

MBMBaM 767: Look at Me, An Outdoor Kid

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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: What's up, Trav, Nation? This is Griffin McElroy. And I'm sorry, dudes.

Travis: Whoa?

Griffin: But I gotta jet!

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Wait, you have to jet? But we've just started.

Griffin: Sorry, dudes. Sorry, dudes. No can do today. Gotta zoom.

Travis: You said you were ready? Like, we have this schedule.

Griffin: Yeah, I'm ready to fucking zoom.

Justin: Where are you going?

Griffin: Because the roads—

Justin: Like zoom and—

Griffin: Shh! Shush. The road's calling me, and I need to go zoom! Because this morning I woke up, you guys, and I looked out my window in my front yard.

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Well, it's not much of a yard, but I looked out on the sidewalk in front of my house. Someone had left two electric scooters there for me.

Justin: Are you kidding?

Griffin: Two electric scooters delivered, like a stork or an angel did it, and said God wants you to zoom. And left me not one, two electric scooters, for me.

Justin: Griffin, how—like, in what state? In what state? Sorry. In what state?

Griffin: Not one. Not a state.

Travis: No, it's the District of Colombia.

Griffin: It's not a state, it's the District of Columbia. We're pretty fuckin' sore about it, if you can imagine.

Travis: Kind of a big thing—

Justin: I walked right into that one.

Travis: Yeah, Justin, it's a very sensitive topic.

Griffin: What state? I mean, they—I'm not an electric scooter guy. God wants me to be one, because he put two beautiful fuckin' grinders on my doorstep this morning. They look fully ready to fuck, like they look good to go, if I were to guess.

Travis: Yeah. So you busted out—you busted out the quiver that you have for the second one, right? So that as you ride the first one, charge depletes, you whip that second one off your back.

Griffin: Yes. And you can hop from one to the other while you're on the highway, because these mother fuckers look street legal and ready to go.

Travis: They got NOS?

Griffin: What's that?

Travis: They got NOS?

Griffin: I don't—Travis, I don't know anything about electric scooters. You keep asking questions about like the about like the gizmos and gadgets.

Travis: Do they have a turbo boost?

Griffin: The what?

Travis: Are they still there?

Griffin: Are they still—yeah, man! I don't know, I saw 'em fuckin' 10 minutes ago. Now you're gonna make me paranoid that I have to check periodically that somebody's not gonna scoop my scoot.

Travis: Bring 'em inside, Griffin!

Justin: Are you a little bit worried, Griffin, about the fact that someone drove—not one someone, two someones...

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, gang—

Justin: Drove to where you live and they were like, "This is the place." And then left.

Griffin: Yeah. "Looks like we'll stop right here. Our journey ends here, at Griffin McElroy's house." Yeah, Juice, the game's afoot. I am—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I've been keeping my eyes peeled all morning for these fuckin' sneaky grinders who have rolled up to my house and left me a beautiful gift! I can't wait to zoom on these things.

Justin: Yeah. But it is like, where is—

Griffin: Where are—but like, for real though, where are you guys?

Justin: [chuckles] Where are they?

Griffin: Because there's two of you.

Justin: And there's one of him, and you knew that, didn't you? You knew that going in, that there's one of him and two of you.

Griffin: They did know.

Travis: It might be a Pennywise thing, where—

Griffin: Oh, they are a little bit close to a little sewer, or whatever you call that is, a vent.

Justin: No, I think that renting a scooter rather than buying your own is quite penny wise, Travis. [titters]

Travis: Oh, thank you.

Griffin: [chuckles] Oh, that's cool, man. But I don't know what you mean by—

Travis: They never talk about that in the IT storyline, of how frugal he is. Like, that's not his real name, his real name is Tony. But everybody calls him Pennywise, because he's so good with money.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: And he eats kids, or whatever. That—like, yeah. Obviously, that's an overwhelming feature about him.

Justin: Hey, listen, take it from Jonathan Swift, that's a perfectly logical reaction to economic pressures. You know what I mean? Like—

Travis: There we go. Thank you. He's so frugal.

Justin: It's his social commentary he's doing. How more penny wise can you be? [titters]

Travis: Than to eat children for fuel!

Justin: How thrifty can you get, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Sure. So, I got a fucking zoom, guys, I'm not kidding. I don't got a show in me today, when I know all the incredible fucking road adventures waiting for me out there.

Travis: Well, do you want to—we can pause the recording, Griffin, and you can go have like a two hour sojourn on your electric scooter. And then come back and report to us what it was like.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, let's take a quick two hour break.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And then we'll pick it back up.

Travis: Okay.

[pause]

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] Oh, fuck, you guys!

Travis: Oh, no! What happened?!

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] Oh, fuck, you guys! Fuck! I fell down 20 times and I fucked up my legs!

Travis: No! Ah, man.

Griffin: Both of 'em, fuck! Road rash much? I look like raspberry city over here. Fuck, guys! Those things—and get this! You had to pay for 'em on your fuckin' phone? Crazy. And I found the two guys. They stabbed me, a little bit.

Travis: [chuckles] No!

Griffin: It's been a bad two hours. I'm glad we weren't recording all that.

Justin: Griffin—[spoofs robot sounds] [in a robot voice] give me their location, and I will destroy the assailants. [spoofs robot sounds]

Travis: During that—yeah, the two hours, Justin got that Robocop upgrade that he's been talking about.

Justin: [spoofs robot sounds]

Griffin: Damn.

Justin: [in a robot voice] Ready to go, punks.

Griffin: Yeah, ready to zoom!

Justin: [in a robot voice] You bullied my brother off his scooter, while I'll bully your dick off your balls.

Griffin: I did try putting one foot on each scooter, and then blasting. And it tore my—it tore my wiener and butt apart.

Travis: Ah?

Griffin: Into two. Yeah. There's a there's a Yiddish expression of, you can't ride a horse—two horses with one behind. One fanny. And it turns out that that's true for scooters.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And that the penalty is... your penis and butt gets torn—

Travis: It rips you in twain?

Griffin: Torn right in half.

Justin: I got into a habit of pre-show and post-show, when we would be a little bit of a distance from the venue at our hotel. Of like grabbing one of those rental scooters.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And zipping on down to the venue.

Griffin: Grinding.

Justin: Grinding down to the venue. Or grinding home from the venue in the dark.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I had to get honest with myself at a certain point that when I was zooming in the dark, past people who had just come to my podcast—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It was the coolest fuckin' thing in the world?

Justin: With nary a care in the world. I had to accept that some part of me is trying to have the funniest death possible. [chuckles]

Griffin: Sure! Sure!

Justin: Like, some part of me is open to the fact that this dip shit on a shooter, after his podcast, in front of people who had just listened to his podcast, like—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Whew!

Griffin: I mean, you don't want it!

Justin: I don't want it!

Travis: No!

Griffin: Not at all! Scared of it. Huge scared.

Travis: But I think as—we are three professional comedian entertainers. And I think that if once, God forbid, we pass, the question, "How'd he go?" Was followed with, "You're never gonna fuckin' believe this."

Justin: "You're gonna think I'm fucking with you right now."

Travis: That's the best-case scenario.

Justin: "You remember when they released the Whopper 3 in 2060, well, he choked to death on that." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "If you can believe it, he choked to death." I like that, actually. 2060, that's—

Travis: "He was singing the Munch Squad theme song while chewing on the wop—on the Whopper 3."

Justin: Right. [chuckles] "Wait, wait, Munch Squad? They stopped doing that podcast 30 years ago?"

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: "No, *he* didn't, they just stopped recording it."

Griffin: "He kept doing just that."

Travis: Yeah. "He never stopped."

Justin: [chuckles] "Munch Squad continued in perpetuity."

Travis: "He was eating the Cyber Whopper and it got him!" [chuckles]

Justin: Have you—Trav, did you get down there to try all the How to Train Your Dragon meals yet? Did you enjoy those?

Travis: No, because it's not How to Eat Your Dragon, Justin I'm—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Upset by that.

Justin: Okay, interesting.

Griffin: It should be.

Travis: No, Justin, I was too busy last weekend to eat the How to Train Your Dragon things, because I had to watch—my children are in dance class. And they're wonderful and talented and great. And they were in two separate sessions of recitals. And I was at dance—

Justin: Hey, Trav, so is Glen Powell, but you don't hear me bragging about it, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Blast it.

Travis: You had to go watch Dan Powell—Dan Powell. Glen Powell's dance recital?

Justin: Sorry, Trav, you were trying to counter burn me, but you fell on your own feet.

Travis: No, I did.

Justin: [chuckles] And I'm sorry—

Travis: But I had—I was at dance—

Justin: You have to let the burn rest now.

Travis: I was at dance recitals, basically from 10AM to 5:30PM.

Griffin: Shit yeah, man.

Justin: Ugh.

Travis: Last weekend. There were breaks in between, but what am I gonna do with that time? But it's cool, because the second dance recital ended with pre K through first grade hip hop class of 30 kids.

Griffin: Excellent.

Travis: And it was a balm to my soul, Justin. It made it all worth it. These kids, they've turned—[chuckles] they've turned their strife into dance, and I loved it so much, Justin. Oh, god, it was good.

Justin: Yeah. There is nothing I dislike more than a dance recital, man. That is weaponized art. You're holding people prisoner to do art at them. It may—

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: It's rough. Dance recitals are rough.

Travis: If my kid was on stage the whole time, I'd love it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: My kid's on stage three minutes out of 60, I... it's exhausting to watch other people's kids do dance. Like, I was so tired by the end of it. [chuckles]

Griffin: My kids don't even do dance, but I could fix dance recitals real quick. You ready?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's—it's—now, it's competitive.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Now it's competitive. Now it's how—so, how you think you can—How Do You Think You Could Dance Now Kids with the Stars. And the different classes—hip hop dance crew kindergarteners goes up against like, you know, the fifth grade, you know, ballet team. Obviously, they're gonna get fucking rocked! But it's competitive—

Travis: It's seated though, right?

Griffin: It is seated for us. Yeah, we are—we are seated. And then at the end, they come out and they're like, "All right, kids, come out. Everyone wins!" And everyone gets like a medal that said like, "You're a winner, you did it." And then as soon as the kids get off the stage, the adults are like, "Okay, for real. Now it's time to announce the winners." Because you gotta know whose kids rocked whose kids at competitive dance in there.

Travis: I do like to—when I watch a dance recital, I'll build storylines in my head of like behind the scenes drama. Where I'm trying to guess which of them don't get along with each other, which one's like the teacher's favorite. Which one's the one that the teacher's like, "I'm just gonna... I'm just gonna put you over here." And that kind of keeps me entertained a little bit behind—you know, like making a behind the scenes drama.

Justin: I will say, also, that dance recitals are one of the few places that I do get exposed to new music, which I appreciate. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's a shame, man.

Travis: That's—yeah.

Justin: It's so hard to discover new music these days.

Griffin: Such a huge—

Justin: Dance recitals are good—

Travis: Yeah, just whipping your phone out, shazam—

Justin: Hey! Shazam them!

Travis: Shh! I'm trying to get it!

Justin: "Start it over! I didn't Shazam it in time! Why are you only doing a mashup of it? I can't Shazam half a mashup, Darlene!"

Travis: "Is this Shawn Mendes?"

Justin: "I'm gonna report—"

Travis: "Is this Shawn Mendes?"

Justin: "You to the RCAA, Charlene!"

Griffin: "Shawn Mendes X DeBarge? You're crazy for this one, Belinda!"

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: How about we do some advice?

Justin: "I'm an entomologist, so I'm comfortable around insects and other creepy crawlies. It's scenarios where there's a bug inside, I'm more than

happy to be the go-to person who scoops up the critter and humanely relocates them. It feels good to alleviate a potentially stressful situation for human and bug alike. I've just moved into a new neighborhood and I'm thinking about offering my bug catching services to my neighbors. What's a good way to advertise my willingness and enthusiasm for performing these sorts of one-off insect rescue missions?" That's from Critter Catcher in North Carolina.

Griffin: That's wild!

Justin: I mean, you know it's wild.

Griffin: You know it's wild, right?!

Justin: We don't have to dwell on the wildness, I think.

Travis: The problem is, this—I think—okay, it's wild. But I'm gonna nail down why it's wild. Because there aren't journeymen like, you know, insect... jobs—what's the word I'm—exterminators. Right? There's no mid-point. So, either they're gonna call you constantly for shit, because there's bugs everywhere.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Or no one's gonna contact you about this, and you're just throwing yourself out.

Justin: Travis, we... we know—we said at the beginning—

Griffin: We just said it was wild, like that covered—

Justin: It's wild, like—

Griffin: We covered all that.

Travis: I know, but just to tell someone it's wild—if they wrote the question in, they don't have the context for why it's wild.

Justin: Yeah, they do, because they sent it to us, the wild boys.

Griffin: Travis, I, we—

Travis: That's true, that's a good point, I didn't think about that.

Griffin: We have to assume better of our dear, sweet listeners, that when they send in a scenario like this, they know how fucked up and twisted it is—

Justin: They know it's twisted.

Griffin: To have a bespoke—

Travis: That's true, or they wouldn't ask us.

Griffin: To have a bespoke—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: À la carte bug relocation service offered to your neighbors is simply not a thing. Now, can we play with that? Sure. We can have fun with that.

Justin: Can we willingly eat these sins, so they're not exposed to reality? Of course, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: You need an exchange—

Justin: Get 'em all in your noodle, put 'em here, it's fine.

Travis: You need a barter system.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: What's the thing you don't want to do around your house?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That when someone calls you and they're like, "Yeah, got another moth in here," or whatever. And you're like, "Cool, I need to like turn this handle and I don't want to do that," or whatever. What's the thing—what's the exchange rate—

Justin: Here's what I would offer.

Travis: For a singular bug relocation?

Justin: Because I don't mind bug relocation. Bugs don't stress me out. So. I could do this gig. What I would tell people is, I will come to your home and remove the bug.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: But when I come to your home, I will have in my possession something that will then be yours.

Travis: Ooh?

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Justin: So this will—this will no longer be my possession, it will be your possession.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's your thing to deal with now. And it's your problem.

Griffin: Is there—are—

Travis: So this is—

Griffin: Are there any restrictions? Because that's such a fucking bum deal for me, the person with the bug.

Travis: Yeah, are you balancing it—

Justin: Physical lifting. Physically hefted. It has to be physically lifted.

Travis: Single hand.

Griffin: One hand, dude, because you're bigger—

Justin: How about this? Size of—

Griffin: You're bigger and you're stronger—

Justin: Number of legs! Number of legs of bug!

Travis: Okay, this is what I'm saying, there has to be an exchange rate, Justin. Because if I ask you, oh, there's an ant on my counter, and you come get it, and you bring me a broken microwave?

Justin: But don't... but that's—you're bringing capitalism into it, Travis. It doesn't have to be that.

Travis: No! I'm bringing bartering and exchange rate!

Justin: Every bug is the exact same amount of effort to get rid of, unless you've got one of the craftier ones.

Travis: That's not true, and you know it.

Griffin: That's so not true, my man.

Travis: A stink bug is so fuckin' easy to get. A bee?

Justin: Individually! I'm saying you're being called for individual bugs! There's no one bug that's harder to get than another bug.

Travis: There's a wasp in my house versus a stink bug, Justin. You're telling me that I get the same piece of shit from your house?

Griffin: A very—a very fast fly.

Justin: Very quick sidebar on wasps. Yesterday, I was unrolling a Sunbrella, you know, yes?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm unrolling it, and a wasp comes out of nowhere and stings me. And I get instantly like very angry—

Travis: Super powers.

Justin: But a little nostalgic. Like, oh, man—

Griffin: Oh, yeah, summertime.

Justin: Look at me, an outdoor kid. But then I forget that part and just get really, really in a lot of pain. A great deal of pain.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: And then I'm getting angrier too, because I really want to roll this umbrella up. And I'm thinking about how small this guy is and how big I am.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So I go up there and I unrolled the—start to unroll the umbrella. And when I do that, you guys aren't gonna believe it, I thought these guys could only do that trick once, but I think that's bees, because this dude comes back for a second helping.

Griffin: He gets a second dish juicer.

Travis: Justin, could it be—rarely is a wasp a loner, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: A wasp, rarely do you see a wasp—

Griffin: Maybe it was a different wasp, yeah.

Travis: Whose like, "I'm gonna—I'm striking out on my own."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And perhaps, Justin—

Griffin: Maybe it was Mrs. Wasp.

Travis: This wasp was rolling like nine deep, ten deep, and coming for you.

Griffin: It was the first wasp's lover.

Travis: [gasps] Hah!

Griffin: Entirely possible. At one time— isn't there—

Justin: Well, he sting—he stung me a second fuckin' time, and my kids started laughing at me because I was crying a little bit. Like not even—

Griffin: [laughs] When you get stung by a bug or shit on by a bird, or anything like that, isn't there a little bit of a part of you that gets excited like, I got a story for later. Always, man!

Justin: Not in this moment, and maybe not with wasps. Maybe I've never got stung by wasps before, but I felt nauseous and sad. [titters]

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: I felt sad about it. It hurt on my hands so bad, and there was a bump. Oh, man!

Griffin: The bum's scary too.

Justin: He stuttering twice, and I knew where he was. The second time, I knew exactly where he was.

Griffin: You look at that bump, you think is a part of it still in there. That's what I think and it freaks me the fuck out.

Travis: Like it's soul?

Justin: I know where all of it is, it's in my vacuum.

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Whoa.

Griffin: That'll teach 'em.

Travis: You got him?

Justin: Yeah, man, I snaked him right out of the air.

Travis: You ghost-busted him!

Griffin: And then you released him some—you released him—

Justin: I lured him in for a third bite, and when he came out for a third taste—

Travis: Put some salt on your skin. And you're like, "Oh? Hoo-hee."

Justin: What's up? I guess humanity still has a couple tricks left in it. You know what I mean?

Griffin: [chuckles] Vacuum? Vacuum is my non-offensive—it's my non-lethal bug relocation service that I offer to bugs.

Justin: Yes, this was the service I provided this gentleman! He had to get it away from the kids.

Griffin: It's like a—it's a small dust buster, and then there's a trigger on it that flips the tank open to just launch whatever bug out that you are done with. And then you—tch, job done. And then if they're too hard to catch with that, or if they're real bastards about it, then I do have a bug assault launcher. And that's—

Justin: Wow!

Griffin: If they if they can't get—if they don't want to get revaccumed, sucked up, and they threaten me in my house, or bite me and my kids—

Travis: So the vacuum is a warning?

Griffin: The vacuum is the first wave of what we offer here at my house. If a—if a wasp gets in the house and he doesn't want to get vacuumed up? Sorry, pal, you're gonna catch the smoke.

Justin: I also do not extend any protection to locusts or cicadas. And I'll tell you why. Right now, we're in a plague.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And plagues don't count.

Travis: Dot, my five year old, who has the soul of like a 90 year old trapped in them, looked at me the other day, just randomly, we were like sitting on the couch. And she goes, "Probably gonna be a lot of cicadas this year. It's another hot one."

Griffin: Damn, dude.

Travis: *What?! What the fuck?! [chuckles]*

Griffin: That's an omen.

Travis: Like I was like, "Okay! Cool!" I don't know if that's connected in any way. I don't know if those two things are related to each other. But she said it with such confidence.

Griffin: Kids—

Travis: She said it like an old man saying like, "Gonna rain today, my knee's acting up." It got me so deep.

Justin: Hey, she's got the soul of an old man that maked up a bunch of bullshit—

Travis: Yeah! It got me so deep!

Justin: "Our Wobby's back, because he made up a bunch of shit too."

Griffin: I see Wobby in your daughter's eyes, Travis.

Travis: Our step-great-grandfather. [chuckles]

Griffin: Our step great—

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: When I look in your daughter's eyes, it's like looking into the eyes of our step great grandfather.

Travis: Who was in no way blood related to us whatsoever.

Justin: Well—

Griffin: I fuckin' hope not!

Justin: Listen... I think the barrier to entry has got to be so low on this thing. That's the biggest issue, is that if it takes me remembering your phone number to get rid of the bug, or texting you to get rid of the bug, no way. If there is a button that makes an alarm go off in your house and you can be there, I'm not kidding, 30 seconds guaranteed—

Griffin: Or it's free.

Travis: Yes, thank you.

Justin: Yeah. And the first time it doesn't work, I'm tearing the button off the wall. I'm canceling my—

Griffin: But that sucks for you, because now you hear the alarm, you have 30 seconds to grab some random shit from your house and you're gonna sprint over there.

Travis: You're gonna have to schedule times that you're available. You're gonna have to be walking loops in the neighborhood, just ready.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Maybe get yourself a truck?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Or some kind of—if you could pneumatically ship yourself there quickly? That might work some—or put the bug in the pneumatic tube, send it to me.

Griffin: Oh, create a zip line network that starts on your ruhf.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: And it goes down to every other house in the neighborhood. Why did I say ruhf?

Travis: I don't know.

Griffin: Did you hear that?

Travis: And then a second zipline—

Griffin: Ruhf!

Travis: That goes down to your basement, so you can get back.

Griffin: Yes. Yes, that's cool! Build a prism of zip lines all throughout your neighborhood.

Travis: This is the problem with zip lines, they're only one way. We gotta figure this out. And that's why we've come here today. How do we get balanced zip lines so I can go back and forth?

Griffin: Hm.

Travis: Think about it.

Justin: That's perpetual motion, right? Is what you're talking about.

Travis: Yes. Put me on—

Justin: If you crack that one, let me know.

Travis: Put me on an infinite loop of zip lines until I die.

Justin: "I was visiting my girlfriend's friend, who have a three year old. Upon meeting the child, he immediately asked, 'Are you strong?' I'm no athlete or bodybuilder, but my job requires a fair amount of manual work, and I have a reputation for being able to live heavy things at work and in my personal life." It's weird that those are two separate reputations, but let's go on. So, I—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Well, I've got my work reputation and my life strong reputation!

Justin: They know I'm—they know I'm strong at work. And at home, they think I'm pretty strong, but maybe they don't know exactly how strong. But it is a reputation I have.

Travis: That's like Clark Kent and Superman! You know what I mean? You look at Clark Kent and you're like, I bet that guy could lift—

Griffin: He's fucking cut. He's built.

Travis: Like a big box. And then you look at Superman and you're like, I know that guy could lift a bus. But Justin, they're the same person.

Griffin: They're the same guy.

Travis: Superman is when he's at work.

Justin: "So, I said yes. He immediately countered with, 'Show me.' Brothers, how do I convince this three year old stranger that I'm strong when there isn't a phone book or a board to chop in half nearby?" That's from Supposedly Strong in San José. Just to drill down on this, "My girlfriend's friend has a child." So, this is your girlfriend's friend—it's basically a stranger. I mean, to you, right?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: We can agree. This is not a... a well-known child.

Travis: They even said, "This three year old stranger."

Justin: This three year old stranger. I mean—

Travis: I've learned that children are inherently weak. They're very small.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Their muscles are dough. The ability to prove to them that you're stronger than they are is so easy. You can pick up anything large. It doesn't

have to be dense or heavy. And if you make this noise—*hua-argh*—when you do it, the kids lose their shit.

Griffin: Yeah, they love it when you yell.

Justin: It's really hard to top physically picking someone up.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Like, because their moment—like, everything—all the different stuff that they can do at that point is severely limited, because they no longer have the ground to work with. You know what I mean? Like, you just kind of lift them up. And I think as terms of strength, I mean...

Travis: Yeah, I can't pick myself up. I've tried. You know what I mean? If I try to pick myself up, I don't go anywhere. So if someone pick—

Justin: I used to think about that—

Travis: Someone else picks me up, they're stronger than I am.

Justin: I used to think about that in class. Like when I was younger, I would think... if you got so strong that you could lift more than your body weight.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, no, I mean, the Lorax figured this out, and he's a dumb little puppet monster. I don't understand why I can't fucking lift myself up by the seat of my pants and fly up into the sky.

Travis: Do you guys ever have recurring—I have a recurring dream where in the dream—

Justin: I don't dream, but go on.

Travis: I figured out how to jump up and not come back down, and just kind of hover around like I'm glitching a video game.

Griffin: Ah, *best!* Yes, no clip.

Travis: And every time in the dream I will say or think, ah, I finally figured out how to do it in real life. And I was so excited. And then I wake up and I'm so disappointed. And it happens maybe twice a week, I have that dream.

Justin: I'm sorry, Travis. That sounds tough, man.

Travis: Yeah. That I've basically, in the dream, what I'm saying is I've figured out how to pick myself up. You know what I mean?

Justin: But you've forgotten by daylight.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: Ain't that the way...

Travis: Oh, you just gotta pick yourself up by your bootstraps. Have you ever tried that, Justin? Grab your bootstraps, pull up real hard.

Griffin: Is your ass hanging down?

Travis: Fling yourself in the air.

Justin: That's a—well, Trav, that's why—that's why that expression exists, actually, funny enough. The fact that you can't pull yourself up by your bootstraps is exactly why it's used the way it is. Because the idea that you would be able to elevate your own position by pulling on your own bootstraps is so ridiculous, and that's why the idiom is the way it is.

Travis: You know, Justin—

Griffin: Is that made up?

Travis: It's the same with 'the world is your oyster.' Because the rest of that is, 'go out there and shuck it.' Which means it's there if you're willing to **work** for it, not it's laid open before you. Anyways, welcome to—

Griffin: What's go—what's go—what's going on?

Travis: [titters] Welcome to Brother Words.

Griffin: Hey, guys—

Justin: Just learning.

Griffin: What's going on? Because I'm—

Justin: Just learning.

Travis: Just talking about Brother Words.

Griffin: Because we are—like don't get me wrong, I love that's a service we can also provide. Like we can do joke, but we can also do like, you know, Roman Mars shit. And that's cool, it's just like, the switch there was so—

Travis: Do you have an idiom you wanna kind of unfold?

Justin: Yeah, what do you want to talk about, Griffin?

Griffin: I would rather do like jokes about Mario's balls or like a fuckin'—

Justin: Well, you can do some of those. I think Trav and I would love to hear—

Travis: We barely touched on the littlest bit of serious—

Griffin: It felt like five whole—

Travis: And you were like, "Oh, no!" [chuckles]

Griffin: It felt like five whole Gregorian minutes to me, of spent—

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Of just like—and it's not just—and guys, it wasn't just that you started to drop fun facts. Your whole like tone—like it was like a mask came on and you were like, "It's funny you should say—" Like you Frasiered out—

Travis: We said one fact each, Griffin?

Griffin: But it was—the way you said it was like maximum Frasier. And it was like, what's go—it really, really felt like you guys were just stepping through a portal.

Travis: I've actually been pitching that to Paramount Plus. If you would keep that your—Maximum Frasier, my post-apocalyptic Frasier reboot. Please, I've told you not to share that with our audience. It's not ready yet.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Please.

Justin: It's so important when a group is trying to show versatility, that at least one—

Griffin: You're doing the voice right now, this is your like—do you understand what I'm saying? Like, where's my brother? Where's Juice?

Justin: I'm kind of sick. I've been outside all the time, and I inhaled everything.

Travis: It's dangerous out there!

Justin: [coughs] I inhaled everything because I'm at the park all the time. And I'm just kind of sick, Griffin, I'm not trying to do a voice with you. I just knew that about bootstraps, okay—

Griffin: Hey, Griffin, why are you being like this?

Justin: If you could stop bullying me, I would really appreciate it.

Travis: Why are you being like this?

Griffin: I just want to us to—

Travis: Griffin, why are you being like this?

Griffin: Me, right now, am expressing a desire for us to feel safe and comfortable in this environment, to be ourselves.

Travis: Okay. Justin and I—hold on. Justin and I each shared a—

Justin: [chuckles] You're doing expressly the opposite!

Travis: One sentence fact—

Griffin: If that's makes me a—

Travis: And you were like, "No! Perform! Artifice!"

Griffin: I'm trying to make this a safe place where you know you don't have to be anything other than exactly what you are.

Justin: Ah you're—you're—okay. Your submission is that the—

Griffin: What I'm doing is good?

Travis: For the Midnight Society. Your submission to the Midnight Society.

Justin: The boy—the boisterous—the boisterous happy guys. That's the true us.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [chuckles] And what's—

Travis: And anything less than that—

Justin: Anything less than that is a put-on! [chuckles]

Griffin: It doesn't have to be—no, you're misrepresenting me—

Justin: Any bit of dourness—

Griffin: You're misrepresenting—we could do a sad joke about Mario's balls, like it doesn't have to be happy. Guys, like look around, no fuckin'—

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Did you guys hear about Mario's balls?

Griffin: No fuckin'—you hear about Mario's balls? Got stuck in a manhole cover.

Travis: They're on fire.

Griffin: He got 'em stuck in manhole cover going down to try to kill Bowser down there. See, you could do a sad joke about Mario's balls. It doesn't—I'm not gonna force us to—I want you to be what you are! And if that's sad or mad at me, always, like I think you are—

Travis: Mad at you about Mario's balls? Griffin, what did you do?

Justin: I'm not mad at you at all, Griffin.

Griffin: What did I do?

Travis: To Mario's balls.

Griffin: I drove my car over 'em. But I, I just want—

Travis: Did he want you to?

Griffin: I guess I'm trying to be a good brother.

Justin: And you are!

Griffin: Take me away, jail. Take me away—take me away to jail for trying to be a good fuckin' brother for once.

Justin: [chuckles] Lift their dad up.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Is their dad around?

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: Pick their dad up.

Griffin: Well, that's a dangerous—

Travis: Or just a dad.

Griffin: That is a—that is a—may we—if we don't know the answer to that question, I don't know that we can suggest they bring it up.

Travis: If the dad's not around, you become the dad, because dads are inherently strong to their children.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: Boom. I'm sorry to your girlfriend, by the way, for whatever—

Griffin: Are you strong to your kids, Juice?

Justin: No, no, no, they know.

Travis: No, his kids are too old.

Griffin: Yeah, I was gonna say, Trav, you can't just drop that—

Travis: But a three year old?

Griffin: Yeah... by five or six, they crack it. By five or six, they know.

Travis: Get in the phone book, which I think still exists, see if you can find a place—

Griffin: They literally said—they literally, literally fucking said in the question that they do not have a phone book.

Justin: Literally, literally, literally said there isn't a phone book.

Travis: They didn't have a phonebook. Okay, then Google—

Justin: Travis! That is... they said—[chuckles] they—

Griffin: You could not have fucked that up—

Justin: In the parameter of the question!

Travis: Then rip your phone in half! Pull your iPhone out, rip it in half. The child will, one—

Griffin: Yes, dude.

Travis: Respect your strength. Two, respect your commitment to the bit. Three, love your commentary on how we've become too connected to our devices in this day and age.

Griffin: Yes! Yes.

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: Don't use your real phone, though. Like the kid doesn't know, use—

Justin: Don't use your own personal phone, use his—break his dad's phone.

Travis: Yeah. [chuckles]

Justin: And see what his dad does. "See? Look, your dad's not doing shit. That's how strong I am."

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: And if the dad's not around, you say, "I found your—this is your dad's phone." [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "I found it."

Justin: "He tried to hide it. [He wouldn't follow him??]."

Travis: "I got it."

Griffin: "It's full of messages for you. Anyway—" *Rip!*

Travis: *Rip!*

Justin: [chuckles] "It's all the clues, you need to find it."

Griffin: "I've just denied you—I just denied you a great, cathartic moment. That's strength." The strength is the—is the denial of emotional presence.

Justin: That's power.

Griffin: That's power, baby!

Travis: I was gonna say hire a bunch of extras to compliment your strength, but I actually like this better.

Justin: If I'm hiring extras, I'm gonna teach 'em how to fake a fight.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: And I'm gonna fake beat 'em all up.

Griffin: Yeah, recreate the whole pool hall fight scene from Step by Step.

Justin: It's getting expensive.

Travis: Oh, yeah! Fuck, good pull, Griffin! As long as we're touching on this, Griffin, the scene from Family Matters when—

Griffin: Another kick ass-fight scene in a sitcom.

Travis: Yeah, no, when Urkel is challenged to the rope climbing contest.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: And he builds a jet pack instead, because he uses his strongest muscle, his brain. Which isn't a muscle—

Justin: Brain, yeah.

Travis: I don't think. And he flies up with the jet pack to get to the top, which I think is cheating, but in the show, it's seen as a celebration. But then he busts through the ceiling and ends up, I think, crossing over to Step by Step.

Griffin: He ends up in Step by Step, yeah.

Travis: Recreate that scene for the three year old. It's gonna blow his mind.

Griffin: So, you want this person to—

Justin: Basically a TGIF! [chuckles]

Griffin: This child said, "Prove to me your strength." And your suggestion is strap on a jet pack, blast through the ceiling. First of all, first—if I could say the first problem—I mean, okay, let's step—let's take this step by step!

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: There's no jet packs. You'd die if blasted into the ceiling.

Travis: No! Urkel had to invent it! Because he used his brain! He didn't go buy one at the jet pack store!

Griffin: Okay, let's—in this world, Urkel has invented a jet pack. He smashes into the ceiling. He'll—he's dead now. There's no fuckin' way. But okay—

Travis: Urkel didn't die?

Griffin: You've left the child alone. "Bye, kid! Boop! See ya!" And then you want them to land—

Justin: Wait!

Griffin: You want them—

Justin: We are solely responsible for that child's care. That should have been established. [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, I'm assuming maybe a lot. But then the last step of your plan is to go to Step by Step. And I simply don't know how to—

Travis: Not on purpose. Urkel doesn't aim for Step by Step, he ends up there and takes Al to the dance.

Griffin: Yeah. What if—

Travis: And then he does the Urkel for everyone. And everyone on Step by Step ends up doing the Urkel.

Griffin: What if—

Travis: It was a huge crossover event, Griffin!

Griffin: I remember.

Travis: If that's not strength, what is?

Griffin: But what—

Justin: Yeah, brought Tommy Westphall universe to its knees. [chuckles]

Travis: Just like the TGIF special where Salem had a time traveling hairball. And all the different shows, including Teen Angel and Boy Meets World, were shot in different decades for that weekend.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Or the must-see TV event where a New York City blackout crossed over between Caroline in the City and Friends—

Travis: And—

Justin: And Seinfeld, creating—

Travis: And what's the one with Paul Reiser?

Justin: Mad About You.

Griffin: Mad About You!

Travis: Mad About You

Justin: Yeah, it's a four part continuity that ties together—

Travis: TV used to be so good! [chuckles]

Justin: It used to be good.

Griffin: TV used to rip. What if, in that scene in Step by Step, where Urkel lands with a jet pack, what if instead, he—the jet pack malfunctioned in the sky, and he fell to his death in the yard of the Step by Step family. And then they just had to kind of deal with that. [chuckles] What if you were watching step by—

Travis: It's not Ozark, Griffin, it's Step by Step!

Griffin: You're watching Step by Step, and just a body just fuckin' land—like, "What the fuck?!"

Travis: And now it's a cover-up!

Justin: Okay, no, no, no—

Griffin: [sings] Step by Step!

Justin: Urkel crashes into the yard dead.

Griffin: F-whoosh! Dead.

Justin: And then the Fargo logo pops up and it's like, yes!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Holy shit, yeah!

Justin: Yes!

Travis: Yes!

Justin: Season seven? Are you sure?!

Griffin: Kick ass, dude.

Travis: Soft—it's a soft reboot. [chuckles]

Justin: It's a soft reboot of three—

Travis: People do spin-offs all the time, they don't do spin-ins! I'm saying you do a spin-in where a show is concurrently happening within another show.

Griffin: Absolutely. How about we go to the Money Zone?

Travis: Let's do it.

[theme music plays]

Travis: You're living in the future. Look around you.

Justin: Oh? Whoa?

Travis: Doctors are at your fingertips.

Justin: Wow...

Travis: Yeah. It used to be you had to go places to find doctors. Now, you go, get this, on your phone to find doctors. Or your computer, or whatever. I don't know how you access the internet. But or as Mission Impossible would call it, cyberspace.

Justin: Cyberspace.

Travis: If you're accessing cyberspace, good news, you can find a doctor through Zocdoc! And not just a medical doctor, but a dentist doctor, or a brain doctor. What do you need?!

Justin: Travis, I have it on good authority that the entity's efforts to corrupt the information within cyberspace has not been affected with Zocdoc.

Travis: That's good.

Justin: They have top of the line protections to protect them from the entity, and to assist Ethan Hunt whenever he needs a position.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Whoa, dude! So it's not an impossible mission to get the health care you need, with Zocdoc. [titters]

Justin: The co-branding opportunity that no one expected, no one paid for, and no one allowed. [chuckles]

Griffin: And no one will be happy about, probably, with our client. [chuckles]

Travis: Hey, in that three hour movie—

Justin: I don't think if 'em like—

Travis: They mentioned that if they stop the entity, it will destroy cyberspace no less than 12 times. Then they stop the entity, spoilers, and cyberspace is never addressed. The world seems fine.

Justin: Yeah, it's—it really gives you blue balls. I want to see that bitch go down! [chuckles] I wanna—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I wanna see the world song cyberspace! [titters]

Justin: I want to see cyberspace clothes! Please! But you know who doesn't—

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Hey, I've actually—

Justin: You know who doesn't want to see that? Zocdoc. You know why? Because they're committed to helping you find the best doctors in your area. Especially if you—

Travis: And they love cyberspace.

Justin: They love cyberspace.

Griffin: They do.

Justin: If you've maybe relocate or you're looking to switch a physician, whatever the need, stop putting off those doctor's appointments and go to zocdoc.com/mybrother to find an instantly book a top rated doctor today. That's zocdoc.com/mybrother. Zocdoc.com/mybrother.

Travis: I think another weird thing for the Mission Impossible movies is how the entity never eats. Maybe it's too busy?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Maybe it doesn't have time to eat. You know what I mean? That happens to all of us. Where do you even find the time to eat?

Griffin: Well, I get fresh meals sort of delivered to my house, ready to eat, from Factor.

Justin: La-dee-da! Must be nice?

Travis: Okay?

Griffin: Weird energy to bring-

Travis: I'm waiting for—I'm waiting for Ethan to come home so I can make dinner. He's so busy all the time fighting the entity, Griffin. I don't even know what ingredients to buy. I don't know how to make it. I don't—

Griffin: Well, you don't have to—just, you sound ridiculous right now, because Factor's chef-crafted meals are ready to eat in just two minutes taking the hassle out of eating well. So, you can get right back to wearing a big suit that inflates to make you look bigger and change the way your face and head looks.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Or chewing a piece of gum that lets you turn invisible like some sort of chameleon.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You can get right back to doing that. Shooting a gun that has a comp—a little—it shoots a little computer out. And there's a little guy that comes out of the computer as a hologram.

Travis: That's classified. Yeah.

Justin: Cool.

Griffin: And it's—yeah. So, all that shit comes in your first Factor box, all of this incredible Mission Impossible technology. And also, delicious chef-crafted meals. And these things are ready to go in—

Travis: Only one of that—only one of those things is true, and we're not gonna tell you which one.

Griffin: I mean, it will take you a while to pick from the delicious menu options. 45 different weekly menu options. There may very well be Mission Impossible technology on there. But you're also going to get like good, nutritious breakfasts, and on the go lunches, and premium dinners.

Justin: And they're ready so fast.

Griffin: Whatever. What?

Justin: They're ready so fast.

Griffin: They're ready so fast.

Justin: Get you some nutritious—

Travis: And this offer won't self-destruct when we're done reading it.

Griffin: No, yeah, I don't even know how that would—what—how you—what you said would happen. Your phone's not gonna blow up.

Travis: I don't know how it works in the Mission Impossible franchise either, but they're always melting.

Griffin: It says here in the Factor ad copy, "Don't even joke about how their phone might blow up because of this commercial."

Travis: Fuck.

Justin: Yeah, please—

Griffin: So—

Justin: Please, we ask again.

Griffin: And get started at factormeals.com/brother50off. And use code Brother 50 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. [Factormeals.com/brother50off](https://factormeals.com/brother50off)!

[break]

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Yes, dude.

Travis: *Huh?*

Justin: [continues riffing]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: All right!

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

Travis and Griffin: Squad!

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

Travis and Griffin: Squad!

Griffin: Dude, you're eating and you left not fucking crumbs, dude!

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad. It's podcast within aa podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. I'm just inspired, guys, I've been directing—

Travis: Yeah, clearly, dude.

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: This show, The Prom at the theater, at the Ritter Park Amphitheatre. You can get tickets at hartprom.com. H-A-R-T-prom.com. It's this weekend—

Travis: How dare you promote art on our show?

Justin: This weekend, not next weekend. You missed it last weekend. I wish you'd come. But this weekend, you can come on out, have a good time.

Travis: Unless you're gonna be in Columbus with us, that's cool too.

Justin: Unless you're gonna be in Columbus. Like, listen, a lot of folks do both. Right?

Travis: Yeah, it's not that far. What, four hours?

Justin: No, The Prom is three nights. You can make it *all* happen. Our show is two, Prom's three, figure it out. Get committed or get out of the way.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] And let somebody else, a *real fan*—

Travis: Whoa?

Griffin: Yeah. Super hostile. Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: It's a super hostile, that's how you can support.

Travis: That's how they sell tickets on Broadway, Griffin. They stand outside and they yell like, "I thought you were a real fan." And you're like, "What show is this?" And you're like, "Once Upon a Mattress." And they're like, "I like Once Upon a Mattress." And it's like, "Do you?! Because you're not in here!"

Griffin: Prove it.

Justin: [chuckles] "You're about to be once upon in a coffin, forever."

Travis: Whoa! [chuckles]

Griffin: "I'm gonna fucking kill you if you don't come see Once Upon a Mattress!"

Justin: "Come see Beetlejuice, or you'll learn a thing or two about being dead for real." [chuckles]

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: "Yeah, because I'll make—I'll make you dead meat if you don't come to Beetlejuice."

Travis: "With these two hands, and this knife."

Justin: [titters] You're in town—you're in trouble if you don't come—

Travis: Whoa.

Justin: To see our play.

Griffin: "I'm gonna spill your Beetlejuice, by which I mean the blood inside you, if you don't come see Beetlejuice, this Saturday."

Justin: "Cats have nine lives, but your stupid ass doesn't. So come see Cats. Or I'm gonna kill you."

Travis: Oh, I'm glad that was about Cats, or I would have been really lost.

Justin: Yeah, it was Cats. Okay, listen! Taco Bell has debuted crispy chicken taco—

Travis: Sorry, what?

Justin: And burritos.

Travis: They have what?

Justin: They debuted (de-booted). They have debuted—you know what I'm saying, I'm just having some fun. Those are available... today, I think, if I'm doing the math correctly. Taco Bell is unleashing a full-flavored and full-sized, yet just as craveable version of crispy chicken in its boldest move yet.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That's a big—

Justin: Now—

Travis: That's a big claim.

Justin: That's—this is Taco Bell, saying their boldest move yet.

Travis: Now—

Justin: The—starting June seven—

Travis: Now, when they say full flavor was there a—

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: Was there a different option that they considered? Where they were like—

Justin: Not when you're Taco Bell.

Griffin: They did shitty chicken nuggets for a minute.

Travis: We're gonna—it—we're gonna expand the chicken, but not the flavor part. Just the size.

Griffin: Flavor's normal.

Travis: The—

Justin: Yeah, the flavor's perfect. Starting June 17th, the brand is loading its crispy chicken strips into its most iconic formats with the debut of crispy chicken tacos and burritos, available nationwide for a limited time.

Travis: Okay, Justin, can I stop you for a second?

Justin: You have.

Travis: Yeah. I think it's real bold and brassy of these Taco Bell PR people to act like, "Hey, we had this protein-based thing, and you're never gonna believe what we thought of doing with it. We put it in a taco." Like that that is supposed to blow my brain out of the water, or whatever, like—

Justin: Trav, I—100%. And I think you can—if there is a theme of this press release, I do believe it is that hubris, that toxic hubris, where they have discovered that people like to buy crispy chicken. And they've gotten what we in West Virginia might call above their raisin. You know what? I mean, they're—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They've forgotten where it came from. And now they're thinking like their shit don't stink. Listen to this.

Griffin: I mean, they made a McDonald's Snack Wrap. Do you want a fucking—

Justin: Yeah, you made a Snack Wrap.

Griffin: Trophy?

Justin: Eight dollars for it? I bet you do. Quote—no, I'm not at the quote yet. I'm still trying to finish this. It's the same signature recipe fans loved in the sell-out nuggets, and the latest step in what's quickly becoming a full-on crispy chicken era for Taco Bell.

Travis: They're trying to restart the wars.

Justin: Yeah, they're—

Griffin: They can't, it's so irresponsible. I don't think there's a person alive who—it's too fresh. We just lived through it. I think there's a weariness. And I don't think Taco Bell is going anyone to jump.

Travis: Yeah. We don't have the resource—I'm not going back to rationing? Are you kidding me?

Justin: Hey, tell me if this is someone who is being cautious of their words and deeds. Quote, "Crispy chicken is having a moment, but our fans have made it a movement." Said Taylor Montgomery, Chief Marketing Officer at Taco Bell.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Travis: Bold!

Justin: Good. Bold. So we decided—

Griffin: Just like Hamilton. Just like—just like—just like Hamilton—just like Hamilton said it.

Justin: Just like Hamilton. So we decided—

Griffin: That weird song in the middle of Hamilton where he does a whole thing about crispy chicken?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I thought was cool. My favorite part of the show.

Travis: And it's weird because it start—and it's like, I— "If you could pull up Mr. Burr, it'll be ready in like 10 minutes." And he's like, [sings] "I'm gonna wait for it!" And it's like, wow! Okay, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, he sings about how he's gonna wait for his—

Justin: Yeah, wait for it.

Travis: Yeah, and he's gonna wait for his crispy chicken.

Justin: "So we decided to bring out our sell out nuggets recipe to the formats that defined our brand. Because true innovation means elevating the icons, not replacing them."

Travis: But it's not!

Justin: But we're not like every—

Travis: They took a thing they were making and put it on tacos!

Justin: Travis, we're not like every other chicken spot out there. We're doing crispy chicken the only way we know how.

Travis: Tacos!

Justin: Full of flavor and unmistakably Taco Bell.

Travis: It's weird that we didn't start with tacos and work our way backward!

Justin: Yeah, it—

Travis: It's our competency!

Justin: They needed to see if it was good enough to put in a taco, and then they did it. After the breakout success of crispy chicken nuggets, these *mother fuckers*!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [yells out] *It's chicken nuggets*! If you put it on the menu, everybody will buy it! You know what? There's a hot trend at—

Travis: It wasn't a risk!

Justin: There's a hot trend at every motherfucking restaurant in the Walt Disney World Resort, and it's called serving chicken nuggets! Because they will be purchased! Fuck!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "The next move was obvious. Take the craveable tortilla-coated crunch fans love and pack it into the formats that made Taco Bell famous; tacos and burritos. At the center is the new crispy chicken strip, all white meat chicken, marinated in fan-favorite zesty jalapeno buttermilk flavor and breaded with crispy tortilla chips." The inclusion of the word flavor there... sucks?

Griffin: They keep—they keep—

Justin: Sucks. I would say.

Griffin: They keep *insisting* that there's flavor—

Justin: Then it's loaded into bold builds with layers of texture familiar favorites like shredded cheddar and pico de gallo.

Travis: Whoa! They put cheese on it?!

Justin: They put cheese on it.

Griffin: Just moving closer to the light of Christ in the McDonald's Snack Wrap. That's just what you're making, guys. I promise you.

Justin: Here's a quote from Liz Matthews of at—

Travis: "And there's just a wisp of lettuce on there, as if we almost forgot to include it."

Justin: Just a hint of the wettest, softest lettuce.

Griffin: The most transparent lettuce you've ever seen.

Justin: The craving—

Travis: Is the full perimeter of the lettuce brown? Why, of course it is!

Griffin: Yes, yes. Of course.

Justin: It's the kind of lettuce that makes you ask, is that part of the rapper?

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: The crisp—

Travis: It looks like a child's science experiment where they soaked it in food coloring, and the food coloring was brown! Enjoy!

Justin: "The craving for crispy chicken is growing every single day. And our fans have told us loud and clear, 'Give us more!' We listened!"

Travis: "Or we'll die!"

Justin: "Continue to innovate, and now have delivered," said Liz Matthews, Taco Bell's global chief Food Innovation Officer. From our viral—

Griffin: Hardest job—hardest—hardest job on the planet.

Travis: Yeah, let's hear for our frontline workers.

Griffin: Give it up, Liz.

Justin: "From our viral crispy chicken nuggets to redesign —"

Travis: What?

Justin: You can't—I think we gotta start being a bit more careful about what we call viral and what we call popular.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Because I feel like for virality to be achieved, the nuggets have to in some way be self-replicating, right? There has to be some amount of the nuggets that are just perpetuating themselves.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I would also like to avoid referring to anything edible as viral.

Justin: Agreed! Yeah. The obsession with perfecting the crispy chicken recipe, the sauce—they're still throwing a parade for themselves for adding chicken nuggets to the menu.

Travis: I also like the imagery of the obsession of like, "Listen, we as a company didn't want to do this, but Todd would not let it go!"

Griffin: "But you fucking freak—you fucking sickos and your fan-favorite jalapeno flavorings."

Travis: "We didn't want to do it! We hate selling these things."

Griffin: "We hate it! We hate doing this. We are not called Chicken Bell."

Justin: The obsession runs so deep, Taco Bell couldn't pick just one person to help launch it. Because if crispy chicken nuggets proved anything...

Travis: It's the existence of God.

Justin: It's that everyone's into crispy chicken done the Taco Bell way.

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Justin: So a full-on crispy chicken cameo casting call was unleashed, tapping unexpected icons and devoted fans from every corner of culture, to taste the crispy, bold greatness for themselves.

Travis: Is Yung Gravy in the mix? Because Yung Gravy gravy is always in the mix.

Justin: I—no, his absence is noted and suspicious, I will say, Travis.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: Yung Gravy, where art thou?! That's what I say.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They probably had to turn him away. It was opt out for Yung Gravy.

Justin: "We have comedic nods from Kate Flannery to surprise voices like GaTa. And expert taste makers like Christian Petroni. A wide array of cameos is all about this shared obsession, because when the chicken hits his heart, everyone's got something to say." I don't know—now, here's the thing—

Griffin: So, are we gonna get to see those, Taco Bell?

Justin: So, wouldn't that be something? Wouldn't that be something? They talk about him in here, so—but I don't know if we can find him, maybe. But I can't find—

Griffin: So, in this press release, they're saying—

Travis: Like a kid who just got back from summer vacation! Lying to their friends about the cool shit their uncle let them do.

Griffin: "Oh, dude, I for sure met Yung Gravy."

Justin: Yeah, man.

Griffin: "It was crazy, man!"

Justin: "We just filmed the coolest TikToks about this. He loved it. He thought it was good. He did a cameo for me for free."

Travis: "But he said I wasn't allowed to share 'em with you, because you don't deserve 'em."

Griffin: "We got a cameo, and we just went nuts, gang. Anyway, enjoy the chicken."

Justin: Anyway, yeah. So that's the chicken—they're doing chicken tacos.

Travis: If you can believe it.

Justin: Believe it or not.

Griffin: I mean, yeah, I... I housed so many of those McDonald's Snack Wraps. It was my favorite sort of go-to guy. And I think they stopped doing 'em—

Justin: It's a great guy!

Griffin: I think they stopped doing 'em in... like 1999, perhaps? And so I'm excited that they—wait a minute.

Justin: No, you made 'em come back just now.

Griffin: No, no, no, no... McDonald's Snack Wraps are coming back on July 10th.

Justin: Yeah...

Griffin: The fuck's going on, man?

Justin: What?

Griffin: How can there be—how can—how can they go from zero Snack Wrap offerings in the—in the—in the fast food marketplace, to now—

Justin: So, okay, like—

Griffin: Like the big fuckin' dog is coming right back as Taco Bell steps into its territory.

Justin: Here's what—here's my—where I'm at currently is that there is not so much food trends as there are food extras. So, everybody get pumped for chicken, because we have lots of chicken. We just ended up with a lot of chicken, as a nation.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's what I think.

Travis: Well, eggs are too expensive to buy. And the damn things keep turning into birds!

Justin: Gotta—[chortles]

Travis: Damn it!

Justin: There's some logic that makes sense in there, Travis. I'm searching for it—

Travis: "Ah! Nobody bought these eggs, and my supermarket's full of birds again! Call McDonald's!"

Justin: "We bought too many eggs.' You wanna do another question?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "Recently, I requested a book through my library's purchase request form." You can do so much with your local library now, you know?

Travis: It's amazing. You can get audio—

Griffin: It's so cool, they're all—

Travis: Books for free.

Griffin: They're online.

Justin: Digitally?

Travis: Libby.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Check out your local library. A lot of great folks there. They love books. And they love you. "Recently, I requested a book through my—"

Travis: And you can find all kind—periodicals, micro filsh. I don't know, it's film or fish, so I went with both in one word.

Griffin: You really split the uprights.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: "Within a day, I got a personalized email responding to my request and said that my book would be in by the end of the end of the week. Brothers, much to my chagrin, by the time I made my way to checking out the book, someone else had gotten there. So now I'm on the hold list. Funny enough, I feel me and this person could maybe be friends, given their interest and quickness to seize this specific book. And we'd have a good conversation starter. My question is, how can I get library staff to give me this potential foe turned into a friend's email?" That's from Tomeless in Tampa. You know what? I realized—

Griffin: You see the—I'm making a—I'm making a—

Justin: Yeah, but this is the second question like this. And I'm realizing what's happening here. We have entered—we've entered the A's—the era of our advice giving where like, now people come to us—it's like an Ocean's movie where there's like one old guy that used to crack this certain kind of safe and they're like—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "Listen, I got this thing." And he's like, "Can't be done."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, this is the kind of question we get now. They want us to be like, "Ugh, can't be done." And then we walk out and they're like, "Wait... it's against this guy you hate." And I'll be like, "How much money do you have?" Like that's the kind of—

Griffin: That rules, dude!

Justin: That's where we're at, do you know what I mean?

Griffin: And maybe he die—and maybe he dies at some point in the movie. And you're like, it's poignant that—

Justin: It's for—

Travis: Well, oh, here's—

Griffin: It's for him.

Travis: Here's the twist.

Justin: It's for the—but it is very much like, "Hey, brothers... I want to meet a stranger based on a book we both like, and I have no way of doing it, and I have to convince other people to do it. Help me do it." They want us to say, "Ugh, can't be done."

Travis: Here it is. I got it.

Justin: "Can't be done. Waste of my Ocean's time, young buck."

Travis: I got it. You ready for this? It's a term that I have been using lately to describe—like Teresa and I read different books, and then talk about them to each other. And I refer to it as an asynchronous book club. You can do an asynchronous book club here, where the librarian is going to become your like dead drop, right?

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: Where you're like, give them this note, it's anonymous. And I want an anonymous response about this, right? And we're gonna come to the library—

Justin: Trav, I love this so much—

Griffin: Normal! Normal!

Justin: Wait, before you even—before you even detail this idea, I'd love to kind of play it out a little bit. So, I'll be the librarian, and you be the person trying to get the email, okay?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And really—

Griffin: And I'll be just—and I'll just be someone standing around—

Justin: All right, Griffin's just standing around listening! Like just hearing it. And I really want to try... let's just really buy in, okay? I don't want to—I just—let's really try, go ahead.

Griffin: Read my book.

Travis: "Okay. Hey... the book—the book that I ordered—"

Justin: "Shh... shh-shh-shh-shh-shh!"

Travis: "Sorry, yeah, of course."

Justin: "Shh."

Travis: "The book that I ordered, and somebody like checked it out first—"

Griffin: "You're be—you're being too loud!"

Justin: [chuckles] Okay, Griffin, you're—

Travis: "Okay, I'd love to—"

Griffin: "I'm in a really good part of my—"

Travis: "I'd love to—"

Griffin: "History book right now"!

Travis: "Okay, I'll cup my—I'll cup my hands around the librarian's ears, so only they can hear."

Justin: I specifically asked—

Griffin: "You're still going!"

Travis: "Hey... so, I'd love to—"

Griffin: "Dang it!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "I'd love to contact them. Only you can hear me now, librarian, because I'm cupping my hands around your ears."

Justin: "Okay, okay."

Travis: "I'd love to contact them. If you could deliver them this anonymous letter."

Justin: "No."

Travis: Now, here's the problem, Justin.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I feel like what you're failing to keep in mind is that someone doesn't become a librarian because they're not interested in playing out story lines, because they don't want to see where the story goes. I'm saying that I think—

Justin: Ah, damn it! You're right! Because I work at the library... Try again—okay, just do the last few words.

Travis: Okay. "I was wondering if you could like give this anonymous letter to them—"

Griffin: "Shh!"

Travis: "And because I'd love to talk to them about this book."

Justin: "You've intrigued me. I do love a classic tale of missed connections. Let me see." [blows] "Ah, yes."

Griffin: [coughs]

Justin: "I'm sorry, Jeremy."

Griffin: "Why'd you just blow all that fucking dust on me, dude?"

Justin: "Forgive me, Jeremy. Your asthma, I've forgotten again. Apologies. So, you wish to contact Daniel Peterson."

Travis: "Oh, his name is Daniel Peterson? Okay, thank you."

Justin: "I'll never tell you—"

Travis: "Hey! Hey! Sven, did you just give out—"

Griffin: Are you a different guy?

Travis: "Another customer's name?"

Griffin: Sorry, Trav, I gotta know, are you a different guy right now than the guy you just—

Travis: I'm a different—now I'm the boss of the library.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Say—all right, say your—give me my cue again.

Griffin: Make the voice like way lower—

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Because I'm getting-

Travis: "Ey! Hey, Sven! Did you just give out another library patron's name?"

Justin: "No, father."

Travis: "Oh, I heard you say Daniel Peterson?"

Justin: "No, father, that was a miss—you've misheard again, father. You've forgotten your daily nap."

Travis: "I am pretty tired."

Justin: "Father, have you been—have you been taking care of your mind? Father, it sounds like you're slipping in your old age."

Travis: "I've been taking my ginkgo biloba."

Justin: "Jeremy, you hear this, right? You're my witness, father is slipping."

Griffin: "Yeah, where's the Bible section?" [chuckles]

Justin: Thank you so much—[laughs] Thank you so much for listening to our podcast, which is still called My Brother, My Brother and Me. Despite it not being great for SEO. [chuckles] We hope you enjoyed yourself.

Travis: Yeah, we should work on that. Time for a rebrand!

Griffin: [sighs] Hah... Well—

Travis: Hey, everybody, as mentioned, we're going to be in Columbus this weekend. You should come see us. We're doing My Brother, My Brother and Me and Adventure Zone. And we'll be at events at the Origins Game Fair. If you're coming to a live show and you want to get a question answered or a Fear read aloud, you can email it to mbmbam@maximumfun.org, and put Columbus in the subject line.

And announcement, the Dadlands Anaheim TAZ show with Brennan was originally supposed to be on Friday, July 11th, but it's been moved to Saturday, July 12th. And the My Brother, My Brother and Me live show that was scheduled for the 12th will now be on the 11th. We apologize for that.

Griffin: Which sucks! We're very sorry that we had to do that. There was a scheduling mishap. And so, previously purchased tickets will be valid for the new date. If you're unable to attend, refunds are available up to 14 days before the show at the point of purchase.

Travis: Tickets for all the shows for the rest of the year are on sale now. You can get all the information and ticket links at bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Griffin: We got some new merch in the merch store, including a Faster Than Fear Miggy standee. A lot of just absolutely off the wall shit present in the merch store.

Travis: And 10% of all merch choices this month will be donated to the Transgender Law Center. Go check out all of that stuff Griffin just mentioned and more at mcelroymerch.com.

Griffin: And thanks to Montaigne for the use for theme song, My Life Is Better With You. Do we have a Fear?

Travis: We do! We do!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Justin, do you want—

Griffin: Can I read it?

Travis: To read it?

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: I'd be happy to, Trav. Yeah, thank you so much. "This year, I want to be faster than I fear that an extra lizard will appear in my lizard enclosure."

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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