

MBMBaM 785: Flatman

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Intro (Bob Ball): The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

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

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm the oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis bi-bu-be-bew. Travis 'Big-Dog Woof-Woof Vroom-Vroom' McElroy.

Griffin: Holy shit, he's doing remixes of some his—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Of some of your favorite classics. This is your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy. And Justin is joining us from fuckin'... G4 TV, fuckin' TechTV ass attack—

Travis: The studio!

Justin: It's G4, mid-aughts. I got my Funko Pops in here. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, bro!

Justin: I've got some like—

Griffin: We got a big office—

Justin: Folksy cross stiches, yeah.

Griffin: Huge office remodel! And folks not watching this, because it may or may not be watchable—

Justin: I'm so aware of the fact that I'm wearing a picture of my face.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, but it's also my face and Travis' face.

Justin: I hate that my face is on this and I can see it! [chuckles]

Griffin: Justin's—we're zoomed out on Juice. Establishing shot—

Justin: Different shirt.

Griffin: Interior, daytime.

Travis: No, don't change your shirt!

Griffin: Justin gets embarrassed and has to change his shirt. We're zoomed out, so the crop includes a little bit of desk. We've got some keyboard action on there. I think we're seeing the top of his monitor? This is the news station. It's like Justin's our man in the chair. And Travis, I noticed that, maybe to match, you've also zoomed out your own camera so that your keyboard's in it. And—did you just turn it backwards, the shirt?

Travis: Is it—it's backwards?

Justin: [laughs] I just didn't, I didn't want—I just... it was very distracting.

Griffin: Well, it's—

Justin: Because it's me—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I tried to think about if I'm gonna be looking at a camera—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: When I get dressed in the morning, to see if I have pictures of myself or things that I made up, right?

Griffin: Yeah, you're also—

Justin: I don't like to do that.

Griffin: I think maybe it's just the way your shit's set up now, Juice, is you're barreling a lot. You're giving me lots of old Jim Halpert—

Travis: I'm loving it. Can I—can I say something—

Justin: So, the thing is—

Travis: Okay, can I—

Griffin: Right to the fuckin' dome, dude!

Justin: If I can bring you guys inside the bit, okay?

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: So, I'm still figuring out some of the quirks of the studio, okay? You guys are down here. [chuckles] Do you see this blue thing?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's you guys.

Travis: Hi!

Justin: And then, and then, the Hoops Troops, they're up there.

Griffin: Okay, so we can—

Travis: What I'm getting right now—

Justin: This is helping me—

Travis: What I—

Justin: This is helping me to remember to not focus on—because I've been so focused on you guys.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Right? [chuckles]

Griffin: But that's not—we don't pay you.

Justin: You don't pay me.

Travis: No.

Justin: They pay me.

Travis: And what I'm getting right now is very much Justin like news anchor. And with my thing zoomed out, you can see so many plants that I feel like I'm in the field.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like I'm reporting in the field. And so, Griffin, I'm picturing you in a helicopter.

Griffin: See, for me, I was thinking, I'm like the guy at the board, and they switch to him like every—like just show him like—[gestures]—doing that to like someone in the corner. As in like—

Travis: Oh! Like when Regis and Kathie Lee used to like cut to their like director or—

Griffin: Yeah, they would say something like, "And you know who loves stinky pizza? Is Teddy!" And then they cut the Teddy in the studio. And he's not even like paying attention, he's like, "Over there, hit the tape."

Travis: Yeah—

Griffin: That's me right now. You guys in fuckin' 8K, fuckin' attack of the TV, TV-ass... news desk.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And I look like a clown!

Justin: I love how Griffin keeps holding out high-definition feeds as something to be embarrassed of. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's, you're so crisp, dude! I can see your vascularity. It's crazy, dude.

Justin: I don't like that.

Travis: Talk about my plants, Griffin!

Griffin: Your plants look good too, dude, but you're giving me like three... 3.5K tops. Justin's giving me 60K.

Travis: Yeah, I turned down the K so that it wouldn't be overwhelming for Trav Nation.

Griffin: I'm getting blasted by the Ks right now.

Justin: It's a lot of Ks.

Travis: I can't give Trav Nation too much.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: The loyalty is already spiking.

Griffin: Dirty dogs. So—

Travis: They are!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I love it! I love my dirty dogs!

Justin: Ah, yeah, you do say that privately a lot. "Will Batman get to heaven?" That's from Matt. Thank you, Travis.

Griffin: Thanks, Travis, for putting that question in the show.

Justin: This is a big swing at the beginning.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And it's not an advice question; it's not the kind of thing we normally—[chuckles] we normally do.

Griffin: No, I'm so confused by why you chose to lead off with it.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I think sometimes it's nice to have a good thought starter.

Griffin: Matt—

Justin: It's nice—I will say, what... what Travis just said is true. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is that, sometimes, it is nice to have a good thought starter. That is true.

Griffin: Yeah. And now, like that one—

Travis: This is—this is a boiled down like, hey, do you want to get to the heart of morality in one simple question, in a few words? Would Batman get into heaven?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: This is going to say a lot, I think, individually, about our views on morality.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So, this is actually one of the things, the perks the studio does have, that I think is really exciting, is... It's got this.

Griffin: Holy shit, dude.

Justin: Board that I've hooked up to our YouTube, right? So like—

Griffin: Dude...

Justin: I can see what Travis is doing, I can see the effect that's having on our subscribers. And let me just take a quick look... No, it's not moving the needle at all, Trav, we are stuck at 398.

Travis: Well, this isn't live?

Justin: I'm so sorry, man. I'm so sorry. No new subscribers from this bit. I'm sorry they want us to—

Travis: We do need to hit a million, so that my children will respect me even more.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because I have the silver play button up on my wall, but that's 100,000 subscribers, and I don't think that's reflective.

Griffin: If we don't get to 500,000 subscribers today, they're gonna put me back in the big button box. And you guys know *I hate* the big button box. They make me guess the button that lets me out, but most of the buttons just burn me and dump worms on me.

Justin: One of the three of us churning out the pixels that people crave.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I'm wearing a Batman shirt, which is complete—a complete happenstance for this question. So, would Batman—

Justin: It is still a pressing concern—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We are still going to address.

Griffin: Batman, okay, so we know from the movie where the boy gets zapped while he's on the Ferris wheel and dies for ten minutes, that heaven is for real. Batman is debatable. I'm guessing we don't want to get into semantics, like is Clooney getting into heaven?

Travis: No, I think conceptual Batman.

Griffin: Okay—

Travis: A Batman of the mind.

Griffin: Bruce Wayne, Batman.

Justin: Okay. Hm...

Griffin: He's never murdered, but that's just one of the sins. So like, you don't get up there and St. Pete's like, "Let me check. No murders. That's cool, go on in." Because if you lust—

Travis: Punisher is not getting into heaven.

Griffin: Punisher...

Justin: Punisher, why can't Punisher get into heaven?

Griffin: That's the thing, Punisher has done a lot of murders, but he's—

Justin: Punisher is—hey, hey, Trav! I'll just say Punisher is a vet, so...

Griffin: He's a vet, and I can't believe you'd say that.

Justin: Have a good—have a good Monday.

Griffin: He's never done lust—

Travis: Okay, so Punisher is getting into heaven?

Justin: [chuckles] Enjoy your Monday, dude.

Griffin: Punisher has never had one impure sexual thought, even one time.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Nor has anyone who wears Punisher merchandise in real life. Never one lustful idea, even across his whole life.

Travis: I will say, we've seen Batman—

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: We've seen Batman succumb to the charms of Catwoman.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Travis: Poison Ivy.

Griffin: I bet he watches pornography on his big computer. In his Batcave? [titters] We all know what happens in there.

Travis: There's certain scheduled times where Alfred's not allowed to come down.

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: So, if he gets to heaven, and we're—I think we have to assume—okay, the way we were raised—[chuckles]

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: The way we were raised—

Travis: Back in my day?

Justin: Okay, the way we were raised, what we understood is that the only way you got into heaven was through an abiding faith in Jesus Christ as your savior, right? And if you believe—

Griffin: They were way more chill than that for me. They were super chill; they did not say stuff like—

Justin: They were—you got a different pitch?

Griffin: They were like, "Just say you're saved." And I was like, "I'm saved." And they were like, "You're good. Go for it, man."

Justin: But you don't know the content—you could say it out loud, you can proclaim it in front of the body of the church, but only Christ knows the contents of Batman's heart. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So like, I can't sit here and tell you authoritatively if Batman will get into heaven, because that is such a deep and personal connection between him and Jesus Christ, and if he has been bathed in that crimson blood that was shed so many years ago!

Travis: I will say, Justin, the new studio setup has really changed your views on faith.

Griffin: Dude, I gotta say, it's changed a lot about the energy of this show, I can't stress enough. We never push people to our video content in the audio feeds. You simply must see the vibe Justin's serving right now. It's really, really crazy. It's a power—it's a huge power play! It's a dominance play that I was... You did not once—

Justin: I'm turning on our religious upbringing! If you'll let me finish the thought—

Griffin: Okay, okay, sorry.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: What I'm saying is that Batman... I don't want to go to a heaven where someone who has worked so hard—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: For the people of Gotham, is not going to be admitted, for why? Because he was... Episcopalian or Methodist, or whatever, the wrong team? Come on!

Travis: Well, I think of it more because he punched all those people.

Justin: Eh, punching is—

Griffin: Punching is fine.

Justin: Jesus flipped over the tables?

Travis: Excellent point!

Griffin: There was that one day where Jesus beat ass. And people really, really... I don't know, they like to bring that one up a lot, I feel like. You hear less about the parables and more about the time he went absolutely ape shit, on the money lenders.

Travis: Yeah, that ruled, though.

Justin: That's true. That was cool.

Griffin: I mean, yeah, but it's like, he also healed people from death. And he—but everyone just wants to talk about the time he went fuckin' John Wick-ass, nobody-ass on those... on those candy ass money lenders.
[chuckles]

Justin: You know what? I wonder sometimes about the water in the wine. Because that was like his crappy Mountain Goats cassette first try demo tape, and everybody's still talking about it.

Griffin: I mean, that was a crazy one.

Justin: Like, you can't even talk about wine and water without somebody being like—

Griffin: "Let me get a hand on the ball."

Travis: Do you think he could do other liquids into other liquids, or do you think he was limited to that combination?

Griffin: I think it was probably just that. But I mean, we can talk all day about how cool Jesus—

Justin: I don't wanna talk about Jesus.

Griffin: I wanna talk about Batman.

Travis: I don't think Batman would go to heaven, because he would request to go to hell, to beat more ass.

Griffin: Oh, that's cool, dude.

Travis: I think that St. Pete would be like, "Yeah, Batman, come on in." And he'd be like, [spoofing Batman's voice] "No, send me to hell, because I want to beat up demons."

Justin: Okay, okay, wait! Hm... If I'm Batman and I get to choose?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Which, I like that, I would go to hell. Why? Because of the existence of the Lazarus Pit. So, Ra's al Ghul and his daughter Talia—

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You'll have access to the Lazarus Pit.

Griffin: Right!

Justin: That can bring people back from life!

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Right.

Justin: From death, excuse me. To life. Okay, so—

Griffin: Batman won't—

Justin: If I'm Batman—

Griffin: Bring people back from life. Batman's one rule is he won't bring people back from life.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] [spoofing Batman's voice] "I learned my lesson. I tried to bring my mom back, and she's a zombie, and it's so scary!"

Griffin: [spoofing Batman's voice] "She's trapped in this big metal suit of armor now."

Justin: [spoofing Batman's voice] "She's a big penny, I fucked up! I made my mom into a big penny with magic! She's my big penny! I'm sorry, Alfred!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [spoofing Batman's voice] "She's the big penny!" Okay, what I was saying is, if I'm Batman and I know there's a chance that Talia Al Ghul, or her father, Ra's Al Ghul, is going to summon me back to existence with the Lazarus Pit—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I do not want to be pulled out of the bosom of Jesus!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I want to come back from hell!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mad!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Can you imagine a Batman, who was already pretty scary—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then he was—he went to hell for a while?

Travis: We get kind of a ghost writer Batman, is what you're describing?
Yes, Justin.

Justin: That's probably a thing.

Griffin: There's got to be like a—

Justin: You've gotta do that amalgam crossover.

Griffin: There's got to be like an Alan Moore strip where Batman does go to hell so he can kick Joker's ass one more time.

Travis: Alan Moore's comic strips were amazing! I used to read 'em in the newspaper every Sunday morning.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they would crack me up.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, his funny... Justin—

Travis: Ah, his—right below Slylock Fox!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And his run on Mutts was epic. [laughs]

Travis: It was so good! So good! He took Beetle Bailey in such a weird direction.

Justin: Is Batman gonna get into heaven, though, Travis?

Travis: Well, he'll never die.

Justin: Okay, that's interesting. See, that's why I was touching on the Lazarus Pit, it's like, you're talking about a... a narrative version of a Batman that can't die.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Which is... I don't think most helpful for determining an afterlife, right?

Griffin: True.

Travis: If Batman were to die, I think he would go to heaven, because I think God would want to hang out with Batman.

Griffin: Batman's not gonna die. You guys don't know about this... but Batman can't kill people. And so, all of his bad guys, they also know they can't kill Batman.

Justin: You saw me just take Travis by the scruff of his neck and bring him back to the premise of the question, and say what will happen. And then you immediately piled on and say, "No, no, no, Batman can't die." Griffin, is Batman gonna go to heaven when he dies? Or hell?

Travis: If he dies.

Griffin: I'm saying Batman doesn't kill people.

Travis: If he dies!

Griffin: Batman doesn't kill people, so they know not to kill him. It's haunted house rules.

Travis: That's true, because in Batman Beyond, canonically, we get old man Batman.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: When Batman dies, it will be him trying to do one of his sick-ass disappearances to fast.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It'll be somebody turning around, right? And they're like, "Anyway, Batman, I was gonna—" And then they turn around like, "Where'd he go?" And then they're gonna hear, "Ah, fuck! *Gah—fuck!*"

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: *Fump-fump-bump-bump-bump.*

Griffin: Dead.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: He ziplined up—

Justin: That's how they'll get him.

Griffin: He ziplined up to the gargoyle, but he didn't stop it fast—

Justin: Gargoyle falls.

Griffin: Gargoyle fall right on him, squish a Batman, pizza!

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: Now he's in heaven.

Justin: I think in Arkham—I think that—

Travis: Flatman!

Justin: I bet that happens in Arkham City—

Griffin: Fuck, that's good.

Justin: Constantly. It happens all the time.

Griffin: Yeah, all the time.

Justin: [chuckles] And it's a hazard of the job—

Griffin: And he gets—Batman, he's nervous when he approaches St. Pete. St. Pete's like, "Don't worry, punching's okay. And you never had a single lustful thought."

Travis: "Also, the Joker is here."

Griffin: "The Joker is here—"

Travis: "The Joker also got in."

Griffin: "He did a lot of bad stuff actions, but his heart and his brain was very good, and we love that here."

Travis: "And he kept the tithe, man, I don't know what to tell you."

Griffin: [chuckles] Joker was, he was a—he did 15% Batman. He went above and beyond.

Travis: Yeah. He's in, man. He get saved like six times!

Justin: All we cared about was tithing. This whole time, that was the whole bit. All you had to do was give 10%—

Travis: That's why he kept dropping banks! To afford his tithes!

Griffin: That's it.

Justin: He doesn't have to take care of anybody. Just tithe, 10%, I'll take care of the rest. [chuckles]

Griffin: Batman's got to go to heaven. Next question, please. Is

Justin: "Is learning the yo-yo really that hard, or is it just me? I'm not one trying to—" Okay, sorry, there's a lot of words in this one. I'm gonna take another pass.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "Is learning to yo-yo really hard, or is it just me? I'm not one to keep trying at something that I'm not good at immediately, but I really want to yo-yo! Do y'all remember ever being relatively proficient in throwing yo-yo? I watched so many tutorial videos and I'm still banging my head against the wall here. Please, I want to have yo-yo fun, and also impress my bf. Thank you!"

Griffin: Are you gonna say who that's from?

Justin: Yup... Yo-Nope, in Charlotte. That's from Yo-Nope, in Charlotte.

Travis: Now, Justin, you had a proficient yo-yo phase, is that correct?

Justin: I... like all my fixations, I got just good enough to annoy people that actually know what they're doing. That's what I would say.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: [chuckles] That's what—I would—I got just enough to act like I know too much in conversation.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I could do like ten tricks. I will say, honestly, to this person, it's probably the yo-yo. There are some yo-yos that have a tight fixed axel.

Griffin: Oh, God...

Justin: That just want to come right back—

Griffin: Tell me about it. No, I'm agreeing! This is not exasperation; this is me expressing frustration with a tight fixed axel.

Justin: They have a tight fixed axel—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: It's not—it's not a frustration; that's better for looping tricks. But if you want to—if you want to do sleeping tricks, then you need the loose axle, that's gonna spin. So—

Griffin: Yeah. You need a butterfly, to DNA.

Justin: Butterfly if you want to do like a looping trick, like you want to catch it on the string—

Griffin: We love those, yeah, for sure.

Travis: You could mod it.

Griffin: Mod it too—

Justin: You could mod it.

Griffin: Grease it, mod it, extra bearings, fatter—

Travis: Add some LEDs.

Griffin: Fatter bearings, LEDs.

Justin: I started with a Yoyo Ball, that's a—

Travis: Cool vape tricks.

Justin: That's a—the Yoyo Ball that comes back to you all the time, you remember those?

Griffin: Now, that's interesting, because that's one of the worst ideas that you've done today. And it's because, did you know that a Yoyo Ball is a toy invented by Satan, to challenge us. [chuckles] And it makes kids see it, and they say, "I want that." And you say, "Cool, yeah, Yoyo Ball? That's a staple of my youth. Let's grab it." But what you forget is that it's a heavy plastic ball that you throw, and then it actually, and they don't put this in the commercials, is designed to come right back at your teeth, as fast and as hard as it possibly can. It's a plastic ball you throw, that then comes right through your mouth—

Travis: A self-inflicted mace!

Griffin: It's a mace! It's a morning star, that you use on yourself. And it doesn't even look a little like yo-yoing.

Justin: Originally, a yo-yo, Griffin, was a weapon. A yo-yo was designed to be at the top of a tree, and you would hide in the tree, and then you would drop the tool, and you would hit the person—

Griffin: *Shew! Chew!*

Justin: And then it's how you bring it back up—

Griffin: Yank 'em up.

Travis: Just like in StarTropics.

Griffin: Just like in StarTropics.

Justin: Just like in StarTropics.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Exactly.

Griffin: But I don't think there was—

Travis: That's how I use my yo-yo now.

Griffin: I don't think they invented the yo-yo, and the person who invented the weapon yo-yo was like, "Hey, guys, check this shit out," wow-wow-wow-pow, in their own face, to hurt themselves?

Travis: Probably the first time, though?

Griffin: Yeah, probably the first time.

Travis: I don't think the first person to invent a yo-yo pulled off walk the dog the first time?

Justin: No.

Griffin: It would be so cool if we never got weapons better than yo-yos. And so then all war was just sort of—

Justin: Was fought with yo-yos?

Griffin: Just do yo-yo offs.

Travis: And the Second Amendment was like right to bear yo-yos?

Griffin: Yeah. I think that would be better.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, Griffin, I actually... do think that would be better. Is it just our country? Because I do think we will be beat up a lot. [chuckles] Or is it worldwide?

Travis: Yeah, we'd need all the countries to agree on it—

Justin: Okay, Griffin, listen, if it's just our country, we're going to need some very good yo-yos. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles]

Travis: Or very big yo-yos.

Griffin: Yeah, can't have any tight axles here, because we're going up against—

Travis: That would be the arms race, is like just keep making yo-yos bigger and bigger.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: Until eventually they're like, "You can't have—that yo-yo is the size of a Volkswagen Beetle, you can't use that! It's a war crime to use that yo-yo."

Griffin: You can have like Dunkin' have its own paramilitary force, that they—that they use. Mercenaries trained in the art of forbidden yo-yos, with two strings.

Travis: Yo-jos.

Griffin: Yo-jos is good.

Justin: You guys, I'm kind of struggling a little bit. Can I talk to you guys for a second?

Travis: Yeah, let's go over here.

Griffin: Share that struggle.

Justin: I spent that time—I spent that time learning yo-yo tricks. And I have not done a yo-yo trick—I have not touched a yo-yo in years.

Griffin: I know you have one.

Justin: And I'm sitting here thinking like... a younger me, a different me—

Travis: A yo-younger you.

Justin: Would have gone to get the yo-yo, and say like for the—for the podcast—

Griffin: For the Vine, yeah.

Justin: For the Vine, I'll do it. And like... and I'm not. I'm clearly not. [chuckles] I'm not standing, I'm not going to get it.

Griffin: Yeah, I was surprised, dude.

Justin: I'm not doing that. I'm staying here, right?

Travis: Now you did see him to turn your shirt around, so like, we know that that is worth it.

Griffin: Are you afraid we'll see your back? And see the design with your face on it, and know that your shirt is backwards? Or is it—

Justin: So, it's inside out.

Griffin: It's inside out, okay.

Travis: So that our faces are against your bosom?

Justin: Because the cut would not be as flattering—so, sorry, Trav, the cut wouldn't be as flattering.

Griffin: The cut would not—you're right.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know what I was thinking. Hey, Justin? Go get—go get your fucking yo-yo. [chuckles] Go get your shine box!

Justin: Okay, let me just see. I don't even know if I have one, sheesh!

Travis: Okay, this is the second time he's left.

Griffin: Well, he has to get his yo-yo, because I want to see. I'll be honest, Travis, we just got back from what felt like our fourth tour in a month and a half. I'm feeling a little bit worn out, a little exhausted for this early morning record.

Travis: And you think this yo-yo is gonna really pump it up?

Griffin: I think that—well, I think a yo-yo trick would boost—in fuckin' 24K, like he's serving right now?

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: My fuckin' high bit rate—my high bit rate king? I can't wait to see this yo-yo, we're gonna see it in—

Travis: [sings] 24-karat magic in the air.

Griffin: See it in fuckin' 240fps—

Travis: Did you know that that's what the K stands for?

Griffin: Oh, he couldn't find it.

Travis: Karat?

Justin: I don't even have one. I don't have any more.

Griffin: That's bullshit, dude. How do you—

Justin: I'm not gonna—I probably have some upstairs. I'm not gonna go upstairs and waste a bunch of podcast.

Travis: Will you post it later, like on TikTok or something?

Justin: No, the point is like, I don't... what I was struggling with is like, why did I hyper fixate on it? You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, that's what I was angry about, like—

Travis: Because you can't control what you—if you can figure out how to decide what you hyper fixate on, we'd be unstoppable.

Griffin: Travis would be the wealthiest man in the—in the world.

Justin: I know! But if I'm gonna have the kind of brain that is gonna make me hyper fixate on stuff, it should... it should not be humbled in my older age, to make it so that I don't seek out opportunities to yo-yo. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, I should... I should continue to want to display this—

Travis: Ah, what you're describing is a hobby. [titters]

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Okay, yeah, right! No, but there's not so much guilt that I would hide all my yo-yos and never want to look at 'em again, right, Trav? Is that a hobby?! That doesn't sound like a hobby to me.

Travis: No, I'm saying that if—what you had was a hyper-fixation.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Which burns fast, burns bright.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: You're talking about a lifelong interest in a thing that you demonstrate and practice—

Justin: Okay, I'm looking for ashes! I'm looking for ashes where there is nothing.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Right, Travis? It just like... it was like a comet, of like—[chuckles]

Travis: Yes, burn fast, burn bright, burn out!

Justin: It's like trying to reason with hurricane season, it's just, it's not happening.

Griffin: Can't be done.

Travis: All of my loves, all of my hobbies, live fast, die young. You know what I mean? That's me. I have the James Dean of hobbies.

Justin: I gotta say, though, Travis... you really delivered on leather work. You talked a lot about leather work—

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Justin: And then when that one paid off, that one hit big, and it was very impressive. You really played it close!

Travis: And I'm so sad that I'll never do it again!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's so sad to know—

Griffin: That's a 2025 thing, dude.

Travis: I know! I wish! I still have so much leather to use! I spent so much on tools!

Griffin: He's got so many fuckin'—he's got a big box of grommets that he's gonna throw in the dumpster—

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: The key time to make friends with one of us is right at the end of one of those. Because God almighty, am I looking to unload stuff.

Griffin: Dude, Juice—

Justin: Anybody who makes a passing interest like, "Hey, you know, I've always kind of wanted to pick up the yo-yo." Here's five. Here's five yo-yos.

Travis: Here's five!

Justin: Take seven yo-yos. I never want to see a yo-yo again, I'm so embarrassed! [chuckles]

Travis: "One of them is like—"

Justin: So embarrassed that I learned to spin these things.

Travis: "Hand-crafted from an artisan who specializes in making yo-yos, and I spent \$5,000 on it. It's yours, please."

Griffin: I think, I don't know if—

Justin: Travis, that yo-yo you gave me cost \$5,000? Are you serious?

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: Thank you, man... I really wish—

Travis: Yeah, that was made by Harold Duncan Sr.

Justin: That was a Harold—that was an HDS? [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: I mean, it was made out of graphics cards, so that's why it was pretty uncomfortable to hold.

Justin: That explains why every time I did a walk the dog, a Bitcoin fell out. That is—[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, exactly.

Travis: That's why it was worth so much money.

Griffin: I don't know if—I don't know if yo-yo is extra hard. I don't know if yo-yo is like more than other things beyond your ability. But I do think yo-yo belongs to a special class of skill or activity that is difficult to practice, because after you do it once or twice and you fail, you feel like the world's biggest asshole. Piano, I can sit down at and I can play my scales until they get good, and I don't feel like an asshole the moment I mess up. But you drop a ball, the yo-yo don't come back up, and you have to spend like fifteen seconds winding it? I'm not gonna do that more than two or three times, and so I'm simply never going to get better at it.

Justin: I mean, I've been trying to learn how to juggle for, I mean, it's been eleven years, I've had juggling balls like handy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I can do like, eh, five passes, and then I'm done, I'm out.

Griffin: Five is crazy, dude. I get—

Justin: I will say that—

Griffin: I get three and I'm like, I'm juggling, baby. I'm juggling.

Travis: I get one, and my brain gets so excited that my hands—

Justin: That's it, that's it.

Travis: Absolutely just...

Justin: Travis, every single fuckin' time, dude! Here's the thought, "I'm juggling, Mama! Look at me!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And fall—

Travis: *Peh-peh-peh!*

Justin: [sings] Dead-dead-dead. [chuckles] Two passes, "I'm juggling! I'm—" Dead.

Travis: But this is when having a hyper fixation brain is a great skill. Because like, the other day, my kids got like a paddle ball game. I picked it up once, I was immediately bad at it.

Griffin: Awesome, yeah.

Travis: And I said, "Oh, this brings me no joy." And I had no desire to continue learning it whatsoever.

Griffin: Oh, really? I thought that was gonna go differently.

Justin: See, I would have played with my kids, I think, in that case—

Travis: No, then I—then I just watch my kids do it, and I'm like, "Have fun, guys." But if something doesn't immediately bring me joy?

Griffin: Yeah, out the window.

Travis: I don't have to care about it anymore.

Griffin: That's what Marie Kondo says, she said give 'em one shot.

Travis: One shot.

Justin: One shot.

Griffin: She says this—she says everyone gets one shot. And if not, you're gone forever.

Justin: I will say, also, the one gag with yo-yos, if you can do the one thing where you throw it at the ground and it stays down there for a bit?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You can do a whole fuckin' lot of stuff, because—

Griffin: That's the basis of most tricks.

Justin: All you gotta do is fuck around with the string, and not do it so hard that the guy comes back up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then you can like twist it, you can do walk the dogs, the same idea. It's all the same junk, it's just spinning.

Travis: Also, get like a—like a toothpick to chew on and a cool leather jacket, and now you're just doing it on the street corner, and I know you're waiting for something to go down.

Griffin: Is there an opportunity here for us to make a kind of like perfect, synergistic, like hyper fixation kind of... like all day carry, all day—what's that called?

Travis: Everyday carry.

Griffin: Everyday carry situation. Where it is a yo-yo, but it's also like, on one side of it is—

Justin: Boy, you are really—you're a tough target to bring down, aren't you there, Jason Bourne? Can't remember the acronym for EDC. Griffin, highly muggable over here, if you needed a soft target. [chuckles]

Griffin: Good fuckin' luck—

Travis: I do have an all-day carry, though!

Griffin: Yeah—

Travis: There are things that I'm like, I can't put this down once.

Griffin: My glasses, I think is probably it.

Justin: My guilt.

Griffin: My guilt and my glasses. Yo-yo on one side—

Justin: Imposter syndrome. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Virtual pet on the other side. It's got a lighter, maybe? It also does a lighter. And it's just like all of these like cool little affectations, hobbies, fixations—

Travis: Fidgets.

Griffin: Fidget—well, no, because I don't... You know, I guess it could be a spinner, if you—if you want it to be. But I'm thinking beefy, or something you can—

Travis: I mean, yo-yos were the original spinner.

Griffin: Yeah, no, I know. And that's why I'm saying we should get one. But I guess I'm just saying there should be a yo-yo with a GigaPet in it.

[pause]

Griffin: So, what's... what else are we doing here today, guys?

Justin: Well, Griffin, I'm glad you asked. We're gonna take a quick trip to the... Money Zone!

[theme music plays]

Griffin: A yo-yo that has a GigaPet in it, that like you feed by doing yo-yo tricks, is so fucking insanely valuable of an idea.

Travis: No, it's great.

Justin: It's great, Griffin?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I know, I'm just saying, I feel bad that someone's gonna—

Justin: But it's not funny, you know? Like, great ideas... aren't always funny.

Griffin: That's true. That's true.

Travis: That's why we save those for the Money Zone.

Griffin: You're right.

Justin: You know, God is—

Travis: It's not called the Funny Zone.

Griffin: No, we can be—we can really let our hair down and be pretty serious here.

Justin: It can get pretty tough to keep track of your money, dollars and cents. It's going in and it's going out. Where's it going?

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: Well, you need a friend, you need a—hi, I'm Justin McElroy, paid endorser for Rocket Money. You need a friend in your corner. Somebody who's gonna be watching your transactions. Someone who's going to say, "Hey, did you forget about this subscription? I can cancel it for you, or at least try."

Travis: And Justin is willing to be that for you! Justin's gonna do that for each one of our listeners.

Griffin: Justin's gonna fix your business!

Justin: No, I am, sadly, announcing the closure of Justin's iFixit—[titters]

Griffin: iFixit—

Justin: Money, all in one, financial accounting services.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm sorry—

Travis: And iPhone screen repair.

Justin: And iPhone screen repair. [chuckles] Yes. Travis, my iPhone screen repair and money financial guy business is down the tubes, because Rocket Money is putting me out of business. [chuckles]

Travis: Aw, man!

Justin: These guys are using computers—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: To keep track of—

Travis: Oh! That's what—

Griffin: What were you using?

Justin: Yeah, my yellowed ledger that I keep track of your finances in—

Griffin: Dude—

Justin: Is utterly humiliated by Rocket Money's ability to find subscriptions you forgot about, and try to cancel them for you, to help you to balance your finances, to keep track of where your money's going, all that good stuff.

Griffin: Juice—Travis, one time, Justin's yellowed ledger fell off his desk and it fell open, and it was completely empty. And I was like, what the fuck is he doing in there?

Justin: [chuckles] It's terrifying, dude. Rocket Money has saved users over 2.5 billion, including over 880 million in canceled subscriptions alone! Their 10 million members save up to \$740 a year when they use all the app's premium features.

Travis: Well, this is weird, Griffin, I'm looking at Justin's yellow ledger right now, and I have the moonlight reflected in the Osiris stone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's a bunch of names and the worth of their souls next to them.

Griffin: Okay! It was the Osiris stone that we were missing. Cancel your—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Unwanted subscriptions and reach your financial goals faster, with Rocket Money. Go to rocketmoney.com/mybrother today. I'm reading the ledger now. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother.
[Rocketmoney.com/mybrother](https://rocketmoney.com/mybrother).

Travis: Griffin, your name's in here?

Griffin: Yes. And my—don't tell everybody my soul value, because it's... embarrassing.

Travis: 53 cents!

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: Man, I wish I hadn't worked so hard in that last ad, because this next ad is for Smalls, and I'm gonna work a lot in this one too.

Griffin: And you're like the biggest Smalls head like ever.

Justin: I'm like Mr. Smalls. But the fact is... I want to talk about Smalls, because my cats love it so. I have a much better relationship with my cat—

Travis: Would you say Smalls is killing you?

[pause]

Griffin: I don't think they would want that, man.

Justin: Yeah, because that's kind of a negative connotation, man.

Travis: "You're killing me, Smalls!" You know? Do you guys remember that?

Justin: No, yeah—

Griffin: Yeah! Totally. But I don't think they—they probably don't like it. Like, if you call your company Smalls, you probably learn to not like when people say that.

Travis: What about, "You're saving me, Smalls."

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: "You're protecting me, Smalls. You're putting your body between me and danger, Smalls."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. So, the cats love this stuff. They got smooth bird, smooth other bird, smooth pig. No matter which animal you want smoothed up, Smalls is going to do it for you. They're put it in—ship it to you—

Travis: Smooth emu.

Justin: It arrives frozen. You get the amount of food you need, right? You defrost what you need, so it's fresh when your cats want it, and it's ready. And they really, really like it, they will bother me in the morning until they get to enjoy it.

Travis: Smooth criminals.

Griffin: They will do that. They'll serve you criminals.

Justin: You know how—

Travis: But all smoothed up!

Justin: Do you know how hard it is to do two ads back-to-back, Travis?
[titters]

Griffin: I know, man, and Travis and I are trying to help. Travis and I are trying to help and hop in—

Justin: I know, but it's just not—it's not helping, it not—one of you do the call to action—

Travis: Smooth move.

Griffin: What are you waiting for? Give your cat the food that they deserve.

Travis: The song Smooth, by Rob Thomas and Santana!

Justin: You're not doing a good enough job, because you're just reading it like a cat food ad. This is important. What are you waiting for?! Give your cat the food they deserve! For a limited time, because you're a MBMBaM listener, you get 60% off your first order, plus free shipping, when you head to smalls.com/mybrother. One last time, that's 60% off your first order, plus free shipping when you head to smalls.com/mybrother.

Travis: [sings] 'Cause you're so smooth! And they sell you smooth bird to feed you your cat!

[pause]

Travis: Oh, okay...

Griffin: Wow, I'm watching the subscriber count—

Travis: [sings] And the food's so delicious!

Griffin: Damn, the subscriber count went down?!

Travis: [sings] They know where it's at!

Griffin: This isn't even live! No one's hearing this as we record it. How is the subscriber count plummeting?

Travis: Damn it!

[break]

Travis: Hi! I'm Travis McElroy, and I'm here with Maria. And we're excited, because this is Member of the Month. Maria, thank you so much for being a listener and a supporter of the show.

Maria: Hi!

Travis: How did you find out about the shows?

Maria: When my daughter was in high school, we kind of connected over TAZ. And she introduced me to Shmanners and Sawbones.

Travis: What made you decide to become a Max Fun member?

Maria: I kind of decided that, with the economy being so difficult, it was worth me giving up my Starbucks to join in with you guys.

Travis: Well, Maria, I owe you a cup of coffee then. At some point, I'll get a cup of coffee into your hands to pay you back.

Maria: [chuckles] Okay.

Travis: Maria, again, thank you so much for your support.

Maria: Thank you very, very much for your time and getting a chance to be the Member of the Month. My daughter was shocked when she found out about it, so I can't wait for her to actually maybe catch a little bit of this. I can rub it in her face a little bit.

Travis: That's what we do it for. Thank you, and thanks to everybody for your support. Maria, have a great month!

Maria: You have an amazing month as well.

Speaker: Become a Max Fun member now at maximumfun.org/join.

[break]

Mallory: Hey, there! Do you like books about various shades of gray?

Brea: Maybe 50 of 'em? Or books about winged men searching for soulmates.

Mallory: Is your E-reader full of stories that would pair well with Barry White in the background?

Brea: We're Brea and Mallory of Reading Glasses, and we have a brand-new show for people who crave reads with just a dash of sriracha sauce.

Mallory: That's right! Every other Friday, we dive into books that could be measured on the Scoville scale, and talk to the people who love them.

Brea: You can find our new show by visiting maximumfun.org/spicy. That's maximumfun.org/spicy.

[break]

Travis: Now, Justin, I see there that you have a yo-yo?

Justin: I didn't want to talk about it, but yes, I did find one during the break, Travis.

Travis: You didn't want to talk about it, but you came in carrying it?

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: Well, I guess you're right. [titters] Yeah, I found one. I had one upstairs.

Griffin: Is that like a tin Christmas yo-yo? What kind of yo-yo is that?

Justin: This is a magic yo-yo.

Griffin: A magic yo-yo? [chuckles] Hold on, dude.

Travis: What... in what way?

Griffin: I feel like you—

Justin: What?

Griffin: I feel like you're trying to trick me or something, dude.

Justin: No, no, no, I got it from—

Travis: Are you about to like try to sell it to us for a lot of money?

Justin: Oh, I would never. No, I would never—

Griffin: He couldn't part with his magic yo-yo.

Justin: [titters] No, no, no, not my magic yo-yo.

Travis: Well, at least let me make a—

Justin: Other yo-yos! Maybe—

Travis: A, least let me make an offer?

Justin: I can't.

Travis: \$5,000.

Justin: You're embarrassing yourself. [titters]

Griffin: it looks like you had the loop maybe sized for one of your kids.

Justin: Sorry, it's a sliding loop. Are you... why are you talking about—

Travis: He's new to this. Justin, he doesn't understand.

Griffin: I don't really know much about—

Justin: So look, so this is a loop, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: See? I made a loop for my finger.

Griffin: Oh, so it can slide. You've made a snare, okay.

Justin: So, I'm stand up. I haven't tried.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And we'll see what I can still—

Griffin: And we'll describe it. Sorry, this—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: This has been a really visual episode, but that's, I mean, Justin's...

Justin: I mean—

Griffin: New desk is a celebration.

Travis: Justins' a video-forward person.

Griffin: Here we go... Okay, can't see it. Higher. Wow, it's—

Travis: Oh, yeah—

Griffin: Wow, he's sleeping, I'm—

Travis: It's hanging.

Griffin: It's hanging, dangling. He's got—he did the thing, and it went right back into his fuckin' hand.

Travis: Oh, and it went back to his hand!

Griffin: Yeah, "I haven't done this in years." Make it roll down, though—make it grind on your headphones wire. That shit would be so dope.

Travis: Oh, he's—

Griffin: Oh, he's got it in the cradle. He's got the baby in the cradle. He gets it back up, he's throwing—

Justin: Baby in the cradle.

Griffin: He yoink it back down. He throw it back up.

Justin: This is one I—

Griffin: Now go back down.

Justin: Hercules, ready?

Griffin: Oh, shit. He's the world's strongest man!

Travis: Muscles! It's his muscle—and it's back to his hand!

Travis: And oh, good recovery. He beefed it, but then he pulled it back up. And now he's—

Justin: That's part of the trick!

Travis: Justin, you're ready to start telling kids not to do drugs!

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: Okay, it's the cradle again.

Griffin: Yeah, we just saw the cradle.

Justin: "Again," like it's that easy?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: I mean, it's just you already showed us that one.

Justin: That's the only ones I know!

Griffin: Yeah got—you can—

Justin: Okay, walk the dog.

Griffin: DNA it. Do DNA—

[metallic thudding sound]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: The dog got away!

Griffin: The dog ran away, dude.

Travis: Run away dog!

Justin: That's the runaway dog is, that's—

Griffin: The runaway dog is a cool. Juice, that looked awesome, man! You've still got it.

Justin: Yeah, imagine my relief, dude. I used to be able to do a lot more tricks, but honestly, in the studio, the way it is?

Griffin: Gotta be careful, yeah.

Justin: Can't take the risk, you know. [chuckles]

Travis: Expensive equipment in there.

Justin: Sure, man! Yeah.

[pause]

Travis: All right, so—

Griffin: Did you get out of breath from yo—

Travis: Oh, God, did you get heartburn from that?

Griffin: Was it heartburn or out of breath from yo-yo, which one is it? What are you doing?

Justin: Nostalgia? Nostalgia.

Travis: Nostalgia burns sometimes.

Griffin: It makes your tummy hurt?

[pause]

Justin: "My friend recently completed her first marathon. After cheering her on as spectators, my four-year-old daughter was so excited about it, she told me she was going to draw a congratulations picture for my runner friend. She drew a stack of pictures while I was busy. I grabbed the most polished of the lot, and gave it to my friend the next day. It was a picture of Saturn, and it had some letters next to it, and a pretty shockingly good stab at the word 'Saturn' next to it. Brothers, my husband drew the picture and most of the letters. I just gave my friend a picture of Saturn my 34-year-old husband drew in crayon. Help." That's from Doodle Doubt in Des Moines.
[chuckles]

Griffin: That's okay.

Justin: That's okay.

Griffin: That's a sweet gift. Regardless of who it came from, it's still like sweet that someone did a drawing for someone else. I assume your friend is either named Saturn, or maybe they have a... like they have—they have—they like Saturn?

Justin: Love the... they're a fan of the planet, maybe?

Griffin: The planet is like one of their faves?

Travis: I think the problem here is that when you are judging a child's drawing, especially a four-year-old versus a 34-year-old, there's different subjective criteria that one would use to be like, "This is amazing," versus like, "Oh, you did your best," right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And if you reveal, after they've been very impressed by this pretty good drawing of Saturn, and then you're like, "Actually, that was my husband drew that," it might take something away.

Justin: I usually—I will say that don't judge too harshly, because I am usually trying to like... keep my light under a bushel a little bit when I'm drawing with the kids, you know? I don't want them to get discouraged

when they see me drawing Saturn and they're like, "God, I'll never... I could never do that."

Travis: Do you ever find yourself drawing with the kids, and you draw something, and about three quarters of the way through, you suddenly are struck by how proud you are of the thing you're drawing? And you're like, man, I hope I get a really good—I drew a kick-ass like healer family.

Griffin: Oh, wow?

Travis: Yeah! And I was like—

Justin: That's nice.

Travis: "Everybody, stop what you're doing. Hey, look at this. Look how good this is."

Justin: Sure, yeah.

Griffin: I would love to be able to draw, and be able to draw something other than just like a dog's face, which is—

Justin: Like a good drawer?

Griffin: Like a good drawer! And not even a good drawer, like can do a—like, if you asked me to draw, right now, an apple, the result would be humiliating. And that's like—

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: One of God's most basic fruits.

Travis: Draw it upside down.

[pause]

Griffin: What?

Justin: What?

Travis: So, it's a technique used, because we, in our heads, have developed images of how things are supposed to look. And so when—

Justin: I'm sorry, as—sorry... Yeah, you understand that as Travis is saying this, you need to get out a pen and paper and attempt it—

Griffin: Oh, I have E-ink! So, I'll—

Travis: Yeah, so, we get these things that' like, you know, when you draw a house, right? Everybody starts to default to like triangle roof, rectangle windows, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Instead of drawing what an actual house looks like, because we have shorthand images in our head. And we are often trapped in those images, and it's difficult to make a real thing. So, by drawing it upside down, you remove that subconscious bias of what things look like, and you start to actually think about the lines of the thing you're drawing, what the thing looks like.

Griffin: Oh my God!

Justin: [laughs] Griffin is about to show us an apple that is going to absolutely knock us off our asses.

Travis: Yeah, we're gonna shit.

Griffin: Holy shit...

Travis: He's doing it... He's doing it, look! Oh my God...

Griffin: Uh-huh?

Travis: He's doing it! How do you like these apples?!

Justin: I feel like now, at this point, it's gotten to a joke, because I feel like maybe it's not gonna be a good picture of an apple.

Travis: Hey, Justin? Justin?

Griffin: Justin, I worked hard on it.

Travis: He's doing a good job?

Justin: No, I know, because you work hard on jokes sometimes.

Griffin: But the problem is that the screen, I think, changes based on how it's like tilted, so the apple's gonna look upside down no matter what.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah... That's a pretty good apple!

Justin: I mean, it's really not bad, Griff. It looks better? It looks better. It's got an anus, I think?

Griffin: It's auto correcting, it's—fuckin' stop—

Justin: [chuckles] It's got an anus at the bottom—

Travis: Well, stop turning it! We can look at it upside down! We know...

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Not so close to the anus! No, get back from the anus, please.

Justin: [chuckles] I don't wanna see the anus.

Griffin: That's the bottom of the apple. The bottom of the apple—

Justin: You put an anus on it! [laughs]

Griffin: The bottom of the—

Justin: You're not supposed to do that!

Griffin: The bottom of the apple—

Travis: Stop turning it! [chuckles]

Griffin: The bottom of the apple is where the... I don't know what the fuck is going on down there, but he's got a little, like a little hole.

Travis: That's—

Griffin: Trav, that's really strong, that's really powerful. Thank you for that tip.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: We're all—we're all just like... I love this being a space of self-improvement, where we can yo-yo and we can draw, and we can have fun, and like—

Justin: Create!

Griffin: Create.

Justin: I mean, we've forgotten how to create, I think, sometimes.

Griffin: I feel like maybe that's—maybe that's true.

Travis: Now, do you just mean the three of us?

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: Obviously. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, not like America. He's not like speaking to—

Justin: No, no, no! Look on TikTok, man! People are making all kinds of—

Griffin: People are making incredible shit.

Travis: Yeah! That's true.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, it's pretty nice.

Griffin: How about another question?

Justin: I'd love that. "I needed cilantro for a recipe, so I walked to the grocery store to get some, but they were out. On my way back home, I passed the herb garden of a local elementary school. I make this walk all the time, and in retrospect, I've always noticed that these herbs appear poorly tended." [sighs] Hah...

Griffin: You just realized.

Justin: I see where you're—I just... "And are often going to seed, or otherwise seem uncared for. So, I reached through the fence and yanked out a clump. Is it okay to steal from children if they don't seem to respect God's gifts?" That's from the Brooklyn Bambino Burglar. Did anybody else think that when they were like, "I noticed that these plants weren't very well tended," there was some small part of me that thought like, "So I took them under my wing, and I started growing them and helping them to find their—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No, you just grabbed a big handful, huh?

Griffin: Because you got pest—

Justin: You just had to, the—

Griffin: You got big pesto plans!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Well, sorry, kids! Sorry, kids, I've got noodles and nothing else going for 'em, so I need these more than you do."

Justin: "Sorry, kids." I mean, I think... I'm maybe unorthodox about this—

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: But here's my opinion. I think if it's growing in the land—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Nobody owns the sun; nobody owns the dirt. It's growing in the land, it's all of ours.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Right?

Griffin: No. Well, no, not in—

Travis: Maybe that's a little bit far to take it.

Griffin: I mean, it's absolutely deranged, what you said, because that means you can just go to farm, and like... get it. Get it, get—

Travis: They're not gonna notice one corn gone!

Justin: No, but I mean like—

Griffin: No one owns the land.

Justin: You are talking about ethics.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What I'm talking—you're talking about the law. I'm talking about ethics. There's no—there's no farm guards—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In the scenario I'm describing. You have an armed—

Travis: If the—

Justin: Battalion—

Griffin: Whoa?

Justin: Defending the cilantro.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: If the need is there—

Justin: There's nobody defending mine.

Travis: If the need is there?

Griffin: If the need is there, obviously, yeah. I mean, it should be—it should be... Yeah, no kids are gonna notice this, unless it's someone's science experiment. That's a real danger you didn't even think about.

Justin: I think if you went to the cilantro farms, and you were stopped by a guard and he said, "Halt, citizen! Explain your business!" And you're like, "I just need some cilantro. I want some."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like a reasonable amount?

Justin: Like a handful. I feel like if you're—they would give you some.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like, that's not gonna move the needle for them.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah. You've taken such an extreme position so quickly, that I feel like your brain began showing you illusions, beautiful illusions, of things that don't exist, like cilantro guards.

Justin: [chortles] Don't let me be a cautionary tale, people. Don't end up like me. You gotta have your head—

Griffin: It was really instant too, because you were like, I—one, I think it's okay to grab this cilantro. Two, there are armed guards at every cilantro farm across—

Travis: It's become almost like a post-apocalyptic thing, where Cilantro has become money.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: And like, there's a Fort Knox of cilantro with guards and—

Griffin: I don't think that's the case.

Travis: Like a urine town, but instead of going to the bathroom, it's cilantro.

Griffin: I want to make something very clear to everybody who does not have elementary school age children. When you see produce in the garden that is like a class project, it ain't usually the kids who are getting those buds and those fruits to come up out of the ground out of nothing. That's mostly an adult—that is mostly an adult job. There's nuance to that process that a lot of kids aren't going to be able to handle. So, do know that you're not stealing from children, you are stealing from some adult. And maybe this moment in the garden is the highlight of their day.

Justin: Yeah, I bet it's also, it's interesting... You know, Question Asker, you talk about how—let me see if you see—they seem... "In retrospect, I always notice that these herbs appear poorly tended and are often going to seed, or otherwise seem uncared for." You know what would probably discourage me

as a plant tender? When people keep reaching through the fence and helping themselves to goddamn handfuls of my cilantro!

Griffin: The fence is—

Justin: Like—

Griffin: The fence is—the fence is a bit of a deal breaker, huh?

Justin: The fence is rough, man—

Travis: But why did you put the cilantro so close?!

Justin: I feel like you're not contributing—sorry. I feel like you're not contributing to the overall health of the cilantro patch.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And maybe you're making it look even worse than it already does.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Take a cilantro, leave a cilantro! Is what Justin's saying.

Justin: Yeah. Or at least some seeds.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Why'd they put the cilantro so close to the fence?

Griffin: Fuckin' honeypot. John Quiñones—

Travis: There's a camera.

Griffin: Is watching, waiting.

Travis: They're not learning about gardening, they're learning about sting operations.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: It's a plant!

Justin: "I recently—" I don't know if you guys knew this, "I recently found myself having a cry sesh in the car, and stopped in the Wendy's drive through for a pick me up."

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: "It was obvious that I've been crying, but the lady at the drive through window didn't treat me any differently than normal." Guys, if people at the windows—[titters] sorry. If people at the Wendy's windows are gonna start treating people different because they've been crying, that's going to be an exhausting day for them. They can't handle that emotional up and down.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay? They're going to see a lot of people crying today, they can't—they can't open up a vein for everybody that rolls through. "It's obvious I've been crying. The lady at the drive through window didn't treat me any differently than normal. It was nice, but I kind of wish she had felt a little bad for me and given me some nuggies for my troubles. Is there any way I can make myself look more pitiable in the drive through? And which fast food chain drive through seems most charitable?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's from Mc Charity Case in Columbus. Thank you.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: That's a good one.

Griffin: That's a good one, because... it is extremely relatable.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: It makes me so deeply uncomfortable when someone leverages some kind of personal difficulty or hardship, into some sort of goodwill currency that benefits them, vis-à-vis free nuggies for crying in the car.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: My fear is that if you codify that too much, then people are going to start making themselves cry so they can get free nuggets at Wendy's.

Justin: You can't institutionalize kindness like this; it has to be spontaneous.

Griffin: Has to be. Has to be.

Justin: The problem is, it's a—it's tough to communicate with the audio of the drive through that you've had a hard time, and that you're going to need some nuggies for it, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because I don't think you could—maybe with your order? Maybe it's like, "I'll take a hamburger and—oh, no, wait, that was Steven's favorite. I like chicken." [titters] You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like put a little narrative in there.

Griffin: That's... that's dense.

Justin: [laughs] It's a lot to chew on! I know.

Griffin: It's a bit dense to drop. Because that's usually like the one of the first things you say over the loudspeaker, is like—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Usually it's, "Hi, Welcome to Wendy's—" And you would say like, "Give me just a minute, please." And then you would say, "Let me get a—"

Justin: I never—Griffin?

Griffin: And then you say, "Give me a hamburger. No, that was Steven's favorite. I like chicken."

Justin: Hey, Griffin? The idea that I would... Dude, are you serious? The idea that I at the drive through window would say, "Give me just a minute, please." Are you fucking crazy?

Griffin: You don't do—

Travis: You never have—

Justin: It's my time!

Travis: You never have other people in the car?

Justin: I have to be—do you remember how dad used to get?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In the car?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Apparently, that shit's genetic, and it sucks, but I've inherited it. I can't—drive through ordering, I become the world's worst man. [chuckles]
The world's worst person.

Griffin: You just have to blast through—you have to blast through it in one go. No time for deliberation.

Justin: I need everybody—as I am pulling up, usually about two blocks away—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's when the conversation begins.

Griffin: You're on the bubble then. You're on the clock.

Justin: I want—and the orders are in before I see a sign.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We're locked, okay? Call me Mr. Bird's Eye. It's *frozen*, okay?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, dude.

Justin: No thank you, kids.

Travis: I don't want to name names, but there is another adult in my family unit who is often in the car with me and my kids when we go through the drive through. I don't want to name names.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But she, I think, has what Dana Carvey had in clean slate about the Wendy's drive through menu, where she needs to see it fresh every time.

Griffin: What if they have new shit?

Justin: Yeah, because it—no, now, Travis, that's—you sound so stupid, dude. The Wendy's menu is always changing! If she doesn't take the time to peruse, how is she gonna know but the mozzarella pretzel burger?!

Griffin: Yeah. She's gotta know the—

Travis: An excellent point, Justin.

Griffin: Gotta know the latest stuff.

Travis: That's—but that's my time—

Justin: What if Wednesday has a new milkshake?!

Travis: That's my time to chat with the drive through person, while she decides, and tell 'em about all the hard stuff I'm going through.

Justin: Trav, she should be looking this up on her phone, before. Before you even go, she should be on her phone looking at stuff? [titters]

Travis: I'll let this hypothetical person know that that's your advice, Justin.

Griffin: What's the softest fast-food brand? Who's—which fast food brand is gonna—is gonna give you the most for your tears? That's the question I—

Travis: My first gut says White Castle.

Griffin: No, they're too—they're too like bing-bang-boom. They have like two things on the menu. They want to get you in and out as quick as possible. They're not gonna give you nothin'.

Travis: An Arby's?

Griffin: Arby's...

Justin: Arby's would try to give you more, and you'd be like, "Hm... I actually, this is as much as I need."

Travis: But they have a history of slipping an extra curly in a regular fry, or some regular fries in a box of curlies.

Justin: The occasional baggler, that's true.

Travis: Yeah, they're giving out freebies left and right.

Griffin: I think Jack in the Box. I think Jack in the Box—

Justin: They seems fun.

Griffin: Jack in the—

Justin: They seem fun.

Griffin: Fun food. And—[chuckles]

Travis: And cheap food! They can give you a taco for 50 cents, they're not worried about it.

Griffin: That's exactly it! They've got—they've got fun shit just lying around. They'll pitch something at you if they think you're having a tough one.

Justin: I feel like Popeyes, especially red beans and rice, to me, I feel like if you ask really nicely, that's free.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, if you—if you're like, "I really need it."

Griffin: "I'm really super-duper sad."

Travis: I'll tell you where you're not getting anything for a hard time, Taco Bell. Because no one's going through Taco Bell on the best day of their life.

Justin: Yeah, "You're here. Yeah, we know."

Griffin: "We know."

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: "We know!" [chuckles]

Travis: You made—

Justin: "What, you have a big graduation today? Huh, weird."

Travis: I'm saying that, at best, Taco Bell is a little reward or treat or cheer me up that you're getting for yourself.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Right?

Justin: You're at Taco Bell, you are already... you have—you have already done the self-care for them, right?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: This is the end of the road on self-care, you're there.

Travis: You already needed this.

Griffin: Nowhere else to go.

Justin: Yeah, you're taking care of it already.

Griffin: I'm trying sitting farther away from the mic, just so I can be kind of like one of the boys. Like one of the guys.

Justin: How's it feeling?

Griffin: I mean, I am so far from my computer that I can't read the words on it anymore.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But I do feel like...

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: More—Travis, you can't zoom in now? How...

Justin: That's like, you gotta understand—

Travis: How far can I go?

Justin: It's an audio podcast, dude.

Griffin: I know, dude.

Travis: How far can I go in?

Justin: "The Halloween—" Listen—

Travis: Holy shit.

Justin: The Halloween I've been—this Halloween, I've been—

Travis: I can go in four? Four times zoom?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: All right, "This Halloween, I've been toying with the idea of being the Grinch. Unfortunately, being the Grinch for Halloween seems like a full performance, tip toeing around, being a nuisance, and other grinchy behavior. I'm already pre—I'm a pretty fun-loving guy, so being a grump doesn't come naturally to me, and I have no acting background. How can I better prepare myself in the coming days to be able to pull off a Grinch costume, or am I doomed to just be a boring green bummer?" That's from Nervous Nelly in Norwalk. "PS, I already spent \$150 on the costume."

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Glad that you included that. It does—

Justin: Candlenights, several years ago, we had a very realistic Grinch.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: Remember, it came out and kidnapped Dwight?

Griffin: Yeah, and—

Justin: And this very realistic Grinch, I will say, did a lot of realistic actions.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: And a lot of realistic motions, once they became the Grinch. And I will say that no one liked it—

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: That had to be near it.

Griffin: [titters] Mm-hm. No one.

Justin: [chuckles] No.

Griffin: Kids—

Justin: We didn't like it.

Griffin: Kids, but also grown-ups—

Justin: Kids—

Griffin: No.

Justin: Grown-ups, nobody liked it. Very impressive. But when they would get into the full... I've been raised from childhood to be afraid this guy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, it doesn't feel good.

Travis: I will say this, what you're forgetting, is there are two parts to the Grinch's journey.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yes, yes, there's the curmudgeonly, grumpy Grinch.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: But then there's the heart three sizes Grinch.

Griffin: Oh, this is the Grinch after he gets saved.

Travis: I'm, yes, I'm saying—

Griffin: Born again Grinch.

Travis: It was reformed Grinch behavior.

Justin: I wish the movie went a little bit longer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because I would love for the Grinch to, after 20 minutes, be like, "Well..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "This has been fun!"

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: [chuckles] "Okay!"

Griffin: That movie, if it went on for—

Justin: "Bye!"

Griffin: If that movie went on for—

Travis: We're gonna start—we're gonna start small! A little change every day!

Justin: "This has a been great! I've lived all alone—"

Griffin: Right.

Justin: "For 50 years. I need to go, or I'm gonna scream." [chuckles]

Griffin: There's—there's twenty more minutes on that movie—the movie ends with them having the roast beast, and they're all having their big meal and having a great time. Twenty more minutes runtime gets us, Grinch finishes his meal and goes, "Oh! I'm stuffed. I'm gonna... I'm gonna get some rest, guys. I'm pretty worn out from all the Christmas celebrations." But he can't because of their bing-bang-boomers and their zip-zuppers and their troubadging their bloobers! And it's like, that—

Justin: He's trying to sleep like, "*Argh!*"

Griffin: Yeah! "Oh, that's right, that's—this fuckin' sucks!"

Justin: "I still hate it!"

Griffin: "I fuckin' hate—I need rest! I'm so tired! That's why. That's right."

Travis: "I was up all night, stealing your stuff and then bringing it back! I'm *exhausted*."

Griffin: "I'm fucking tired."

Justin: You come downstairs at like three in the morning, and the Grinch, who you asked to stay with you as your guest, is putting all of your presents into a bag. And it's like, "You promised."

Griffin: "You promised me."

Justin: "You said you were done."

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Just the loud ones, though. "You can keep the slippers and the rope and stuff."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "The fling lacks and the snooze bats, and all that stuff, that's all good. Just throw away the alarm clocks."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: All right?

Travis: And the whiz trumpets.

Justin: "The whiz trumpets, put those in the whiz garbage. Thank you." [chuckles] Hey, thanks so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed it. We hope you've enjoyed yourself while you're listening to it. We hope you shouted some of your own jokes, as we encourage you to.

Griffin: Do we? Do we? I mean, I guess in... when it's not a live show, go ahead. But I don't want to train people into that particular...

Justin: [chuckles] That's true, that's fair enough.

Griffin: That behavior. Hey, we have some new merch over at mcelroymerch.com that we would love for you to go check out. I'm pretty sure you can still get that Hunger beanie, which looks rad, prep yourself for the cold winter months. Speaking of the cold winter months, we're coming back to Huntington for Candenights, baby.

Travis: That's right!

Griffin: Home for the Honda days! December 6th, at 7PM Eastern Time, we're going to be performing at the Keith Albee in Huntington, West Virginia, doing our Candlenights spectacular. We're also going to be recording it for video, and there's going to be a digital premiere of the recording of the show on December 19th, at 9PM Eastern Time. We're going to be in the chat for that. And all the proceeds from Candlenights, as always, will be donated to Harmony House, which seeks to end homelessness in the Huntington area through permanent housing and supportive service programs. [Bit.ly/candlenights2025](https://bit.ly/candlenights2025) is where you can go get your ticket for the show, or for the live streaming version.

Travis: Important to note, your in-person ticket also includes the stream ticket.

Griffin: Yes! Absolutely. And yeah, it's gonna be a hoot. We're really excited. It's been a minute.

Travis: Also, November 3rd, so I think that's next Monday? Yes?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: At noon, Eastern Time, Champions Grove for 2026 goes on sale. Come hang out with us at Ravenwood Castle in Hocking Hills, Ohio, for a weekend full of gaming and hanging out with people, and fun events, and get to meet some RPG—TTRPG creators, and dress up and have fun at a castle in the woods! You can go to championsgrove.com to get all the information. One more time, tickets go on sale November 3rd, at noon, Eastern Time, championsgrove.com.

Justin: Okay, this is also extremely important. If you go to—I'm in a pumpkin carving competition. It continues until Halloween. If you go to givebutter.com/hcmvips, that's Huntington Children's Museum, it's a fundraiser for them. I carved a pumpkin. I'm currently, and I don't want to worry anybody, I'm currently being beaten by Tony Stroud, who's the chief legal officer at Marshall University. He says that he, in his bio, says he has no artistic ability. So, if I get beaten by him, I don't need to tell you how hard that will hurt.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. So, please support the museum, but most importantly, help me beat Tony Stroud, a stranger I've decided to make an enemy of.

Travis: Tony Stark!

Justin: Nope.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Tony Stroud carved this pumpkin—

Justin: Tony Stroud.

Griffin: In a cave.

[pause]

Griffin: Hey, do you guys—

Justin: Tony Stroud—

Griffin: [chuckles] Do you guys—

Justin: Has... Tony Stroud falls asleep with nightmares about me in his mind. [chuckles]

Griffin: Whoa?

Justin: Because I...

Travis: Oh, you're deep in there, huh?

Justin: I don't know Tony that well, so I—[chuckles] I don't know—

Griffin: I don't know that you should say what you just said then, man?

Justin: Yeah. Maybe I do need to take that back. Tony Stroud, I take that back.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm sorry. You're currently beating me, so you clearly have a lot of powerful friends. [chuckles] And I don't want them to—

Griffin: And I think it's entirely possible—

Justin: Kill me.

Griffin: Justin is having Tony Stroud-based nightmares, and he didn't want to like—he's embarrassed to say it.

Justin: I'm saying Tony Stroud has the juice in my town to have me killed if I get out of line.

Griffin: Oh—

Travis: Cool.

Justin: So, I would love it if you would go to HCM—sorry, givebutter.com.

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, your internal temp got a little high there.

Justin: All right, good to know. Well, that's perfect timing.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: That's gonna do it for us for this week. [chuckles] Did you say thanks to Montaigne?

Griffin: No, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It's a great track. Justin's camera got so hot that it stopped working, which is, I'll say, a flaw in the new system, maybe.

Justin: Well, as long as we don't podcast for so fucking long, dude!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: We've been going for an hour and one minute, man!

Griffin: Yeah, it's out of sight.

Travis: Griffin—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's a final Fear for us to read. Here it goes. "I want to be faster than my fear of the ghost woman in the movie Talk to Me, who sucks on a guy's toes in his sleep." Sounds pretty—that sounds like a... yeah, that's fear.

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. [chuckles]

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

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