

MBMBaM 781: Jolly Green Gundam

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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 music 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 "Big Dog, Vroom-Vroom, Woof-Woof" McElroy.

Griffin: What's up, Trav Nation? Glad to be here, thanks for having me. Sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30, Griffin McElroy.

Travis: Guys, I've been having a lot of trouble sleeping lately. And it's just occurred to me that, now that we're in the spooky months, maybe I'm a Teen Wolf.

Justin: I don't think we are in October.

Griffin: September is— September's pretty scary, too.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So if you—

Justin: Yeah, but the news peg of, "Now we're in the spooky month," it's mid- to late-September.

Travis: No, spooky *months*-uh.

Griffin: Spooky months.

Justin: Months!

Travis: *Months-uh*, plural.

Griffin: Yes. We all know—

Justin: Which do you count— You count September as one of the scary ones?

Travis: Yeah, man!

Justin: What about November?

Travis: September, October, November. The three scary ones. December.

Griffin: Even the beginning of December can be, like...

Justin: November's not scary.

Griffin: ... scary, snowy Nordic vampire, *Let the Right One In*...

Travis: December, January, February, the cold ones.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Those are scary ones.

Travis: March, April, May, the spring ones. June, July, August, the hot ones.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I agree with this seasonal thing. I've been Mister "Let's use the months as separators" from the beginning. But I don't— This is just fall. It's not "the spooky months." Like, you can't have three spooky months.

Griffin: Okay. Are bats—

Travis: You know, Justin—

Justin: You're devaluing Halloween.

Griffin: I'm sorry, Justin, are bats trying to kill you in all the other months? Or just the spooky ones?

Travis: Thank you! You know, Justin? Some thousands of years ago – scientists aren't sure when – a guy named Augustus Caesar said, "You know what? Ten months? No more!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I'm gonna add in months for *me*."

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "And *my* dad. So I'm adding in July and August." And everybody said, "Okay, cool, man. We've numbered the months. September is the seventh, October is the eighth, November is the ninth, December is the tenth. So you'll go at the end." And he said, "No, no, no."

Griffin: "No."

Travis: "I'm gonna jam 'em in the middle there, and really fuck up the whole numbering system." And everybody said, "Okay, cool, man." So *I* think, Justin, we can do whatever the fuck we want.

Griffin: It's all made-up pretend.

Justin: Yeah, it's just like—

Travis: Animals don't know the months, Justin.

Griffin: Animals don't know the month, *except* for bats. Because they do know...

Travis: And groundhogs.

Griffin: ... when are the good months to kill you. Which is Sept—

Travis: Groundhogs know when February is.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: How do bats know when to [laughs] change into Draculas, if they don't know the date?

Griffin: It's not a Dracula thing. Dracula is make-believe, and saying that is really making light of the threat...

Justin: Really?

Griffin: ... of that bats want to kill you in September, October, and November.

Travis: Also, Justin, to be fair, Dracula turns into bats. Bats don't turn into Dracula?

Justin: What's your—

Griffin: It'd be crazy if a bat turned *into* Dracula.

Justin: Travis, did you have a thing? Did you have a thing, Travis? [laughs] Did you have a thing?

Travis: I said my thing!

Justin: I interrupted.

Griffin: I think we're doing it, man.

Travis: I'm turning into a Teen Wolf.

Justin: That's your whole... thing? That was your whole introduction?

Travis: It was kind of a conversation starter icebreaker.

Griffin: Well, we found a lot of rich veins, right? Like, I wanna talk about Bat Dracula, a bat who turns into a man and is then, like, “[makes gargling sound]” ‘Cause he doesn’t understand how to operate a body, or talk, or—

Travis: He doesn’t know how to walk!

Griffin: Doesn’t know how to walk, doesn’t know how to... pee, doesn’t know how to fuck.

Justin: That’s my favorite. My favorite *Batman* villain is Manbat.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because I bet when he ran into him, he was like, “Fuck. They got me.”
[laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “They sent one thing that I can’t do. They saw the inverse of me, and they got all the parts of me that are a man. And they’ve replaced them with bat.”

Travis: And Manbat’s parents? Very much alive, is the other thing.

Griffin: Very much so.

Justin: Yeah. His—

Travis: We don’t talk about that enough. He has extra parents.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. We were in Austin *during* one of the months where bats are allowed to kill you. If we had been too close to that bridge come sundown, guys, we would’ve been absorbed in the cloud and turned into bones.

Travis: Like Mobius.

Griffin: A lot like that.

Travis: Is that who—

Justin: Wait.

Travis: I don't think that was his name, was it? It was Morbius, [laughs] wasn't it?

Griffin: That's alright, man. It doesn't matter; no one cares or remembers.

Justin: Travis, did you just spoil the end of *Morbius*?

Travis: I'm sorry, everybody. He gets sucked into bats and turned into bones.

Griffin: [laughs] No, he turns into five bats and then clouds a guy who turns into bones. That's how *Morbius* ends.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Um, I don't have questions—

Travis: Man, that movie sounds really good.

Griffin: It's pretty cool! Five bats isn't enough to hide, sort of, the peeling and stripping.

Travis: If the bats are big enough, I guess.

Griffin: No, they don't— It's not their job to hide the scary thing that they're doing. It's their job to eat—

Travis: Do you th— [sighs]

Griffin: Yep?

Travis: Do you think Draculas ever compare the size of bat they turn into, when they turn into bats? I bet if you're a Dracula who turns into a really big bat when you turn, you get to brag a lot to your friends.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, for me, the big thing is how *many* bats do you turn into?

Travis: Mm-hmm. Good call.

Griffin: 'Cause I *want* you to be able to turn into a few of 'em.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [simultaneously] Would you guys rather turn into one big bat, or...?

Travis: [simultaneously] Would you rather turn into five little bats, or one big bat?

Justin: Yeah, good question. Do you wanna be a swarm of bats, or do you wanna turn into one big bat?

Griffin: Swarm of bats is weird, 'cause I am still controlling them, so that's—
How am I up in...?

Justin: Hivemind.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Okay!

Travis: But if one of my swarm of bats gets killed and I turn back, is my finger gone?

Justin: Yep.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Aw, bummer!

Justin: Yep. Yep.

Griffin: It's actually the— how you've [crosstalk]—

Justin: *But*, if the *one* bat gets killed— Like, you know what I'm saying? If the *one* bat gets killed that's you, you will die.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Mm. Mm-hmm.

Justin: You know?

Griffin: I don't think that's true. I think there is a— he gets a second chance, if he dies as a bat. He kind of pops— He comes back.

Justin: No, I think if you die in the bat, you die in real life. [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think so, man. I think—

Justin: [through laughter] I'm pretty sure. I'm pretty sure, man.

Travis: Okay. Would you rather turn into a swarm of bats, or one big bat in an armored mech suit that protects you from violence?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Do you know what the— If we were doing a *Dracula* movie, do you know what would be sweet? If he turned into a swarm of bats, and they were like, "Fuck, he's one of those!" But then he re-conforms into one big bat. So he's got three forms. There's big bat, swarm, and then Dracula just as a gentleman, [wheeze-laughs] going about his day. The regular Dracula who can do banking and stuff.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Where a lot of monsters can't do that, and Dracula [through laughter] can do banking.

Griffin: He has an app. He has an app that lets him pick...

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: ... which kind of bats he wants to turn into.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: His bat app. That's a cool modern Dracula, for me.

Travis: Yeah, dude.

Justin: [through laughter] Sorry. Is this— So he has an app.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Which is called...?

Griffin: Bat App.

Justin: [through coughing laughter] With no A? [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Bt.

Justin: It's just called Bt— It's just "Bt." [through laughter] Bt. Bt.

Griffin: And he presses— He gets to pick how many bats, the size of the bats. Whether he wants to control all of them, or have someone else steer some of the other bats.

Justin: At first, I would need to be one bat.

Travis: What—

Justin: I cannot be both a bat and [through laughter] supplant into like five minds.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I can't take the pressure of both at once.

Travis: I bet, when you first—

Justin: I want a microtransaction for additional bats.

Travis: When you're a vampire, and you first learn to turn into a swarm of bats, I bet there's a couple times in the beginning where you're still figuring it out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And you turn back, but all your bats were in the wrong place when you turned back.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: And your head's on your knee and stuff, and you're like, "Oh, no!"

Griffin: "Oh, no, shit!"

Travis: And then you gotta turn back into a swarm of bats, and try again.

Griffin: Yeah. The other really important thing is, you can't stay a cloud of bats for over 60 minutes, or else you get stuck as a cloud of bats forever.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And that means something.

Justin: You stay a cloud of bats long enough, eventually, the hand bats are like, “Really, we’re the most important ones, if you think about it!”

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: And then the brain bats are like, “Well!”

Griffin: “Well, I don’t know!”

Justin: “If you think about it a different way, you *can’t* think about it without the brain bats!” And then they start, like... there’s in-fighting, amongst the bats.

Travis: And they start to have their own dreams, and desires, and stuff.

Justin: That’s when its sentience is the— That’s when you gotta worry. That’s when you gotta worry.

Travis: I’ve never thought about vampires—

Justin: That’s what happened in *My Left Foot*.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: The left foot gained sentience?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And became a bat, and left. That’s true.

Travis: Oh, wow!

Justin: That’s what happened in the film. You didn’t watch it closely enough.

Griffin: The original name of the film—

Travis: I didn't watch it at all, Justin. So that might be the problem.

Justin: *My Left—*

Griffin: The original name of the film was *My Lousy Left Foot's Off Again On Another Adventure*.

Justin: [laughs] It's called— The original title—

Travis: Flapping his leathery wings...

Justin: The original title was *My Angry Bat*. [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: They said, [through laughter] "That's not..."

Travis: And I'll tell you, the amazing thing is, Daniel Day-Lewis was so committed that he learned how to turn into a swarm of bats for that movie.

Griffin: Everyone always mentions Daniel Day-Le— No one puts any respect on Brenda Fricker's name for her job, for her turn in that film.

Travis: What the fuck are you talking about, Griffin? We've done nothing *but* put respect on Brenda Fricker's name for a decade.

Justin: Yeah, no, we are— This is a sa— We have made space. We've made as much space for Brenda Fricker as we can.

Griffin: Do you guys—

Justin: This is an advice show.

Griffin: Do you guys think— Do you guys—

Travis: I wanna talk about more vampire Voltrons!

Griffin: Yeah, same, same, same. Do you guys think that vampires and Dracula, they put a little too much lore on it? Like, they kept putting more and more and more and more stuff, and then they just never stopped until they realized they had gone too far? Like—

Justin: I think, for me, if I'm a vampire and I'm watching the whole thing develop...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: I think, for me, the garlic is where I'm like, "Okay."

Griffin: "That's crazy."

Justin: "We've gone far enough, thank you."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? I... am just a regular garlic— Like, just regular on garlic.

Travis: I bet that sucks, too. Because yeah, maybe Dracula just didn't like garlic in his food. He wasn't a fan.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it became a thing, so now when they go to monster parties, everybody keeps the garlic out of everything.

Griffin: And it sucks.

Travis: But Dan the vampire is like, "I *like* garlic."

Griffin: "Guys, you do not need to make space for this."

The whole thing about, like, "The only way to kill you is stab you in the heart, and then you turn into a big pile of dust"? What the fuck does that even— What are you *talking* about?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "Turn into dust."

Justin: Nothing works like that, you know what I mean? *Nothing* works like that.

Travis: I also—

Griffin: What would happen to his body that would reduce it to *dust*? That's *crazy*!

Justin: Where does the water...?

Griffin: Where's the water in his body?

Justin: What if—

Travis: Well, that's why they're always drinking blood.

Justin: That would be cool!

Travis: They're so dehydrated.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: That would be cool, is if when you spiked a [laughs] vampire, it turned into dust and cloud. [laughs] It was just instantly like—

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: Or a gush. Like, a sudden expulsion of all liquid in the body. Just a “Fshh!” and then ash remains.

Travis: Like the Fremen. Like what happens with the Fremen.

Justin: But then if you do that, Griffin—

Travis: When you kill the Fremen, and the water just drains out.

Griffin: Pop a water balloon, and— Yeah.

Justin: But then it’s mud. If it’s raining into the ash, then it’s mud. And he’s just gonna goop back out of it, like...

Travis: Yeah. That’s a good point.

Justin: ... reborn.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I didn’t think about that, guys. That’s a good point. I bet the vampires were super jazzed when modern mirrors were invented. Because the whole thing with not seeing their reflection is because mirrors used to be backed with silver.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But now, we don’t use silver anymore, so vampires are like, “Oh, yes! I’m not a vampire. You could see me in the mirror! Hahaha.”

Justin: Oh! That’s interesting, I didn’t know. So you should have a silver mirror with you, if you wanna spot the real vamps.

Travis: Oh, yeah, at all times. I think you also probably get poisoned from it, I imagine? A lot of that stuff did that.

Griffin: How does a vampire... sort of separate out, when he’s reading a book and

there's lowercase Ts in it? And he sees those, and he's like, *those* are fine. But then he sees a Christian cross, and is like, "No!"

Justin: That's why he hates sans serif so much.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: He needs the serifs. He will only read the serifs. Like, he needs the little... on the Ts...

Griffin: Curlicues, on the little... [crosstalk]

Justin: On the curlicues.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: A little bit of a fun thing. He needs it. 'Cause if it's *sans* serif...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's why all vampire books are printed in [as a vampire] *Wingdings*!

Griffin: [through laughter] That's good, Travis! Thanks.

Justin: That's actually closest to a joke.

Griffin: I don't wanna do the show today.

Justin: But no jokes.

Griffin: I just wanna goof around with Travis, making vampire jokes to this.

Justin: But not me! That's fun.

Griffin: No, you and me get to just sit in our comfy little couch. And Travis...

Justin: [laughs] Wait—

Griffin: ... gets to make vampire jokes to us.

Justin: Well, he's not gonna— We're not gonna make him do a whole hour of—

Travis: No. And the problem, Griffin...

Justin: Can I—

Travis: The problem with vampire jokes is, they all suck.

Griffin: I wanna just cuddle up and have—

Justin: That's really actually great, Trav.

Griffin: Yeah, man!

Justin: That one's actually quite good. It is weird that we... We're so afraid of vampires, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And then there's such a— There's such a body of work about, "Vampires are scary."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But if you take a [laughs] step back from vampires... Think about it for one second.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Vampires gotta sleep in a box.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: Sun kills 'em.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: You know exactly where they are, like eight to ten hours, every day.

Travis: They also gotta travel with a lot of dirt.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They're asleep, in a coffin. Sunlight kills them. And if they wanna come to *your* house, you have to *explicitly* ask them to do so. That's— Why are we afraid of these guys? Honestly. Like, we should be looking out— They should be an endangered species we should be looking out for.

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm!

Travis: Do you think, when a vampire sees a human being just walk into the vampire's house uninvited, they're like, "Fuck, man. I know that there's no rule for *you*, but rude!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "But it's, like, rude!"

Griffin: "It sucks, dude."

Justin: "It's rude! I wouldn't do it."

Griffin: "Why are you here?"

"To fucking kill you!"

"Like, why, dude?"

Justin: "Why?"

Griffin: "Why?"

Justin: "*Why?*"

Griffin: "This is the *only* interaction I have with you guys!"

Travis: "I can't even open the curtains on my windows! I don't know what *time* it is!"

Justin: "Is this because— Is this just because I killed your nephew while he was getting water for the horses *one* time?"

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: "I killed one ten-year-old nephew, and you're like, 'Dracula! Get him!' I was—"

Travis: "Did you even like him that much?"

Griffin: "That was like nine days ago, dude. Get over it."

Justin: "His fingernails were so gross, dude!"

Griffin: [wheeze-laugh]

Justin: "Did you look at his fingernails? *Oh!*"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "You should be thanking me!"

Travis: "I saw you eating some cow meat the other day."

Justin: "You're eating cow meat."

Travis: "Is that cow's son gonna come kill you? Come on! Be cool."

Griffin: Do you think Dracula is gluten intolerant? This isn't— There's nothing else there to [crosstalk].

Justin: We talked about that already. Like, literally that exact thing, in Count Donut. [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: [Oh, man, you're probably?] right.

Justin: We've discussed this exact topic.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "At work, I've started a new role where, essentially, I'm the personality for a popular snack mascot. I either write or approve everything they say. When I tell people what I do for work, they always ask me to do the voice, but I don't do the voice. I am just a writer.

"Brothers, how can I avoid this awkward exchange every time I tell someone what I do for work? It's also extra tough on me, 'cause I ask my bosses if I could do the voice, but they said I just didn't have what they were looking for." That's from Misunderstood Mascot.

You should stop telling people that you are the voice and soul of Chester Cheetah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's the dream.

Justin: And people will stop asking you to do the voice.

Travis: You say, "I'm the *soul* of— I'm the *mind* and *soul* of Chester Cheetah."

Griffin: I think it's crazy you guys leapt immediately there. Like, it's possible I guess, but to me that represents the big show. This would be like George Clooney emailing us.

Justin: Oh, yeah. There's a team steering Chester.

Griffin: Yes. There's a whole network of data mining AI probes that are coming up with the best shit for Chester.

Travis: I don't know that that's true! I think that you want a consistency of thought process. You wanna see— Like, "Yes, that's exactly something Chester Cheetah would do."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And so you'd want one person.

Griffin: Well, he's called Chester Cheetah, but you can't lose the human element there.

Travis: Exactly!

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Or else he's not— He isn't relatable. He is a blank canvas that— And that's what I appreciate about him, is we have not filled him to the brim with a ton of lore. He is a cheetah who looks cool and likes to eat cheetahs. We don't need a whole biography on him past that. We don't need an SNES platformer for him.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: He also has an unstated danger element to him.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Where he'll say, "Dangerously cheesy," and he's got a vibe of danger to him.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: But it's never specified... what that is? What that danger—

Griffin: You don't wanna— People think, "I would love to meet Chester Cheetah." You *don't* wanna meet Chester Cheetah. You're not gonna love that experience. Don't meet your idols, especially when they are, by their own words, dangerous.

Travis: Yeah. Same with Tony the Tiger. I think if I met Tony the Tiger, he would encourage me to be more physically active.

Griffin: These are jungle cats that will fucking kill you, gang.

Justin: I have a list for the top 50 brand mascots. And I was wondering, if you guys— If I were to throw some at you, you guys could just give me some fresh takes.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Because I would love this job.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: I feel like we would be really good at this gig.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Travis, what would—

Griffin: And question-asker, this is not remotely what you wanted, but I bet it will be helpful, too.

Justin: Travis, let's say that you are the one— *You're* the one who's now in charge of Snuggle Bear. How are you making Snuggle Bear...

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: ... more relevant for today's market?

Travis: I think seeing somebody— Oh, they've just had a really stressful... maybe first day of college. Where they bumped into somebody, and they got yelled at a bunch. And maybe their professor was really mean to them. And they're just sitting there, and they're really freaking out.

And Snuggle Bear comes over with a warm, fluffy blanket. And he puts the blanket over their shoulders. And he says, "I'll take care of it."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: And then we see Snuggle Bear ripping into the throat of everyone who was mean to him.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Shit, that's cool. That's actually cool. Okay, Griffin.

Griffin: I don't know that it's gonna move a *lot* of fabric softener, but...

Justin: No, it's not gonna sell a lot of units.

Travis: Okay, instead of ripping the throat out, he's smothering them with a blanket. And while smothering them, the people are also saying, "So soft!"

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: Griffin— Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We all know that Chef Boyardee is America's most beloved chef, but no one gives a shit about him anymore! So how would you bring Chef Boyardee into 2025?

Griffin: Uh... Big social media presence, to start things out, to lay the groundwork. And it's gonna be stuff like Chef Boyardee edited into anime music videos. Like a lot of fans—

Justin: [sing-song] "Ch-Ch-Chef Boyardee..." Yeah.

Griffin: A lot of fan cuts that— *Attack on Titan*, all kinds of other sort of stuff.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That *My Hero Academia* kind of...

Griffin: *My Hero Academia*. So, like, that kind of—

Travis: ... holding out for a hero.

Justin: Is he a giant? Is Chef Boyardee a giant in the anime that you're—

Griffin: No, you're watching— And this is not on TV, so you can *use* clips for whatever.

Justin: Whatever, you can do— There's no laws, basically.

Griffin: There's no laws, whatever.

Justin: You can do [through laughter] whatever.

Griffin: But it's like clips from *Attack on Titan*, and... *Naruto*, and all of those guys.

Travis: Yeah. The big ones.

Griffin: And then in there— But it's coming from Chef Boyardee's channel. It's, like, his channel. And he doesn't even mention the fact that it is Chef Boyardee until the comments of everyone is like, "Hey, great anime fan edit, Chef Boyardee." So, the buzz is getting out there in a really organic way. And then I don't think you really honestly have to do much more than that, these days.

Travis: Can I counterpoint that?

Griffin: I would love you to.

Travis: Chef Manardee. And now, he's a ripped dude. And he's got kind of that sexy Santa Claus—

Griffin: Well, okay. Obviously, Juice, make—

Travis: No, hold on! Sexy Santa Claus vibe. You know?

Griffin: Make any of `em hot. Like, of course.

Justin: Yeah. Make `em hot. I got some— I got my list up—

Travis: Also, Jeff Boyardee would be great. It's just a guy—

Justin: Jeff Boyardee is really— We should get Chef Boyardee into *Master Chef* this year, just to give him a shot at something.

Travis: "Jeff Boyardee."

Justin: Jeff Boyardee. Travis, I got one word for you: Aflac! [wheeze-laughs] You know? [laughs]

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: [as a duck] *Aflac!*

Travis: I wanna see that duck after work. I wanna see that duck go home, and we see maybe some unpaid bills.

Justin: *Oh!* Yeah.

Travis: Maybe photographs with somebody ripped out of them, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He's gone through some hard times. And at home, he feels so empty and alone. And the only time he feels alive is when he's screaming "Aflac!" in people's faces.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it gives this, like— He doesn't do this for the money. Right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He does it— This is a service— This is something he does from his heart.

Justin: [through crying laughter] Sorry. I'm trying to listen. But on the page I have shared that has the mascots, inexplicably there is a Robin Williams memorial there in the bottom-right-hand corner of the window. And I'm trying to watch, but there's this tiny little Robin Williams memorial that was playing, guys. It was really moving. He taught us all to laugh.

Griffin: I mean, that's a kickass *Patch Adams*... A kickass *Patch Adams* bit he's doing.

But yeah, back to the game. Uh... [laughs]

Justin: Back to the game. Oh, hey, list— What if it was just me, Justin McElroy, and it was a video. And I'm like, "Hi, I'm the Gerber baby! I'm doing fine."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm okay!" Y'know?

Griffin: "I grew up."

Justin: "The food worked out. [laughs] I grew up, and I lived, and it all worked out fine. So it's good baby food..."

Griffin: "I ate the food! I gen— I did eat the food."

Justin: "I ate the food!"

Griffin: "And I— Some of it's pretty good, guys. And I'm not getting— I am getting paid to say that, but I'm the Gerber baby, so people ask."

Justin: [laughs] "It comes up."

Travis: I think you could take— I'm looking at the screen here, Justin. Get the

Quaker Oats man, but take him in kind of a witch hunter kind of vibe. Where he's talking about how...

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: I was also thinking he should hunt a witch.

Justin: [simultaneously] "We need your eyes against an enemy!"

Travis: [simultaneously] ... sugary cereals are, like, deeply sinful and demonic.

Justin: [coughing laughter]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah! Let him come in and burn the Trix rabbit at the stake, or something. You know?

Griffin: Old-time Dark Ages family drama, a la *The Witch*. And Quaker Oats man is the father. And sorry, guys! Get into the religion more, Quaker Oats!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You guys are leaving a *lot* on the table!

Justin: There's a religion! There's a *huge* part of it, guys!

Griffin: It's, like, a *huge* part of it, guys, and you really aren't— When I eat Quaker Oats, I'm not getting a message. Do you know what I mean?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And that is gonna put it in certain people's hearts and minds.

Justin: Yeah. Quaker— Like, Quaker makes Chewy Granola Strawberry [laughs] Crispy Clusters. Is that— It feels judgmental to have the Quaker looking at me from *that* box. I'm not inhabiting the Quaker lifestyle with that, you know what I mean?

Travis: Nah, man.

Justin: No way! [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [sing-song] 'Tis a gift to be chewy. 'Tis a gift to be strawberry!

Griffin: [cry-laughs] That's good, man.
Trix?

Justin: Trix.

Griffin: I would just change the name. Just change the Trix name of the Trix rabbit.

Justin: To what?

Griffin: And the name of the cereal. Trinx.

Justin: Drax?

Griffin: With an N. Trinx.

Justin: Drax?

Griffin: Trinx!

Justin: We got Drax now. [wheeze-laughs] [as Drax] "It's *my* cereal!"

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: Oh, from *Guardians of the Galaxy*?

Justin: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: That's cool!

Justin: We replaced Trix Rabbit with Drax. That's easy. That one's easy.

Griffin: I would not be surprised if I mentioned Trix cereal, and you were like, "No, Disney does actually own— Through a series of mergers, they do own Trix cereal. And, also, the nickel."

Justin: What *is* the Jolly Green Giant?

Travis: We should make the Jolly—

Justin: *Is* he a vegetable?

[pause]

Griffin: Yeah, can you eat—

Travis: Are you ready for this?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: The Jolly Green Gundam!

Justin: [gasps]

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: *Fuck!*

Griffin: That's cool. He might end up in a Chef Boyardee fan edit, too.

Justin: *Yeah!*

Griffin: Which would be cool.

Justin: Jolly Green—

Travis: I know, right?

Justin: Jolly Green Gundam is *good*!

Travis: Yeah, right?

Justin: Can they sue us for *that*? [wheeze-laughs] Probably not!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: For *that*?

Travis: I mean, if we don't do anything with it. Which, our track record says we won't.

Griffin: What about "Hanging in there," Green Giant? And it's like, being a little bit more emotionally honest about how he's doing— But the brand is called Jolly.

Travis: What about on Molly Green Giant?

Griffin: Molly Green Giant's cool.

Travis: And he's just really feeling...

Griffin: Rolling.

Travis: ... colors, and tasting light. You know?

Justin: I think—

Travis: He's having a great time.

Griffin: And just destroying the countryside beneath his giant stoned body, as he just kind of vibes around.

Justin: I wanted him to be more representative of *my* relationship with cereal.

So when he sees me, he's like, "Hey, Justin. I rubbed oil *all over* me, and all the herbs you like! And I roasted myself for 450 degrees, for a half hour. I'm ready to go, ready for you to eat." I want him to be more appetizing! You know what I mean?

Travis: You want to—

Justin: The idea of a giant man that you could—

Travis: You want to be more interested in eating the Jolly Green Giant?

Griffin: He could look more like food, for sure.

Justin: I would like him to feel more like sentient food. 'Cause right now, he's kind of an uncanny valley situation, where he's like— Can I eat him or not? You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You want clarity.

Justin: I want clarity.

Griffin: You want *Veggie Tales*. When you watch *Veggie Tales*, you know the second you see one of those guys, whether or not you would pop 'em—

Justin: Why are we listening to a bear... about fire? Right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I would wonder about— Smokey the Bear is so interesting. What if he was a person who had a diploma [laughs] about it? And he was like, "I would rather you didn't." You know what I mean?

I don't trust a bear. He could be trying to chase me to better places to eat me, you know what I mean?

Travis: I have a theory on this.

Justin: “Don’t light a campfire, because then I’ll be scared of it, and I can’t come eat you,” basically.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I have a theory on this, which is I believe that the bear was chosen as opposed to, say, a deer or a squirrel, a more relatable forest animal, *because* of the implied threat.

Griffin: It’s a trap.

Travis: Of, like, “Only *you* can prevent forest fires, *or else*.” Right? “I’m a—”

Griffin: That shit doesn’t work on me. I do not— I think you catch a lot more flies with honey than whatever Smokey Bear is trying to set down, by being subconsciously pretty frightening.

Justin: The only reason—

Griffin: Of just a huge—

Justin: The only reason to make McGruff the Crime Dog human-sized...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... is to give the implication that he can arrest [laughs] an adult, and take him to jail.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: Like, you need to be able to— ‘Cause McGruff could solve crimes with just his snout, leading the proper authorities to...

Griffin: Air Bud style, right.

Justin: ... the criminals.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: But he has to be man-sized, because you need to know that when he does track `em down, he can *fist-fight* them. He can fight them physically.

Griffin: How much money do you think it would cost to get a edit of *Air Bud* that someone touches up with VFX or whatever, where he is a 5'10" tall...

Travis: [laughs softly]

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: ... bipedal dog-man? Who's like, "So, guys, did I make the team?" He's like...

Justin: Just like the "Dog Police" video, but it's 90 minutes long, and— Yeah, it sounds good, man. I'd love to watch a full, sentient, adult-sized Air Bud.

Griffin: I would be more into a more friendly figure for my forest fire prevention. I would love a crunchy— like, your crunchy friend, Kyle. Your earthy, crunchy friend, Kyle.

Justin: That would be better for me [and?] vegetables, I think.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Ronald McDonald is one of my favorites.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Because he is one of the few that they just won't, for a few years. You know? There is a coup— They'll go years, and be like, "Ronald— No, I don't think so. I haven't—"

Griffin: They made such a big deal about Grimace, like, "Grimace is uncanceled, guys!"

Justin: “He’s back!”

Griffin: “We’re bringing him back out of retire—” It’s like, that’s great. I haven’t seen *Ronald’s* ass...

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: ... since fucking 2020. [simultaneously] Where is he?

Justin: [simultaneously] Where *is* he?

Travis: I think it’s time— It’s time for Ronald to go cyber, if you ask me.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Travis: It’s time for Cyber Ronald, a fully-digitized out-of-the-computer VR experience.

Griffin: I like that. That’s cool!

Justin: Is he—

Travis: I know what you’re saying. “Travis, that seems like a lot of buzzwords, without any follow-up.”

Griffin: You didn’t say what it would be, but that’s... But I—

Travis: But you’re interested.

Griffin: Let me fill in the gaps...

Justin: Please, let him in the gaps.

Griffin: ... with *my* imagination.

Travis: Yeah. 4K.

Griffin: Fuck yeah, dude.

Travis: Yeah, man. Crypto... [laughs]

Griffin: Aw, *dude!*

Travis: Yeah, buddy. This is new gen. NextWave.

Griffin: NextWave Ronald?

Travis: NextWave Ronald! That's right, fully digital.

Griffin: I would find it a lot cooler to find out that you wrote all the ad copy for the Little Caesar's guy. Which is, I'm guessing, sort of a mid-range mascot job.

Travis: I think he only says the one thing, Griffin.

Griffin: You're right, I picked the worst imaginable example.

Travis: [laughs] Yeah! But I do love the idea of the reason there hasn't been any new dialogue is because it's like, "I can't think of anything else he would say. It's not in character!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: No, it's not that, Travis. It's an exercise and a display of *unfathomable* restraint. There's a whole team of writers. Every *week*, they get together in the conference room, and bring up their best shit! Like, "How about— Check this out. 'Pizza, pizz-a?'" And they're like, "No, sorry."

Travis: No.

Griffin: "It's not broken, guys. It's still the best it could possibly be, but keep grinding."

Travis: There must have been a point with Little Caesars where they said, "What if he just says, 'Pizza?'"

And they're like, "That's not it." And then someone said, "What about 'Pizza, pizza, pizza'?" And they were like, "Ah, I think that's too much."

Griffin: "Ah, shit."

Travis: [laughs] "We gotta— Hmm!" And then somebody said, "I know. Just two times." And they said, "Fuck, dude. Yeah, nailed it."

Griffin: Fuck yeah, dude.

Justin: Well, they did it two times, because they used to give you two pizzas in a very long box. And that was the whole angle, is it wasn't very good, but at least there's two of 'em!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Now, they have to rely on puffs.

Travis: What did that have to do with Caesar? Why was that connected to Caesar in any way?

Justin: It's a Greek style.

Griffin: Because he started it.

Justin: It's a Greek-style pie.

Travis: Was he known for giving two pizzas?

Justin: It's a Greek-style pie.

Griffin: He made the first pizza.

Travis: Oh, the— the famous Greek emperor, Caesar? Is that what you're saying, Justin?

Justin: Greek and Rome... a lot of people are still kind of, you know... [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: The same time. [wheeze-laughs] Travis, those two happened the same time, and all their shit—

Justin: Historians agree, they were all about columns.

Travis: Scientists aren't clear.

Justin: They all had columns, and robes, and togas. And it's all kind of a similar—

Travis: Shit, man.

Griffin: So that's confusing.

Travis: It's the second time we talked about Caesar this episode!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They all had different—

Griffin: But which one? ... But which one? 'Cause they—

Travis: I don't know.

Griffin: All this stuff, Travis, all this mythology.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It happened so long ago, and they have a lot of the same kind of—

Travis: Aucrustus Caesar.

Griffin: Aucrustus Caesar, is that the name of the Little Caesar's mascot? 'Cause I don't know if—

Travis: I've decided it is, yes.

Griffin: He probably has one.

Travis: Aucrustus.

Griffin: He probably has one, and it's probably great.

Justin: You know, Little Nero's Pizza isn't real. It's just in *Home Alone*.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So it's *not* real.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] I mean, it is in *Home Alone*.

Travis: But no, Justin.

Justin: [laughs] That's real.

Travis: *Home Alone's* not real.

Griffin: *Home Alone* is not a real record.

Travis: You can't be like, "It's real in a made-up movie."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Let's go to the Money Zone.

Travis: 'Cause it's clearly a reference—

Justin: Let's shut up— Hey, Travis, that was the fucking perfect transition. You ruined it. [laughs] Damn it, dude, I nailed it! And you killed it.

Griffin: Hey, guys?

Justin: I wanna try it again.

Griffin: Hey, guys? For real. Hey, guys? The Matrix isn't real.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] You would say that, though! You would say that...

Griffin: Fuck off.

Justin: ... until you realized you were wrong.

Griffin: Looks real! When you watch *The Matrix*, you're like, "Woah! Really?" But it's not actually— It didn't happen!

Travis: But it stars my friend, Morbius.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: No, man. No, man.

Justin: No, Morbius turned into a cloud of bats and flew into the sky! We've covered this!

Travis: Right. Okay, sorry. Yeah, I switched 'em again.

Justin: Let's go to the Money Zone. It's not as good as the last one, but it'll [through laughter] have to do.

[theme music plays]

Travis: You know, I don't know, Justin, if it's from my school days when I was a wee lad. But fall will always feel like the beginning of the year to me.

Justin: Mm!

Travis: You know what I mean? It feels like the new start of it, 'cause going back to school, and that kind of thing.

Justin: A page is being turned.

Travis: And a great time.

Justin: A page is being turned, you know? It's a new chapter.

Travis: A page is being turned! The leaves fall, lives change, and the— step-by-step, day-by-day... You know, you get it.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: And it's a great time to start some new things, to take care of yourself. And I recommend Factor!

Justin: Like what, Trav?

Travis: Because in all that change, all that hustle, all that bustle...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: It's hard to find time to cook. But Factor's there for you, with their chef-prepared, dietitian-approved meals. And they're designed to make it easy to stay on track, and enjoy something comforting *and* delicious, no matter how hectic the season gets.

They have a huge variety of weekly meals. There's premium seafood choices like salmon and shrimp at no extra cost. And for the first time, you can try Asian-inspired meals with bold flavors influenced by China, Thailand, and more.

Eat smart at FactorMeals.com/brother50off, and use code "brother50off" to get 50% off your first box. To be clear, that's B-R-O-T-H-E-R 50 O-F-F. That's 50% off your first box, plus free breakfast for one year. That's code "brother50off" at

FactorMeals.com for 50% off your first box, plus free breakfast for one year. Get delicious, ready-to-eat meals delivered with Factor. Offer only valid for new Factor customers with code and qualifying auto-renewing subscription purchase.

Griffin: Hey, Juice? We were over at your house a month or so ago, and I just wanna say, kitty-cat's looking good.

Justin: Yeah, man. Both the kitties are looking really good. Their coats are looking thick and lustrous, and I think—

Travis: Griffin, you sounded really ALF-like there, for a second.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Like you're gonna eat that kitty.

Justin: Not a hungry way. Smalls is the reason, by the way. It's a cat food that I've been giving them. It comes in these little packages. It comes frozen, in a big box. You take out what you need, and then you're opening a fresh pack of delicious food that your cat's gonna be wild for. Smooth bird, smooth cow, other bird? They love all the flavors.

Travis: I'm kind of a smooth bird.

Justin: You're a smooth bird? When Travis comes over to my house and needs a late-night snack, [holding back laughter] he reaches for smooth bird. But you can choose whichever these delicious tummy-tempters that you wanna indulge in. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Justin, I told you never to talk about that in public. I thought it was people food. It looked so good.

Griffin: Each Smalls meal is also infused with Melmite, which is the only substance that can hurt ALF.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: And so when he smells one of the cats who's been eating Smalls food, he gets freaked out, and runs away. So—

Justin: None of that is true, but what is true is that cats love Smalls. Or at least mine do. If your cats have good taste like mine do, then they're gonna love it as well.

'Cause you're a *My Brother, My Brother and Me* listener, you can get 60% off your first Smalls order plus free shipping when you head to Smalls.com/mybrother. That's 60% off when you head to Smalls.com/mybrother, plus free shipping! Again, that's Smalls.com/mybrother.

Griffin: You guys know that stinky ankh that I carry around for my protection?

Travis: Is that made of Meltite?

Griffin: It's Meltite, yeah.

Travis: I love that.

Griffin: 'Cause it's, again, one of the—

Justin: [holding back laughter] Stinky ankh?

Griffin: There's not much.

Justin: [through laughter] What's an ankh?

Griffin: [laughs] It's—

Travis: A stinky ankh!

Griffin: It's like that stinky ankh-shaped talisman that I carry around with—

Travis: You remember!

Griffin: That's for ALFs.

[pause]

Justin: Hey, guys. Um, I just wanted to talk about something that has become really important to me.

Travis: Oh, you're being so vulnerable, Justin!

Justin: Yeah, thank you. It's hard— You know, goal-setting is really important. And it's really important to have things that you're working towards.

Travis: Goal-tending is, too.

Griffin: Mm!

Justin: So, I'm uh—

Griffin: Heartbeat of the team.

Justin: I have found myself surprisingly caring about something a great deal, and it's something that I just wanna start and get the conversation going, because it's never too early. I wanna talk—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I wanna talk about The Rock's Oscar, or as I'm calling it, the Rockscar.
[laughs]

Griffin: The Rockscar, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: For *Da Smashing Machine*?

Justin: Yes. We have seen, now— I have been— I don't think delighted is too

strong a word. With every piece of *Smashing Machine* advertising that I get, I am happier that there is a movie called *The Smashing Machine*, and it stars The Rock.

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: Good. Good, good, good.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It is a true story of a UFC fighter. And it is being compared... probably by The Rock most of all, I would think, in private, to make you turn in the wrestler. And the conversation is starting to turn towards whether or not The Rock is gonna get the Rockscar, or not.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do you think— I bet...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Unlike most people, where they are like, "Oh, they're doing this to get the Oscar."

I bet that the Oscars went to The Rock and were like, "We have wanted to give you one of these for *so long*."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Please, just do a movie that we can even remotely justify giving it to you. *Please* let us give you an Oscar."

Griffin: "Please fuck— Please fuck with a softie."

Travis: [through laughter] "Please."

Griffin: "Please get with one of the softies. We will not tell you which one. Either one's gonna get you there."

Justin: The Rock got— After *The Smashing Machine* premiered, it rec—

Travis: Oh, it's out now!?

Justin: Well, it—

Griffin: No, it can't—

Justin: It premiered at the festival circuit.

Griffin: Oh. Travis, Travis, Travis, come back.

Justin: Come back, Trav.

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: Travis, come back. It's not out yet.

Travis: Oh. Okay.

Justin: It premiered on the festival circuit, and received a um... a 15-minute standing [laughs] ovation at the end of it. During which The Rock apparently cried uncontrollably.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: For 15 straight minutes?

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] Okay, guys.

Travis: Listen.

Griffin: I'm— Hey, no, no, no. I do not want to sound like I am judging The Rock for his emotional vulnera— Amazing. But 15 minutes of crying. Hard, uncontrollable crying.

Justin: Now, we don't know if he— The *ovation* lasted for 15 minutes. I'm gonna go ahead and start a timer, just so we get an idea of like—

Travis: He might've cried—

Justin: Imagine the movie just ended.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: And we're cheering for...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: ... The Rock, right?

Griffin: You can't have that going in the show, though, 'cause it'll cut— It'll reveal how much of our shit Rachel edits out.

Travis: Yeah. We cut ten minutes for every five minutes.

Griffin: When you're like, "And there's our 15 minutes!" All of those jokes are gone.

Travis: Now, here's a— I want to make it clear. I believe that everyone should be able to cry when the spirit moves them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's fine.

Justin: I can.

Travis: I'm trying to picture the giant man that I know as The Rock...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... crying *uncontrollably*.

Griffin: I bet it's scar— It bet it's *crazy*.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: If he *loses control*?

Justin: I— I— Listen. They teach us not to editorialize when you're learning the AP style.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And I don't think you can ever know the contents of another person's heart.

Griffin: No way.

Justin: I have to say, I *assume* that after you are a wrestling professional, you are *always* in control of your emotions. He can't *afford* to not be! You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah. Sure. Sure! Sure.

Justin: It's gotta be tough.

Griffin: You can't get *angry*! You can't get angry while you're out there, 'cause you could hurt somebody. That's what *The Smashing Machine* is kind of all about.

Justin: So, The Rock—

Griffin: You can't get sad out there, or you'll get smashed!

Justin: The Rock—

Griffin: Which is also one of the core messages of *The Smashing Machine*. Emotions lead to smashing.

Justin: The Rock has been wearing sunglasses. And that—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sorry, not sunglasses. The Rock has been wearing glasses at some of these events.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: And that is starting to make people think, “Maybe it’s time for the Rockscar.” You know? “Maybe this is the moment, because he’s wearing glasses.”

Travis: The glasses?

Justin: The glasses, maybe, because he’s going for an evolution. And there are some other clues, too. And that’s really what I wanted to bring you guys here for. The Rock’s been doing a lot of promotion for *The Smashing Machine*. A lot of interviews. And I think the Ro—

Travis: The more you say the name of the movie, the more it sounds like a fun, fake title...

Justin: I know.

Travis: ... we came up with for an actual movie.

Justin: It’s a real movie. And here—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I gathered some of The Rock’s quotes about his work during the film. ‘Cause he’s been— You know, he’s been out there, promoting it. And I just wanted to share some of it with you guys.

Griffin: Yeah, please.

Travis: Yeah, plea— Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: Here's this one. "This transformation was something I was really hungry to do. I've been very fortunate to have the career that I've had over the years, and to make the films that I've made. But there was just a voice inside of me, a little voice that said, 'Well, what if I could do more? I wanna do more. And what does that look like?' I've been scared to go deep, and intense, and raw, until now. Until I had this opportunity..."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "... to do this. When you're in Hollywood, as we all know, it had become about box office. And you chase the box office. And the box office, in our business, is very loud. It can push you—" This is what The Rock said!

"It can push you into a corner, in a category. This is your lane. This is what you do. And this is what people want you to be, this is what Hollywood wants you to be. And I understood that! I made these movies, and I liked 'em, and they were fun. And some were really good, and did well."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "And some, not so good. I think what I did realize is, I just had this burning desire and this voice that was just saying, 'What if there's more? What if I *can*?' " [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: Do we get to vote on Oscars? Do we get to deci— What would we have to do to be voters for Oscars?

Justin: What do we need to do? 'Cause I've been doing my part. I can't take out a billboard...

Griffin: Can I get your—

Justin: ... outside Rodeo Drive, okay?

Griffin: I wanna help! I wanna reward what I just heard, and I don't know how to give something to it.

Justin: He's been fighting so *fucking* hard, guys!

Travis: Can I tell you? I was struck. In that statement, there is a beautiful, childlike naivete. As he's like, "Is there more than just doing big man punching movies? I don't know!"

Griffin: Well, don't dismiss a *million, billion* big man punching movies.

Justin: Yeah, like 100,000.

Griffin: 100 million billion big man punching movies. Of which—

Travis: But that he's sitting there, like, "What does it even look like for The Rock to do some real acting?"

And I'm like—

Griffin: I mean, he's—

Travis: "Should I try acting more, deeper?"

Griffin: I'm fuckin' stoked.

Justin: The great thing about following the Rockscar, as I have been, is that the people who are covering the Rockscar don't actually have the vocabulary to understand what the Rockscar means. So they are buying—

Griffin: "What do we do?"

Justin: Here's a real line from the *Variety* story about the premiere of *The Smashing Machine*. "Before the screening started, one fan shouted Johnson's signature WWE line, 'Can you smell what The Rock is cooking?' prompting laughter from the man of the hour."

The Rock's gonna get his Oscar, guys! He's gonna get his fucking Oscar.

Griffin: Yeah. 'Cause he's not—

Justin: These people are not getting it!

Griffin: He wasn't a dick about it. Yeah, he didn't pull a Billy Bob Thornton, where he'd be like, "Uh, would you ask Brad Pitt about his cooking YouTube that he does?" He owns it. He knows where he came from, and he's proud of it.

Travis: I'm also— I'm thinking of a lot of "Got an Oscar, and then ended up doing big man action movies."

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He wants to have it the *other* way.

Travis: I'm trying to think of— Yeah. There's a Stallone. You know, Stallone paved the way of like, got that— *Rocky* for writing, I believe?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then said, "Now, I'm just gonna be an action guy from now on."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [simultaneously] Now, he's the king of Tulsa!

Travis: [simultaneously] And now, here's The Rock coming in the other direction.

Justin: Now, he's the king of Tulsa! Enough said.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The Rock continues... in this same junket.

Travis: Period. [laughs]

Justin: Like, same junket, same tour.

Travis: The Rock endures.

Justin: Alright? These are all from the *same* junket. "Sometimes, it's hard to know what you're capable of when you've been pigeonholed into something. It's harder to know, 'Wait, can I *do* that? I feel like I can!' And sometimes, it takes people who love you and respect you to say you can."

The Rock! [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Guys, *The Rock* is like, "I feel like I've been pigeonholed." Into being *The Rock*!?

Griffin: Yeah, man!

Justin: It says in your contract, you can't lose fights, *The Rock*! Yeah, man, I think you've been pigeonholed!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I think you've had a role in that pigeonholing! I think!

Griffin: But it's cool to watch him do this shadow work out in front of all the—

Justin: Just— Yeah! *I* have to do this in a mirror! *The Rock* [through laughter] gets to do it in front of reporters!

Griffin: And this is what those SAFDies, these duty— These are how these SAFDies fucking get— Do you guys remember? Do you guys fucking remember what the Sandman used to be like? Before those SAFDies got their fucking claws in him?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And turned him into an introspective sort of artist? It's like, man! It's cool, and I'm happy to see it, but also, there's not— We're not going back, guys. We ain't going back home.

Travis: I will say this, though. It's very inspiring to me, because if someone like— Even The Rock can be pigeonholed into something. Maybe *I*'ve been pigeonholed into something, you know?

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: You gotta wonder, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I've never really thought about it.

Justin: You gotta wonder, Trav. Are you maybe— Have you— Are you being punished, or tormented, in the same way that [laughs] The Rock is? That by—

Travis: I mean, I wear classes!

Griffin: He looks fucking good.

Justin: You wear—

Travis: He's wearing glasses!

Justin: You wear glasses! Look at this—

Griffin: He looks—

Justin: Look at these glasses he's wearing.

Travis: Not so different, he and I.

Justin: He's wearing glasses. I don't—

Griffin: Those are fucking cool glasses, dude.

Justin: Well, yeah, 'cause he's The Rock, man. They probably cost 4,000 dollars, and are made by Cartier. You know? Sorry, but that's—

Travis: Maybe it's time for *me* to try more.

Justin: They're 1,400. Sorry, they aren't by Cartier. They're 1,400.

Travis: Maybe I should be in *The Smashing Machine 2*.

Griffin: Okay. That's not—

Justin: We'll talk about it afterwards. Maybe for your birthday.

Travis: I wanna be in *The Smashing Machine 2*!

Griffin: Trav, you can't be in *The Smashing Machine*.

Justin: Trav, you can't be in *The Smashing Machine*.

Griffin: They already made *The Smashing Machine*.

Travis: No, *Smashing Machine... Number 2*!

Justin: You can't!

Travis: I'm gonna be in the sequel!

Griffin: Trav, it'll be a long time before they made *Smashing Machine 2*.

Justin: Well, you can't, 'cause you gotta fight The Rock for it. And let me tell you where The Rock is at. "I'm at a point in my career where I wanna push myself in

ways that I've not pushed myself in the past. I wanna make films that *matter*. That explore humanity, and explore struggle and pain."

So remember, in the future, when The Rock is in films that don't do that, he is doing it against his will. [laughs] 'Cause that is not what he wants to do.

Griffin: Or in his head.

Travis: Guys, I've got it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm gonna write a biopic about myself, starring The Rock as me.

Justin: The Trav—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I'll get the Oscar for a screenplay.

Justin: For *The Traving Machine*. [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: He gets the Oscar for— *The Traving Machine*! Yes.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Starring The Rock as Travis McElroy.

Griffin: "Damn it, they want me to throw the podcast!"
"What does that mean?"

Justin: [laughs] "Explain it!"

Griffin: "They got me for podcast betting."
"What are you talking—"
"Yeah, I was fixing podcasts."
"What does— What are you— What does that *mean*?"

Justin: The reviews are in. "Still a better representation of podcasting than *Alex, Inc.*," [laughs] says *Variety*.

Griffin: [laughs] Movies seem to struggle with basic cause-and-effect storytelling. But beats the pants off *Alex, Inc.*

Justin: This is the last one. "I looked around a few years ago. And I started to think, 'You know...'" Guys, okay. This is what The Rock said to people, right?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: In my head, before I answer any— Okay. "I looked around a few years ago, and I started to think, 'You know, am I living *my* dream, or am I living other people's dreams?'"

Travis: The Rock doesn't know that!?

Griffin: That's—

Travis: The Rock doesn't—

Griffin: Just like me.

Travis: How am I supposed to answer that question for myself!?

Justin: Is The Rock living my dream, in which The Rock is a huge star, and maybe gets a Rockscar?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Wait, am I living The Rock's dream, and he's living my dream, and we somehow switched bodies?

Justin: You can come to that recognition.

Griffin: It's possible.

Justin: And I think you either fall in line... “Well, it’s status quo, things are good, I don’t wanna rock the boat.” You know, you need to keep doing [laughs] multi-million dollar movies.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: *Or* go, “I wanna live my dreams now, and do what I *wanna* do, and tap into the stuff that *I* wanna tap into. And have a place, *finally*, to put all this stuff...”

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Justin: “... that *I*’ve experienced in the past, and that I’ve sat away from. I’ve been scared to go deep, and intense, and raw until now, until I had this opportunity.”

Griffin: Keep going, King! Like, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Keep it going. We’re all rooting for you.

Justin: By the way...

Griffin: Literally everyone is rooting for you.

Justin: I’m not a watcher of—

Travis: Now, to be fair—

Justin: I’m not a watcher of *Young Rock*. I guess you don’t cover this territory in the biopic about your young life, which does seem like a missed opportunity. If I wanted to dig into *my* unpacked stuff, one way that *I* might do that...

Griffin: That was Young Rock.

Justin: ... is a series about my youth! The Rock.

Griffin: Yeah. But that was— He wasn't here yet. Young Rock has so much work to do, before he gets to Rock.

Travis: I also think that there is an implied parenthetical statement at the end of all these quotes that's like, "And now, I have so much money that I don't have to worry about [through laughter] box office anymore!"

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "And I can make some of this shit!"

Justin: But he's not! He's making *The Smashing Machine*. If you wanna make art, come to do a podcast.

Griffin: Which is gonna make a million, billion dollars.

Justin: That's where the pod— That's where the art [laughs] happens.

Travis: Thank you. You're welcome to be here, and I will eat every bad word I've ever said about you.

Justin: I love The Rock! I just feel like no one is doing the work that we are doing for The Rock right now.

Travis: Have you seen *Jumanji*!?

Justin: In his day-to-day life.

Travis: He should've gotten an Oscar for *Jumanji*.

Griffin: Yeah. He *should've* gotten an Oscar for *Jumanji*.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: "I'm going to a bachelor party at an Airbnb next weekend. The amenities include a hot tub and arcade, but also a laundry room. How can I surreptitiously do my laundry at the party without it being weird?"

Griffin: [whispering] Yes!

Justin: "Some additional notes. We're only there one night. It is in town. I have to pay to do my laundry at my apartment, so this will save me money. Thank you."

Griffin: Cool. The logistics are easy. I think we could probably chip those in pretty— I mean, you bring a big suitcase. No one's gonna fucking say anything.

Justin: They will. That's why you bring such a big suitcase.

Travis: For one night?

Justin: "For one night? Why such a big suitcase?" They definitely will. Try again.

Griffin: "Medicine."

"Uh, okay. Let me see—"

Justin: Oh, medicine! Sound super sick. "This is my final farewell."

Griffin: Well, no. No, you wouldn't say all that, but—

Justin: Why would you tell your friends you're dying, to cover up doing your laundry? [laughs]

Griffin: I didn't say that. Say, "It's personal." Say, "It's a personal reason, for why it's so big." And they're not gonna ask anymore. If they do, they're not your friends. And they'll say, "Why does it stink like old, [laughs] dirty clothes so much?" And you say, "Medical reasons, former friend."

The logistics are so easy, we don't have to sweat those.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] Just— You're making them seem actually harder than I imagine them to be before the question.

Travis: If you're in town, here's what you do. You just keep offering to run out and get more stuff for the party.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But you're going back to your apartment, and getting another load of laundry, and bringing it [laughs] back and forth.

Griffin: That's good. That's good.

Justin: You need some sort of—

Travis: Under your big— You have a big coat on, too. That helps. Then, you're wearing all the laundry.

Griffin: You're wearing all the big— Yeah.

Justin: Some sort of Easter egg hunt, or scavenger hunt, or something would give a—

Griffin: Just to get him out of the house for a while?

Justin: Well, I was gonna say, to give you an excuse for continually ducking in. "There's gotta be one around here!" You know? If you said that really loud, like, "There's gotta be a clue around here somewhere!" you can cover doing your laundry.

Griffin: That's cool. And do you need to tell the— Are the other people, are they just paying the—

Justin: If they're like, "Why are you going into the laundry room so much?" You can be like, "Scavenger hunt. You know what I mean?"

Griffin: "For one."

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] No! They're playing, too! There is a scavenger hunt.

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: You've organized it.

Travis: "I just need a moment of quiet reflection and scavenger hunting."

Griffin: Yeah. We don't use that excuse enough. When someone's like, "What are you doing, just wandering around? What are you looking for?" You should be able to just say, like, "Eggs."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Clearly, the implication is that you would organize the hunt. Like, [through wheezing laughter] you would— You would have to organize it. Clearly.

Griffin: I'm looking for hidden eggs.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: Thank you.

Travis: Ooh, or hidden cameras.

Justin: That, Travis, I like.

Griffin: Looking for hidden cameras is good.

Justin: That— You can't be too careful at these Airbnbs. [laughs] They could be—

Griffin: No.

Travis: Yeah, but you just keep going in the laundry room.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do you wanna check the bedrooms? [laughs] Or the bathrooms?

Justin: That's where they try to watch— That's where they try to monitor.

Travis: No.

Justin: They wanna take pictures of your filthy panties. [laughs]

Griffin: [with grumbling voice] “Nobody better be doing any laundry in *my* laundry room!”

Travis: I’ll tell you this right now. If I went to a bachelor party, if I— ‘Cause I’ve lived in apartments where I had to pay to do my laundry and stuff. And if I went...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... to a bachelor party at an Airbnb, and another guest there brought their laundry to do for free, the feeling I would feel is deep envy and anger at myself.

Griffin: Yeah. For sure.

Travis: And hey, that’s actually probably gonna be your biggest issue. Everyone else has done it, too.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And there’s only the one washer-dryer.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: You’re gonna have to coordinate, and try not to mix up your underwears.

Justin: The underwears.

Griffin: I don’t—

Justin: What’s wrong?

Griffin: Travis saying that really threw me for a loop.

Travis: What, that you don't wanna mix your underwears with each other, if you throw your clothes in together?

Griffin: No, just with you calling it your underwears, and just sort of—

Justin: What if you went to every—

Travis: That's because of *The Room*. *The Room* ruined it.

Griffin: I know! That's what I'm saying. It made me think of that.

Justin: What if you went to everybody in the party, and you got one piece of dirty clothes from each of them? And you put it in with—

Travis: As a getting-to-know-you game?

Justin: No, like you— [laughs] So The Rock has just finished his [through laughter] applause break.

Griffin: Wow! That's a *huge* amount of time to be taking that energy from a big crowd.

Travis: Do you think it was a constant level the whole time? Or there were dips in—

Justin: It had to be dips. And they're like, "He's looking— He's still crying. Maybe we should keep going."

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: "Okay, he's still at it."

Griffin: Yeah. The *Variety* headline is, "The Rock's *Smashing Machine* receives seven-minute standing ovation... and then about a nine- or ten-second gap where it seemed like things were slowing down. And then another good 14—"

Justin: [through laughter] And then he kept crying even harder than before!

Travis: Maybe they clapped until he cried.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Where they're clapping, and they're like...

Justin: "Go on, you big—" [claps]

Travis: "He's right on the edge!"

Justin: "Do it, baby!" [laughs]

Travis: "We've only got him— *Do it!*"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Do it, you big pussy!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Let's see the waterworks, you're such a great actor!"

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: "Come on! Do it! I wanna smell what you're cooking! Woo!"

Travis: *The Smashing Machine* received a 15-minute, very directed standing ovation. A very targeted—

Griffin: Very aggressive—

Justin: It was all the Iron Sheik. [laughs] That's what's crazy about it!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: He was just standing at— [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yelling at The Rock.

Griffin: [sighs]

Justin: Wouldn't it be fu— Hey. There should be *one*... If he gets up to do the speech...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Someone should hit him with a chair. I'm just saying that, when he gets up to get the Rockscar, Bradley Cooper... It can't—

Travis: Oh, I went to Martin Short, but...

Justin: Martin Short!? No! He'd kill Martin Short! [laughs]

Griffin: Wait, is he gonna strike back? Or is this like a—

Justin: Martin Short hits him with a chair. The Rock's like... uncontrollable, guys. This is where he's at with this film, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I wouldn't push him.

Travis: Oh, he's tapped into his feelings now!

Justin: Yeah, he's—

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: He's the full power of The Rock.

Travis: He's cracked wide open.

Justin: If you go to everybody in the party, and you say, "Hey, give me one piece of your clothing." And then you put it in with your clothes, and then you start washing 'em.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Nobody can say anything. 'Cause they discover it, and you're like, "Oh, that's interesting! Check out this sock. Huh! I guess I'm not the bad guy."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I guess we're— [laughs] We're all culpable now."

Justin: "I guess we're all criminals, huh?"

Hey, thank you so much for listening to our podcast. I hope you've enjoyed it. I looked at my watch before I started saying that, and I don't really know why. [laughs] Hey, we're gonna do some more shows. You wanna come see us? We're still out there.

Travis: We'd love that.

Justin: We'd love that.

Travis: If you wanted to, yeah. We're gonna be in— We're gonna be in Salt Lake City and San Diego, doing shows next month. Tickets for all the shows are on sale now. You can get all the information about those shows and ticket links and everything at bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Speaking of tickets, at the beginning of November, tickets for the third annual Champions Grove at Ravenwood Castle in Hocking Hills, Ohio are gonna be on sale. All the information, everything at ChampionsGrove.com.

Justin: [simultaneously] That's more than just a ticket to an event, folks.

Travis: [simultaneously] We'll announce the date there.

Justin: That's a ticket to adventure. That's a ticket to *friendship*. That's a ticket to *good times*.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: To *learning*! You're gonna learn.

Griffin: *And* to friendship.

Justin: And to friendship, which I have covered. Yeah. But double, double friendship.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: We got some new merch in the store. We got a Garyl shirt designed by Lin Doyle, who is @LinDoyle_ on Instagram. L-I-N D-O-Y-L-E. 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to Equality Florida, which is dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's LGBTQ community.

We also have a newsletter. You can sign up at bit.ly/mcelroynewsletter, and be the first to know about new stuff that we're doing.

Griffin: Hey, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better with You." Check out Montaigne's— It's not really new. I don't know at what point an album stops being new.

Justin: New to you?

Griffin: It's hard to be—

Justin: New to you, maybe.

Travis: Well, they've been posting a *lot* of content from their tour and everything.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: And it looks so cool.

Justin: You should go check out Montaigne's TikTok presence. There's a lot of great videos. [simultaneously] Thanks, Montaigne.

Griffin: [simultaneously] Thanks, Montaigne. Um, do we have a Final Fear?

Travis: We do!

Justin: Yeah, I'll read it. "This year, I'm gonna be faster than my fear of trees, but only at night." [laughs]

[theme music starts playing in background]

Justin: [through laughter] 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 music plays]

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