

## **MBMBaM 782: A Net Full of Screaming Butterflies**

Published on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

[Listen here on Maximum Fun](#)

**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 the oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm your middlest brother, Travis 'Big-Dog Vroom-Vroom Woof-Woof' McElroy. What's up, Trav Nation?

**Griffin:** What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother, McElroy.

**Justin:** This week, I—it's always fun whenever there's something religious happening on TikTok—

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, always fun!

**Justin:** Because I get to become—I get to become my wife's designated Protestant.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** And she was—and she was really caught up in what she called rapture talk. I don't know if anybody else did. But apparently, a bunch of people—not a bunch, I don't know. Some number of people thought the rapture was gonna happen.

**Griffin:** You guys heard about—

**Justin:** Last week.

**Griffin:** Can you do a—can you—can you Leno it? Like, can you put a little Leno stink on it?

**Travis:** [in a high-pitched voice] You guys heard about this?

**Justin:** [in a high-pitched voice] Have you guys—you guys heard of this? There's people who thought the rapture was gonna happen last week.

**Griffin:** That's not bad.

**Travis:** It feels like every day someone thinks the rapture is gonna happen!

**Griffin:** This was a big one, dude. This was a big one. And a lot of people, like Justin said, and I'm not gonna name names, or say if I'm one of 'em, were pretty fucking stoked. And are honestly—

**Justin:** Oh yeah?

**Travis:** Really?!

**Griffin:** Feeling pretty disappointed. Some of—some of people... some of people went to Wendy's and bought thirty hamburgers and ate thirty hamburgers, because they thought they were gonna leave their stupid body behind and shoot up into heaven, and ascend. And then they didn't.

**Travis:** So, wait, wait, Griffin, I'm confused by this logic. Was it to fuel the transition? Was it to punish your body? Was it like, "This doesn't mean anything?"

**Griffin:** No fuel needed. From what I understood, again, from Christ talk, was that he was going to handle most of the heavy lifting with the ascension. I wouldn't need to like squeeze like, *hmm*! Like Kegel so hard that my soul shoots up.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And out, and—

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So, Griffin, I know that you were not following this incident, this like sort of ongoing conversation. So, I would like to ask you—

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Justin:** Before I bias you with sort of like the conversation.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** And I want to send jokes out of the room for a second, if I could.

**Griffin:** Sure, please.

**Justin:** From your—

**Travis:** Bye, jokes.

**Griffin:** If the—

**Justin:** From your—

**Griffin:** I did not eat thirty hamburgers.

**Justin:** Thank you. [chuckles] Thank you for clarifying that.

**Griffin:** That was a joke.

**Justin:** That that was not in reference to—

**Travis:** Okay, we can go back—we can go back to jokes now! We just needed to check in Griffin's constitution.

**Justin:** Based on the—based on the upbringing that you received in the church at Highlawn Baptist Church, HBC—

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** What did you think was going to happen in the rapture? What was your, what like...

**Griffin:** I mean—

**Justin:** Sending jokes out of the room for a second.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I mean, rapture wasn't hit particularly hard at young Sunday school. I will say, Mr. Kirk Cameron did, I think, sort of popularize the idea for a lot of us. From what I understood, it would just be a kind of like, I would disappear, and you guys would be—

**Travis:** Wait.

**Griffin:** You guys would be left behind.

**Travis:** Why would you assume that?

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And—

**Travis:** I got baptized—

**Justin:** This is what mom and dad taught him! [laughs]

**Travis:** I got baptized twice, Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah, it's not a—

**Travis:** If anyone's going up, it's this guy!

**Griffin:** It's not a numbers—it's not a quantitative—the fact that you got baptized twice actually kind of cheapens it a little bit.

**Travis:** I like the attention.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I know.

**Justin:** I recently told my wife that I read the book *Left Behind*, and she looked at me like a moon man. And it's like, hey, at my church, that is as close to sci-fi as you got at the library, man.

**Travis:** Yeah, man.

**Justin:** That was thrilling!

**Griffin:** Yeah! That was a romp. That was almost—

**Justin:** That was a romp!

**Griffin:** And Kirk Cameron made it from *Growing Pains*—secular much? So like, eh... watch the judgement a little bit.

**Justin:** Yeah, he was somebody the kids already loved, because we loved *Growing Pains* so much. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So, I would disappear, and you guys would be left behind. And you'd have to—there'd be like a chip that would be implanted in your hand, and you couldn't buy—

**Travis:** Or a barcode.

**Griffin:** Or a barcode. And you guys would be pretty bummed out. But I don't—I wouldn't be—I wouldn't be there. I guess I'd be in heaven and kicking it. But it didn't happen.

**Travis:** Well, and after a while, I think we get kind of general admission tickets to heaven. After I think like seven years, it's like, "Yeah, you guys, you tried your best."

**Griffin:** Yeah, but the scene will be so played at that point. Like you guys are gonna get up there and you'll be like, "Griffin, you're back! We're so happy to see you, it's all worth the wait." And I'd be like, "Yeah, man." And you'll be like, "Let's go to the heaven rave." And I'll be like, "Ah, man, like, I've done that like... a thousand times. Like the scene is played, dudes, you missed it.

**Justin:** The distinction that you're drawing, the thing that you're describing is close to my understanding of what the biblical prediction of the rapture is.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** And the thing that is, I think, that has most been codified in this sort of like... mass psychogenic event that's happening—you know, the people who are thinking there... there's been... It's pretty much settled that people are going to be floating.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm...

**Justin:** Sans clothes.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** The clothes drop.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Justin:** And so, there were several people sort of watching from their balconies, to see if people started floating up. And there was a lot of warnings to like make sure—this is—this is the one that I thought was—make sure you weren't indoors.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Because—[chuckles]

**Travis:** That would cause issues.

**Griffin:** Yeah, you'd hit the—you'd bonk—

**Justin:** Because you—because it would start—well, you would just hit the ceiling. I didn't know if it was like a Fizzy Lifting Drinks kind of deal, where like you'd hit the ceiling and be like, "Whoa, Charlie! We get—" And you have to like float your way to the door. Or if you just like—[smacks hands together] rocket right the fuck through the ceiling, you know?

**Griffin:** Well—

**Travis:** No, you can get through the ceiling, but Jesus has gotta give you an extra like hard tug to get it. And it doesn't hurt—

**Griffin:** It doesn't hurt.

**Travis:** So much as it feels weird.

**Griffin:** And embarrassing, too.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's when the clothes pop off.

**Justin:** The clothes popping off is the other thing I want to talk about, because if... Okay, I'm getting pulled up.

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Awesome. Love it. Love it. So stoked to get pulled up.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Stoked that I—a little surprised. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Justin:** [laughs] You know? Considering. But stoked!

**Griffin:** Certain promises were made when we were children that we were not expecting to—

**Justin:** [laughs] Yeah, I did not think we're still good, man.

**Griffin:** Because we've done—

**Justin:** This is like—

**Griffin:** A lot of stuff since.

**Travis:** It's like finding an old—

**Justin:** This is like finding a—

**Travis:** Subway punch card. And you're like, "Surely, this has expired." And then you take it in, and Subway's like, "No, it's—we'll still accept that."

**Griffin:** Yeah, "We will honor this—"

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "Yeah, it's fine."

**Griffin:** And it's like, whoa, okay.

**Justin:** It's like putting six G.I. Joe UPCs on the counter of a Speedway, and they hand you a Sergeant Slaughter figure.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It's like, well...

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Justin:** I never thought—anyway—



**Travis:** Yeah. Wait, Pepsi points are real?!

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** Pepsi—I did get the Harrier jet! I went—if I went up and my clothes were on the ground...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Am I just instantly okay with that? And if so, am I still myself?

**Griffin:** That's a great question.

**Justin:** Because—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** My drip is part of me. [chuckles] You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Your drip is absolutely part of your brand.

**Justin:** I can't leave the drip behind!

**Travis:** The amount of time it would take me to get over the fact that my phone was in my jeans, as I'm like floating up. I'm not saying I would never get over it, but I'm saying there was a period of time where I'd think, yeah, no, I'm glad I'm—I got in. I got grandfathered in, I assume.

**Griffin:** I'm—

**Justin:** I will—

**Travis:** But my phone is—

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** If there's not a little poof of purple dust where Travis' hair was, I will be furious. Because like, that should not be permitted. Like—

**Travis:** Does that count?

**Justin:** If the drip—

**Travis:** What about my glasses?!

**Justin:** If the drip is left behind—[chuckles] You know what I mean? Like, I don't—do I—

**Griffin:** Kind of cool—kind of cool for the—for the tribulation force, getting to run around and pick up all that drip, dude.

**Travis:** All that loot?! *Ah!*

**Griffin:** All that fuckin' loot.

**Travis:** [yells out] That loot!

**Griffin:** I want to know—

**Justin:** If you want to dress like a Protestant! [chuckles]

**Griffin:** [titters] Fair point. I want to know how I get pulled up so hard my clothes come off. Because my shirt's not going to go up through the top, right? The only thing I could think is that I—sort of goes ass up. And the—and it does it—so like, face down, ass up. [chuckles] And all the clothes—

**Travis:** It could be—

**Griffin:** Shoot downwards as I—

**Justin:** I think it's gotta be—

**Travis:** It could be like a banana peel, like you see in a cartoon. A monkey squeezes a banana real hard, and the banana pops out of the top, as the banana peel splits open.

**Griffin:** But my shirt's not gonna go down me, you know what I mean?  
Like—

**Travis:** No, your shirt would split open like a banana peel, as you explode out of the top, like a Roman candle.

**Griffin:** Well, then it's not—the drip is not preme for the people who are left behind.

**Travis:** That's true. I didn't even think about that.

**Justin:** What if you are instantly copied in your drip, and you just have a special drip. [chuckles] But the—it's permanent.

**Griffin:** Dude... but it's that one forever?

**Justin:** It's that one forever.

**Griffin:** A little bit of forewarning. What if I'm in my—

**Travis:** That's true.

**Griffin:** What if I'm in my athleisure wear? I don't want anyone to see me like that.

**Travis:** Yeah. Or if I've been doing a hard day's labor—no, I've never done a hard day's labor in my life.

**Justin:** Let's not be... This is an advice show. You send us your questions—

**Travis:** More like the crapture.

**Justin:** You know we never mention this? Mbmbam@maximumfun.org.

**Griffin:** How do we continue to get questions when that is not—

**Justin:** I don't know how we—we literally never tell people how to do that anymore. That's how you do it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It's not like... magic. [titters]

**Griffin:** Make 'em real! Make 'em—

**Justin:** Make 'em real, though!

**Griffin:** Because we haven't done that in a while—

**Justin:** What makes a good—

**Griffin:** Let's lay some—

**Justin:** What makes a good question?

**Griffin:** Good question is you—

**Justin:** Wait, are you telling me that's a... are you... Were you saying that was a good question that I asked you? Or... what makes a good—were you just—

**Griffin:** I don't want to confuse people. What you said was great, but it's not a great example of a question for the show. Do you know what I mean?

**Travis:** As the—

**Justin:** Okay, what make a good—

**Travis:** As the person who's almost exclusively sorted the questions for the last fifteen years, I'd love to hear you guys talk about what makes a good question.

**Griffin:** Weird energy. We do the questions with you—

**Justin:** That's like such a weird energy.

**Travis:** No, no, no! Because I've been selecting them for 15 years, and I have no idea.

**Justin:** But you heard the confrontational tone—

**Griffin:** It had a confrontational tone.

**Travis:** I have a hard time sounding sincere.

**Justin:** You had to have heard it. You have ears.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I don't know what to tell you.

**Justin:** Two ears and one mouth, a lot of people forget that.

**Travis:** I don't understand what that means.

**Justin:** One brain, too.

**Travis:** Three eyes.

**Griffin:** Whoa? So, I don't know—

**Justin:** Eleven senses.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** [gasps] *Hah.*

**Griffin:** Unique, not about office or dating. We don't—we're out of that. We're so far out, guys. And real—

**Justin:** Not dogs.

**Griffin:** Not a funny story that happened to you one time. I like those, but they aren't very rich for us to discuss.

**Travis:** "How do I trick someone into something" is also like a little played.

**Griffin:** Not my favorite.

**Justin:** I don't like to do tricks anymore. [chuckles] Our trick days are behind us. "I recently got a unicycle. I never—"

**Griffin:** Good fucking start.

**Justin:** Yeah. "I've never rode a unicycle before. I'm trying to keep it a secret from my friends, so someday, while we're hanging out, I can just hop on the unicycle out of nowhere and be a pro at it." Sure. That is... okay, we'll come back to it, but that's the only thought that's ever motivated anyone in any hobby ever.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** Okay, "The problem is, it's extremely hard to learn to unicycle in a tiny dorm room, and my friends live right next door."

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** "Dear brothers, how can I secretly learn to unicycle?" That's from Sneaky Cyclists in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Travis:** There is an additional problem here, where if you want to suddenly do it out of nowhere, you're going to have to camouflage the unicycle in such a way. Because it's not like you can hide it in your pocket and break it—you're walking up to wherever your friend group is with a unicycle.

**Griffin:** The only—the only way I can think to do that is to buy two unicycles and kind of tie 'em together when you store them. So that they look like—

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Well, a pretty fucked up bike, honestly—

**Travis:** No, you would have a bicycle and have like the back and front end.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So that they would kind of stick on to the unicycle. And then, "Oh no, my bike broke. I'll just try this."

**Griffin:** Dude, that's the prestige.

**Justin:** Before you decide that you're gonna do it, try to think through the best version of it working, right? I feel like, in the best version of it working, somehow, you've planted a unicycle. You're like, "Ah, sweet! A unicycle." And then you hop on it and you're like, "Whoa, I got it!" And then your friends are like, amazed.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And then what?

**Travis:** No, the first—

**Justin:** And then your friends are like, "No, serious—no, seriously." And then you're like, "Ha-ha."

**Griffin:** "Ha-ha-ha!"

**Justin:** "I've been learning it in secret for months!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** No, you can't—

**Justin:** "Just for this!"

**Griffin:** No, you need to do it cooler.

**Travis:** Justin? There's a step that you missed, and it's part of the hustle, right?

**Justin:** "Sorry, I don't know how to get off!"

**Griffin:** It's one wheel, you can just kind of—

**Justin:** "Somebody, catch me!"

**Griffin:** You can just stretch your legs out.

**Travis:** When... Okay, first of all, Justin, that presupposes that they have spent all this time learning to ride a unicycle in private, but never learned to dismount the unicycle in private.

**Griffin:** That's the hardest part.

**Justin:** Was it—Travis...

**Griffin:** He's doing jokes.

**Justin:** That part was a joke!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** God!

**Travis:** Here's the first part of the hustle that you need. When—whatever the unicycle deployment is, the first—you're like, "I've always wanted to try unicycling." And it goes poorly the first time.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then you say, "Let me try one more time." And now suddenly it's like, whoa, you're a natural.

**Griffin:** Right.



**Travis:** Right? And then it's like, "I guess I just—God decided—" You're like, "This person is destined to unicycle. Everything about them is designed to be a natural at this."

**Justin:** I feel like unicycle... Can you guys think of any other means of conveyance that communicates so much about the conveyed.

**Griffin:** Penny-farthing.

**Travis:** Hm.

**Griffin:** Big penny-farthing bike. If I see somebody on a unicycle, and I see somebody on a penny-farthing, and they're about to fight?

**Justin:** [titters] Okay.

**Griffin:** They're about to have their own—

**Justin:** Any—

**Travis:** Okay—

**Griffin:** Own Twisted Metal style battle.

**Justin:** [chuckles] No, but wait. Okay, now hold on! If you see someone on a penny-farthing—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** They could be time traveler, insane museum guy. [chuckles] It could be e one of three things, right?

**Travis:** Or all three! All three.

**Griffin:** All three. Insane statue from a museum that came to life.

**Justin:** They could be all three, they could be two of the three.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** For sure.

**Justin:** If you're on a unicycle—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** There's one kind of guy! [chuckles] You know what I mean? It's just the one kind of person on a unicycle.

**Griffin:** They do make electric unicycles now, that balance themselves out. And you look like a fuckin' Mega Man enemy when you do ride one of those around. They do—

**Justin:** This I would do.

**Griffin:** They do not make—

**Justin:** This I would do.

**Griffin:** Electric penny-farthings, as far as I know.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't think they're OSHA compliant. You have to be so unnecessarily high up on those things.

**Travis:** I have seen people on unicycles, and I would equate this too with like the one wheel like hoverboard things—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Where there is—we talk about the practicing of the skill, but not the practicing of the extreme look of nonchalance one must have to ride them, as if like, "Yeah, I'm bored doing—"

**Griffin:** Dude, and it's so easy to do that—

**Travis:** Like, "Yeah, man, I don't even know."

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So easy to do that on a unicycle, because it requires so little of your body to function. You can really... [grunt] *beh!* Top half just—[sighs] *huuh!* "Whatever." If I—don't do—don't have some big reveal, just do it around town until one of your friends sees you, and you be like, "Oh, yeah, I unicycle. I'm quite proficient." That's a chill reveal. Not making a big, flashy show of it. That's how you really get down in your fuckin friends' brains.

**Justin:** I think that's better, yeah.

**Griffin:** That's how you get in there.

**Travis:** Have you guys ever seen somebody on one of those one wheel hoverboards going full speed, just going like, "*Whoa! Yay!*"

**Griffin:** I saw somebody drop off their kid, who was on an electric scooter, at Henry's school. And then he was like, "Bye, son!" And then fuckin' zooted out of there on his single wheel electric skateboard. And I thought that's, that—you should be the principal. You should get to be the principal when you're that cool at being a parent. How about another question?

**Justin:** "I want to become one of those ladies with a bunch of cool art in her yard, like kinetic sculptures made out of forks and wine bottle sun catchers. Is there a graceful way to make the transition from boring lawn to art yard? Should I rip the band aid and just put out a bunch of pieces overnight, or should I start gradually with one weird sculpture in the lawn?" That's from Artless in Massachusetts.

**Griffin:** Hm...

**Travis:** I want this.

**Griffin:** I want this too. Everyone kind of—everyone kind of wants this, when you walk past the yard and it's got like a bunch of art and pretty stained-glass creations. And also like a bunch of wildflowers that just like butterflies are on.

**Travis:** Yeah, man.

**Griffin:** And you're like, "How do you fuckin', you—how do you do that, Ms. Honey? How do you have that Ms. Honey-ass yard? That's crazy."

**Travis:** Well, I did like a chaos, you know, wildflower portion on my front yard. And the secret that they don't tell you, Griffin, is there's a solid like month and a half where it's just bare dirt, looks like shit.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right? Where it's just like—

**Griffin:** Who's got the time?

**Travis:** "Oh, that guy gave up on that part of the yard."

**Griffin:** That's what the art is for. You put the art there, and it's like a placeholder for the—for the stuff. But—

**Justin:** Is the idea that if you put the art in, you can't mow there anymore? So then it becomes a wild—

**Griffin:** Oh, that's cool, yeah. I didn't think about that.

**Justin:** Like, I don't know, it's—that's the art's problem.

**Griffin:** Unless you just do—

**Justin:** That's not a—

**Travis:** And then eventually, the yard swallows up the art as—when we are all raptured, eventually, nature will reclaim all the art.

**Griffin:** Yeah, as it will.

**Justin:** I don't think nature would want all the art. [chuckles] I've seen some art I don't think nature will want.

**Travis:** Justin, list off five pieces of art that you think nature wouldn't want.

**Justin:** Um... Dungeon Crawler Carl.

**Travis:** Hey, fuck off! How dare you, sir?

**Justin:** [titters]

**Travis:** That was targeted! That was targeted and you know it.

**Griffin:** That was really, really brutal.

**Justin:** It was just the first thing that sprang to mind, Travis! [chuckles]

**Travis:** Nature would love that book series.

**Griffin:** I mean, I haven't—

**Justin:** I think nature [abhors??] a vacuum, so...

**Travis:** That's true.

**Griffin:** I... I have a bad idea.

**Travis:** Oh? Good, yeah.

**Griffin:** And it's gonna be hard to do, but if you... just start showing up to the house with like a friend who's wearing like tiny little glasses and a black turtleneck. And you say like, "Oh, this is—oh, this? This is Damien. Damien's going to start living here now." And have Damien be sort of like very quiet and reserved, but clearly like an artistic, beautiful mind. And then when the stuff starts showing up in the yard, you can really slow roll it. No one's

gonna think like, have you lost the plot? Why are you putting so much shit in your yard? You can be like, "Oh, that's Damien. His needs—he says he eats the art and he needs to be around it to live."

**Travis:** Hey, Griffin? As you're describing Damien, there's a fifty-fifty chance he turns out to also be a serial killer.

**Griffin:** No, he's not. In this—imagine—why would you even introduce that in this fun—

**Travis:** You just said he needs to eat the art!

**Griffin:** Yeah, but not *really*. Like eat it like experience it. And Damien needs that.

**Justin:** Consume it is maybe a better word.

**Griffin:** Consume it is better.

**Justin:** It got lost in translation.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I got it—I got it—

**Justin:** From demon tongue to—

**Griffin:** I did a mix 'em up. But Damien loves art, and he needs it, or he... he'll die. He gets sick without it. And you tell that to your neighbors, and then no one's gonna ask any questions. It's all Damien.

**Justin:** You start practical, right? That's why bird bath people love—

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** Right?

**Griffin:** Oh, shit, yeah.

**Justin:** Birds do not need to take a bath. [chuckles] They don't, they're fine. You know that.

**Travis:** I've never seen a bird looking around for a bird bath.

**Griffin:** Never been around a bird and been like, "That bird stinks!"

**Justin:** Big Bird, probably. Big Bird probably gets—

**Griffin:** Big—yeah, I mean—

**Travis:** There's no way. How dare you?

**Justin:** While sitting on the egg—

**Griffin:** Not the Big Bird, but big birds in general—

**Justin:** Big birds.

**Griffin:** Probably get like a—

**Justin:** And the Big Bird, he gets funky. I—[chuckles] I... You put it out there, but you pretend it's practical, right? Like, "Oh, this—I have to, for the birds."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** And then you put out maybe wind chimes, is another one. Like, well—

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** "Well, I love the sound." And then you put out eight. And then it's like, "Too late. I mean, I know this isn't practical at this point, but I've already put so many out, nobody can judge." That's how you ease into it. In their heads, they're like, "Well, I guess they had some reason for it. They put out the one bird bath, and that was very well-grounded in bird hygiene."

**Griffin:** There—

**Travis:** I like the idea of sneaking out at like 2AM, when the neighborhood's asleep, and just putting up like thirty different like recycled glass bottle arts and like, there's a—it's a statue of a rooster, right? And then waking up in the morning and be like, "Yup. This is how—"

**Griffin:** "It happened—it happened again."

**Travis:** "I've always imagined it, yup."

**Justin:** Or you come out the next morning and you're like, "What the fuck?! These fucking kids!"

**Travis:** Ah!

**Justin:** "Again!"

**Griffin:** That's great.

**Justin:** "You know what? I'm not even gonna take it down this time! That'll show 'em!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And then... and then you've just got to make sure enough neighbors see that little skit. [chuckles] Maybe you do it every fifteen minutes.

**Travis:** Do it every fifteen minutes as they leave for work.

**Justin:** Yeah, exactly. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I mean, maybe you have a neighborhood like Facebook group, and you say like, "Come out at noon. I'm gonna do my skit."

[group laugh]

**Griffin:** "Hey, everyone, it's noon. Everyone, I've got a skit. Marcy—"



**Justin:** No! No, no, no, no!

**Griffin:** "Marcy, down the street, has a groceries skit that she's been working on and she's excited about."

**Justin:** If you have a Facebook group, then you don't need the skit. Then you could put a post in the Facebook group that is like, "Announcement."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "Two local jerks."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Or a fully—

**Justin:** "Stop putting all this stuff in my yard."

**Travis:** You could do a fully-filmed like YouTube short.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Like that you post in there, of you coming out and chasing the kids off. And then maybe from the kids' perspective as they're like, "I think they see—listen, they're mad at me now, but they seem like someone who wants art in their yard. This is a service we're providing." And then it cuts back to you, and now you're doing an unboxing video.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And this has been your kind of slow transition into, "I'm an art yard person, and I want to do unboxing videos."

**Griffin:** Yeah. The wind chimes would be the only thing for me. I do think there should be—

**Justin:** What do you mean?

**Griffin:** A government-mandated limit on how many wind chimes you— because now, that's... you can... The art in your yard, it looks cool. And I'm glad it's there, and it looks great. And a set of wind chimes blowing in the breeze? Lovely. Eight wind chimes, as Justin conjured up.

**Travis:** I have—

**Griffin:** Too many wind chimes, don't want to be inside my house watching America's Next Dancer, and hearing a clanging and clanging of a pipe organ falling down a set of windy stairs.

**Travis:** I don't know if this is pervasive in other cultures, but I know here in the US, I have been trained by movies and TV shows that the sound of a whim chime heralds some terrible oncoming supernatural force.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Trav, you got a spooky—

**Travis:** I've never heard a wind chime and thought—

**Griffin:** You're in a spooky mood today, man.

**Travis:** I'm gonna be good.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's a very like—October is just around the corner, I guess, but Travis is already opening up his Halloween presents.

**Travis:** Well, I live in a constant state of fear.

**Griffin:** It's great that you're saying that while your own little face is poking up from the bottom of the screen.

**Justin:** Yeah, Trav, you like look to the—look to your left. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** No, it just, it works better if it's just your head.

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** That's good shit, man.

**Justin:** Can you get one bigger you to take a picture of that—

**Travis:** Behind me?

**Justin:** And then wear a T-shirt. [titters]

**Griffin:** That's awesome.

**Travis:** Don't act like I wouldn't do that. You know me.

**Griffin:** You definitely would. You definitely would.

**Justin:** [chuckles] Huh, Trav, go on.

**Travis:** I wish that this show was just three mes on it.

**Justin:** Huh, that's interesting, Trav.

**Griffin:** Where do you get yard art? Except for I guess like World Market, or whatever.

**Justin:** Yeah, Epcot.

**Griffin:** Epcot you get yard art?

**Justin:** [chuckles] Just at Epcot, yeah, you gotta go. That's how you get authentic stuff. Because you could get things at Walmart or Target that look like they're from another country.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Or you could go to Epcot, the World Pavilion, and get stuff that's actually from other countries.

**Griffin:** Damn.

**Justin:** And I think that's where the wind—most wind chimes, I do feel like come from... Epcot. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** One time, Rachel and I went to Fredericksburg, Texas to—for a romantic getaway. And—

**Travis:** Brag.

**Griffin:** On our way there, we went to like a... art store, and there was a place that had mosaic tile pigs. And I was like, "Those fuckin' rule!" And but I was like, "I can't buy that. That's not me. I don't have an art yard!" And so, we went on the trip and did beautiful hiking, went to a couple wineries. It was very lovely. But the whole time, you know what I was thinking about? Was the mosaic pig that I didn't buy. And so, on the way back to Austin, I did make sure we made a pit stop so I could buy the mosaic pig. And his leg broke off very quickly. [chuckles] And he died.

**Travis:** Oh, no! Let that be a lesson to you all. You miss one hundred percent of the pigs you don't buy.

**Griffin:** If you see a cool yard art thing, do not fucking hesitate to grab it, because there's no guarantee it's going to come back into your life again. You can be who you want to be.

**Justin:** I feel like Portuguese are a good conduit to this too. I know people love—

**Travis:** What do the Portuguese have to do with this, Justin?

**Justin:** Sorry, Travis, that's an incredible turn of phrase. Like, genuinely impressed. Not in a funny way, but in like a—

**Griffin:** Impressive! Like—

**Travis:** Yeah, thank you!

**Justin:** Hm, like a thinker. Like a, hm—

**Griffin:** That the mind—

**Travis:** Like an Oscar Wilde level wit kind of thing?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I was trying to tell if it was like—if it was like offensive? But it was like, these two words kind of sound the same—

**Justin:** It's not, really, it's just words sound like things.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** No, but people here love the concrete geese.

**Griffin:** People love concrete geese.

**Justin:** And I feel like maybe that's a good entry point. Because if you put one out, it's like charming. And then they could just replicate overnight. There's thirty.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You know, and it's—nobody can do anything about it.

**Travis:** Now, you do run the risk, and we get questions like this all the time, where if you start having an art yard, your family and friends are going to be like, "Great, every present for the rest of their life, sorted."

**Griffin:** Yard art.

**Travis:** "Here's another windmill."

**Justin:** Goose. Goose.

**Griffin:** Goose, goose, goose, goose, yeah.

**Travis:** "Here's a thing of bottles hanging down."

**Griffin:** What I think sucks is that all yard art kind of subscribes to like a few different things, which is like functional bird furniture or... you know, a mosaic sort of tile thing—sturdy pieces, wind chimes, what have you. And they don't do like all kinds of art. Like, what if—what if your decoration style is just like busts of your favorite comic book and anime characters?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Why isn't—why don't we get big ones of those for the front yard, that are sturdy?

**Travis:** Yes, please.

**Griffin:** And weather resistant.

**Justin:** Yeah. Do you think there's like a Captain America lawn—[chuckles] lawn decor you could go with?

**Travis:** Yes, please!

**Griffin:** Probably.

**Travis:** That might send a message you're not ready for—go with Deadpool. I think Deadpool is safe.

**Griffin:** Deadpool sends a great message.

**Justin:** Captain America, but he's holding the shield upside down. It's full of water. And who's in the shield? It's birds. They're taking baths. [titters]

**Griffin:** That's great.

**Travis:** Justin, that's amazing! Can I tell you, a bird bath of Captain America's shield, I would buy that right fucking now.

**Justin:** Hold on, let me see here, Captain—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I'm about to get rich! Kiss this podcast shit goodbye, guys!  
[chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah, dude.

**Justin:** Captain America bird—shield bird bath...

**Travis:** I would also love a Thor lightning rod to put on top of my house, where he's holding the hammer up.

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Travis:** And like lightning strikes that, instead of my house, would be great.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Naruto—

**Justin:** [chuckles] I was trying to google it, and I accidentally typed it in ChatGPT, now it's making it. And it's making—

**Travis:** [yells out] No! Ah!

**Justin:** Yeah, they're making 'em now. [yells out] Fuck!

**Travis:** Turns out AI was a mistake!

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** Ah!

**Justin:** Ah... Let's go to the Money Zone.

**Griffin:** All right!

[theme music plays]

**Justin:** Tick dock, Zocdoc, clock.

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** That's cool, man.

**Justin:** Tick-tock, Zocdoc o'clock!

**Griffin:** Nice.

**Justin:** That's my—

**Travis:** I was just thinking like we should do another jingle. We haven't done a jingle, and I think Zocdoc has proven themselves worthy.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then Justin—

**Justin:** Thy have a—

**Travis:** Just dropped it.

**Justin:** But there is, in this case, this—I will say, Trav, in this case, there is a Zocdoc sound that they play. Watch this. I am gonna play it right now.

[a short jingle of carnival-like ascending notes plays]

**Griffin:** That was—how did—

**Justin:** You know, it seems like—

**Griffin:** How did you fucking do that, dude?



**Justin:** Yeah, dude, I can do that—

**Griffin:** I did not know that we could play sounds.

**Justin:** I do is my tongue, like this.

[a short jingle of carnival-like ascending notes plays]

**Griffin:** Whoa?

**Justin:** Yeah. You know, if you—if you need a doctor, that can be really overwhelming. I have a doctor in my house, and I still have trouble finding her sometimes. [titters]

**Travis:** Okay! Cool, man! [chuckles]

**Justin:** So, when I can't find my wife, I turn to Zocdoc. [laughs]

**Griffin:** [guffaws]

**Justin:** Sometimes there's thirty to forty wives in my house, and I can't tell which one is a licensed physician.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [titters] That I am married to. So, when I have to find a doctor who I'm also married to, Zocdoc—no, Zocdoc helps you find—

**Travis:** Wait, no, I—Zocdoc doesn't do that. [chuckles]

**Justin:** Zocdoc doesn't do that. What they do is they help you find the right physician for whatever you got going on. You need to see somebody, you want to change providers, you're in a new area? That's so overwhelming, to find the right physician for you. I still struggle with it! And like I said, I'm

married to a doctor and I still have to deal with this. But ZocDoc makes it really, really easy.

**Travis:** They got doctors for everything these days! You guys hear about this? Doctors for everything! It's not just—

**Justin:** Okay?

**Travis:** Somebody with a black bag that shows up your house and says like, "Yeah, doing good, Mr. McElroy." And they give you a lollipop. I had to get an appointment with the sleep doctor, because I got a big tongue, makes me sleep bad. That's a thing you gotta go to doctors for! Did you guys even know that?

**Justin:** You're not gonna—listen, if you have something that embarrassing going on, you want a doctor who's discreet.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And professional.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And will probably tell you what you want to hear. And you can search by those filters, I bet, on Zocdoc. I don't know all of the different filters they have, but like, this is the way to find a physician, with Zocdoc. It's a free—

**Griffin:** I filled out—I filled out my whole zoo crew here in D.C. with zocdoc.com.

**Justin:** It's a free app and website. Search and compare high-quality, in-network doctors across every specialty, and click to instantly book an appointment. Stop putting off those doctor's appointments and go to [zocdoc.com/mybrother](http://zocdoc.com/mybrother) to find an instantly book a top-rated doctor today. That's Z-O-C-D-O-C.com/mybrother. Zocdoc... dot com—

**Griffin:** Oh, dude!

**Justin:** Slash, my brother.

**Travis:** Ah.

**Griffin:** At the one yard line, bro! Dude!

**Travis:** I was so—

**Justin:** Zoc-doc-dot—

**Travis:** I was about to compliment the hell out of you!

**Justin:** I said it all right! I just said it slow.

**Griffin:** Shit, dude!

**Travis:** The first one, I saw you kind of stumble like a gymnast on the balance beam—

**Justin:** Say one more word, and I will make the sonic logo at you again, Travis.

**Griffin:** He was—dude, he was so close.

**Justin:** I will play—I will play the Zocdoc sound with my mouth.

**Travis:** Do it.

**Griffin:** That's our new no-no can, is the Zocdoc sonic logo.

**Justin:** [chuckles]

[break]

**Justin:** [mouths Munch Squad riff]

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** That sounded really bad. Like, I don't want people to have to hear that.

**Travis:** You wanna try again?

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** [mouths Munch Squad riff]

**Travis:** Clean.

**Justin:** Ooh, that's kind of like a...

**Griffin:** Put a—

**Justin:** A hammer on—

**Griffin:** A fuzz pedal, yeah.

**Justin:** [mouths Munch Squad riff and sings] I wanna munch!

**Griffin and Travis:** Squad!

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

**Griffin:** Squad!

**Travis:** [in a deepened voice] *Squad*.

**Justin:** [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. You know, we don't talk about White Castle enough, even though it holds the distinction in many historians' eyes as one of the first fast food restaurants.

**Travis:** Dad talks about it a lot.

**Justin:** A template that we all must follow. So you—one could argue that, as goes White Castle, so goes the world. And I—

**Travis:** Could one?

**Griffin:** Could—I don't know how one would even start that argument.

**Justin:** Could one? One could. One could.

**Travis:** But should one?

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** Must one?

**Travis:** Oh...

**Justin:** White Castle rolls out pumpkin latte cheesecake on a stick. Triple cheese tots and BBQ pulled pork slider.

**Travis:** But not all together, right?

**Griffin:** Not at the same time.

**Justin:** Thankfully, no.

**Griffin:** Certainly, there's no combo meal.

**Justin:** This is the first sentence of this press release, and I... it has been a busy month at White Castle.

**Griffin:** Good. Thanks for the update.

**Travis:** Cool!

**Griffin:** I've been worried.

**Justin:** I like it—I like it—I like a fuckin'—I like a press release for a fast-food place that sounds like [it tails??] from Lake Wobegon. [chuckles] Like, I—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Great.

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** "Old Derrick—"

**Justin:** The iconic—

**Travis:** "Has been has been making the fries again."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [chuckles] The iconic family-owned fast food business has expanded its menu with three brand-new, limited-time only additions, and launched the newest iteration of its customer loyalty program, Craver Nation Rewards. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** [titters] That's so good, man. Craver Nation is good. If you guys haven't said "Craver Nation" out loud—

**Griffin:** Craver Nation is awesome, yeah.

**Justin:** Craver Nation!

**Griffin:** It's very phonetically—

**Travis:** It's also giving me—I didn't know I could do rewards for Trav Nation people. And now I'm thinking—

**Justin:** Yeah, Trav Nation rewards.

**Griffin:** Oh, Christ...

**Travis:** I could set up like a Pepsi point style thing, where when you buy Travis products—

**Griffin:** Do you have enough hacky sacks to distribute for that, though? Because if you don't have enough hacky sacks, I would advise against that.

**Travis:** I could get 'em.

**Justin:** Whole...

**Travis:** I got a—

**Justin:** Whole—

**Travis:** I got a hacky sack wholesaler here in town that I can—

**Griffin:** Great.

**Travis:** Work with.

**Justin:** Here's a sub head, whole latte cheese. [chuckles]

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** Exclamation point. Whole latte cheese!

**Griffin:** Whole—

**Justin:** Pumpkin—

**Griffin:** Latte cheese!

**Justin:** Whole latte cheese! Pumpkin spice season has officially jumped the mug and landed on a stick— [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's crazy.

**Justin:** At White Castle!

**Griffin:** You guys can't say that it skipped the mug. It's clearly not true.

**Justin:** It jumped the mug and landed on a stick! [chuckles]

**Travis:** Are they going—

**Griffin:** That's—

**Travis:** For jump the shark?

**Justin:** I don't know, man.

**Travis:** Because it's not like—

**Justin:** Pumpkin spice—

**Travis:** You're not—you—jump the shark isn't like, yeah, it was in the shark, and it jumped out.

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And also, that sentence is saying big— "Starbucks didn't do it this year. So, it's on a stick now, here at White Castle."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** A whole latte—

**Justin:** I don't know—

**Travis:** Cheese!



**Justin:** I mean like, here's—[chuckles] here's what I will say. If I cannot derive meaning for this sentence, no human being can.

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Justin:** Like, I'm a professional.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I do this for a living. I don't know what they are saying. "Riding the wave of America's pumpkin spice obsession—"

**Travis:** Right—

**Justin:** *Whoa!* [chuckles]

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** [chuckles] "Whoa, it's 2006! Yo!"

**Justin:** "Whoa! This crusty ass wave is renting a car, *whoa!*"

[group laugh]

**Justin:** Riding the way—[chuckles] "Riding the way of America's pumpkin spice obsession, White Castle is rolling out the brand-new pumpkin latte cheesecake dessert on a stick."

**Griffin:** I'm glad they had to specify it is a dessert, and not part of the—

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Secondary, course.

**Justin:** It's not an hors-d'oeuvre. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It's not an amuse bouche.

**Travis:** There's also—

**Justin:** It's a—

**Travis:** So many words in the—like, it couldn't just be pumpkin spice cheesecake on a stick. They were like, "That doesn't convey the full depth of flavor."

**Griffin:** Gotta get—

**Travis:** Pumpkin spice Latte.

**Griffin:** Gotta let 'em know how sweet it is.

**Travis:** "Should we make sure they know that it's dessert on a stick and not just—" "Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah."

**Griffin:** Yeah, otherwise they'd be surprised when the—it's on a stick.

**Justin:** "It is a bold twist on fall's most talked about flavor. Rich, creamy cheesecake is blended with the cozy warmth of pumpkin spice, and the bold kick of coffee. Then finished with a graham cracker crust for just the right touch of sweetness."

**Griffin:** It's not—

**Travis:** I'm sorry—

**Griffin:** Finished yet! I know it's not finished yet. There is another step, another thing's going in—

**Travis:** And White Castle—

**Justin:** Yeah, they're putting a stick on there, aren't they?

**Travis:** I'm sorry to break it to you, I don't think you guys made up pumpkin spice cheesecake. I don't think this is a bowl—as bold and new an innovation as you think.

**Justin:** It's on a stick, Trav?

**Griffin:** It's on a stick though, man.

**Justin:** It's on a stick.

**Travis:** Yeah? Yeah... But I don't think that that's a bold, new innovation?

**Justin:** Triple cheese tots are another cheese-based addition to the menu.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** [chuckles] Infused—yeah, this is the same lunatic that just read the earlier stuff about jumping the mug, and now they're back in control. I guess the—

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Justin:** I don't know. The triple cheese tots are another cheese-based edition to the menu. "Infused with bits of cheddar, Colby Jack and mozzarella cheese, the triple cheese tots up the ante on the deliciousness of classic tater tots."

**Griffin:** I don't—I don't historically think of tater tots as being an infusible material?

**Justin:** [chuckles] Right?

**Griffin:** It's—

**Travis:** I also—

**Justin:** I would argue that once one has put triple the cheese in there, are they even tots anymore?

**Travis:** I do love the—

**Justin:** I think you have something new!

**Travis:** The imagery of like a James Bond high-class poker game, where someone has been like, "Tater tots." And James Bond like, "I'll up the ante. Triple cheese tater tots!"

**Justin:** [laughs] "I'll see your tots and raise bacon ranch!"

**Travis:** [gasps] "*Hah!* Mr. Bond! I didn't know you like to live so cheesily."

**Justin:** [chuckles] It is—Travis, it is—like, you wonder about write—the like writing is not—does not happen in a vacuum. What is—why are we using poker metaphors here? What is—what is being like—what stakes are we—are we playing with?

**Travis:** I didn't know there were other tot-based businesses that are now going to feel called out by like— "They've done it. God damn it! I thought we all agreed?! Single cheese."

**Justin:** "We're excited to welcome both of these crave-worthy treats to the menu," said Jamie Richardson, Vice President at White Castle. "The new pumpkin latte cheesecake dessert on a stick is the perfect treat for autumn, blending the coziness of a pumpkin spice latte with the luscious texture of classic cheesecake. The triple cheese tots are proof that three cheeses are better than one."

**Travis:** Wait.

**Justin:** "They're the ultimate cheesy—"

**Griffin:** Dude—

**Justin:** "Companion to—"

**Travis:** There was no—there was no—

**Justin:** "To any slider combo."

**Griffin:** Dude, there's—

**Travis:** There was no break—

**Griffin:** We're missing a fucking—

**Travis:** Between those two.

**Griffin:** We're missing a participle. There was a hanging participle, a hanging chat on that sentence that was fucking bewildering.

**Justin:** Guys, this is unedited. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Can I also—

**Justin:** Unedited.

**Travis:** Point out that they have now described the pumpkin spice latte cheesecake several times without addressing the on a stick part.

**Griffin:** They're really—

**Justin:** Yeah, they won't—

**Griffin:** Cloaking that!

**Justin:** Talk about the stick. [chuckles]

**Travis:** "Yeah! It's a creamy blend of—fall favorite on a stick. And... you're really gonna love it—it's on a stick."

**Justin:** Yeah. It's wor—like, words don't work this way, but it feels like "on a stick" has been CGI'd in somehow. [chuckles] Like they got it in post.

**Travis:** "Yeah, 'on a stick' wasn't able to make it to family photo day, so we photoshopped 'on a stick' over dad's shoulder."

**Justin:** [chuckles] "Accepting the award for in a normal container this evening will be 'on a stick.'"

**Griffin:** If they have—

**Justin:** "Hi—what a—wow! It's so wild to be here. I didn't expect—"

**Griffin:** I wish they had the courage of their convictions to put out a commercial of just what it looks like when a human being eats one of these things.

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** Because I bet you do look like some sort of runaway like Dog Man experiment, just slobbering—shlopping—[chuckles] slopping cheesecake off of—off the cob.

**Travis:** I'm just picturing, imagine you have a friend over at your home. And you're like, "Hey, do you want a piece of cheesecake?" And they're like, "Yeah, I'd love that." And you started to hand 'em a fork, and they're like, "No, I've got it." And they pull a tongue depressor out of their pocket and jam it into the ass of the cheesecake, and just start going to town. I would worry about them.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Never leave home without it.

**Justin:** Oh, we do have—you guys wanna see... I have a photo here, if you'd like to see, just to demonstrate exactly what we're dealing with. Hold on.

[pause]

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Oh, boy?

**Griffin:** So it's like not... so, it's not corn dog shaped.

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** They haven't rolled it into like an easier—so, it is just a... a sort of wedge of cheesecake that's—that does have—Travis got it in one. It does look like a tongue depressor shoved up the—

**Justin:** A tongue depressor!

**Griffin:** The wide end, the rounded end of it.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** Yeah. It's a tongue depressor up the ass. [chuckles]

**Travis:** How do I—I guess the eating of it in my car is made easier by that. But am I meant to drive away from the drive through holding it up?  
[chuckles]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** "Thank you!" [spoofs silly eating sounds]

**Griffin:** There's—yeah, there's no getting this thing home. There's no box. Justin, sign up for the newsletter.

**Justin:** You have to open your mouth and they just pop it in. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "Aah. Okay, thank you! Take it to go." The release continues, talking about the BBQ pulled pork slider.

**Griffin:** I forgot about him. He's the—

**Justin:** Yeah, man.

**Griffin:** He's the most norm—the most mid of all these.

**Justin:** It's smoked with all-natural hickory wood.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** And blended with just the right amount of specially-seasoned sweet BBQ sauce. "The BBQ pulled pork slider is everything cravers love about White Castle, including one of a kind flavor, high-quality ingredients and unbeatable value, all in one handheld masterpiece."

**Travis:** So, barbecue is a one-of-a-kind flavor? I can't get that anywhere else?

**Justin:** "The sweet, smoky and savory profile is a celebration of flavor that brings something entirely new to the Castle, while staying true to what we do best, satisfying the crave."

**Griffin:** And I don't know if you heard Travis, they put just the right amount of sauce on it.

**Travis:** That's good.

**Griffin:** So it's not too much or too little.

**Travis:** I do appreciate that. I would love to visit—

**Justin:** By the way, that is also what we do best.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** Satisfy the crave.



**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** I would love to visit like a city I'm not familiar with and I'm hanging out with like my friend, Todd. And I'm like, "Todd, I've got such a craving for barbecue. What's the best barbecue in town?" And he's like, "Oh, man, White Castle. If you want barbecue, there's no place like White Castle."

**Griffin:** We haven't had it yet. It might—I always reserve—except for the cheesecake on a stick, I'm gonna say pretty authoritatively. I'm not interested in that eating experience. The barbecue might be lit, I don't know. There's no way to know.

**Travis:** The extra cheesy tater tots, I'm not looking forward to that bathroom experience afterwards.

**Griffin:** No...

**Justin:** Travis, I never do this, but I actually would like to bring you in as a special reporter.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** I'm just gonna text you the rest of this press release, because it's gonna start to feel made-up, I feel like, if I do—I don't know if I'm gonna be able to get through it. And I'm already feeling pretty—

**Griffin:** You need a witness.

**Justin:** Yeah, I need you to—I need you—I'm just gonna... I need you to describe this to Griffin, because Griffin's gonna think I'm fucking with him.

**Travis:** And you're texting it to me on my cellular device?

**Justin:** It's on Slack. It's on Slack. Slack, baby.

[pause]

**Travis:** "Craver Nation Rewards members—"

**Justin:** We go now live to Travis—

**Travis:** Oh, thank you.

**Justin:** McElroy, special correspondent.

**Travis:** I'm just so—

**Justin:** Travis, go ahead.

**Travis:** Yeah, I'm excited for this opportunity. "Craver Nation Rewards members rack up on flavor and savings. White Castle recently announced the start of season two of its Craver Nation Rewards program, the loyalty experience that turns saving money into a game. Craver Nation Rewards debuted in 2024 with overwhelming success, growing active members by twenty-five percent, and doubling loyalty transactions in its first year. Now, with season two, Cravers everywhere are invited to," quote, "level up your cravings. As they embark—"

**Griffin:** Holy shit, man.

**Travis:** "On a new journey filled with fresh quests, richer perks and more—"

**Justin:** [shrieks] *Aah!*

**Travis:** "Exclusive offers."

**Griffin:** I mean...

**Justin:** [laughs] Finally, guys—

**Travis:** Craver nation—

**Justin:** Do you know what's happening? White Castle's getting fucking real about the fact that it takes place in a castle. If this is gonna be the LARPing food place, I'm in!

**Griffin:** Yes, dude. Absolutely!

**Justin:** Yes, man!

**Travis:** Yes. "Craver Nation Rewards has already transformed the way we connect with our Cravers, by turning every order into an adventure," Richardson said. "With season two, the journey gets even more exciting. More quests! More rewards! And more ways to celebrate the Crave." Now, this is capitalized—

**Justin:** Capital C!

**Travis:** This is capital C, which makes me think that there is maybe a powerful wizard at play here. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Travis:** Or a curse.

**Griffin:** I'm trying to honestly decide, if I walked into a White Castle and the expected customer service experience was... the jarl, or whatever, being like, "Dovahkiin, the crave has—the... the crave dragon has appeared in the mountain to the east. And you want the new cheesy tots? And the thing on a stick, the cheesecake on a stick? Yeah, absolutely. Got you. Quest complete. And your reward—"

**Travis:** "Here's fifty crave coins."

**Griffin:** [chuckles] "Here's fifty crave coins!"

**Justin:** You guys are already getting amped, huh?

**Griffin:** I'm getting fuckin'—but I—

**Justin:** I'm getting pretty amped too!

**Griffin:** I don't know that I wanna have that—I don't wanna interface with another human being in that way, but I wanna have the option—

**Travis:** Oh, good news, Griffin.

**Griffin:** Available to me.

**Travis:** "Joining Craver Nation Rewards is free and easy. Simply download the official White Castle app, sign up, and enjoy an instant welcome offer of five dollars off your first mobile order. To celebrate the launch, Cravers who order between now and September 30<sup>th</sup> will score fifty bonus points!"

**Griffin:** Okay. So, it's all in—so, this is more of an AR kind of quest and... journey. I throw on the—

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** I throw on the meta—the Meta Ray-Bans. Which looks so fuckin' cool, by the way. We haven't talked about those—

**Travis:** Cool—so cool, dude.

**Griffin:** We haven't talk about those, but god damn... Those things look so cool. And you know they're doing cool stuff while riding 'em. And it makes the White Castle look like a real magic fantasy castle, and the person at the register look like a... dragon. That sounds cool, White Castle. Make that. Make that. It couldn't be too hard...

[puase]

**Justin:** Here's another question.

**Travis:** Oh, please.

**Justin:** "I take frequent walks around my neighborhood. Recently, I got in the habit of taking pictures, with my phone, of plants and animals, for the website iNaturalist, a citizen science platform. It's really cool and fun!" This isn't an ad, by the way. [titters] I started to worry that you might think it's an ad, listener, but it's not an ad.

**Travis:** We also—that wasn't an ad for White Castle, either. We're not—

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** Just to be clear.

**Travis:** We have never been paid for all the free promotion we've given.

**Justin:** Yeah. "But I've run into a problem, which is that things I want to take pics of are often either fully within a stranger's yard or in such a position that it could look like I was taking a picture of a random person's house, like with birds on power lines. How do I take pictures of these plants and animals without making it look like I'm taking pictures of my neighbor's houses without getting weird looks or questions about what I'm doing? I've missed out on so many sweet butterfly and bird shots." That's from Juking Judgment in Georgia.

**Griffin:** I rarely do this.

**Travis:** Oh, okay?

**Griffin:** Because I know it's not the best energy to bring to the show. But... you can't.

**Justin:** Oh?

**Griffin:** There's no way to cloak this action, this behavior, that will not intensify the danger of getting caught. There is no amount of subtlety you could employ. Because if I see you outside my house taking a picture with your phone, my hackles go up. If I see you outside of my house, discreetly—like you're checking your watch, but you're taking a picture by phone? That's bad news bears. That's way, way, way worse.

**Travis:** I agree, Griffin.

**Justin:** Any effort to look discreet—

**Griffin:** Is—

**Justin:** Makes you—

**Griffin:** Naughty.

**Justin:** Look more suspicious.

**Griffin:** Yes, that's the point I'm trying to make.

**Travis:** This is why what you must do is the opposite of cloaking it. You need, I'm saying, maybe one of these maneuvers. Like you see for the—where you're like holding up your finger—you're framing the shot.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Travis:** Right? Maybe you have like a DSLR camera with a zoom. You're wearing a safari—

**Justin:** No.

**Travis:** Helmet.

**Justin:** All bad ideas. [chuckles] All bad ideas.

**Griffin:** The safari helmet—the safari helmet fucks. That's the one good—

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** Of the things you had, that's the one that fucks. Because if I see a stranger outside my house taking pictures of my house? No good. If I see—but they're wearing a safari helmet, I'm like... they're on a—they're on their own. Maybe they're doing a White Castle quest? Like, I don't know what their journey—what their journey is. But it can't be ill intent.

**Travis:** Also, if you're taking a picture of a little bug on a leaf, get down on its level. If I look outside and someone's laying on the ground, taking a

picture of a flower with a bug on it? I'm not worried they're taking pictures of me.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Man—

**Travis:** I'm not a bug on a leaf.

**Griffin:** Better or worse—let me get a gut check from you two. Better or worse, they walk up, knock on the door. Someone knocks on your door, rings the doorbell, you answer it. And you say, "Yeah, can I help you?" And I realize this is already a fantasy story, because I don't know if you would answer it. But you've answered it, and you're like, "Can I help you?" And they're like, "I saw this really cool bug on a leaf out in your yard. May I please go snap it?" Is that better or worse than them just doing it discreetly outside?

**Travis:** They're gonna miss the shot.

**Justin:** Okay, so I'm thinking about it—if I'm the homeowner?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I think my genuine reaction in my—I mean like, obviously, what I'm gonna say is—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "Oh, absolutely. You know, knock yourself out." In my head, I'm gonna think, "What the hell is wrong with you?"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I would think, "Why did you ask? That's so weird. Just take the picture."

**Travis:** Just do it, yeah.

**Griffin:** Would it be better—

**Justin:** Just do it—

**Griffin:** With it be—

**Justin:** It's like so weird.

**Griffin:** Would it be better if they did it and came up, knock on the door, you answered it—again, you wouldn't, but assuming you answered it. And they're like, "Hi. I just took a picture of a cool bug on a leaf in your yard, and I'm really sorry." And then they walk away. Then you're not having to give them sort of permission. They're just informing you like, "Hey, I'm not robbing—"

**Travis:** You're giving forgiveness.

**Griffin:** Yeah! And that can feel good, too.

**Travis:** What a sign help? If they were holding up a sign that said "nature photographer" while they take pictures of things?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Oh... oh! Okay. Okay, okay, okay, what if you—if you have more than one thing, that's a hobbyist, right?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Oh...

**Justin:** So, the—you're taking pictures on your phone.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** Hm, okay. Do you have a notebook?



**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** Do you have binoculars?

**Travis:** These are all thing—

**Justin:** Hanging down.

**Travis:** Wait, Justin, these are still all private eye stuff—

**Justin:** No, no, no! This is all really good stuff, Travis.

**Griffin:** Sunscreen? A little line of sunscreen on the nose?

**Justin:** Sunscreen right here, right?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** Water bottle. *Big* water bottle.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay, maybe a safari helmet?

**Justin:** What about the backpack that's a water thing?

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Travis:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** Then somebody's gonna be outside for so long, they can't be doing anything bad with the pictures—

**Travis:** What about a butterfly—

**Justin:** Right?

**Griffin:** I'll be—

**Travis:** A butterfly net?

**Griffin:** Butterfly net's good... We're pushing it! A safari helmet has turned on me a little bit, because it feels a little costumey. Now it's gone back around to, oh, this is a fuckin' ruse to take pictures of my house discreetly.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** The other shit is like, oh, well, they might just need the butterfly net for their—for their bug—

**Justin:** I don't know—

**Griffin:** Hunt.

**Justin:** How big I would need—I don't know how small I would need the butter—I think a butterfly net... I think the butterfly net, the size of it—the problem is—

**Griffin:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Justin:** If it's big enough to catch a butterfly comfortably.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** At twenty yards, that might be a man net.

**Griffin:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Justin:** You know what I mean? It might be a man-size net.

**Travis:** Yeah! It might be like child catcher in babes indoor—or Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah! Yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** I'm not sure if a—it's like a—like a big sack over your—over your bag, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Like I don't know—

**Travis:** Full of screaming butterflies.

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** Right. [laughs]

**Travis:** "No, honey, don't go outside. The lepidopterist is here." [chuckles]

**Justin:** This is why they gotta start selling those cranking cameras again. [titters]

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** When you had the cranking guys, that—that, you're not being discreet.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** You're being very ob—it's too—all photography is so discreet. Ooh!

**Griffin:** Ooh.

**Justin:** What if the—like the drape it over the back—

**Travis:** Yes!

**Justin:** That we loved in the old ger—derogatype—

**Travis:** And one of those, you hold up—

**Justin:** Daguerreotype days.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You hold up the flash thing—

**Justin:** Yeah! Hold up the flash bulb!

**Griffin:** Oh, cool—

**Travis:** Where you've got a big stick and it goes *psshw!*

**Griffin:** Light the powder. That's cool.

**Travis:** I want them to—

**Justin:** Oh, yeah! That's—

**Travis:** Bring that back, because I don't know when I'm at a big, fancy thing, like the launching of the Titanic, without a big flash bulb going off.

**Griffin:** When to smile. I know, dude—

**Travis:** Yeah! I need that.

**Griffin:** It's so embarrassing.

**Justin:** Do you think at this point—by the way, I was—I was thinking about it as I accidentally activated my flash. Is that the point of the flash anymore, is just to have something to turn off? [chuckles] Just like to—do you think we are using—do you think that when the flash has been triggered in the past five years, it's more often been...

**Griffin:** Accidental?

**Justin:** The cause of someone saying—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** "Ah, fuck! Damn it. Shit."

**Griffin:** "Ah, no. Oh, shit." Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely. Bug net's cool. Bug net might be the move, dude. I would love to have a bug net with me. Do you guy—you guys don't have them spotted lanternflies yet, do you? Because we got 'em like a plague over here.

**Travis:** I think—

**Griffin:** And you're supposed to—

**Travis:** They're coming.

**Griffin:** You're supposed to kill 'em, because they—otherwise, they eat all the trees. They're like invasive. So, you're supposed to gush 'em when you see 'em. But here's the problem, gang, they make a big Hakuna Matata style gooey mess when you goosh 'em.

**Justin:** Uah!

**Griffin:** And so like—

**Justin:** Gross!

**Griffin:** There is a—there is a—I don't want to—like, I understand it's my duty as an—as an American citizen. I mean, I live in D.C., so it's like kind of up in the air whether or not I am or not. But I don't want to get my shoes all like hakuna matata... hakuna matata messy.

**Justin:** I don't blame you! You need bug squishing shoes.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Justin:** That's what Crocs are for, baby. [titters]

**Griffin:** Or a gun—or a—or a salt gun. I do have—I do have the salt blaster, and that's effective. But that's not a cool look either.

**Justin:** Sorry, not assault gun. [titters]

**Griffin:** A... gun... for... salt...

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** On... bugs.

**Justin:** A gun for assault on bugs.

**Griffin:** Salt. Sodium chloride.

**Justin:** There we go.

**Griffin:** Table.

**Justin:** NaCl.

**Griffin:** Granular. To a bug.

**Travis:** And Portuguese sounds like porch geese is—

**Griffin:** Pump—

**Travis:** I don't know how that was clear.

**Griffin:** Pump, blast, no more bug. Can't bring in public.

**Justin:** Can they do salt? Does salt get 'em?

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Salt gets anything, dude! Man alive, this thing is a—it is an effective tool. It's one—it's so good, it makes me feel pretty guilty anytime I do have to employ it to keep my family safe.

**Justin:** I wish it was that easy to get stink bugs. I'm about to have to start fighting with the stink bugs, because they hate it when it gets cold—

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, man.

**Justin:** So they come inside and live with me. And the only trap that really works for stink bugs is you got to make a... basically a pool for them. [titters] And then you have to get lights on the pool, that's just special. Like you have to specially dramatically light the pool. And then you gotta—then the—you gotta hope that these guys go into this pool, and they just don't leave.

**Griffin:** That's crazy. That's crazy.

**Justin:** That's how you gotta get 'em. And then in the morning, you dump that out.

**Griffin:** I'm usually pretty—

**Travis:** I just let 'em hang out. It becomes a fun game where my kids spot 'em—

**Justin:** Oh, I don't fight 'em anymore.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I don't want to—I don't want to do it anymore. They live there—this is fine. They can hang until they find a better spot. [titters]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Thank you so much! Hey, thanks!

**Travis:** Hey!

**Justin:** For listening to our podcast. Do you want to come see us live? You can.

**Travis:** Okay?

**Justin:** For you, it's an option, if you're someone who can get to Salt Lake City on October 17<sup>th</sup>, or to San Diego on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** The Adventure Zone show we're doing is going to be a very special—it's our 50<sup>th</sup> TAZ live show. So, we'll be doing a Balance live show for the first time in a *long* time. With special guest Erika Ishii, and Griffin's gonna GM it.

**Griffin:** Fuck yeah.

**Travis:** It's gonna be a wild, wild time. Tickets for all those shows are available now. You can go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](https://bit.ly/mcelroytours) for all the information and ticket links. Also, Champions Grove is coming back for year three. We're doing it on Memorial Day weekend of 2026. Tickets are going on sale the first week of November. Those tickets will be packages for two to four people to attend. All the information is at [championsgrove.com](https://championsgrove.com), or you can follow Champions Grove on Instagram for all the information. And there's a new season of mine and Teresa's Great British Bake Off watch-along discussion podcast, Bake On. This is a wild season so far.

**Griffin:** Pretty wild, man.

**Travis:** Yeah. You can find Bake On wherever podcasts are found.

**Griffin:** We got some new merch that's going to be up in the merch store on Wednesday, at the start of the new month. There's a TAZ hunger beanie that looks so rad.

**Travis:** *Ooh!*



**Griffin:** And ten percent of all our merge proceeds in the month of October will be donated to Border Angels, whose services include educational programs, water drops in the desert, day laborer outreach, Familias Reunidas immigration bond fund program, and shelter aid support in Tijuana, to help migrants and asylum seekers in need. So, all that stuff is going to be over at mcelroymerch.com.

**Travis:** Are we grateful to Montaigne? Let me check. Yes.

**Griffin:** Check, please.

**Travis:** Yes, we are grateful to Montaigne.

**Griffin:** Why? But why? Be specific.

**Travis:** For the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better with You.

**Griffin:** Yes, that's exactly right.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** I'm super-duper-duper grateful to Montaigne. I've seen a lot of videos of Montaigne just like tearing shit up on stage, and... I want to go to that. That seems fun.

**Justin:** Yeah. Fun.

**Travis:** I've got the Fear here.

**Griffin:** Yeah, please.

**Justin:** Yeah, tell me the fear.

**Travis:** Yes. "This year, I will be faster than my fear of misidentifying birds in front of the cool, older birders. They are not better than me."

**Justin:** [titters]

**Griffin:** That's good.

**Justin:** My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:** I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

Maximum Fun.

A worker-owned network...

Of artists-owned shows...

Supported directly by you.