would really put him at ease. And I think we'd connect.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I will say, it's hard for me to separate having first become aware of him through Justified, as I believe a lot of people did.

Griffin: Sure, sure.

Travis: That I think of him as kind of a hometown hero-esque thing. And then I have to remind myself, he's a very famous—

Griffin: It's a character—

Travis: Successful actor-

Griffin: An actor, yeah.

Travis: And he doesn't like live in Ashland. Like-

Griffin: He's not from a-

Justin: Yeah! Travis, okay, yeah. You're hitting on it, Trav. Yeah, I didn't think of Walton—

Griffin: You just said so confidently that Walton Goggins has like maybe a bit of an Appalachian twang. But then I saw you second guess like, "Does he actually have that, or am I thinking of his character in Justified?"

Justin: No, he does-

Travis: He's from Atlanta, Georgia, I believe.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: I mean, he—yeah. But like, I'm saying... yes, okay, that's fair. I am projecting a little bit. I think that that is—that is accurate. But... he does seem pretty relaxed.

Travis: Do you think if you rolled up wearing a pair of Walton Goggins goggles, that—

Justin: Walton Goggins goggle glasses.

Griffin: Put some respect—

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: On the name, please.

Justin: Please.

Travis: If you roll up wearing Walton Goggins goggle glasses, is that a point in your favor, or do you think it's trying too hard?

Griffin: I'm gonna grab mine—I'm gonna grab mine real quick.

Justin: Yeah, get it for the clip, because I would love—I've been trying so hard to get the brand going. I feel like it's a brand deal that's just waiting to happen for My Brother, My Brother and Me.

Travis: It's just not there.

Justin: I would love to have Walton on the Clubhouse to pitch the Walton Goggins goggle glasses. It's another free ad for Walton Goggins goggle glasses here on My Brother, My Brother and Me. [titters]

Griffin: I don't know if they make them—

Travis: Griffin, you just became so much more likable. So much-

Griffin: I don't know if they make 'em in a jumbo size, for gentlemen of perhaps a larger head carriage.

Travis: You look great!

Griffin: But I love the way I look. I don't—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But can I swim with the—like, if I showed up to the—to the meet and greet with Walton Goggins and was like, "Love 'em, but can I swim in them?"

Travis: Can I weld in them?

Griffin: Can I weld in them? You call 'em goggle glasses, you need to be very clear about what these things can do.

Justin: I mean, they're a little pricey for Walton Goggins goggle glasses, but if you did go to the meet and greet wearing them—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You're right that that would—I mean, that gets you through the interaction.

Griffin: That gets you—

Justin: That's enough material.

Griffin: You need nothing else.

Justin: You need nothing else. "Hey, I see your glasses!" Point. "Hey, I have the glasses." The connection has been made. I tell you the—when I've done meet and greets with folks before, I tell you the only problem that I ever have is the hearing—if the story—if the thing that they're trying to communicate is too complex.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: My brain is not in a place where I can process that.

Travis: A lot of sensory stuff going on.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: There—yeah.

Justin: There's a lot. So, keeping it tight, I love you. Acting. Fantastic!

Travis: I love you acting.

Justin: Fantastic acting!

Griffin: [chuckles] Keep it up!

Justin: I saw Walton Goggins recently say that the secret to acting is you read it 250 times, and then you give yourself over to imaginary circumstances.

Griffin: Damn, that's good.

Travis: That's pretty good.

Justin: It's good.

Griffin: Hey, can you see everything I'm doing on my computer while I'm wearing these? Because now I'm realizing—from an opsec perspective, I'm— the Walton Goggins goggle glasses may not be very good for this type of telecommuting.

Justin: [chuckles] I can tell exactly how disengaged you are from the conversation by the flicker of your monitor tabs.

Travis: You could also find like the most obscure project that Walton Goggins has ever participated in, and then specifically compliment that. That has worked for me in the past.

Justin: Walton Goggins goggle glasses, Trav-

Travis: Yes, I think that's it.

Griffin: I don't know that it gets much more obscure than that. Hey, when I wear 'em up on my head like this, do I look like a cool like Final Fantasy character? Like a like... like Cid Highwind or something?

Travis: I was gonna say a cool ski guy.

Justin: Yeah. You look like Egon two. Like if they did a new Egon-

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: In a new Ghostbusters, he would look like that.

Griffin: Was he a con-

Travis: They've done that-

Griffin: Was he-

Travis: A couple of times, Justin.

Griffin: Was he a sort of conventionally agreed upon, attractive character?

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: He just had lots of glasses. Like he found new places. Glasses everywhere on Harold Ramis. [chuckles] Glasses on glasses.

Travis: I would argue, Griffin, that Harold Ramis as Egon Spangler did it for a lot of people.

Griffin: That was the—who's the hottest Ghostbuster?

Justin: Venkman.

Travis: No? I think it's Egon.

Griffin: I'm sorry I asked this question. I don't want to know the answer to it.

Justin: Okay. Hey, listen.

Travis: If you're talking about personality-wise, yeah, Venkman. But if we're just talking about looks?

Griffin: Body.

Justin: Ernie Hudson.

Travis: Oh, body?!

Griffin: Ernie Hudson.

Justin: Ernie Hudson is the-

Travis: Ernie Hudson!

Justin: Sexiest. Like-

Travis: Fuck, that's a good point.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

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

Justin: Yeah, Ernie Hudson is the... like... [chuckles] Okay, okay, okay.

Travis: Okay! Okay! Okay!

Justin: Physical body—

Griffin: Why did I fuckin' do this, man?

Justin: Ernie, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Ernie has it, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Now, Venkman, good time, not a long time.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? We're having fun with Venkman. If you wanna marry someone? You marry Ray.

Griffin: There's gotta be a name for this game you're playing right now.

Travis: But I'm saying, Egon, I can fix him! You know what I mean? He's a little distant.

Justin: You're gonna try to fix Egon, and then he's gonna ghost you. And I mean that literally.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: I'm just saying, that profile, though? Like he he's cutting a look so hard. Like his face? Face card?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hundo, right? I—

Griffin: Okay. There's four of 'em. So let's do—we'll do fuck, fuck, marry, kill.

Justin: No, I hate-

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: And you get a bonus—

Justin: I hate that game.

Griffin: That's a shame—

Justin: I hate that game.

Griffin: Because you're playing it. You are playing it right now-

Justin: No! Because I don't want—this is the thing—this is the thing—

Travis: I kill Ray.

Justin: It's like Brock tune, right? We can find people sexy and want to marry them, and not include killing them.

Travis: I kill Ray.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like-

Griffin: That's the-that's-

Justin: We don't need to kill any Ghostbusters!

Travis: I kill Ray.

Griffin: That's got to be tough, huh? Conflict of interest at that point.

Justin: How do you do—hey, Trav. How do you kill—[chuckles] Trav, describe to me in detail how you kill Ray Stantz.

Travis: Slowly.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: Describe it, and then with every other sentence, just tell me how you want to fuck Slimer, or whatever.

Travis: No, Slimer wasn't—I didn't know that was—

Justin: I almost fell, fuck!

Travis: Available, I would kill Slimer!

Griffin: Juice, you gotta get that chair fixed, man-

Justin: I know, Griffin! I know! But when I try to fix it, my brothers think I'm ducking pope jokes!

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I marry Ernie Hudson. I'm fucking Venkman-

Justin: Like right now?!

Travis: Yeah. [laughs] I'm fucking Venkman. I'm fucking Egon. I'm killing Ray.

Griffin: This version of the game is a lot easier.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You still have to kill someone.

Justin: Why can't we fuck three Ghostbusters, kill none—[chuckles] and then marry one 'em for life!

Travis: And I'm taking—I'm taking Janine on a date. A lovely date, where I'm being very respectful and we're gonna have a great time.

Griffin: I'm taking Janine and Slimer on a pizza... not date, but hang.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [titters] Chill.

Travis: I'd watch the game with Slimer! I think that that would be fun as hell.

Griffin: Oh, I'd smoke up with Slimer and watch the game.

Travis: Oh, fuck yeah, I'd smoke up with Slimer! Are you kidding me?!

Griffin: Because then you could just like get it from him. Like, he puffs it in and then it just leaves his body and you're like—

Travis: Oh, imagine putting your head inside Slimer. Like Slimer encases your head while he takes a huge rip.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, you'd die. You would suffocate and die in the worst imaginable—

Travis: That's how I'd kill—that's how I'd kill Ray.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Put Slimer on his head?

Travis: I put Slimer on his head.

Griffin: You'd make Slimer complicit-

Travis: He'd love it.

Griffin: In the murdering-

Travis: Are you kidding me?

Griffin: Of one of the Ghostbusters.

Travis: That nasty dog?!

Justin: And that's how I killed Ray.

[group chuckle]

Griffin: [spoofs silly ghost sounds] That was Slimer.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: "I have an indoor/outdoor cat. One day when I was following him around outside, he went down on the outdoor stairs of my multi complex

home. And to my alarm, headed inside the open and screenless window of my downstairs neighbor. I went to grab him saying, 'No, don't go into someone else's house,' in a very high-pitched voice. And to my extreme alarm, neighbor, who I hadn't noticed, said, 'No, it's okay. He's done this before.' Brothers, is there a social code for my cat occasionally visits your home? I was so freaked out that I fear I may have flunked it. I said, 'Well, as long as you don't feed him.' And stood by anxiously watching my cat, unsure of what to do with myself." That's from Anxious Cat Mom in Michigan.

Griffin: Your cat... wants an open relationship, but can't communicate that to you.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Because it's a cat. This isn't a matter of pride. The cat's gotta get what the cat is gonna get, and sometimes that means fresh tinned sardines from your cool downstairs neighbor. So you—

Travis: That's interesting, I didn't take it as pride.

Griffin: What do you mean?

Travis: I would take the anxiety of like, I hope they behave themselves. What if the cat...

Griffin: Really fucks up the house.

Travis: Like, the cat makes a mess or like, messes something up, and that reflects poorly on me.

Griffin: Well, great! Because that's not—but then he's not going to do it in my house. Like, sorry the cat—sorry the cat shitted in your house that I didn't know he was going to. But that's one shit that's not going to be in my house, so thank you so much.

Justin: They're habitual creatures, though, aren't they?

Griffin: They are.

Justin: What if they get so used to pissing at the neighbor's house that they can't go anywhere else? And they—you have to go downstairs and knock on the door like, "Hey, listen."

Griffin: "Listen here."

Justin: "Mr. Mittens has got a...he's got a full bladder."

Griffin: "He's full to burst."

Justin: Yeah, "You gotta let him come in." [chuckles]

Travis: This seems like a me-

Justin: But lay out the jacket. Lay out your favorite jacket like he likes it, please. Thank you.

Travis: This seems like a meet cute from a movie. I'm not saying that's what's happening here, but it seems like something from a movie where it's like, "Oh, my cat went in your window." And it's like, "That's your cat. I've been calling it my cat." And now you have a—

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: In one shard of the multiverse, I think it's a meet cute. I think in every other shard, it's just sort of an uncomfortable social situation. I don't want them thinking it's a meet cute. Because—

Travis: No, I'm not saying this is a meet cute. I'm saying that this is movie-level wild to me. Like...

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: You don't have this problem with a dog, right?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: My dogs, if I found out my dogs are in someone's home, they've been dog-napped.

Griffin: Yeah, shouldn't be there.

Travis: Or they're loose.

Justin: For a cat, it's too powerful, I think, to give them the ability to go to someone else's house that isn't your house.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: That's the great injustice of a cat's life, is that when it finds you distasteful, it cannot abandon you and go somewhere else to teach you a lesson. Now that it has had a taste of that, I don't think you're gonna get them off of it. I think that they're hooked.

Travis: And this step owner now has no responsibility, right? They can give this cat ice cream, let him stay up late to watch the movies—

Griffin: Do the fun stuff.

Travis: Yeah, like get 'em a new bike or whatever. And then when the cat is having homework trouble, or like fighting with a friend at school or whatever, you—it's gonna come back to you and you gotta deal with it. You gotta—you gotta—you gotta seal that neighbor's window.

Justin: Yeah, they're not gonna give him heart warm-

Travis: Nail it shut.

Justin: [chuckles] Sorry!

Griffin: Would have enjoyed any kind of information on the neighbor before the three of us dove into this one. Because that could be a real minefield. They're a huge—

Travis: They don't seem to have any?

Griffin: What?

Travis: They said they don't know them?

Griffin: Right, but they probably got to know a little bit of the—like, you can clock a vibe pretty quick. And they've encountered each other. Give us anything about the vibe, like anything to work with. Because what if they're a fuckin' creep? I don't know.

Travis: Or a giant like coyote or something.

Griffin: It could be a big coyote.

Justin: I keep imagining them standing there, talking to the neighbor and trying to decide if they should leave or stay. And, man, it's just giving me palpitations to think about it. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Because you'd think once the neighbor's like, "It's okay, he's done this before," there's part of me that's like, "Well, I'm gonna.,, go?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I get—yeah, I mean, so you... please enjoy my cat?" I mean like or if you—I guess you stay? And then they're like, "Well, I told you it's fine."

Griffin: But it's not a play date. You don't have to stay.

Justin: It's not a play date, right? I'm not—I'm not gonna get to know *you*? **Griffin**: Yeah. No, I mean, that is why they wrote into this advice podcast—

Justin: I know, but I-

Griffin: And I don't-

Justin: It's really hard.

Griffin: I don't think it's doing us a lot of favors to have our shit so completely fall apart at the premise of one of the questions. [chuckles] We have to keep a stiff upper lip here.

Justin: I know—no, I know, but it's trying to be—I'm trying to be honest, Griffin. I think that like empathy is maybe the first step in trying to say this is hard.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: And maybe that's—and Griffin, maybe in 2025, we need to be comfortable with like, sometimes, that's all people need. [chuckles] Maybe people don't need answers, they need just to have their feelings affirmed.

Griffin: It's-

Travis: They asked if they—yeah, did you do anything wrong? No. That's exactly what we would have done. Felt weird.

Justin: That was very hard.

Griffin: But it's an advice podcast, not an affirmation podcast-

Justin: Yes, but I'm trying to-

Griffin: And we have to be able to fix our problems.

Justin: I'm trying to make space for the fact that movies and TV have taught us that social interaction should be smooth and effortless.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What I'm saying is, it almost never is. You know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Saw Nathan Fielder-

Travis: A meet ugly-

Justin: Talk about this—

Travis: If you will.

Justin: Yeah! Most meets are ugly. And it doesn't mean you should have to feel—be good at it. But it does mean that maybe you can't be good at it, you know what I mean? [chuckles] Maybe you can't!

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Maybe you—maybe most things, you just can't fix. And you just gotta say, "Huh, that was the pits."

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: "Absolutely the worst. I'm glad that was finite, because, man, it was the pits."

Travis: I only hope it was as bad for them as it was for me. [chuckles]

Justin: No, 100% of the time, they never thought about it ever again.

Griffin: No, it's-

Travis: Oh, okay?

Griffin: Fully, fully imagined in your own-

Justin: Yeah. [chuckles] 100%, absolutely.

Griffin: Wonder Emporium up there. I thought we were gonna get past all this stuff once everyone had email addresses, because then you could just be like, "Oh, cats in your house? This is a weird situation. What's your email? I will hit you up digitally."

Justin: I think the reason that didn't happen is because of the '@' and then the URL. Because people don't—

Griffin: It's too long!

Justin: It's too long, and you don't know when it's over. Like, it's feeling pretty good—when you're giving someone your email address, it's feeling pretty good. And then you say the '@' and then you think, man, I hope they don't judge whatever I say next.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because whatever I say next, they're gonna have a feeling about, you know?

Griffin: And there's so many terms that we could use, had they not been already sort of co-opted. Where you would just be like in an uncomfortable situation and say like, let's— "This is uncomfortable, let's just cyber." And that means like we're going to communicate cyber, in cyberspace, with typing and stuff instead of having to talk about it right now.

Justin: Yeah. What's your Pulse ID? And by the way, Pulse is just the name I came up with for the software. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's cool.

Justin: But it would be like pretty slick.

Griffin: It's a sub-dermal cuff.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Right—right below the—

Justin: The Pulse ID is a sub-dermal—yeah.

Travis: And as your—as your pulse races because you're in an anxious situation, it just automatically pings the person to say, "They're gonna leave now."

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. And you're allowed to just turn mid-sentence and bounce. And is there a version of the show Black Mirror, but where everything works out good and cool? [chuckles] Because that's—

Travis: White Mirror. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's what it sounds-

Justin: It's White Lotus.

Travis: [chortles] The opposite of Black Mirror, I love that. Hey, everybody. It's me, Travis McCrory, and I'm taking my brothers to The Money Zone!

Griffin: [in a cartoonish voice] Waa-aah!

Justin: [in a cartoonish voice] Aah!

[theme music plays]

Justin: Ah! Dang it, Travis. When we went to The Money Zone, I broke my ass.

Travis: Oh... what?

Justin: When we fell into The Money Zone, I broke my ass!

Griffin: This is great. I don't have the ad copy ups, but I'm—my mind is racing trying to think of—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: There's no doctors—there's no doctors here in The Money Zone, that I know of—

Travis: Aah, okay.

Justin: I've never had to find a doctor in The Money Zone.

Griffin: Well, the infrastructure-

Justin: But I do have broken ass!

Griffin: The infrastructure is *not there* in The Money Zone.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's mostly-

Justin: I just need a partner to help me navigate it.

Travis: We don't have elect-

Griffin: Is it Zocdoc?!

Travis: A lot of electricity. What?

Griffin: Is it Zocdoc?

Justin: Yeah, Griffin. Yeah, obviously.

Griffin: Zocdoc's the one.

Justin: Yeah, obviously. It's a free app and website where you can search and compare high-quality in-network doctors. You choose the right one for your needs and click to instantly book an appointment.

Travis: Okay, I'm gonna go to Zocdoc real quick and type in 'broken ass.'

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: 'Stuck in Money Zone. Not mine, brother's.' Oh, yeah! It came up with like four of 'em.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: We're talking about in-network appointments with more than 100,000 healthcare providers across every specialty, from mental health to dental health, eye care to skin care, and much more.

Griffin: I've found everything—my whole health network here in Washington, DC, more or less, I found on Zocdoc. And it was the only way to do that, because it's very complicated booking medical shit, especially in a big city.

Justin: So, stop putting off those doctor's appointments and go to zocdoc.com/my.brother to find and instantly book a top-rated doctor today. That's zocdoc.com/mybrother. Zocdoc.com/mybrother.

Travis: And Justin, while your broken ass heals, while you recover, I'm gonna be here every step of the way, nursing you back to health. Making you—making you delicious meals. And Justin? I don't care how—

Justin: There's—-take too long, Travis. It'll take too long.

Travis: You need the food now?

Justin: Yeah, it'll take—to make a nutritious, delicious meal takes hours and hours.

Travis: No, Justin, oh-

Justin: I'll be dead by then. [chuckles]

Travis: Justin, you dumb, stupid idiot, with your broken ass that you deserve now, because you're so stupid. It won't take that long, because—

Justin: Ah, you re-broke my ass! [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, I-

Griffin: Yeah, he burned your ass so hard, it got broke again.

Travis: Yeah, man. That's what you get for being so stupid. Because with Factor, they have nutritious two-minute meals. And eating well has never been this easy. Just heat it up and enjoy, Justin.

Justin: Ooh?

Travis: Yeah, so when your broken ass is all healed up, get rid of that crack, instead of spending all your time inside, cooking and prepping and all that stuff, Factor meals are ready to eat. Perfect for your active lifestyle with—a man with a fully healthy ass. It's what it says right here, "For the man with a fully healthy ass."

Griffin: It says here in the copy, "Don't forget us once your ass is healed, Justin."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's weird.

Travis: Huh. They have 45 weekly menu options, so you're guaranteed to find something that works for you. They can power your whole day, breakfast, lunch, dinner, even snacks and desserts. You gotta check 'em out, they're delicious and nutritious and fast, and ready to go for the man with a broken or healthy ass.

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So, get started at factormeals.com/brother50off, and use code Brother 50—that's five zero—Off, to get 50% off, plus free shipping on your first box. That's code Brother 50 Off, at factormeals.com/brother50off, for 50% off, plus free shipping.

Griffin: That's a—I—we don't usually do this, but that's a kick ass URL. They—

Travis: Brother 50 Off.

Griffin: That's a kick ass URL. Brother 50 Off.

Travis: And now he's the pope. [chuckles]

[break]

Justin: "Recently, at my local mall, a VR game has opened up that takes you on a virtual roller coaster ride. Since its opening, I've really wanted to try it, but I can't convince anyone, including my eight year old little sister, to do the ride with me. As an adult, there is no way I could do the ride by myself."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "So, how do I get in on this VR game while retaining my dignity? Note, I have never actually seen anyone using the VR machine, and it sits in the middle of the main strip of the mall. So, if I were to go ride it, I would basically be on display for any and all passersby." That's from Vexed by VR, vest Virginia—[titters] well, Vexed by VR, West Virginia.

Travis: Now, unless there's a rule that says no adults without children, you can—there... When you say there's no way, you could ride that.

Griffin: Yeah, you're—you can go in a—arcades are actually all right. Like, you can go in an arcade. You're totally fine.

Justin: I would argue, in fact, that by doing that, you've made—you've given someone else permission.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: To find-

Travis: Oh, beautiful.

Justin: Joy in their life. You know?

Griffin: As long as before you get on the roller coaster machine, you do have to sit at the Willy Wonka coin drop machine, and spend about three hours dropping quarters in there. And then people will be like, "That's a fuckin' grown ass person." Then you can go on the roller coaster.

Justin: I think where you're—where I would actually start to second guess myself a lot is not the writing it, but the extent to which I should really lean into the experience. Because I think that virtual reality is best when you are bringing your whole self to the illusion.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: When you're saying, I am immersed in this. This is me. This is my reality. Me and the Rabbids are running through Santa's workshop.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Hurling snowballs at each other. I'm part of this. And I think they—

Travis: It's just like Walton Goggins says, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. He says "I love chasing—"

Travis: Just immerse yourself-

Justin: Just like Walton Goggins says! You put the goggles on, and you immerse yourself in imaginary experiences.

Griffin: And you chase a baby Gru through Santa's workshop.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm Walton Goggins, and that's the plot of the Rabbids roller coaster ride at arcades.

Justin: And these are the Apple Vision Walton Goggins goggle vision goggle glasses. [chuckles] They're \$6,000.

Griffin: Amazing.

Travis: Worth every penny.

Justin: Worth every penny. Yeah, I mean, I would—I would—should you keep a straight face? I mean, that looks worse—

Griffin: Well, don't-

Justin: Right?

Griffin: Yeah, don't yell.

Travis: Well, now, hold on! I think if you're write it-

Justin: Okay, so you don't go wee and don't yell, but you don't keep a straight face. What do you want from me—demonstrate—

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Proper—yeah.

Travis: Oh, my? Oh? A hill.

Justin: Ooh?

Travis: Ooh? [chuckles]

Justin: Ooh?

Travis: Ooh, titillating!

Justin: Griffin's putting the Walton Goggins goggle glasses back on?

Travis: Okay, Griffin's gonna demonstrate-

Griffin: I'm thinking—I'm... I'm thinking you hit him with like a, [in a hushed voice] "Wow, whoa... No way? Wow!" A lot of sort of like whispering under your breath.

Travis: Maybe reach out and try to touch something at some point?

Griffin: Oh, people love that when it's like, "Hey, try out the fuckin' virtual cyber world. It's so, so cool. There's like five Hatsune Mikus and a little SpongeBob SquarePants. You're gonna love this shit." And then they—you see 'em reach and try and like sit down on the chair, and they fall down? That shit's so funny, dude. You could be that for someone.

Travis: Open it up. I also, I'm worried, because when I picture—here's a VR machine in the middle of a mall. No one's using it. And maybe I just watched too much Are You Afraid of the Dark as a kid. But you're gonna get sucked into that thing—

Griffin: Oh, for sure.

Travis: Why is no one else using it? What do they know that you don't. It's cursed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You're gonna get pulled into a virtual world and have to fight your way out against maybe Bobcat Goldthwait, I'm guessing.

Justin: Somebody.

Griffin: I think you're right, yeah.

Travis: Something like that. You're gonna be trapped in there, maybe forever. You're gonna leave there. You're not going to be sure if you're really out or not.

Griffin: You'll—that's the fucked up part, you can never really tell when you took the headset off.

Justin: [chuckles] So realistic.

Travis: It's gonna be a—it's gonna be a whole thing, man.

Griffin: Yeah. Because there's a bit and the Rabbids-

Travis: Zardo is gonna show up.

Griffin: There's a bit in the Rabbids rollercoaster ride where Gru takes the headset off, but it's still like a cut scene in the game. And you're like, how many fucking layers deep do the—have these guys gone?

Justin: I'm gonna give you one chance, and it's gonna have to be elegant and tasteful for you to excise yourself from it with grace.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: But you're gonna need to explain to me why you keep mentioning Gru in the context of the Rabbids.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: This is the second, maybe third. I need you to explain to me what happened, where we went wrong.

Travis: This is... we're opening this up. This is a safety zone here, Griffin.

Griffin: It doesn't fit—can I say, it feels extremely not safe, this zone. It feels—

Justin: [chuckles] It's a-

Griffin: I feel like I am on-

Justin: It's a narrow sliver! It's a narrow sliver of grace. It's infinite, it's deep. But it's narrow.

Griffin: I would need you two to stand up from your computers and walk away 25 feet before I would feel like this is a safe space. The Rabbids are Minions with long ears. Hello! If you need me to tell you that, you don't you're not keeping your fuckin' eyes open. And keepin' a look at these corporations!

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Because I'm pretty sure it's the same one that does both these guys.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's definitely Illumination. But Minions are Rabbids without the ears and bunny-like sort of characteristics. They are little horrible Tic Tac men, and that's basically also what a Rabbid is. So that's why I kept talking about Gru, who is like the Minions' dad.

Justin: Okay. Do you think that Minions are Smurfs without souls?

Griffin: No. Different looking shape completely. But really, the whole only thing with the Rabbids is the ears.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: Hey, let's go to the wizard, he's got something for us here. This one was sent in by Christian. Thanks, Christian. And it is... 200 plus motorcyclist names to help you stand out on the road.

Travis: Oh? As a motorcyclist, right? Not like I'm standing on the road yelling at them as they go by.

Griffin: "Hey, jerk! Hey, jerk!" Yeah, they have 200 mean names to yell at passing motorcycles.

Travis: Okay. That would make you stand out.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure. I bet they wouldn't like it, though. They can get off those bikes so dang quick, it is not a great idea to yell at 'em.

Travis: Some of 'em don't even need to stop the bike. They can just jump up, bike keeps going, they land. So angry.

Griffin: They land. They deploy the parachute. "Do you need to find the perfect biker names for your tough as nails motorcycle persona?" Am I supposed to have one of those?

Travis: Well, not without the name.

Griffin: That's a good point. We'll start there. "Don't choose your biker moniker randomly. Check out our list of over 200 biker names, from the uncommon to ones that are ideal for Instagram."

Travis: What?

Griffin: No idea—

Justin: That's a big thing.

Griffin: Yeah. You'll also find-

Travis: I'm not saying bikers can't be on Instagram, but I didn't know that that was like a major thought when going into that lifestyle, is will this look good on Instagram.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Well, I think they're thinking about like can you get the handle, right?

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: You don't want to be like... Arkansas Spike.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And there's already a bunch of Arkansas—@ArkansasSpikes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Take up the handle

Griffin: "I'm Potato Dog!" But then you go and Potato Dog is definitely—

Travis: Well, then you could be The Real Potato Dog.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Potato Dog Real. Potato Dog Real 69 420.

Griffin: You'll also find help for creating a name for your motorcycle club and get answers to questions about biker names. Do you guys feel like you know enough about bike culture that you could comfortably pick a biker name right now and like really own it—get it stenciled on your hog or whatever. **Justin**: Griffin, I had to pick one with no prep, and came up with Arkansas Spike, I think. So no, I don't—

Griffin: Yeah, and I said Potato Dog. Like we-this is-

Justin: Yeah, I mean, I- Neither one of those was-

Travis: I would be the Wizard-

Griffin: Trav?

Travis: Of Bikes.

Griffin: Wizard of Bikes is actually kick ass. That's the best of the three, Trav.

Justin: I do think that you should have to get the moniker from the biker gang. Because I think that if you roll up to a new gang that you're not in and you're like, "Hey, I'm the Texas Torch." And they're like, "I'm not sure that that's right."

Travis: "We already got two of those, man."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You can't—

Justin: Let's take it on Instagram. [chuckles]

Griffin: At what level of organization are you expected to have a motorcycle persona with an original name? Because if it's like a—like a Facebook group meetup bike event, I don't think you get a biker name for that. There has to be a certain amount of membership involved. When—-and when do you cross that threshold?

Justin: I love—I love the idea of a delay. And can I tell you why? Because I feel like it is a biker solve to one of the biggest problems in life.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: Is when you wait too long to find out someone's name.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because you don't realize they're gonna be-

Griffin: Fuck, man.

Justin: Important in your life.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Until a few too long. Bikers have a fucking kick ass one where they're like, "Eh, I'll catch 'em next time. I'll learn it next time."

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: I'll learn! And I'll learn it on—yeah, next go around, I'll learn the new one.

Griffin: But you don't even—

Justin: For sure.

Travis: Well, what Griffin is saying, if I may, and I kind of—

Griffin: Please.

Travis: Love this. And we could all adopt this in everyday society. Is that you will earn a name from the group when they have decided that they—that you are important enough to them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That they need to remember your name. So much so, they are now giving you a new one.

Griffin: Yeah. And then if you ever forget that name, it's fuckin' stenciled on the front of their vest or whatever.

Justin: Exactly.

Griffin: And you can be like, "Oh, shit, it's been a minute... Buzzard?"

Justin: [chuckles] With four Zs.

Travis: It's 'Boo-zaard!' [chuckles]

Griffin: Damn. I'm cheating, because that's the—-one of the first names in hardcore biker names. "Use names that show you're tough."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: "Biker names that are considered badass or hardcore are often just one word names that describe something strong or sound rugged." Let's hit—let's just go through these warrior-style. Armor, Axle, Barbarian, Blaze, Boulder, Brick, Buzzard, Claw, Conqueror, Dynamite—

Travis: Sagittarius.

Griffin: Dynamite is cool? Dynamite could be like a tough name, but it can also be like, I'm about to dazzle you—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: With my incredible bike skills.

Travis: You could probably just go through a list of like the top 200 X-Men name.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And come up with like the same kind of list, you know?

Justin: I keep—I keep coming up like—my brain gave me 'Dynamike,' like a pun. And then I was like—and then I had to remind myself like, brain, I'm not sure bikers would like puns! I don't think they would think it's—I don't think it's a good idea. [chuckles]

Travis: I don't think you can-

Griffin: I have-

Travis: Call yourself Dynamike if your first name was John?

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: One of the names on here is Rabid, spelled like if a dog goes foamy or whatever.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: But you could throw an extra B in there and be like a real—like a Rabbid fan on the motorcycle.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And you got two lost in the sauce on the ride at the mall, and now you have to live that life for real. Stone Cold is one. That's two words, but that's fine. Cool names!

Travis: I don't think you can do that. That one famously belongs to Mr. Austin.

Griffin: Can you fucking believe—if someone rolled up to your new awesome biker club and was like, "Yeah, I decided to go with Stone Cold. Here's my vest and everything." The amount of work they would have to put in for me to consider them when I think of the word 'Stone Cold' and—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Not the other guy, would have to be... I don't know if you could do it in one lifetime.

Travis: Unless you are like Stone Cold Steve Austin. Like I was just thinking if they Undertaker—

Griffin: But then it's a non-issue?

Travis: But if the—if the Undertaker rolled up to your biker gang and said, "I'm the Undertaker," you wouldn't be like, "Well, you have to earn that." You'd be like, "Yeah, man, you absolutely are."

Griffin: I can't see any scenario in my future, Travis, where I would invite the Undertaker to my biker club. I do—I simply do not think the man qualifies for an invite. [chuckles]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: How about some cool names?

Justin: Do you think Stone Cold Steve Austin would get mad if he joined the club and they're like, "We're gonna call you Danger." [chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: It's like, "Well, I've already actually got a pretty good—" [chuckles] Like, "I'm just gonna stick with—"

Travis: "I've got a whole thing."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "I'm gonna just go with the Stone Cold thing, because it's like—it's already pretty scary and everything."

Griffin: "Here comes Shotgun." "I'm—I told you guys already." Travis: No.

Justin: "I got on a shirt and everything, like I—"

Griffin: Cool names! I'm gonna skip the fuckin' explanation of what is cool. Arsenal, Berserk, Cobra, Enigma.

Travis: Now hold on.

Griffin: That's—that's the—I like like... mystery. Like, when you—I cruise past you on the bike, if it says like 'Mad Dog,' you're gonna be like, "I know that guy's whole deal." But when he rolls through and he's like, p-chew, 'Conundrum.' You have no

Travis: Especially-

Griffin: Fuckin' idea what I'm about.

Travis: If you put a question mark on the stencil and it's like-

Griffin: Oh, yes.

Travis: Enigma?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: And you're like, "Wait, was it?" Exactly.

Justin: You run a danger of like your crew starting to turn into a bunch of Batman rogues' gallery though like, this is the Perplexer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Over here we got-

Travis: I love it.

Justin: The Ice King. [chuckles]

Griffin: Got Street Viper!

Travis: This is the Paralyzer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He's great.

Griffin: Got Thunder Dog. That's one of the names actually provided here. I'm just going to rip through some of these names, because there's a lot of filler shit in here. We got Axe Man, Buzz, Cougar, Hannibal—

Travis: Cougar is a thing. Once again, if there's already like slang like that is attached to that name, I don't think I'd want to be Cougar.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because then everybody's like, "Oh, hey, it's... it's Cougar." Right? Like—

Griffin: Now, you could be-

Travis: I don't need that.

Griffin: You could be Cougar Town, and that would be cool. Yeah, I'm named—

Travis: No, that's—that rules, yeah.

Griffin: After the hit ABC... How about-

Travis: "I'm Desperate Housewives!" [chuckles]

Griffin: I've been thinking—[chuckles] I've been thinking a lot about what these names would look like emblazoned on a vest. And I don't know why my head is there. But thinking that way, I am interested in the name Kevlar. Because that's one of the names provided here. And if you put that on your

clothes, and another biker, Road Rash style, tries to get up on you, you can point to your vest and be like, "Sorry, bud."

Justin: [chuckles] This is among the worst ideas I've ever heard in my entire life. It doesn't even hold up to like narrative scrutiny, even for like a comedy construction.

Griffin: [chuckles] No-

Justin: It's fucking non-sensical.

Griffin: I think it's completely-

Justin: The idea that you would goad someone into a fake out of a fake armored vest is so—[chuckles] is so decrepit, logically.

Travis: Maybe it's real, maybe it's fake. Do you want to risk it? Wait, what am I risking?

Justin: What am I—

Travis: Hold on, why is the risk on me at this point?

Griffin: You would be getting jumped in an on the road surprise attack.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Okay?

Griffin: This is not something you core—you don't co-ordinate a badass—

Justin: It's a surprise attack where you want to encourage the opposition to shoot you in the head.

Griffin: No! They-

Justin: You want to make it extremely clear that they want to go for a head shot.

Griffin: I don't think that's what the vest is meant to do, is to encourage them to shoot other cooler parts of your body. I think it's meant to say—they see it and they're like, "Shit. This one's got armor. Let's peel off."

Justin: "Don't go waste your time. They're completely kevlared out."

Travis: I would, once again—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "My name's also Kevlar." "Fuck, guys."

Travis: Damn it.

Griffin: "All these guys are Kevlar. Shoot... Let's get out of here."

Travis: I think if I was in a biker gang and I met someone named Kevlar, and then I found out their real name wasn't Kevin, I'd be very upset.

Griffin: Yeah, I'd be really, really disappointed.

Travis: But I also think that that kind of impulse is maybe why I'm not in a biker gang.

Justin: Exactly.

Travis: That idea of like, "Well, I'll tell you what really pisses me off. Kevlar over there, his real name's not even Kevin." And they'd be like, "What the fuck are you talking about, Travis?"

Justin: What are you even—what are you talking about?

Griffin: There's... there's a—there's a category of names that is not really siloed off here in this wikiHow article. But I would like to discuss sort of the power, the potential power of them.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: One of the names on here is Warlord. I'm thinking of like, can you get a name in your motorcycle club that's like King or Ruler or Head Honcho, or...

Justin: Boss Man.

Griffin: Boss Man

Justin: Boss-Boss-Boss Guy.

Travis: Big Hog.

Griffin: President. But you're not-

Justin: Oh?

Griffin: In charge of the biker club.

Justin: They probably would hate that if you're like, "Hi, I'm Secretary Treasurer. And I'm ready to run—I'm—" They would—they would already have one of those.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do you think, when you're picking—I bet that when you're picking a biker name for yourself, the amount of introspection that it takes to match up the level of badass that the name is with like what you think you can achieve—

Justin: What you can deliver on.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. Well, because I don't want to put up a big cheque that I can't cash, you know what I mean? Because I was thinking Warlord, and then you

get in there and it's like, "Yeah, I'm not—actually, I'm kind of... I'm kind of like threat-averse. I'm not really into the fight." I feel like I'd have to pick.

Justin: Yeah. You want to be reasonable.

Travis: Yeah. Mantis, I think would be good for me.

Griffin: Mantis would be cool. I-

Justin: Mantis.

Griffin: There's a list of—there's a list of women biker names on here.

Justin: Oh? Good, okay.

Griffin: And they're about as rough as you can imagine. There's two on here I would like to dive into a little bit though. One is Torque Mistress.

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: That could be-now, Juice-

Justin: That's good.

Griffin: What was your reaction to that?

Justin: No, it's good. Torque Mistress, I mean, it's—

Griffin: Torque Mistress is like-

Justin: Torque Mistress.

Griffin: Is cool. I don't—

Justin: You're gonna meet the exact people you want to with a name like that. [chuckles] You're gonna—it really narrows the demographic. Torque Mistress.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It will-unfortunately, it will signal to Torque's wife what's-

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: What's going on between the two of you.

Griffin: Torque is just standing in the middle, "Uh-oh. I don't know."

Travis: Ha-haa!

Griffin: "Who's Torque?"

Travis: "Torque wife gonna be so mad!"

Griffin: "Who's Torque?"

Justin: No, no, no, Torque's always like, "I really hate this." But I'm not sure Torque does at this point, honestly. I have my doubts.

Griffin: Yeah, if Torque hated it, he would have done—he would have made his choice by now. The other one I wanted to talk about is Smooth Wheels, which is like—

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Fucking crazy, because you'll die!

Justin: Those are bad.

Griffin: You need 'em-

Justin: We don't want those.

Griffin: You need 'em rough.

Travis: Bald tires! [chuckles]

Griffin: They gotta be-

Travis: No! Don't do that!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: I'm gonna pick one for Griffin, and I wanna nail it.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I wanna *nail* it.

Griffin: You do that, and I'll give you one from the list of funny biker names they provided, which I did not even know was an option. Does each biker club have—I can't—I don't know anything about this world. I never watched a Sons of Anarchy or anything in that vein. Is there always like kind of a funny one—

Travis: Oh yeah.

Griffin: In the club?

Travis: There's always—

Griffin: Okay, good.

Travis: A funny one.

Justin: They usually get killed, though.

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: I guess I don't know what they're doing most of the time. Like, obvious—

Justin: So... normally, they yell. I watch some of Sons of Anarchy, and then I quit. So, here's what I can tell you. Mostly, they're yelling at each other. [chuckles] That's the big thing.

Travis: Now Justin, when you stopped-

Justin: And then they're fighting amongst each other, which is wild, because they only know like 10 motorcycle guys. I wouldn't fight with them. I would be their friends.

Griffin: And their whole thing is that they all *really* like riding motorcycles.

Justin: Yeah, they can't live in a cage. Which is a car.

Travis: Justin, when you stopped watching Sons of Anarchy, did the cast show up to beat you up, to let you out? Is that what happened? They had to—

Griffin: Yeah. But then the cast of Yellowstone showed up and was like, "Stay back."

Justin: "We've got your back."

Griffin: "That's our boy now."

Travis: Family. Griffin, I'm gonna call you Porcelain.

Griffin: Porcelain's cool.

Justin: "It's us, the cast of Leverage. We were pretending to be the cast of Yellowstone this entire time."

Travis: Fuck, dude! I'd love that, are you kidding me?!

Justin: I know! It'd be cool if more shows turned out to be leveraged.

Griffin: I'd rock with Porcelain so hard, Trav, you—I think you got me in one. Because something—one, it's true. I would be so—I can't fall off a bike. That's it. That's a wrap.

Travis: And you like the toilet.

Justin: Porcelain is-

Griffin: One—well, I don't—I would love to shed the toilet thing, but just like... that's the—that's that club's beauty boy. I would—[chuckles] I would love to be the beauty boy of the biker club.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: I think they would call you Tax Man.

Griffin: Shit.

Justin: Because it's like-

Travis: It's good too.

Justin: Maybe... like, no one likes you, so you're kind of like a bad boy—I mean that in a biker way like, "Eh, Tax Man." Like—

Griffin: Oh, I just thought you were being the meanest to me you've ever been in your life.

Justin: No. [chuckles] Just like Tax Man, like... but like also, you look like you could—

Griffin: I thought you just casually dropped, "And no one likes you."

Justin: [laughs] No, I don't mean like that, I mean like a bad boy. Like no one gets on your bad side, like the tax man, like they're coming after you. But it's also like, you look like you would be good at doing—like you would probably end up doing the taxes for the biker gang if they have taxes. From like their farmers market stand, or whatever. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Like, whatever they are doing. [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't know how they—how are they getting money?

Justin: Again, I don't know—

Travis: No, I think—

Justin: They're selling heritage butter? I don't—I don't know. [chuckles]

Travis: Facebook has taught me that bikers, when they're not doing biker stuff, are like accompanying children to scary places. That's what Facebook shows me all the time.

Griffin: Do they get a stipend from the government to be riding bikes around? Because I think that's their job. And I don't know why...

Justin: They're influencers. They're bike influencers.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So, they see people riding around—you see cool people in a big biker gang. They've got... a Motorola motorcycle.

Travis: Mm-hm. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: One of the good ones. And then they're like, "Well, this must be-"

Travis: And Motorola big honker.

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Yeah, just-

Griffin: I think they call 'em Motorola cycles.

Travis: Yeah.

[group chuckle]

Travis: Justin, I'm gonna call you Bootleg.

Justin: Bootleg is good!

Griffin: Ooh! That's cool.

Travis: Because I bet you know how to get movies that like maybe aren't available in stores. You know a lot about—

Griffin: That's cool!

Travis: Like VPN and like how to-

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Like, if I'm in America and I want to watch like British TV, how I could do that.

Griffin: Yeah. And then when they do like biker club movie night—which may or may not be a thing. Again, I don't know fuckin' anything about this entire subculture. You are the one who gets to pick the tapes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: When everyone gets together to watch movies after every great bike. This sounds cool! I kind of want to be a part of this now.

Travis: Yeah, now it sounds great.

Griffin: I have an E-bike?

Justin: Yeah, if it weren't for the motorcycles part... I'd be in.

Griffin: I mean, I have an E-bike? I think that's-

Justin: Can you do—could your personality in the biker gang be like, bikeless... Bikeless Barry or something. [chuckles]

Travis: Walker.

Justin: Like the one guy in it that doesn't do the motorcycle stuff.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, Side Car.

Griffin: They look cool.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: They look so-

Justin: Towin' Terry, the guy who has a tow truck. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, shoe leather! I'm gonna-I'm gonna call myself-

Griffin: "Oh, you're talking about—you're talking about Sketch over there? Yeah, it's the weirdest thing, he hates motorcycles. Scared to death. But he can draw them. Like a beautiful dream."

Travis: [chuckles] "Have you heard his poetry?"

Griffin: You should—

Justin: "You're talking about—you're talking about skitch? Yeah, it's the weirdest thing, he just hangs onto the back of our motorcycles and then rides a skateboard."

Travis: "We love him."

Justin: "He skitches everywhere."

Griffin: That's cool. "He's like our pet."

Travis: I'm gonna call myself Grimace.

Griffin: Okay? For just the-

Travis: Because I have purple hair, but also-

Griffin: The purple hair—

Travis: It's kind of like, oh, you're—oh, it's like a grimace of pain, or whatever.

Griffin: That's cool, yeah.

Travis: But it's mostly because I have purple hair.

Griffin: These are all good names, Trav, I think you have—you have a calling here. I don't want you on a motorcycle. I don't want either off you guys on a motorcycle.

Travis: No, I wouldn't do that. Teresa will be so mad at me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But I would work as their like naming oracle. If they would—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, I'm loose–

Griffin: Oracle, that's a cool fuckin'-that's a cool-that's like-

Travis: Oracle's good too.

Justin: Oracle is cool.

Griffin: Does ... do biker clubs have-

Justin: Trav, you can have Oracle.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Do biker clubs have like an operator who like hangs out at the lair and like tells them where to ride and stuff? Because that would be cool.

Travis: I'm in a little motorcycle chair that zooms around the office?

Justin: I think the Tax Man would probably handle like logistics.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Well, the problem is-

Travis: Well, Tax Man's the numbers guy. He's doing the money.

Griffin: If we're being honest, the three of us can only fill that role. And no, there is not a biker organization alive that wants three operators back at home base. So, we're going to end up on different clubs, I'm afraid.

Justin: We could do different shifts?

Travis: Yeah. That's true.

Griffin: That's a good point. You're not 24 hours on the clock.

Justin: I gotta sleep.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You're right.

Travis: I would also bartend, if they needed that.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: I'd be happy to do that. Listen to their troubles.

Griffin: "Let me get a Grimace shake!"

Travis: Report them to them to the police for a fee.

Justin: Do you think—do you think side cars are a big part of biker gangs? Like finding buddies for your side car, like maybe you can sit in the—because I was thinking about the problem with having a side car is that if it's ever empty, people are going to assume that you're in a fight with someone.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: You know? They're like—it's like, "Hey, what happened?" It's like, "Nothing, it's just... I just was going out by myself, right now." Like it's—

Griffin: I want—I want to be clear. You keep using the term 'biker clubs' and 'biker gangs' interchangeably. The organization I'm running is just a team of bike enthusiasts who have no... there's no criminal element to it whatsoever. They get paid by the government to ride their bikes around the city.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: And I'm their guy.

Travis: Mostly for flavor.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. I think that if you want to join a biker club, you should have to ride in the side car for the first year, to see if you like it, before you get your first motorcycle, right? Because what if you get your first motorcycle, you hop on, you ride your motorcycle for five minutes and you're like, "Oh, wait, I hate this."

Griffin: Sorry, guys. I don't—sorry, guys, I tried. I don't like this. I know you worked really hard to come up with a name for me.

Justin: You don't like Tax Man?

Griffin: It's cool. Tax Man is great. It's a shame. I would love to be Tax Man. I just really didn't like that.

Travis: I didn't like riding on the motorcycle. It was scary, it was loud.

Justin: Too fast.

Griffin: Hey, guys? No one told me how windy it was gonna be. That's fucking crazy. You guys deal with that every day?

Travis: What if we put a windshield on it and some like doors, maybe a seat belt?

Justin: Explain this to me-

Travis: I'm describing a car! Fuck! [chuckles]

Griffin: [titters] Shit.

Justin: You put a helmet on my head, but I have other parts than head. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know?

Travis: "And my kevlar vest isn't gonna protect my—what's that, it's just the name? Fuck!"

Justin: "Fuck!"

Griffin: "Fuck! That's confusing."

Travis: "What if someone shoots at me thinking—oh, I see."

Griffin: Oh!

Justin: God, the-

Griffin: "Wait, is there much shooting in this biking enthusiast club?!"

Justin: The idea of the three of us joining a biker gang is the most—

Griffin: You did it again!

Justin: I've ever wished that we still have a TV show. [chuckles]

Griffin: A biker gang? Or a biker club?

Justin: A biker club, of enthusiasts.

Griffin: I don't see any reality where I join a *biker gang*, but I can see one where I buy a motorcycle when I turn 40, because I have a panic attack.

Justin: I imagine that this distinction, if you are a member of one of these clubs, is extremely important to you.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: So, I apologize for running afoul.

Travis: I think I could join a biker gang as kind of a mascot-

Justin: Travis, please.

Griffin: Travis Patrick McElroy!

Travis: Mascot/pet kind of thing. No, I'm saying gang-

Griffin: They don't do those. There's a fun-

Travis: I'm saying gang.

Griffin: I'm over here in the playground. I'm over here in the playground and I'm having fun with the question. The question's a big, beautiful balloon, and I bouncing it around in the air. You guys are playing in traffic right now. I'm in the playground, where it's fun and safe and cool.

Travis: No, I could definitely—you're not listening. I could definitely join a biker enthusiast club.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm saying the only way I'm making my way into a biker gang is as a pet/mascot kind of character like Pee-wee Herman in Pee-wee's Big Adventure.

Griffin: Back in the street!

Justin: [sighs] Hah... I don't think any of us are cut out for this life.

Travis: Yeah, you're right. We can't even get the terminology right.

Griffin: I hope there's not many clips that come out of this episode, because there's going to be constant continuity errors with my wearing of the Walton Goggins goggle glasses. [chuckles]

Justin: If it just gets him to notice this and say, "Boy, those guys sound just like me."

Griffin: Notice me, Gogginson.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [sings] Notice me, Goggin.

Griffin: [sings] Put on your glasses.

Justin: No, Travis! No, no, we are not in a place in our career-

Griffin: [sings] This is your new friend, Griffin, calling!

Justin: Yup, here's our Seussical parody, any—we're done. [chuckles] Kaputski.

Griffin: Hey, five—hey, five people who got that? You're—you—you're in.

Justin: Welcome.

Griffin: Welcome to the fuckin' real, *real* club.

Justin: Thank you for listening to My Brother, My brother and Me all these years.

Travis: [titters]

Justin: Really appreciate it. This one too. Especially this one. But all of 'em. We really appreciate it. Thank you. If you've never seen us live and in person, you should!

Travis: It's even better.

Justin: Yeah, we're coming to Michigan and Minnesota next week. And we got new dates in California, Texas, Georgia and Utah! All those TAZ shows are going to be TAZ Versus, except for the Anaheim TAZ show, which will be Dad Lands with Brennan Lee Mulligan. All tickets are on sale now. More info and ticket links are available at bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Travis: I'm also so excited, this week is Champions Grove. I'm excited to see everybody there, it's gonna be a blast.

Justin: Hope you're having fun.

Travis: Yeah, I'm excited.

Griffin: Hey, we got some merch over at the McElroy Merch Store. Guys, I brewed my first cup of the Flaming, Not Poisoning, Raging Tea of Doom last night, that we collabed with Good Store. It's a wonderful loose-leaf tea. And guys, I'm not just saying this because it's sort of our thing, but it's a good fuckin' brew. Oh, man—

Travis: Sick, bud.

Griffin: It treated me just right. Wonderful notes of clove, spice—a spicy finish, which I really do enjoy. Flavorful.

Travis: Spicy Finish is also a good biker name,

Griffin: Flavorful, but not cloying, which is a really difficult balance to stick the landing on. Herbal, no caffeine, for a nighttime come down. It's a—

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: It's a beautiful, beautiful brew.

Travis: Nighttime Come Down is another good biker name.

Griffin: It's a beautiful brew. And you can find it over at mcelroymerch.com. 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the Center for Reproductive Rights. Thank you so much, Montaigne, you're the best. The music is so good. Keep that new shit coming. We're eating good over here.

Travis: I've got a Fear here I'd like to read. Faster than Fear. "This year, I'm moving faster than my fear of my partner's worm farm. The worms aren't strong enough to open it and get me."

Justin: [titters] 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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