

MBMBaM 769: The Good Time McElroy Hang Time

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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: Wuddup, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30, media luminary, 'Built Ford Tough' Griffin McElroy!

Travis: Hot out there today!

Griffin: Little—it's a scorcher, it's—

Travis: Hot out there! Real hot in Ohio. In Ohio, it's hot. And can I tell you, boys—boys, I looked up, why is it hot in Ohio? And let me tell you—

Justin: You didn't know?

Travis: I expected—

Griffin: Sorry, hold on, can we pause? Because... when you look up the weather for a place you are, do you look up why it's hot in Ohio?

Travis: No, no, no. No, I looked up the weather, and we're having a heat wave, a tropical heat wave. And I said this is unnatural. And can I tell you guys, because I pay attention—

Justin: It's June. [titters]

Travis: To the capital T, capital S—

Griffin: It's June, it's summer?

Justin: It's June?

Travis: The science. But I pay attention to the science.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's June, it was the—

Travis: And I assumed—

Justin: It was the first day of summer. I mean, it's like summer had begun—

Griffin: The equinox and shit.

Travis: I assumed, when I looked up why it was hot in Ohio, they would be like, "It's climate change, my dude." But I looked it up, and it said there's a heat dome.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: And I thought about that, and I thought, who watches the watchmen? Who's checking these meteorologists to be like, I don't think that—just say you don't know.

Griffin: Yeah, no—

Travis: Just say "I don't know!"

Griffin: I mean, I think— I think an outspoken skepticism of the scientific community is exactly what those guys have fuckin' comin' to 'em—

Justin: No... no, now I heard that the big man in charge fired a bunch—all the good meteorologists, and he left only the ones that were truly loyal.

Griffin: And this mother fucker—

Justin: So I think maybe—

Griffin: This mother fucker *loves* domes! He's like always talking about 'em.

Justin: So maybe... maybe we've just got like eight or nine meteorologists left that are like, "I don't know, guys. This is my best guess. It's like a bubble of hot? I don't know!"

Travis: "It's like a big—so, right here, I've drawn kind of a half circle. And in there, it's real hot. So... hot—"

Justin: "So I don't know."

Travis: "Hot dome?"

Griffin: I simply can't get over, it was a hot day on the day of the summer solstice, and you felt compelled to get on a search engine of some sort.

Justin: The day after West Virginia Day.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. Wel, it was *real* hot!

Griffin: Summertime.

Travis: No, it wasn't just hot, it was like 100 degrees!

Griffin: But you went—but the question your mind jumped to—when that happens to me, typically I'm like, "Oh, god, slushy me, baby." Because I've got to go get a slushie to try and stay cool. I don't think—I don't think why is it hot? Because it's—

Travis: I guess I have an inquisitive, curious mind that looks for answers and wants to know more about the world around him, instead of just accepting that things are the way that they are and drinking a fuckin' slushy!

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: That sounded judgy.

Travis: No—oh, sorry, you guys get to come at me?! For my beautiful, inquisitive mind. And I start questioning your slushy practices, and all of a sudden I'm the bad guy?

Griffin: It's just, mine is practical in a way. I don't need to know why it's hot. I'm not gonna be able to—

Travis: Knowledge is power!

Griffin: Knowledge is power!

Justin: Knowledge is—

Griffin: So you're gonna go out in your... helicopter and smash this heat dome apart—

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: If you fly through the perimeter of it enough times, you'll bust it. You'll bust that dome wide open.

Travis: I haven't even tried to go through it, Griffin. I don't even know if it's permeable.

Justin: Can I—can I give you guys this; knowledge is power, but curiosity is a burden.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Fuck, dude!

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, man.

Travis: So you just have to wait for the knowledge to naturally flow into your face?

Justin: No, I'm just saying like, let go of curiosity.

Griffin: Yeah, because sometimes—

Justin: [chuckles] Like that's—

Griffin: Sometimes you are curious, and you don't get the knowledge from that. And so there's no—there is no power gained whatsoever.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Here's what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna put together a team.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: Like the power—like the Planetegers, the Captain Planet Planetegers. Where each of us has a specific but deep vein of knowledge about a thing.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: We don't have to know everything. I just need to know about like weather. And they know about politics. And they know about animals. And together, we'll compete on the trivia circuit.

Griffin: You think you would—

Justin: You're talking about Beat the Geek.

Travis: Fuck! You're right! [chuckles] Shit!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: It's been done!

Griffin: We gotta stop inventing Beat the Geeks, guys.

Justin: Yeah, it's a really good format—

Travis: It's just such a good—yeah!

Justin: No argument here. It's really good.

Travis: It's just, all roads lead back there at some point, you know?

Justin: Guys, I wanted to briefly apologize to you for being three to five minutes late for this recording.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: That's okay.

Justin: And I was thinking about it, when I was trying to get up the nerve to get on the call. You know?

Griffin: You do that?

Justin: Well, I don't know, I just like doing—

Travis: Are you afraid of us?

Justin: No, just like doing—this is kind of what I wanted to talk about. I was thinking about how I've been three to five minutes late for everything that we've ever done.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Justin: Professionally.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: To an extent where like... I mean like, people usually have to say like, "Are you coming to this?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Or whatever. And I was thinking about it when I was between three and five minutes late to this meeting. And I was thinking that my suspicion is—I wanted to explore it with you guys, if you have—

Griffin: I would love to unpack this in the middle of the show.

Travis: I have three to five minutes.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: Okay, my suspicion is that the problem may be me.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Ah?

Justin: And not that there have been a seek—an unbroken sequence—

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Of unavoidable events.

Griffin: Three to five minute long inconveniences—

Justin: [laughs] Three to five minute long events!

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: That have prohibited me or prevented me from joining calls at the appropriate time. As I was between three and five minutes late for this call—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: For like completing my unbroken streak of like a decade and a half of being three to five minutes late for literally everything we've ever done.

Travis: Mm-hm. Can I—Justin, may I? Not to let you off the hook here—

Justin: Yeah, please. Because like I am just now starting to worry—

Travis: You're 100% correct.

Justin: What if it's me?

Griffin: What if you're a—

Travis: No—

Justin: If it's me, I need help from the outside.

Griffin: A thoughtless—yeah, sure.

Travis: It's not a sequence of events, Justin, because then the time would keep compiling. What I would hypothesize is that a decade and a half ago, some event occurred that set your calendar back three to five minutes.

Griffin: You're stuck.

Travis: And since then, you have been three to five minutes behind on everything.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm glad—I'm glad that this is not tied to trauma, I was really worried you're about to tell me that—

Travis: No, no, no—

Justin: At some point, something bad happened to me at 10-02, and I've just been like kind of—

Travis: No, no, no—

Justin: Dicing about those—

Griffin: Sidestepping it, yeah.

Travis: Trauma is not real. What I'm saying is—

Justin: The aughts make me a little bit nervous. [titters]

Travis: No, trauma is made up to sell toys. What I'm saying is—

Justin: [yells out] Yeah!

Travis: Get 'em.

Griffin: *Wow.*

Justin: What a twist! [laughs]

Travis: No, what I'm saying is that 15 years ago, you paused *too long!*

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Before doing the next thing you were supposed to do. And now you're just fucked for the rest of your life. You'll never make that up.

Justin: I consider myself—I think of myself as a considerate person..

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Writ large. I like to think of myself as considerate.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And if I'm late to a thing that I'm driving to—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm very much on edge.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I really want to get there on time if I'm driving to it.

Griffin: You're punctual in person, but—

Justin: In person punctual!

Travis: To a fault!

Griffin: In the—in this—in cyberspace, there's a little bit of maybe in—

Justin: It's almost like a—

Griffin: There's input lag.

Justin: That's almost like another bit of evidence.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That maybe I am the problem.

Griffin: Huh.

Justin: Because I—it doesn't seem—this—[chuckles] this like... natural occurrence chaos effect thing that's keeping me from ever getting to anything between three and five minutes within the time, I think maybe is because I—it doesn't affect me in the outside world.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Maybe it is an interior issue.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Are you using a VPN? Because sometimes that can—

Griffin: It could be a VPN issue that—

Travis: That can—

Griffin: Takes you three to five minutes to get—

Justin: Right.

Travis: That can do it. It can affect connection speeds.

Justin: The ping. It's a high ping—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Kind of thing.

Travis: Is it—like, time zones being a thing, maybe you're just in a slightly different time zone than us?

Griffin: Yeah, it's Rudeness Standard Time. I think that you should try being 10 minutes early to stuff for a while. Can you guys even imagine how good that would feel to just be like chilling for 10? And you get to like really get yourself together and put—

Travis: I'm always the first person on the call!

Griffin: Yeah, but are you—this isn't about you. This is about our—

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Griffin: Our constantly tardy brother who—

Justin: So, there's one of two things that's going to happen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If I'm 10 minutes early to the call, thing one is, I will turn it on, start the call, and I will obviously forget that I'm on the call.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: This is a given.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Because I will start to think about if I still remember the names of all the presidents in order.

Travis: Sure, yeah.

Justin: And I'll have to go see if I do, right? [chuckles]

Griffin: Right, yeah.

Justin: So obviously, that's tough.

Travis: Or you'll look up why it's hot or something, and then you'll fall—

Justin: Why it's hot—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So, one of the two things is gonna happen. One, I'm gonna close it and do something else. That's been pretty consistent. Or two—

Travis: Wait, why would you close it?

Justin: Why is it open? I mean, why did I have it open, you know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: And also, Travis—

Travis: But once it's open, you're making the choice to close it!

Justin: Because I'll have the fleeting—because I will have the fleeting thought, "Hm, desktop's getting messy. Better tidy up!" [chuckles]

Griffin: And there's no—

Justin: Then I close everything, and I go make a sandwich!

Griffin: And there's no—

Justin: [yells out] If I was 10 minutes early!

Griffin: This is not me saying that Justin would do something like this, but you can't leave a camera just on in your room. Because what if like, what if a butt cheek comes out? What if a nut—

Justin: [chuckles] Butt cheek come out.

Travis: Yeah. No, that's fair, yeah.

Griffin: What if a nut comes out?

Travis: Well, my bigger worry, Justin, would be that if you started being 10 minutes early, Griffin and I would then match it, right? So then you'd have to be 10 minutes earlier, so that you were still 10 minutes before the call. And then Griffin and I would eventually match that as well, as we fall into sync.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And eventually, we're recording three days early. You know what I mean?

Justin: What I think is crazy is that you—that I have noticed this, and you guys, who it has been inconveniencing for 15 years, you guys never noticed it. That is what is most surprising about this conversation.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: So the—okay. I could search—

Justin: I'm surprised that when I brought it up—

Griffin: I could search mine and Travis'—

Justin: I thought there would be a bit of recognition from you guys like, "Oh, yeah, this is something we've noticed too." But like, nothing! So, I'm actually—maybe it's not an issue?

Griffin: So—

Justin: Maybe this isn't something I gotta unpack?

Travis: Is it possible to filter text messages—

Griffin: Yeah, that's what I was gonna say.

Travis: For increasing levels of panic?

Griffin: if I search mine and Travis' private text message thread, if I just search the phrase "is it getting worse," do you have any idea how many times—

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: This exact conversation would appear?

Justin: The good news is no, it's just between three to five minutes!

Travis: Just, it's consistent, is what it is.

Griffin: It's consistently three to five—

Justin: It's very consistent, actually!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I actually—

Justin: I am maybe the most consistent!

Travis: I appreciate that! I appreciate the consistent tardiness. Because it gives me time to be like, I've logged on, it's 9:58, I'm two minutes early. I know I have eight minutes to turn on the Steam Deck.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Check in, see how things are going with my digital dudes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Before Justin gets on.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, let me ask—let me ask this, just because I'm—

Travis: It's like an airlock, of focus.

Justin: I'm thinking through some—I'm thinking through some stuff now, because I'm starting to detect some light sarcasm that makes me think that

you have noticed that I've been three to five minutes late for everything ever.

Griffin: *What?! No!*

Justin: [chuckles] How many times would I need to—

Griffin: Be a good boy on time for us to forget—

Justin: Yeah, how many times before I start to get some positive—

Travis: Let's start with one!

Justin: Now, let—

Travis: [titters]

Griffin: One—

Justin: Travis?

Travis: Yeah, Justin?

Justin: I feel like we've all been very constructive.

Travis: Okay, yeah. Yeah, you know what?

Justin: And I feel like that was the first time—

Travis: Yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah—

Griffin: It got nasty—

Travis: I felt it—

Justin: A little cruel.

Travis: Yeah, that was an erosion of trust.

Justin: Griffin has at least been able to maintain a veneer. [titters] Okay? And I need you to at least shoot for veneer. Okay?

Travis: Okay, a Greg Veneer.

Justin: Now, there's a—it's just that I'm still your older brother. [titters] You know what I mean? There's a respect—

Griffin: Respect that—

Travis: Yeah, there's a respect—

Justin: There's a respect, there's—

Travis: You're right. Yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah.

Justin: [titters]

Travis: There's a respect there. I've always thought it was a dominance play, by the way, to be three to five minutes late. As the king enters the room, and everybody stands.

Justin: That's what worries me. That is what worries me, Trav.

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Justin: That is the secret that's keeping the stars apart, is I am worried about that. And I don't want it to be that, but there is a 70% chance—

Griffin: I mean, I don't think it's a—I don't think it's a power play thing. I think—I think I know the folds of your mind as well as my own at this point. And I do think that imagine you have a button on your desk that says "begin work" on it, you're not gonna *spring* to press that button. You're gonna look at it and be like, "Eh... hm, not quite yet. Hm, gotta watch—hm, there's a trailer for M3GAN 2.0, I gotta just—hm, real quick, before—"

Travis: There is?!

Justin: Is there—[chuckles] is it a new one or what?!

Travis: I've gotta go—ah, fuck... Let's pause.

Justin: Don't tease me.

Griffin: I can't wait for that queen to slay.

Justin: Are you saying that I'm a procrastinator by nature, Griffin?

Griffin: Eh... yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm. Hey, baby—hey, babe?

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: We've all had a lot of fun here today, but we should be careful. You know, there's a lot of glass. There's a lot of glass around all of our homes, I think.

Griffin: Oh? Okay.

Justin: In this—in this neighborhood—

Griffin: Weird—it's a weird move to invite sort of constructive criticism, and then once I—

Justin: I'm just trying to—hey, Griff?

Griffin: And you say, "Hey—"

Justin: Hey, Griff?!

Griffin: "Watch it, mister."

Justin: Hey, Griff, I'm just trying to keep the rails on. [chuckles] Because if it gets nasty, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Here's the thing about construction, Griffin—

Justin: No one wants it to get *nasty*. [titters]

Travis: The thing about construction is, if you build a set of stairs, it goes both ways, you know what I mean? Think about it.

Justin: Griffin has been messing up, too. Thank you, Travis.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Everyone else—

Travis: I haven't!

Justin: Has been so early.

Travis: When I say middlest, I don't just mean I'm the middle of the three brothers. I mean I've been keeping it average as long as possible.

Griffin: Fully, fully—

Justin: What if I—what if I did start to be kind of the on-time brother? How long do you think it would need to take before—because I—this is my thinking, is I don't know if I can.

Travis: Ten thousand hours.

Justin: Because if the problem is me—

Travis: How many three—

Justin: Then it's me.

Travis: To five minutes does it take to make ten thousand hours of being on time?

Justin: That's the worst problem—that's the worst part about realizing that you're the problem.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, is that I'm the only me I got! [titters] You know? Where do I go from there?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I have a backup on—if the problem's me, I'm all out of options.
[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: This is what we learned from the Michael Keaton movie, Multiplicity. You know what I mean?

Justin: Yes!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That let him highlight and isolate his...

Griffin: Faults.

Justin: His faults. He could really see them in those guys.

Travis: Exactly.

Griffin: So—

Travis: Anyways, thanks! That's another great episode. Thanks everybody so much for joining us for Brother Talk!

Justin: I will—in closing—

Travis: The only McElroy brother therapy podcast out there.

Justin: In closing, I will work on it. [chuckles]

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: All right.

Justin: Thank you so much.

Travis: That's all we can ask.

Justin: That's all—

Travis: Try to get two to three minutes.

Justin: It's all you can ask.

Travis: Start there.

Griffin: If you can shave it down to two to three minutes, now we're talking—that's fifteen, sixteen hours a year that we're gonna be racking up.

Travis: That's negligible at that point.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's not even like late. If you're two minutes late to something, that's just a difference in clocks or whatever. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Guys, I've become very self-conscious about how nasty and dirty my boom—my... my cover is.

Travis: Yeah, you're doing some ASMR there with tweezers, pulling shit off of it.

Griffin: I was saying, I just realized I was trying to discreetly pluck some of the yucky fuzz and gunk off of my mic cover. And—

Justin: Yeah. And I, just for the record, just because we did just post the TikTok of you chiding me for playing with my stress-relieving donut, I will say that you—[chuckles]

Griffin: That's nice, though, isn't it?

Travis: This—

Justin: Just tweezing—

Travis: Griffin, this is a—

Griffin: Imagine—no, imagine this is the part of your brain—

Justin: A little bit distracting—

Griffin: Juice—

Justin: I managed to not mention it, for the record, but okay.

Griffin: You did great. The mic is your brain, Juice, and the fuzz is the thing inside of you that is so wrong that makes you be thoughtless and late. And I just take that energy and I pluck it on out. And now it's good and—

Travis: Hey, Griffin, if you could zoom in on that like a million times, so I could see like the fibers going? That's a great TikTok for me.

Griffin: I don't want to show—and here's the thing. I don't want to show the business end of the mic, because it has some lip stuff on it that I am not proud of. But there's—

Travis: What are you doing over there?! Why are both of you monsters?!

Griffin: I'm French.

Justin: Why thoughtless and late? Like I thought—you know what I mean? Like, it's not thoughtless, because I've been thinking about it—

Griffin: Thoughtless was too—thoughtless was too much.

Justin: Was too much, okay, do you—

Griffin: Thoughtless was too much.

Justin: Okay, let's keep the respect.

Griffin: You're way older than me—

Travis: How am I doing? As long as we're doing—

Griffin: You're way—you're way older than me, so the respect—

Justin: Way older.

Griffin: Definitely needs to be even—

Travis: If we're doing—

Justin: A lot of respect.

Travis: A quick check in, how am I doing?

Griffin: Travis, you're crushing, man. Fuckin' slapping ass, height of your power.

Travis: This is the beautiful thing, always give 70%. And then when you give 80% people are like, "Whoa, dude!"

Griffin: Yeah, "Damn."

Travis: That's been—I've been keeping my jokes so bad, so that when I—

Griffin: So tight.

Travis: Do an okay one, people lose it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And hey, before you send a bunch of helpful tips of how I can get to things on time, I'm doing fine.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [titters] It's all going good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Man—

Griffin: We're not gonna—

Justin: We all have a great relationship, we accept—

Travis: We give help, we don't take—

Justin: We accept our little quirks and it's all good.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: We need to have a podcast where the three of us just hang and fuckin' juice each other up. Just so some of the backseat family dynamic observation people be like, "Yeah, but on the Good Time McElroy Hang Time, you can tell that they're still fuckin'—"

Travis: "They're all in character on—" yeah.

Griffin: "Vibing and chilling and hanging."

Justin: I thought that's what this was?

Griffin: You thought this was the chill vibe McElroy hang time?!

Justin: I don't have these kinds of conversations with people I don't care for?

Griffin: That's a good point.

Travis: That's fair, dude! That's fucking deep as hell!

Justin: You know what I mean? I don't have—I don't have check ins on my own behavior! I don't think about my own behavior with them!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: They're lucky a little bit of sparkle landed on their shoulder! Are you kidding me?!

Griffin: Yeah, for sure, dude.

Travis: I mean, yeah, you guys are the only ones that care about judging me, if that—

Justin: "To me, it was a Tuesday!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] You know?

Travis: God, more people need to watch the Street Fighter movie, by the way, because that's like 90% of our dialog.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: And I need you guys to see that M. Bison scene.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I work at an equine vet, and though it's not part of my normal work routine, I'm often asked to make a trip to the post office and shipping store.

Whenever this happens, I'm usually also asked to stop by the bank and get changed for our cash box at the front desk." Side benefit of stamps.com nobody tells you about—

Griffin: No.

Justin: If you're not going to do that errand, people don't give you other errands!

Griffin: That's true.

Travis: That's the best part.

Justin: Think about it. Think about it. "I pull up to the window and I hand the teller an envelope with the money, and a little sticky note with the type of change that we need. Usually, while they're counting it, they do it right next to a giant basket of lollipop. Brother, how do I explain to the teller that I want one of these lollipops? It is—is it weird for a 27 year old conducting business and exchanging change to want a free lollipop?" That's from Suckerless Sucker in the South.

Griffin: I do feel like, as long as we're in like a helpful criticism mode, a lot of the preamble of this question was a bit extraneous. It felt a little bit like you just wanted to brag about the fact that you get to touch horses morning, noon and night.

Travis: So, I just assumed that they were telling us that because they ride up to the bank on a horse.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That was my assumption.

Griffin: Yeah, probably not, because you can't stop a horse from just shredding one of those lollipop buckets.

Travis: I'll also tell you this, man, if I saw—if I'm working in a bank—

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: And someone rolls up on a horse.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Hands me an envelope with a note on it. Before I even look at the note, I assume I'm being held up by an old-time—

Griffin: "Reach for the sky!"

Travis: Yeah, man!

Griffin: Yeah, for sure, man.

Travis: Like, handing any—a teller a note is such a risky move.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Of course you can have a lollipop.

Justin: Yeah! I think—I think it's important to start seeing these things not as you sort of like indulging yourself. Because no one is going to look at you as the person you are and think, "Oh, there they go again, having a delicious lollipop." What they're gonna think is, "Thank you for giving us all permission to enjoy this delicious treat."

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: It's just, there's a big bowl of lollipops, that rules!

Griffin: That's great.

Justin: And if you can look at that and enjoy the opportunity, the fact that you're already in the mind space of like, "Ooh, lollipops are delicious, I'd love to enjoy one," you're so close. Just take that next step and grab one.

Griffin: I would also—

Justin: And then—

Griffin: I would also—

Justin: Pass it on.

Griffin: I would also say that, who do you think the lollipops are there for? Business children?

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Who are there to—

Justin: Hey, Griffin? That's actually a pretty good point.

Griffin: Thanks, man. Yeah, no, I feel—

Justin: Kids aren't allowed in banks.

Travis: No.

Justin: They'll steal all the money and get chocolate on the bills. [titters]

Griffin: These little sugar discs are good for me. Do you understand that?

Travis: I thought you were talking about kids for a second, sorry.

Griffin: No, I'm talking about lollipops. These sugar discs come on a stick. They deliver a good taste to my mouth that makes my brain chill for a little bit.

Justin: Yeah. The ones at my bank are THC. Like, they're not for kids.

Griffin: Regardless, even without that good green herb, if it's just a sugar disc that makes my brain release stuff that makes me feel good? Oh, that's medicine now. So, you don't get much more grown-up than that.

Travis: Now, there is a bit of a social construct that you need to do here.

Griffin: What's that?

Travis: Where you give kind of a chuckle and like a, "Oh, heh-ha-ha," as you take one.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Right? That's what I...

Griffin: You give it—[giggles] "Hm-hm-hm."

Justin: No way.

Hamlet: "Mm-hm..."

Travis: Not a—not a giggle—

Griffin: A special—

Travis: But like a, "Ho-uh." Just a little—not that big, obviously, I'm showcasing to the people at home, this is an audio medium.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: But a little bit of a 'don't mind if I do' kind of moment.

Griffin: A little decadence. Now, I—

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: I feel like—

Travis: And then you grab a whole handful of 'em, and you throw 'em in your plastic—

Griffin: That's—okay—

Travis: Jack O' Lantern bucket that you brought with you.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: If you brought the McDonald's Jack O' Lantern bucket, you grab a fistful of lollipops, you do need to put a little bit English on the ball. You do need to give it of *mm-hm, special something for later*. But if you're just—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: If you're just—I am not a confident man! I do not carry myself with confidence, generally speaking. The confidence that I have when I reach into a lollipop bucket at a host stand at a restaurant, or a bank teller window, or whatever, is so complete and so thorough, because there is no other way I will be allowed to grab a lollipop. There is way except to reach—

Travis: Do you grab the first one?

Griffin: What's that?

Travis: Do you grab the first one you touch or do you rifle for the perfect flavor?

Griffin: I grab the first one I touch. I do it in a manner that suggests like this is—this is how a grown up eats a sugar disc. And it—and I—it's the only place in which I feel confident that I can—I can do that. Because if I—if I hedge even a little bit, then all of a sudden, it's fuckin' weird that I'm eating a lollipop and I'm 38 years old.

Justin: I just worry that I couldn't eat it in a non-seductive way—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: That the teller is gonna get the wrong impression.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know how to eat a lollipop in front of someone else that's not gonna harass them—

Travis: Yeah, fair.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like I don't know how to turn that off.

Travis: I'm just worried that I'll grab the first one—

Justin: I'm like a young Sherilyn Fenn, I don't—

Travis: Yes, exactly.

Justin: [chuckles] I don't know how to turn the sensuality—

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know how to dim my own sexuality.

Travis: Exactly.

Justin: You know?

Travis: I'm worried that I'll grab the first one I touch, pop it in, and then go like, "Ew, butterscotch! Ew, take it away! Ew! Ew! Ew!" And hold it out between my fingers.

Justin: Dang, I'd love a butterscotch right now.

Travis: Until they hold the trash can, and they hold out their hand, and they take it. And then I'll start crying until I find like a blue raspberry. And then I feel better. And they then just start handing me money to try to get me to stop crying. And it's the perfect heist.

Griffin: At the kids' barber shop, where I take my kids to get their hair cut, they give you a lollipop and a balloon when you're done. And a lot of the

times, one of my two boys, my precious angels, do not want the lollipop, they only want the balloon. But you know who does want that lollipop?

Travis: Hm, daddy likey.

Griffin: Daddy does like his medicine. And so I will say—take one and I'll be like, "If I don't take it, he's just gonna lose it in the car later." And then we walk outside and then how many licks? One, two, three! And I'm crunching.

Justin: Okay. You go up to your bank. They have a basket of candy, okay? What is the candy that would be in the basket? And I'm talking about a typical basket candy. Like don't put full-size whatchamacallits in there.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like a typical basket candy. What is the candy that's in the basket where you are absolutely 100% stone cold definitely gonna get one? No question.

Griffin: I mean, this is more of a restaurant thing, but Andes mints, those are made exclusively for grown-ups. No child is going to eat those. Those are for us. So, that's a—

Justin: I feel like you've been trying to get Chupa Chups into an adult brand. I feel you've been trying to give them more of an adult spin. Like it's something like Kojak has, you know.

Griffin: Yeah, no, Chupa Chups—

Travis: Yeah, it's a more refined flavor palette.

Griffin: It is! A Chupa Chup is a lollipop for someone—for a lollipop enthusiast. I do—I do love—

Travis: Yeah, a discerning—

Griffin: A Chupa Chup.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know the one that I'm always gonna get, guys?

Griffin: What's that, Juice?

Justin: That strawberry with the goo inside.

Griffin: The gooey berry, yeah.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Love—I *love* a delicious strawberry Bonbon, especially when it's freshly made, at least within the last 20 years.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: And the goop is still goopy.

Griffin: [titters] Yeah.

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: They actually haven't made any of those since 1971, and so there are no under 20s.

Travis: They're waiting for the supply to run low.

Justin: When I pop one—when I pop one of those strawberry Bonbons into my mouth and I feel those little prickly ridges dance across my tongue—

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: I think, oh, yeah! Daddy's having a break now.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You're supposed to take the plastic off, Justin, by the way.

Justin: [chuckles] Now daddy's having a break!

Travis: I don't even know that I enjoy them, but I'm just compelled to take the little crumbly peppermint kind of like pillows that come in a thing. Not like—

Justin: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: Oh! Those are the worst those. Those are the grossest.

Travis: Yeah, but every time I see one, I went, okay—yeah, I should.

Justin: I like those. I like the way they crumble in your mouth and you can't tell—

Griffin: Yeah, that's gross.

Justin: How old they are. Those are good, I like the little pepper—

Travis: Like peppermint chalk, it's wonderful.

Justin: I like the little jor—like the little—the little mint. The little mints that you get a spoonful of, you know what I mean? The after-dinner mints?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: The pastel colors.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Little—

Travis: What else do you guys like? You like Jordan almonds? [chuckles]

Griffin: What if they just had loose Skittles? Just loose Skittles.

Justin: Hell yeah.

Griffin: And you reach in and you grab a paw.

Travis: Nothing loose.

Griffin: And then if you take the golden Skittle, then they give you a hundred dollars, from the bank—

Justin: Just enjoy it! If you're not enjoying your lollipop, what are you doing?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's the whole point, is to enjoy those. [titters] "Over the last winter, a new bodega recently opened up near me. I started going there regularly for my coffee as it's near my apartment, and dog friendly, so I go with my pup on a morning walk. I go often enough that the guy who works there sees me coming through the window, has my order prepared as I walk in. Large hot coffee with a splash of skimmed milk." Man, that's cool.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I've always wanted that.

Travis: Ah, I want to be a regular somewhere.

Justin: I know, I know. The problem with living in a non-walkable city is like I'd have to—

Travis: We should move to New York.

Justin: BP that's five minutes away. "The problem is, now that it's summer and the weather's getting hot, and I want to make my annual switch from hot coffee to iced coffee. But when I get to the counter, this nice man has already got my hot coffee ready and waiting for me. How do I casually mention to him that I do not want the coffee he has already prepared for

me, and I'd like him to throw it out and make me a new drink instead?"
That's from Too Hot to Handle.

Travis: So, this is—this is one of those things where it's like, on paper—like if an alien analyzed this and had no sense of human behavior, they'd be like, "This is a conversation you only have to have once a season." Like, what—why—

Justin: No, this is extremely difficult.

Travis: But it's like no, no, no, there's so much momentum built up behind it.

Griffin: That's why I can't stand—

Travis: Of when we talk about becoming a regular, right? There's a level of trust—

Justin: Maybe I don't want to be—hey, guys, maybe I don't want to be—

Travis: I know.

Justin: A regular. [chuckles]

Travis: There's a level of trust and pride there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where the person is like, "Every time I see them coming and I know what they want, and I do it, I'm—" that's a building block in a relationship.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it takes so little.

Griffin: So, the answer, I think, is, you—this is a situation—the good news is you can remedy this with one good go, with one good one, where you can give them the heads up. "I want it iced, please don't waste the coffee. And

then for the rest of the summer iced, until I say otherwise." So, all you gotta do is not let 'em see you. You're gonna need to creep.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Yeah! Maybe you skitch on the back of a garbage truck, and then you just kind of like smash in through the front door as quick as you can and just go, "Ice!" Before they can—before they can—well, don't actually—now that I'm thinking about it—

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah!

Griffin: Wicked, definitely, super-duper, super-duper-duper do not—

Justin: Super-duper-duper!

Griffin: Do not do what I just said.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Don't do what Griffin has just said.

Griffin: Under no circumstances do what I said.

Travis: The skitching part you can do.

Griffin: The skitching sketching part kicks ass, but you're gonna want to bust in, and you're gonna want to be very explicit and say, "Hey, before—stop. Stop! Before you do that." And then you explain your—what your actual—

Justin: What if you go in... disguise?

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Both.

Justin: What if you go in disguise—

Travis: Skitch in there. Skitch in there like an old grandma.

Justin: No, there's—we've dropped the skitching! The skitching introduced a legal aspect that I don't want to get into.

Griffin: Skitching is legal?

Travis: Safe—okay, safely skitch, with all the proper safety equipment, like an old grandma.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: And then you walk in, or sketch in. Maybe you can keep the momentum going?

Griffin: If you skitch into the bodega, the driver has got some 'xplaining to do, because—

Travis: No! You wait 'til they take a turn and you—like you would slingshot around the moon to get to Mars faster.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Right? So then, you launch in and you're like, "*Oah!* It's me, Iced Coffee."

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. That could work.

Travis: Ooh! You know what? This is where curiosity comes in. You come in and go, "Hu-hoh! Not for me today. Didn't you hear about the heat dome?" It also helps if you know their name.

Griffin: Right!

Travis: And say they—

Justin: They've already made it. They've already made—

Griffin: They did already make it though—

Justin: They've already made it.

Travis: But now, by introducing, and I'm sorry to say this for a second question, a bit of a chuckle. You make it seem like an inside joke between you and the bodega runner. Where you're like, "Oh, I know I normally would, but extreme circumstances have broken my spirit, and I simply cannot do hot coffee. This is neither a breaking of our trust, nor our routine together. But in fact, the universe has conspired to make it too hot for me to have this coffee." But you're going to do all of that in one brief chuckle and shrug. "Ha-ha, wish I could!"

Griffin: That is one of the most insane things you've said this year.

Justin: That's this year—

Travis: History will prove me correct.

Justin: Okay, yeah, that's good. This year, that's reasonable.

Travis: What is?

Justin: Like... well, I thought Griffin was about to say of all time.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: And then Griffin put the thing of this year. And I think like—I'm thinking about some of the crazier shit that you've said this year and it's like—

Griffin: It's just that you're suggest—your suggestion was to smack—

Justin: Breaking into the top three—

Griffin: Your suggestion to this inconvenient social situation is to let them make the coffee, wasting coffee. Which is like, objective number one, I feel

like we could probably sidestep that. And then smash in through the door, traveling at 65 miles an hour, post-skitch slingshot.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: And say, "Ha-ha-ha—"

Travis: That's non-negotiable.

Griffin: Say to this basically stranger, "Ha-ha-ha-ha, dump that out, because the universe has made it too hot for me to drink it."

Justin: I think what we were see—yeah, I think what we were seeing there is Travis started trying to give a good idea.

Griffin: Yeah, yes.

Justin: Realized halfway through that it was a bad idea, and then tried to convert it into a joke.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: To hide—

Travis: None of that was a joke!

Justin: The fact that it was an extremely bad idea!

Travis: No, none of that was a joke. What I'm saying is, it's not a stranger—

Justin: Oh, no! No, no, no! I know it wasn't a joke! That part is clear!

Travis: Hear me out. It's not a stranger. You've been building this regular type of relationship. Now you're feeling like the social anxiety of having to say, "Oh, actually, I didn't want hot coffee." If you play it like you're uncomfortable telling them that, that's where the erosion of that building relationship goes. If you say it like it's an inside joke, right? It's go—"Oh, I

normally would, you're right. But a little too hot today, let's try ice this time." Right? Now, it's building the relationship—

Griffin: They dump it out and they waste the coffee. You've lost the game! They dump it out, they waste the coffee, you've lost the game!

Justin: There's only one way to correct this. When you go in tomorrow, say—

Travis: They lose the milk. Let's be clear, sorry, the coffee is batch made! Who cares about throwing out coffee? It's the milk that's the problem. They're wasting milk. That's the problem. Sorry. Go on.

Justin: So—

Travis: *In this economy?!*

Justin: We—what if when you go in tomorrow, you say, "Oh, it's a hot one out here. Can you throw a couple ice cubes in there?"

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And then tomorrow, you say, "Ah, it's still a hot one. Can you double the amount of ice cubes from yesterday?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then they're like, "Well, that's not too much." And then it's four. And then you go in tomorrow and you say, "It's a hot one out there. Can you double the amount of ice cubes from yesterday?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that doesn't sound that crazy, but now it's eight.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Sixteen. Within two weeks, I remember from elementary school—

Travis: Well, that becomes your regular order though, Justin, he just keeps doubling it!

Justin: Within two weeks, you're gonna be ordering like pounds of ice.
[chuckles] Like because you're doubling it every—

Travis: Yeah, you're getting two five gallon buckets of ice!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You're gonna eventually be pulling a U-Haul out and just be like,
"Load this bitch with ice!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Because I've got a—I've got two U-Hauls coming tomorrow."
[chuckles] You know what I mean? Eventually, you're gonna have some sort
of side business going.

Travis: And then you sell the ice back to them! *Money*. Boom! Wait, is that
what we're talking about?

Griffin: Spill it? You—

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: Sorry. You spill it. You do it—you spill it outside.

Justin: Griffin!

Griffin: Don't make a mess, you take it outside, you say, "Ah!" And you spill
it on the ground, and then you go in and you say—

Justin: Spill it.

Griffin: Dang it—you say, "Dang it, I spilled it outside. I'll have another one, please. Iced, if you dare."

Justin: I know it's going to be uncomfortable, but if you do spill the whole thing on yourself, I think you have one get out of jail free card where you could be like, "You know what? [spoofs crying sounds] From now on, let's try ice." [spoofs crying sounds]

Griffin: Yeah, I can't do—

Travis: "Too hot! Burn tummy!"

Griffin: I can't—

Justin: "I'm so burned!"

Travis: [yells out] "Burned tu—*ah*! My skin! Burned skin!"

Justin: I'm so—Travis, no, this is maybe a real trauma! You can like burn yourself with the coffee—

Travis: Wait, the first one?!

Justin: Well, yeah, then—[chuckles]

Griffin: [titters]

[pause]

Justin: [chuckles] You just go in with your coffee and say, "I can't deal with a hot coffee anymore."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "It's too much for me!"

Griffin: "Because I could sue you like the—like that lady at McDonald's did, and you'd be fuckin' ruined, man."

Travis: Which was completely justified, by the way—

Justin: And then—and then when we hit—

Travis: She got a bad rap.

Justin: Then when we hit like September 20th, you just be like, "I think I'm ready to try again." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] "I've been—I've been good."

Justin: [laughs] "My therapist thinks—"

Travis: "I've been processing a lot."

Justin: [chuckles] "My therapist thinks that I just try it again."

Griffin: "Give me two hot coffees, I'm gonna—"

Travis: But then—but then it gets hot again! It was a fake thing and you say, "It was too soon. I wasn't ready." [chuckles]

Justin: What were you gonna say, Griffin? I wanna hear your version too.

Griffin: You take two hot coffees in your hand and say, "I'm gonna run laps around the store. Come back. You're gonna see, man. Not a drop. Not a drop. I'm ready. Gimme."

Justin: [titters]

Travis: "I'm ready."

Justin: Ready for the big show.

Travis: I like that the trauma in Griffin's mind isn't the spilling hot coffee on oneself, it's simply the spilling.

Griffin: I'm sorry—

Travis: I feel so bad about spilling! [chuckles]

Griffin: I found a fucking beautiful, narrow shaft of sunlight, which was, you just are gonna have to buy two coffees once, and tell them you want the other one iced. And then you're good to go for the rest of your life. And that was a beautiful and flawless solution. And you guys were like "burn your chest and genitals as bad as you possibly can with this scorching, scalding coffee."

Justin: It's not a solution show, it's a comedy show, Griffin. [chuckles]

Travis: You just tell—the next time you go in, you tell 'em that from now on, you're subletting your apartment to your twin brother, who looks exactly like you, except prefers his coffee iced.

Griffin: "Look out for the Ice Man. Hey, for real though, he's my twin brother, he likes it cold."

Travis: "He'll be here for the summer. But the second the thermometer—he's like the Heat Miser. The second the temperature drops below 80 degrees, he's leaving! And I'll be back. And I'll have an eye patch this time. Cool, huh? Anyways, see you then!"

Justin: Do you know who else—

Travis: "His name's my too. Important to note. Spelled differently, but don't worry about that."

Justin: You know who else will be back, Travis?

Travis: Who?

Justin: Us, right after this.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Zocdoc! Feels good to say, doesn't it? Say it, Justin.

Justin: *Zocdoc.*

Travis: Oh, yeah! Zoc—

Justin: I use Zocdoc.

Travis: Okay?

Justin: Did I tell you that? I found Zocdoc to find a dentist.

Travis: Well, what is Zocdoc? Well, Zocdoc is a free app and website where you can search or compare high-quality in-network doctors and click to instantly book an appointment. You did a dentist, you say? You found a dentist?

Justin: It's a dentist. Hey, you know what? It's really hard to find a dentist or a doctor. It's annoying. You never know the right person to call. You never know where to start. Zocdoc made it really easy! They just said, "Hey, here's some dentists. Just pick one. Your insurance takes them. Go! Just go to one."

Travis: Yeah, like they're holding on a deck of—like a magician! They hold out a deck of cards, they say, "Pick a card." And you pick it, and they say, "That's your dentist." And you say, "What? I thought these were cards." And then you look and you're holding a dentist. And that's the magic trick that Zocdoc performs for you!

Justin: Preventative care is really important. And if you're putting it off because it's tough, it's irritating, Zocdoc can make that a lot easier. So stop putting off those doctor's appointments and go to zocdoc.com/mybrother, to find and instantly book a top-rated doctor today. That's Z-O-C-D-O-C.com/mybrother. Z-O-C-D-O-T-com/mybrother.

Travis: No!

Justin: Zocdoc dot—I just spelled D-O-T! [Zocdoc.com/my brother](http://Zocdoc.com/mybrother).

Travis: Justin, tell me about your kitty!

Justin: I'll tell you boys about my cats, Olive and Amelia. Every morning, they wake up and they start being real friendly. You know why? Because they are ready for their smooth bird.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Wait, are you—wait...

Justin: They're ready for smooth bird or smooth other bird, but they'll also take smooth cow, if you have it. Those are just a few of the literal names of the great flavors of Smalls cat food. For the record, my picky ladies love smooth other bird. That's a great place to start. They're these pre-packaged packets of food full of really good stuff that is—I will—I will tell you this. My cats, since they—I made the switch from dry food to Smalls, they have been healthier, they—according to their veterinarian. Their coats look better. Anecdotal, but that's been my experience. And they love it, and it's really easy to just open one of these individual packets. They arrive fresh. You put it in your fridge, they're ready to go. They're—

Griffin: Last time I came in town to visit, Juice, they did not piss on all my stuff. And I can't help but wonder if that's related to their improved diet, thanks to Smalls.

Justin: They do. Their diets have improved. Their energy has improved. We really, genuinely love Smalls. We are paying customers of Smalls. It's a—it's been great for our house.

Travis: Do you ever eat it?

Justin: I have never eaten it, no. One time, we did—before we figured out exactly how much Smalls we needed, we ran out, and the cats were *furious*. They started—they demanded that I go out and smooth up the birds myself. And I told them, "I don't know how to smooth up the birds. Only Smalls knows how to smooth them up the way you like." And I—

Travis: And trust me, you don't want to search like 'how to smooth up birds' on YouTube. It'll fuck your algorithm up so bad.

Justin: Don't try to smooth up your own birds. Don't smooth up your own birds. Reach for Smalls!

Travis: Reach for the Smalls!

Justin: Reach for the Smalls! For a limited time, because you're a My Brother, My Brother and Me listener, you can get 60% off your first order of Smalls, plus free shipping, by using code My Brother. That's 60% off when you head to smalls.com and use promo code My Brother. Again, that's promo code My Brother for 60% off your first order, plus free shipping, at smalls.com.

[break]

Travis: Should we do another question?

Justin: I'd love to.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm at the Home Depot to buy two ladders. It feels insane to just have two ladders in my cart with nothing else. How do I not look like a fool walking out of this store pushing a two-ladder full cart?" [chuckles] That's from Ladders Two Too Many in DC.

Travis: Just get one big, long ladder!

Griffin: Or—

Justin: Why get two ladders?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: What a waste of time!

Griffin: Fuckin' get one ladder!

Justin: [yells out] Get one big, ladder!

Griffin: You could get one ladder, and then later, one ladder. There's so many fuckin' ways around this, my man!

Travis: I think that ladder store—there should just be ladder stores that exclusively sell ladders. You can't buy 'em anywhere else. And the aisles are gigantic, so you could turn your cart around. No, like there's—it's exclusive path—every time—I have had to buy ladders multiple times in my life from working in technical theater. And every time you get a ladder, you feel like you've instantly been launched into a Three Stooges bit.

Griffin: Yup!

Travis: Where it's like, "Well, I'm gonna be destroying this place and everyone around me for the next 15 minutes."

Griffin: Give me a fuckin' 12 foot deep turbo cart, so I don't have to look like an asshole in the aisles of the Home Depot.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: I... I—if you don't have a big ladder right now—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I would say it's time to start thrifting. And it's time to get out there to the yard sales.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: And it's time—because the thing—one of the things that really changed my life was about—

Travis: Tell me, Justin.

Justin: Fifteen years—about fifteen years ago, right when I started being late for everything.

Travis: Wait a minute.

Justin: It's not related. [chuckles]

Travis: Okay, but—

Griffin: No, it might be! Let us—let me and Travis decide if it's related.

Travis: Yeah, let's—we'll judge that.

Justin: No, no, no, because this is probably like seven years ago. I was—I was living at that place on—remember the place I used to live?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Before this one. And my principal from elementary school, Ms. Scott, lived behind me.

Griffin: Oh, shit—

Justin: And she—

Griffin: I didn't know that?

Justin: I know! It's crazy, right? But she said—

Griffin: Dude, you should have let me know! I'd throw this old—like stinky old watermelons and fuckin'—

Travis: *Nice!*

Griffin: Egg... nasty Halloween eggs.

Travis: No, she was nice? I liked her.

Justin: I loved Ms. Scott. She was incredible?

Griffin: You gotta—you gotta razz the principal, though?

Justin: She was a—she was an inspirational educator, man? I don't know why you're doing this.

Griffin: Yeah, man, but I—

Travis: She was great.

Griffin: Yeah, but—yeah, but it's the prin—the—it's the principal of the thing.

Justin: We love—no, anyway, she's like—

Griffin: God damn it!

Travis: Oh, actually, Griffin! Griffin convinced me with that one.

Justin: She came up to my house and she said, "Justin, do you—I got a new ladder, do you want my old ladder?" And it was a *really* big ladder and it was a *really* tall ladder. And at first, I was like—

Travis: So you're saying her new ladder was a step up?

Griffin: Shit, man, these things really write themselves.

Justin: Really good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's really good. And I was like—it was a really big ladder. And at first I was like, I don't know what I'm gonna do with this. But like, once you have a big ladder, you have really changed your options as a human being.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. A lot of up stuff.

Justin: You expanded the... the different applications. Different territories—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That you have available to you as a person.

Griffin: Roof!

Justin: You know what I mean?

Travis: I assume it's how we got to powered flight, right?

Justin: I—

Travis: Is that at a certain point, the ladders can only get so high. And then we went, "All right, so how do we get above that?"

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Let's put like 100 years into figuring out planes."

Justin: I just feel like there's certain things that you can get that make you start thinking of yourself in different ways. And a big ladder is one of 'em.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Because you do—you are suddenly the kind of person that's just like, "Well, it's really high, but I know I can call Justin about that, because he does have a big ladder—"

Travis: "Justin could reach that."

Justin: "And he can get up there."

Travis: It's like having—

Justin: "Justin can reach that."

Travis: A pickup truck! Right? Where it's like, suddenly, you've entered into a new category in your friends' brains.

Justin: Right, you're a small business. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, you're useful now, as a human being.

Justin: Right. Yeah, I felt that I had to buy for this—for the prom that we just wrapped up—thank you, by the way, to everybody who came out and saw the show and said hi. And—some people traveled a long distance, so thank you. But I had to get a pair of really big, like thick bolt cutting like—

Griffin: *Oh! That's good!* Yeah.

Travis: Ah yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I got a set off those.

Justin: And then after I bought it, I was like, you know... now, fences—

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Aren't really—

Griffin: Anything.

Justin: A problem for me anymore. Like if I ran into a fence, I would momentarily be like, someone wants to keep me out of here. But then I would think about, I actually have a ladder and bolt cutters. So like—

Griffin: Anywhere is available to you.

Travis: Chainsaw! Chainsaw—

Justin: I could get—

Travis: Did that for me! I look at trees now and I'm like, "You think you're so fuckin' hot?"

Justin: Temporary! Temporary problem.

Travis: "I could take you down."

Justin: I'm the guy on my hill that cuts the trees in half when they fall across the road. I got a chainsaw.

Griffin: When you're at the—when you're walking through the aisles of the Lowe's, it's like you are in a Metroidvania, only all the—

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: Shit is just kind of like there. And you could grab it and access any of the—any of the sort of backtracking spots that you need to, in one go.

Travis: The number of times I've just stopped and longingly stared in like the big sledgehammer or like hatchet section and I'm like, I don't have any need for those, but how powerful would I feel? Knowing—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That I have a big, powerful hatchet.

Justin: It's why—it's where you have to be careful. And it is why—if I may speak on it?

Travis: Please.

Justin: It is why a submarine is such a threat for a rich man. [chuckles]
Because the thing is—

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You decide you deserve to be in water! And you desire—you desire to move through the water unabated.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: You desire to increase your skill set to Ken Plum the depths.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And I understand it! Because I too—

Griffin: You want to have full coverage! Like, I get it, rich man, for sure.

Justin: Right. When I—

Travis: So many—you don't have to be that rich! Don't get me wrong, you gotta be *rich*. But to have a private plane? You gotta be super rich to have a private submarine!

Justin: Super! Super rich!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: And I do think there's a certain amount of wealth that should be considered a mental illness.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Right? If you're a billionaire, I think—

Travis: Yeah, obviously—

Justin: Being a billionaire is a mental—I think it's—

Travis: If you're rich enough that you're investing in, say, your own private submarine. [chuckles]

Justin: Right, you're admit—it should be considered a mental illness—

Griffin: It's also, though... if you do it in a certain way, an incredibly philanthropic exercise. Because you're gonna give all your money away. It technically speak—

Travis: That's a good point, Griffin! Yeah!

Griffin: Technically legally speaking—

Justin: Pass it on to your dirt bag kids. But listen! The thing is, I understand when I go to the top of house with ladder, and I think, here I am!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm above house!

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: I understand this. I understand the fury of looking into ground and thinking, I wish to go deeper!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: But you can't! [chuckles] I don't have tools available to me to go deeper!

Travis: No, I wish I had big drill! Or something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I wish I could have big drill! I understand Oak Island! They wish to go down!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They wish to go down!

Justin: I understand!

Travis: Go up? Easy! Go down—

Justin: Easy!

Travis: Sideways!

Justin: All can go up!

Travis: Anyone can go sideways!

Griffin: Anyone can go sideways, give me up, give me down.

Justin: [yells out] Balloon Boy goes up! I wish to go down!

Travis: [yells out] Balloon Boy goes up! Anyone can go up! I'll tell you what, all I need—what I know is I love the idea of a submersible. But all I really need is like the old Disney World Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea ride. Where I just need to be convinced—

Griffin: Fifteen feet under the water, for sure.

Travis: I just need to be convinced I've gone into a deep sea submersible. And then I can see animatronic fish and octopi.

Justin: This is good. This—that's what you need. You gotta remember, because this is the bad monkey part of your brain that's telling you that you need to go down, because it's easily tricked. You can sit in the Twenty Thousand Leagues ride and just fold your arms and think, "Yes, I am the master of—"

Griffin: Oh, dude—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Glass bottom boat in—

Justin: "I'm in the ocean! I am king of ocean!"

Griffin: [chuckles] Glass bottom boat in my monkey voice like fuckin' chills—

Justin: "I am—"

Travis: Put me in a chamber for—

Justin: "I am the submariner now!" [chuckles]

Travis: Let me sleep in a chamber for four hours and tell me I'm decompressing, as I move deep down. But really, I've just gone below some gross, green, murky water.

Griffin: Yeah, monkey boy's gonna get it.

Travis: And then I see maybe someone in a mermaid costume swimming around.

Justin: It's why it's so easy to trick people into thinking they've been cryogenically frozen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Because that means they've traveled through time, and they think, "Ah, yes, just as it should be! I've mastered the waves of time!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Travis—

Justin: "I've traveled through them."

Griffin: Travis mentioning the origins of flight made me think of there's a— here at the Air and Space Museum, there is a section that is dedicated to, obviously, the Wright brothers and them sort of getting that thing up and off

the ground. No pun intended. And there's also a section in there that is full of people who I guess were sort of self-styled comedians at the time, coming up with—

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: Fanciful designs.

Justin: Prop comedians, literally.

Griffin: Yeah, quite—yeah, again—

Justin: Propeller comedians. [chuckles]

Griffin: A lot of—a lot of puns this episode. I do want to apologize on behalf of all three of us. But it's comedians and it's designs of their like fuckin' bullshit Red Bull... you know, flight contest. Like, "Oh, sure, you want to fly? Here's one, it's got 20 birds tied to it!" Thinking these assholes are trying to come up with something that will never happen, and they're just trying to rip everyone off. And all of a sudden, the Wright brothers did eventually get it right. They—these people should have their own wing of the museum that's like the world's biggest, dumbest assholes wing, of the comedians who said it would never happen. I'm saying they don't go hard enough on these people.

Travis: Wait, on the people who didn't believe in the Wright brothers?

Griffin: The comedians who were shooting their shot at the Wright brothers thinking, "This is easy comedy because these assholes are trying to fly, and the Bible says we cannot do that." But then look who's—

Justin: Griffin, if we're no longer—

Travis: Just call it the wrong brothers! And it's every comedian.

Justin: If we are no longer allowed to joke about people who are more important and will have a bigger impact on history than us, the McElroy brothers are going to find themselves out of work pretty quickly. [chuckles]

Travis: Well, that's what—we let history do that, Justin! You don't have to—like in our lifetime—

Justin: We are writing history now.

Travis: We won't know what a huge failure we—

Justin: We are writing history.

Griffin: We also—

Justin: Do you understand? We're writing history—

Griffin: We also had—

Travis: No, we're living history!

Griffin: We also hedge our bets quite a bit when it comes to new technologies, and the exciting applications of those technologies.

Travis: Do we?

Griffin: We are—we do not judge. We wait to see who is—when the dust settles—

Travis: Where the money is.

Griffin: Where the money is at.

Travis: There's one thing the McElroy brothers are into, and it's getting fucking paid.

Griffin: Getting paid.

Travis: You know what I mean?

Griffin: By... tech...

Travis: By tech?

Griffin: Big tech, by big tech.

Travis: Big pharma. [titters]

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Travis: Little pharma. Sorry, go—

Griffin: Yeah, baby.

Justin: [mouths a downtuned and slowed version of the Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: [chuckles] Sorry. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Justin: [continues riffing and sings in a slowed voice] I wanna munch.

Griffin: What the fuck's going on, man?

Justin: Yeah, exactly. That's exactly where I want your head to be at.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Pizza Hut unveils a new lineup of over the top pizzas. And this is not really—

Travis: Like the movie with arm wrestling?

Justin: So, they're not really that funny. This is what they're calling their lover's pizzas, like pepperoni lover's, meat lover's, veggie lover's. They got a new one called—

Travis: Meat toppers.

Justin: So, this is really what I want to talk about. Pizza Hut—

Travis: I'm glad that got Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah, you got me. A little bit.

Travis: I got a little cheeky smirk out of Griffin on meat toppers.

Griffin: Yeah, a little cheeky—a little cheeky grin.

Justin: Pizza Hut is hooking up pizza lovers with more of what they love this summer, with the launch of the Hut Lover's Pizzas, a limited-time lineup of four over the top pizzas, each piled high with premium toppings, priced at 12.99 for one large pizza.

Griffin: Good.

Justin: "The pizza has delivered more of what fans love; more toppings, more flavor, more good times, for less."

Griffin: Stinky, dusty crusts.

Justin: "The Hut Lover's Pizzas are here to prove that legendary pizza doesn't have to come with a large price tag. There's something for everyone in the Hut Lover's Pizzas. Including pineapple lovers—"

Travis: Can I tell you guys—I'm sorry to interrupt, Justin, I never do that. But you know how oftentimes people will talk about the words that like ick them out?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: There's something about lover in a non-romantic context—

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: That really just skeeves me right to the bone!

Justin: You're in for a rough—you're in for a rough few minutes of—

Travis: Ugh...

Justin: "There's something for everyone with the Hut Lover's Pizza, including pineapple lovers." According to Pizza Hut's 2025 pizza trends report, 38% of pizza fans proudly chose pineapple as their favorite topping.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Huh...

Griffin: This is a—this is a—this is a loud—a loud section of the—yeah.

Justin: 38%?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: As their *favorite*?!

Griffin: Okay, but Justin—

Travis: That can't be.

Griffin: You gotta think about like survivorship bias. You gotta think about these—this is the problem! Everybody reads polls, and they get the data, and they think, "This means something huge and vital and important."

Justin: This means something, we're falling apart!

Griffin: Or—

Justin: I felt so good about this country lately!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And this is like really starting to fuck with me a little bit!

Travis: Was that exclusively in the US of A? Because it's—

Justin: Yeah! [yells out] This country—

Griffin: This country.

Justin: That we live in!

Griffin: If you—

Justin: This one!

Griffin: If you get a—

Travis: That's people—that's spite. That's people fucking with Pizza Hut. It's gotta be.

Justin: I feel like it's people trying to ruin data!

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: We can't have any truth anymore!

Griffin: And this is where you're drawing the—this is what—this is—the line—

Justin: [yells out] 38%!

Griffin: Yeah, no. But imagine you—

Justin: Over a third of people say pineapple is their favorite?

Griffin: Imagine you're a—you, and you get an email from Pizza Hut that says, "Hey, we'd like you to participate in a brief survey." You're not opening that email. But if you're one of these *pineapples guys*, and you think like, "I gotta find ways to push the—push the envelope, push the cause." You're gonna jump at every opportunity you can to over represent yourself."

Travis: I also am just gonna just preempt. If you're like sitting down right now to email us about how great pineapple is and how you love pineapple

pizza, that's fine! You're allowed to like that. But you must recognize that you are not in a 38%—

Griffin: Not 38—

Justin: Eight percent, it's like, it's like—

Travis: Section of the country that thinks that!

Justin: That's what should trouble you more, is you're losing a little bit of like—there's one thing that people who like pineapple on pizza love to talk about, and it's [sings] pineapple on pizza!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They go out for it because they're so iconoclastic. 38%!

Travis: They actually so hard—they actually— "So, actually, I like pineapple on pizza." So hard! They let the conversation go on for like 10 minutes about how bad pineapple on pizza is, as they sit there, just charging up to go, "Actually..."

Griffin: Isn't—

Travis: "I think it's good."

Justin: But the reason I wanted to have—the reason I'm floating is like, I feel like I am no longer in touch. Because as we've been with more adults ordering pizza—like as we've started to order pizza at shows, I've noticed that like Griffin gets cheese pizzas—

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: At the shows, and it's—he's still done it, even though I've razzed him about it previously, apparently, on shows—

Travis: Just—

Justin: And just keeps doing it.

Travis: Just a quick check in—

Justin: And I don't know what I can do to—

Travis: How am I doing on pizza toppings and stuff? Just to check in, as long as we're—

Justin: Oh, absolutely so wretched that there's no hope. I keep hoping I could prod Griffin into tossing the pepperoni on there, so the—you know what I mean?

Travis: I have sausage, onion and pepper! What are you talking about wretched?

Justin: No, no, no! You're—you're—no, no, Travis, I'm sorry. You're perfect.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: You don't need to change anything.

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: Sausage, pepper—sausage, pepper and onion is the best. Sausage, pepperoni, onion and pepper is also quite good.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: How much shit do you fuckin' need on your food? Pizza has so much—

Travis: Protein and veggies?

Griffin: Pizza has so much shit on it already. It's got cheese and sauce and bread and spices, and... I guess that's about it, but—

Travis: So you're—you take a monastic approach to pizza, is what you're saying, where you say, "This is all I need. More than this would be too much enjoyment."

Griffin: If you sat down to make a pizza, first of all, stand up. Don't sit down. Make a pizza? That's crazy. Why are you making pizza on the floor, man? But if you're making a pizza—

Travis: It's where my pizza stone is.

Griffin: The part where you make the pizza is gonna take you—96% of the time you're gonna spend making that pizza. The 4% remainder is when you slop a few fuckin' discs of hog meat on there and then you say—and then you say like, this is the—this is what it's all really about.

Travis: I'm so confused what your point—yes!

Justin: This is like even wilder than some of the wilder things that Travis was saying—

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Yesterday, Griffin. You are so gone. You're so gone.

Travis: It's like, yeah, making bread—

Justin: Like what is your—

Travis: It's a lot more—

Justin: You're targeting pepperoni?

Travis: Work than making—

Justin: Like what are you—what are we doing?

Travis: A sandwich! But you don't just eat the fuckin' bread!

Justin: Yeah, it's like part of the experience. I don't wanna talk about cheese pizza, though. It's fine. I wanna ask you guys this.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: How many people's pizza orders do you know right now by heart?

Griffin: Cheese, cheese, cheese. This house is a—as for me, in my house—

Justin: You're just a cheese house?

Griffin: As for me in my house—

Justin: I can understand for the simplicity.

Travis: I know my children like cheese because they're children. Teresa and I both like sausage, onion and pepper. Griffin likes cheese.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And Rachel Jacobs, our editor, likes pizza with veggies on it. That's all I've got top of my head.

Justin: I know my—okay, Cooper likes sauce and sausage, no cheese. Charlie likes cheese, no sauce. Tommy like—

Griffin: Oh, what a fun—what a fun combo you got cooking over there.

Justin: Yeah, you could get a half and half on a pizza and it makes the person insane.

Travis: That feels like a mystery shopper order that you're placing every time you order pizza! [chuckles]

Griffin: It feels like a prank.

Justin: [chuckles] Every time I order pizza, I have to open it to see if they thought I was kidding or not.

Griffin: You have to inform that it is not a none pizza, left beef situation.

Justin: Yeah, I—

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: I know Tommy gets a mushroom onion, pepperoni, sausage, because I remember—

Griffin: Four is insane! That's—

Justin: Mops! Mops!

Griffin: Four toppings is—

Justin: Mushroom, onion, pepperoni, sausage, mops!

Griffin: That's *crazy*, man!

Justin: He's a big guy, though.

Travis: Yeah. And he's got a big hunger!

Justin: He's a big guy, he needs big pizza. Big hunger, big pizza.

Griffin: There's a reason they charge extra for more than like one or two toppings.

Travis: Because it's better!

Justin: It tastes better. Tastes better. Yeah, like a lot of stuff.

Travis: Like they don't charge extra to make things worse!

Justin: Wait, actually, Griffin, I'm really sorry we cut you off. Because I feel like you were building to one of the dumber things you've ever said.
[chuckles] I feel sorry that we cut off your momentum.

Griffin: The pizza restaurants charge more because you're not supposed to do it. It's a punishment. [chuckles] It's a—it's a fee, a tax, a tariff, that you are paying for your—

Justin: [chuckles] It's a tax.

Griffin: For your greed.

Justin: It's a tariff! [laughs]

Griffin: Here's the one thing, though, if you don't eat pepperoni on your pizza, your average annual pepperoni consumption absolutely plummets through the fuckin' mantle of the Earth, man. If I'm not eating pepperoni—

Travis: Yeah, they don't come up randomly a lot.

Griffin: They do not show up on my meals without me hunting 'em down, now that they're not my pizza friend.

Travis: Unless you're at a bad salad buffet, and then it's like, well... [chuckles]

Griffin: Well...

Travis: This will help! Hey, everybody, thanks—

Justin: Hey... God damn it!

Travis: Oh my god. Thanks everybody who came out to Columbus for the Columbus shows. They were an absolute blast.

Justin: It was really fun—

Travis: Origins was great.

Justin: Those shows and the signings were great.

Travis: Dad became best friends with everybody. Thank you, everybody who came out and talked to our dad. He needs this. Thank you so much! Next up, we're gonna be in Anaheim, doing a Dadlands, with Brennan Lee Mulligan running that. And a My Brother, My Brother and Me. And we're going to be in Sacramento doing another My Brother, My Brother and Me. Also coming up, we're going to be in Texas, Georgia and Utah. All TAZ shows will be TAZ Versus, except for Anaheim, which will be Dadlands. You can find out the dates and get tickets and all the info at bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Griffin: We got some new merch up in the merch store for you to go and check out. There's a 20 Thunder Drive pin that is shimmering and beautiful and strong. There's a bunch of other stuff over at mcelroymerch.com as well. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the Immigrant Defenders Law Center, which provides full scale deportation defense, legal representation, legal education and social services to approximately 30,000 children and adults annually.

Also, hey! Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. Montaigne has a new album out called "it's hard to be a fish." I listened to it while we were traveling last week, and I fuckin' love it. And I bet you will too. So get it wherever fine music is sold and distributed. Thank you, Montaigne.

Travis: Justin, you wanna read the Fear this week?

Justin: Oh, thank you—thank you, Travis, I'd love to do that. How flattering. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Travis: You're welcome.

Justin: "This year, I vow to be faster than my fear of being tweeted about by Tony Hawk for not recognizing him in public." [chuckles] 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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