

MBMBaM 787: Man Vs Kramer Vs Wild Vs Predator

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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? I'm your middlest brother, Travis 'Big-Dog Vroom-Vroom' McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, what's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30, media luminary, Griffith McElroy. [sings] Jing-jing-jing just hear those sleigh bells ringling, ding jingle jingling—

Travis: No! It's not even Halloween yet!

Griffin: [chuckles] It's the—

Justin: We're on the creep! We're on the creep—

Griffin: It's when this comes out! Fucking Candlenights creep, baby! We're on it!

Justin: Yeah, when this comes out, Trav. Think about it.

Travis: But my—but our births haven't even happened yet? I almost said my birthday, Justin, apologies—

Justin: No worries, brother, no worries.

Griffin: We'll get yours in there, but it's gonna slot into an open space in the Candlenights creep, because I'm already puttin' my holiday plans together, boys.

Justin: What are you doing this holiday?

Griffin: Have you heard?

Justin: Have you heard, the good news?

Griffin: Do you know where—do you know where your—

Justin: The angel—what has the angel told you, Griffin?

Griffin: That angel came down from the big star, and he said, "What's your ass doing on December 11th?" I said, "You cuss?" He said, "Fuck yeah, I cuss, about this."

Justin: [laughs] "I can't sin."

Griffin: He said, "You know Rowan Atkinson?" And I said, "Yeah." And the angel that came down from the big star was like, "He is completing his circuit of the traditional conflict structures in classical literature."

Travis: Oh, he's going for the canon.

Griffin: He's going for the whole thing! He's got Man Vs Man—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Love Actually. Man Vs Nature—

Justin: Man Vs Self?

Griffin: Johnny English. Man Vs Himself, Bean.

Justin: Bean.

Griffin: Man Vs Society, Black Adder.

Justin: Man Vs Machine is Rat Race, right?

Griffin: Rat Race.

Justin: Yeah, because that's a bunch of different—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Man Vs Bee? Unlikely, not a lot of people get that one, but it—

Justin: But he did the other ones—

Travis: No, I think just Bee Movie and Man versus Bee.

Griffin: Yeah, those are the only two.

Justin: If, you know, Euripides, or some of your great playwrights, had done all the classics, they would have gotten to Man Vs Bee.

Griffin: If they had lived longer. Life expectancy back then was like, you were 15 years old, and you beefed it. If you made it longer, they would have gotten to Man Vs Bee. But now—

Travis: Can I also just say—

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Because I invoked the name. I watched an explainer video of Bee Movie recently.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: It makes me mad that we haven't talked about it more, but—

Justin: What are you talking about?

Griffin: But—

Justin: Like, what are talking about, bud?

Griffin: Let me.

Justin: Are you immortal? An explainer video about the Bee Movie?

Griffin: Yeah, man—

Travis: Mike's—

Griffin: The way you—

Travis: Mike's Mic makes some really good video content, and he did a whole thing about the Bee Movie.

Griffin: [claps while talking] Rowen has completed the canon with—

Travis: Okay, yeah, I'll focus up, I'll focus up.

Griffin: [claps while talking] Man, let me say it! The name.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Man Vs Baby! Man Vs Baby, the last one.

Justin: Man Vs Baby!

Griffin: December 11th, Netflix.

Travis: Now, just to be clear, Griffin, it's not Man Vs B-A-E, B-E-E, right? It's not his girlfriend, the bee?

Griffin: I heard—so like, there's fucking nothing about this film out there right now.

Travis: And it comes out in like five weeks.

Griffin: And it comes out quite soon, thank you, yes. I have heard, just from some like, you know, set-side scuttle butt, that at the end of the movie, the baby bursts open, and it was actually 200 bees, that was like pranking him—

Travis: Oh! Like Wicker Man. I haven't seen it.

Griffin: Sort of a Wicker Man situation. December—

Justin: I mean—

Travis: Now, the first one was a mini-series, wasn't it?

Griffin: This one is also a four-part, 30 minute episode mini-series. Just make it a two-hour movie, guys!

Justin: Just give us a movie, please? Something I can put on my shelf.

Griffin: Please!

Justin: I can't have a cinema premiere. I can't—I can't—

Travis: Where's the Criterion Collection, you know? [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: I can't rent the Cinemark at the Huntington mall, if it doesn't get a theatrical release, you know?

Travis: Do you think with—

Justin: I can't rent it for a Netflix special.

Travis: With the release date being in December—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do you think that there was a time where they thought about Man Vs Baby Jesus?

Griffin: So, here's the thing, there's nothing out about this movie. You can't find fuckin' anything. There's two pictures from the set.

Justin: They know what—they know we want it. [chuckles]

Griffin: They know what us dirty dogs are gonna fucking do with that information. We'll take it and run with it. They saw we did—

Justin: There is—Griffin, can I just say, actually... I don't think there is anyone that would make good use of a lot of information about Man Vs Baby. I agree with you there that it is probably a smart play that like no one who wants a lot of that information about it is going to make good use of that—

Griffin: No, for sure, only ill intent at heart.

Justin: Just us. [chuckles]

Griffin: Just us, mostly. There's two photos. One, he's walking down the street, holding the baby. One, he's sitting on a couch, and he's got his arms crossed, and he's feeding two babies. So, how many babies is it, Man Vs Baby? Because if it's more than one—

Travis: One of the babies is on his side.

Griffin: Okay... okay.

Justin: Oh, he's teamed up. Whoever wins, we're cute. [chuckles] I love it.

Griffin: One man—[chuckles] one man and a baby versus a different, meaner baby. This fall—

Travis: A bigger baby.

Griffin: Winter, December—

Justin: Boos Baby.

Griffin: Boss Baby, he's back.

Travis: Oh, man, Man Vs Boss Baby?

Griffin: We're watching it. There's no trailers out. There—

Travis: No!

Griffin: There is a surplus of artificially inseminated trailers that have been created by robots and put on YouTube, to trick everyone. This is—

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: This is what buoys my spirits in the wake of this tide, of the—of robots taking all of our jobs for real though this time, is that all the comments in all of these AI trailers are like, "This is not my Trevor Bingley. This is AI slop! Trevor Bingley would fucking never!"

Justin: Never.

Griffin: Never!

Justin: "He doesn't have that Trevor Bingley joie de vivre."

Griffin: "You made his eyes all big and nightmarish. That's not my pleasant Trevor Bingley, well-intentioned house sitter."

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Does he—baby—

Justin: Beefo.

Travis: So, he probably baby sits in this one. I want to see if we can—

Justin: APFO.

Travis: Reverse engineer—

Griffin: Okay, I saw—

Travis: Man Vs Baby.

Griffin: I saw one trailer that I think had some real information in it, that said he was a school teacher this time around. How the—I saw Man Vs Bee, I don't want that—

Justin: Who is—

Griffin: No—

Justin: Anyone who saw that—

Travis: That's also not baby-related. Like, babies don't go to school?

Griffin: Well, he's—it's a school for baby—just calm down.

Justin: The school board must—

Travis: Don't say a school for babies!

Justin: Have ruled Man Vs Bee inadmissible.

Griffin: It's a school for babies.

Travis: A daycare!

Griffin: Yeah, he works at a daycare, and there's a nativity play, and no one comes to pick up the baby Jesus. So, he takes—

Travis: So, it is Man Vs Baby Jesus!

Griffin: Yes, and he takes him to house sit at a different house. I'm saying this out loud, this sounds also fake. There's no way that—

Travis: There's no way.

Griffin: There's no way the series is he's a daycare teacher, and he takes home a baby no one picked up, while he's house sitting a fancy house, in London.

Travis: It's also, it's been six years since I had a baby.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? In the house.

Justin: You had a—

Travis: I didn't have that baby.

Justin: Not—okay, you—

Travis: I mean, since I—

Justin: Had a baby around.

Travis: Since I had a baby present in the home.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I don't think parents take the baby to nativity practice and just say—

Griffin: Dip.

Travis: "I'll be back in two hours."

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, no—

Travis: "Keep a good eye on this baby."

Justin: Why else am I letting 'em use the baby then, if I'm not getting some free babysitting out of it? Why are they—why am I letting—

Travis: Well, you can still watch your phone while you sit in the pew?

Griffin: Yeah, because the answer to that, Justin, is on your drive back to the house to get in, you know, a good hour and 15 minutes of shittin' and gaming and all that stuff, you could die in a car accident on the way back.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And then Mr. Bean's gonna have your baby in a stranger's house for the holidays. Merry Christmas, it's Man Vs Baby.

Travis: And you know it's not baby proofed.

Griffin: You know the house isn't baby proofed! He certainly isn't! Can't handle a—can't handle a bee?! Do you have any idea how much more shit a human child is gonna rain down on you than a little tiny—*poops*, done.

Travis: Literally!

Justin: I think—

Travis: They don't got diapers in that house!

Griffin: No way.

Justin: I think the next one they do should be Man Vs It's a Wonderful Life.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: And Clarence visits him. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: And he's like, "It would be better if I was never born. I keep versing everybody." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. "I'm so tired from versing everyone all the time."

Travis: "Once word got out that I was the man to verse, people are calling me out on the street!"

Justin: [chuckles] And then like Clarence shows up, and he takes them to this hellscape that is just covered in bees.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's just a planet of bees!

Griffin: Yeah. He's the one—

Travis: Like in Bee Movie.

Justin: Like in Bee Movie, Trav, I guess. I didn't watch the explainer, so I might miss some of the context. [chuckles]

Travis: They sue humanity! Bees sue humanity.

Griffin: Yeah. "Hey, did you guys catch the trailer for Man Vs Kramer Vs Kramer? It looks like it's gonna be—"

Travis: Predator?

Griffin: It looks like versus—[chuckles] Man Vs Kramer Vs Predator is a fuckin' really, really good idea for a movie.

Justin: Man Vs Kramer Vs Wild Vs Predator.

Griffin: Yes! [chuckles]

Justin: Bear Grylls—

Griffin: Yes. [chuckles]

Justin: Is on our side.

Travis: Is he?

Justin: But he's a baby! He's a baby, baby Bear.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: Baby Bear Grylls!

Justin: Baby Bear Grylls.

Travis: Cub Grylls.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Cub Grylls is a baby.

Griffin: He got dropped off at wilderness camp, and never picked up. And so—

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Trevor Bingley, Rowan Atkinson, has to take care of him.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: But the home he's taking care of him in, it's a married couple who are going through a hard time. Kramer Vs Kramer.

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Griffin: Kramer Vs Kramer.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And then we'll get bees in there too, of course.

Travis: And Predator.

Griffin: And we'll save bees for the last episode, like—end of episode three, he finally got the baby to sleep, and he's like, "Oh, finally, time to relax." What's that he hears? Ding-dong. Checks the Nest Cam, nothing there.

Justin: It's Santa.

Griffin: It's—no.

Justin: [chuckles] Dang it!

Griffin: And he's like, "Oh, nothing's there. All right, back to my nap." And he puts his phone down. And the camera zooms in on the phone, where you didn't see anything before.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And a single bee climbs over the camera lens. And everyone at home was like, "Oh, shit! He's here, the bee!" And the bee's—

Travis: And then—

Justin: And the—and then Santa—

Travis: Predator shows up hunting the bee.

Griffin: Yes, yes. And then Santa—go ahead, Juice, get Santa in there.

Justin: And then Santa! I mean, it's like, I—if you guys put Santa in it, that's the thumbnail.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You what I mean? Like, then every Christmas—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We're returning.

Travis: And the fun thing is, if we have Cub Gylls, the baby—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Trevor Bingley.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Predator, bee, Santa, Kramer... and Kramer.

Griffin: Yeah, we can pick one.

Travis: We can match up, mix and match who's teaming up versus who in there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because I'd love to see Santa and Predator team up against the bee.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's—

Griffin: Yeah. Of the Kramers, I think I'd go with Meryl Streep in our picture.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Over Dusty Hoff, and—

Justin: Yeah! And Michael Richie.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Michael Richisons.

Griffin: Yeah, so we'll get—

Justin: Mikey Richy. [chuckles]

Griffin: Meryl got out of that one good, so we'll get her and the bee and the Predator...

Travis: And there at the end? Freddy.

Griffin: Freddy can get up in it too.

Travis: Freddy pops up.

Justin: Freddy? Yes.

Griffin: Yes, we'll allow it.

Justin: Yeah, Freddy's all right. I think we're—

Griffin: But actually—and Travis, did you hear it? You sealed the joke. I heard it like, there can't be anything else on top—did you hear it? It was like—

Justin: Listen, listen, listen, real close. [makes a water drop sound]

Griffin: The perfect kind of like Salt Bae you did on there, and then it was like, everybody take a step back from it. That's really good shit.

Justin: It's so rare that we recognize that in the moment. You know what I mean? Normally, we have to see it in the rear view. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But this time—

Travis: It's just nice to know that I was there to do the seal, or, as one might say, killing blow.

Griffin: No, it's still a living document? This show is a living—it's in the Library of Congress.

Justin: Hey—

Travis: Wow!

Griffin: In the bathroom. I keep leaving USB drives of our show in the Library of Congress bathrooms—

Travis: Yeah, sealed in a Ziploc baggie, in the tank. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yup, yup!

Justin: "I have been seeing the psychiatrist for a while." Hey, congrats—oh, "For my anxiety disorder." [chuckles] Sorry, I should have finished the whole—

Travis: Either way, congratulations!

Justin: Sentence. I mean, congratulations either way—

Griffin: Yeah, sure!

Travis: Mental health is important!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "It's been pretty helpful. She's also really cool, and recently suggested that I watch horror movies, going so far as to recommend me a

few of her favorites. I've now watched 30 odd movies, and the issue is, I don't really like the ones she's told me to watch." 30?!

Griffin: That's a lot of fucking movies, dude.

Justin: [panting] Man, if somebody recommends me something, they got about 10 minutes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And if they whiffed it, they've whiffed it for good, man. [chuckles] "I found them super boring, with okay scares, but a baffling plot. Is there a way I can let her know about this without turning her against me, or do I have to lie to my psychiatrist? My next appointment is on Halloween. Please help." That's from *Maddened by Mediocre Movies*.

Griffin: Do you—

Justin: I personally would caution you against lying, because I think your psychiatrist needs to know *exactly* how twisted you are.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: You know what I mean?

Travis: Ah!

Justin: Your psychiatrist, if they're gonna get up there in the in the—in the dark cobwebs and like dig around in the annals of your brain?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: They gotta know that like, Art the Clown's up there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, all the bad guy—

Griffin: There's like—

Justin: All the bad ones.

Griffin: There's—

Justin: Both Freddies.

Griffin: There's four people on—

Travis: Ah, no!

Griffin: There's four people on this Earth that I want to know what scares me. And my psych—my therapist would be—would be one of them, because it would be helpful in some of our work.

Travis: I would also say, the person most likely to know you are lying.

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Now—

Travis: Because they've studied your psyche!

Griffin: Yeah, they know you, inside and out. It is an impressive feat to recommend someone 30 movies that they don't like.

Justin: 30? [chuckles] You're gonna get one just out of dumb luck, right?

Griffin: One or two is gonna hit in—

Justin: 30 is so many!

Griffin: So many movies to watch you don't like. And it's like, if someone recommends me two movies I don't like, I've stopped taking recommendations from that person.

Justin: I don't think I've watched 30 movies this year!

Griffin: Yeah, no, no way.

Travis: I would also find it concerning if my therapist, who ostensibly has studied my psyche, attempting to understand my brain, then went, "I know 30 movies you'll love."

Griffin: Distressing, for sure, absolutely!

Justin: Maybe the thing is... your psychiatrist is actually like kind of out of their depth. Because like once they see the—[chuckles] once they kind of see the kind of sick and twisted shit that you get off on, maybe they would be messed up too. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, sure!

Justin: Like, you've been watching all this crazy, scary stuff.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The psychiatrist can't help you, because you want—didn't you listen?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Don't watch that stuff! That's evil. [chuckles] It'll make you—

Griffin: [chuckles] It's evil, bad stuff, dude.

Justin: It'll make your brain bad.

Travis: I'm trying to walk you back!

Justin: Trying to fix you! Yeah, no, "Watch these boring movies, you sick fuck." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "I'm trying to—"

Travis: "I'm trying to detox your twisting mind!"

Justin: "I'm trying to re-sensitize you, you freak!"

Travis: [laughs] I do think the—

Justin: "Sate your blood lust! No kidding!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "That was just a bunch of Faces of Death movies."

[group laugh]

Justin: "You animal."

Griffin: "You monster."

Travis: "You're getting VHSs mailed to you in unmarked packages, man?"

Justin: "That's a direct feed of executions from prisons. You're a terrible person." [chuckles]

Griffin: "You fucking..." [titters]

Travis: I think, it's wild to me, maybe I just have a different flavor of anxiety.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But the idea that my therapist would be like, "Hey, I know you're in here for worrying too much and getting too much attention and being too freaked out by things. Anyway, here's 30 scary movies you should watch."

Justin: No, that's—I mean, that makes sense. That was an expurgation of pity and fear. It's a—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: It's one of the great uses of drama. I get that, but it's just, you gotta get your rocks off, though, if it's gonna work, you know? You gotta get your thrills in.

Griffin: Also, they probably didn't include this, but I assume the therapist told them to like listen to Yakety Sax while they were watching the movies.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Oh! Yeah, that's good.

Griffin: Because if you put—there's like this whole theory, you know, acceptance and commitment therapy, where it's just like, take it and twist it and turn it. If you have something fucked up in your brain, like turn it all—turn it around and look at it a different way. And so, playing like Yakety Sax over... I don't know, some Troma flick? It changes it. It takes the teeth off of it, and makes you brave.

Travis: Guys, I've got it.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: They don't specify the anxiety disorder, but if it's related to social anxiety—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: This is a test.

Griffin: Oh, fuck.

Justin: Oh, dang.

Travis: That they gave you movies they knew you wouldn't like.

Justin: Why do all the great—

Travis: To see if you can say it wasn't good to their face.

Griffin: Yeah, "I didn't like that."

Justin: Why do all the great therapists have to use so many tricks?
[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? All the great therapists are so focused on different tricks and puzzles—

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: And ways they can catch up and trap you.

Griffin: Well, it's—

Travis: Didn't you watch King's Speech?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: When fuckin' Jeffrey Rush is bullying the king to get him to stop stuttering, or whatever? I didn't watch it, but I've seen the clip. And he's like yelling, and he's like—

Justin: We were all at the Oscars.

Travis: Poking him in the eye or something.

Griffin: Yeah, fucking good will—

Travis: And he's like, "Fuck, man! Stop poking me in the eye!" And he's like, "Hm, didn't stutter, did you?"

Griffin: Good Will Hunting, when he's like, "It's not your fault, kid." And then he starts to cry. And when he gets close, Rob Williams farts on his hand and puts it close to his face?

Travis: Yeah, man. Classic!

Griffin: What are we teach—what are we teaching here?

Travis: Math? I think that's what they're teaching in Good Will Hunting.

Griffin: They do teach a lot of math in Good Will Hunting.

Justin: A lot of math.

Griffin: Every time you go back and watch that movie, you forget about all the math in it, huh?

Justin: You learn something new.

Griffin: They Trojan Horse it in there good.

Travis: About apples.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: How many apples do I have? Do you like these apples, or these apples?

Griffin: You need to walk in confidently and say, "I think I've solved your puzzle. I fuckin' hated those shitty movies. And you are a bad person for recommending all of them to me." Because Travis is right, they want to make sure you can stand up—

Justin: I don't think Travis is right.

Griffin: You have to stand up for yourself.

Justin: Huh...

Griffin: 30 bad movie recommendations, that's crazy.

Travis: If you frame it as, "I've solved your test. You gave me these movies because you knew I wouldn't like them, and see if I have the confidence to tell you." You've also now given them the out to say, "Yeah, that's exactly what it was." [chuckles]

Griffin: That's it, that's it!

Justin: But what if the therapist is like, "Okay, I'm hearing your feedback, Jeremy, but please, how many did you watch? Just tell me, how many? Not 30. No, God damn it—"

Griffin: "All 30? Wow, fuck."

Justin: "Have you not been listening to anything? You watched 30 movies?! What are we doing in here, Jeremy?! 30?!"

Travis: "I recommended those a week ago!"

Justin: "You told me your people pleasing was under control! You watched 30 bad movies! You swore to me!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "You said it was getting better!" [chuckles] 30?!

Travis: "You watching one of 'em twice?!"

Justin: What was the—

Travis: "Just to see if you missed something?!"

Justin: "What was that Woobles movie with Cary Elwes in it? What's wrong with you? This is 30—this is just 30 Burger King commercials I looped together to make an 80 minute movie!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Of course it was boring! God!"

Griffin: Justin, we gotta talk to—

Travis: "How did you find a director's cut of the Burger King loop movie?"

Griffin: [chuckles] Justin, we gotta talk about this crazy, fuckin' lumpy-ass gourd you got going on behind you.

Travis: It's a beautiful gourd.

Griffin: It's... it's a...

Travis: That is a biblically accurate gourd.

Griffin: It's an octopus monster that got all dried up by science.

Justin: Hold on a sec, let me get him into the field of view, hold on.

Griffin: Bring him in. Beauty blog, that nasty fucking gourd, dude.

Justin: Cooper grab—got this cat for me at Floyd's.

Griffin: That's—

Justin: It's a—

Griffin: Crazy, man.

Justin: It's crazy, dude.

Travis: I thought it was—I thought it was some ears of corn you had glued together in weird—yeah.

Griffin: No, man, that's a single vegetable.

Justin: It's this.

Griffin: Or fruit.

Justin: It's this. I don't know if this... either these sometimes look like a banana sometimes—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Or this is one of the most important and powerful gourds ever on the internet. And maybe this is huge, I don't know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is either a huge viral thing that everybody's wild about, and you're seeing this everywhere on your FYP.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Or this is a nothing burger. And I still appreciate it, because my daughter thought of me when she got this for me.

Travis: My daughter's never gotten me a gourd my whole life.

Griffin: Listeners at home, it looks kind of like a small pumpkin that a big fat scorpion climbed on top of, and then like kind of gooshed all over.

Justin: And it kind of looks like a banana.

Griffin: Like a banana that someone—

Travis: That's peeled.

Griffin: Fucked into a tiny pumpkin, and then they got banana lumps everywhere.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know—

Griffin: Get it close to the camera. I know that you're not used to this wide angle, but get it up on—get—give it to me.

Travis: I'm so glad we're a video-forward podcast now.

Justin: I don't know how long it'll last? I don't—I was thinking about a—

Travis: Forever!

Justin: Should I lacquer it?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I mean, I could lacquer it, right?

Griffin: Lacquer that—lacquer that gourd. That would be cool.

Travis: You're not gonna eat it?

Justin: This is—that's—I'm not gonna get up from my chair, so that's the best I can—

Griffin: Yeah, you're just holding that gourd for the rest of the recording... Nope.

Justin: Regourding. [titters]

Travis: [sings] Aah!

Griffin: Yeah, that's good shit, man.

Travis: Bazinga.

Justin: All right, you guys want another question?

Griffin: Please!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: All right, good. Allow me. "My wife came home yesterday, and said that her work Slack channel posted a reminder to all the staff to bring back any forks they may have accidentally taken home with them. She said she thought it was weird that anyone would take all the forks with them. I had to tell her that she was, in fact, the fork thief, and that I had been noticing them show up in her lunch bags that she was bringing home with her.

I've been washing them and putting them away with the rest of our dishes, not thinking much about it. Brothers, we've collected over a dozen forks now, and we're not sure how to get 'em back into the office without anyone noticing. How do we return them?" That's from Fork Thief Asking for Forgiveness in Frederick.

Griffin: I feel like I can walk through the mind of this individual, and look at the series of small, hidden choices they were making to themselves, of whether or not to confront their loved one about this fork stealing behavior. And saying, "No, I will accommodate it, and I will, in fact, be complicit in it."

Travis: Yeah, you're fencing it! He was fencing the forks

Griffin: Yes. You're literally—

Justin: Yeah, you're laundering him, you're—yeah.

Griffin: [chuckles] You are laundering the forks, absolutely, you are.

Justin: I mean, literally. [chuckles]

Griffin: Literally.

Justin: I mean, you're putting 'em in a machine and then they come out yours? I don't think so.

Griffin: That's not how it works.

Justin: I guess I'm learning people, most people, are a lot less particular about their silverware than I am. Because if I put one of—a fork in my mouth that isn't one of my normal—

Griffin: You know, yeah.

Justin: I'm gonna absolutely not be having a good time.

Griffin: Dude—

Justin: I'm pretty particular about those.

Travis: See-

Justin: I like a number of tines, I like some tight tine spacing, I like a good hand feel. If somebody's bringing in some scrouty-rowl fork from Nowheresberg—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Got three for a dollar at the Dollar General? No, thank you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No, thank you. Take that back to work, thank you.

Travis: That's true—that's true for me aesthetically, Justin.

Justin: What?

Travis: You've been putting these away in the drawer with your other forks? When you open that drawer and you look into the fork slot and you see these weird, don't fit the shape, don't stack right?

Justin: [sings] Tell... tell me the slots that you guys have. What are the slots in your silver—

Travis: Big fork, little fork, big spoon, little spoon, butter knife!

Griffin: Travis, that's fuckin' amazing!

Travis: And then random.

Justin: That's good, dude.

Travis: And then random slot with like some plastic—like reusable straws and some chopsticks and et cetera.

Griffin: I think you can measure how much you've given up by how you sort the silverware drawer. And at the bottom of the list is probably just like big ol' bucket, you throw it all in. But I'm, I think I'm probably close to the bottom of the list, because we do—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Butter knife, but some steak action will slide in there from time to time.

Travis: Oh, no, Griffin!

Griffin: Big spoon, little spoon in the same drawer. Big fork, little fork in the same drawer. And then—

Justin: *Aah!*

Griffin: One for straws, chopsticks, et cetera.

Travis: Okay, first of all, piece by piece here, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You put the steak knives in with the butter knives? Oh, Justin's camera got too hot from the thing you said.

Griffin: [laughs] Why does it happen now? It's fucking insane! It's fucking crazy!

Justin: Are you—it's not that—it's not that wild, it's a camera? And it gets hot, because it's been on for a while—

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And then it turns off. Every time you act like—it's like Cletus the Slack-Jawed Yokel. It's just a warm camera, Griffin, you gotta calm down, bud.

Travis: Justin, could you at least turn your camera feed on so I'm not looking at color voice?

Justin: No! Not without standing up, I can't.

Travis: Griffin, you put the steak knives in with the butter knives, what happens when you reach in to get a butter knife, and some slicey action happens?

Griffin: How much fuckin'... first of all, they all go in kind of like blade first, handle—hand—ass-up. Ass up, blade down, that's the way we stack our silverware. I'm not gonna fuckin'... toss 'em in there like—

Travis: So, if you reach in to grab a butter knife, you come away with a steak knife, and then you have to put that down and pick up a butter knife. Now, you've had two trips? *Two trips?*

Griffin: I mean, all my steak knives have, you know this, fine elk bone handles.

Travis: If I don't get the thing I want right out of the drawer, I'm so bothered.

Griffin: I can—and yeah, but I know what the difference is. I can tell by just the touch of it, of what is a butter knife and what is a steak knife. I don't need to have things—

Justin: Why are you touching the knives? Like, think about it, though. That's dangerous.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: To get it and use it? What are you talking about?

Justin: It's dangerous. What if you poked your finger?

Travis: How small is your—

Justin: You don't have 'em all business end up? You don't keep 'em all business end up?

Griffin: You guys genuinely do sound a little bit like my mother-in-law right now, who does, every time I'm in the kitchen, usually during Thanksgiving cutting something, saying, "Ooh, careful, that knife looks—" And it is true that the first time that they came over for Thanksgiving, I cut my finger so badly. I cut it so, so badly. And so, I haven't established a great track record. But I'm good with knives, generally speaking. I'm not going to cut myself reaching into the butter knife drawer.

Travis: When you mix your spoons, let's get to spoons, Griffin, the bowl depth and size is different—

Griffin: I feel the same way.

Justin: Yeah, but like—

Griffin: Yeah, I look at it—here's what I do. I look down in the drawer, and I look at the spoons, I say, "There's a small one. I would like that for cereal."

Travis: But they don't stack correctly?!

Justin: But it—they don't stack correctly, but it does beg the question, Griffin, if you are already doing this, if you're looking at spoons and deciding

which spoon you want, why don't you just pile the spoons and the forks together, then?

Griffin: Well, because... Damn, you're right, I'm no better—

Justin: [chuckles] You're not! You're an animal, and that's fine.

Travis: Yes! We live in a society.

Justin: That's fine, Griffin. You gotta claw back out, all right? I got you.

Travis: Maybe today, try separating 'em, and just take a moment to appreciate the step you've taken.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Is it okay to put chopsticks and straws together?

Travis: Yeah, that's fine.

Justin: Yeah, I put a big bag of chopsticks, straws... popsicle molds, trash, you know.

Griffin: Yeah. [titters] Yeah.

Travis: It also helps, Griffin, if the chopsticks can fit into one of the straws, that you can shoot it like a blow dart into some foam.

Justin: In—yeah, that's actually really important.

Griffin: The government should pay for you to move back into your own house every year, because I bet—

Travis: Huh?

Griffin: I would do so much of a better job this time, like knowing where shit should go.

Justin: Because you've lived there for a while, and now you know—

Griffin: Because I've lived there for like a long time.

Justin: You get mad at yourself all the time like, "Why did you do this?"

Griffin: Moving sucks, and it's so expensive, but if the government paid for me to do it once... now that I'm good at it, I'd kick ass.

Travis: And the government loves paying for stuff right now.

Griffin: Well, no, it's—

Travis: They're paying for everything.

Justin: Travis, you have to get political, and it's like...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, I know they're not going to do it. It's obviously a fantasy dream land. Like, we say a lot of bullshit on this show, like Rowan Atkinson is starring in a four-part mini-series sequel to Man Vs Bee called Man Vs Baby. Like, we make shit up on this show like all the time, and we play with it. And we play with—

Travis: We do?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Everything I've ever said on this show is 100% true.

Justin: Perfect. That's great. Good news. That's great.

Travis: Just to balance it out.

Justin: Let's take a break.

[theme music plays]

Travis: You know how normally... Sundays are for humans?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Not anymore. Now, they've come out with a brand-new product, Sundays, for dogs!

Griffin: This is a good name.

Travis: Yeah! The day of the—wait, no, I'm looking here, and I'm looking at the bag of food they sent me. It's dog food. It's not a day of the week. It's dog food.

Griffin: Sundays for Dogs is still a kick-ass, like really strong name. I would be honored to have that on the—on the face of a product that I had created.

Travis: I did break down weekends for my kids that Saturdays are dadder days.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Which is like, could mean I have things I need to take care of, like organizing the garage, or whatever. Or it could be like, "Hey, you're gonna hang out with dad today." And then Sundays are fun days, where we usually go somewhere that, you know, like a museum or—

Griffin: Fridays for the freaks!

Justin: Where either they'll—[chuckles] they'll have fun, or they'll stay quiet while you have fun.

Griffin: Exactly.

Travis: It mixes and matches, it's a beautiful system—

Griffin: Gotta move that now though, because Sundays for Dogs.

Travis: Yes, Sundays for Dogs! You know, normally, you can either have fresh or healthy. With Sundays for Dogs, you have fresh and healthy. They've sent us a bag, and one, I'll tell you this, both of my pups, they got sensitive tum-tums. But we've been using Sundays for Dogs as treats for Lily, our big ol' dog, and she yummies that shit up! [chuckles]

Griffin: Whoa?

Travis: She loves it! She's finally listening to me, for the first time ever.

Griffin: She finally likes Travis, it's amazing.

Travis: She likes me! Sundays is fresh, air-dried dog food, made from great ingredients. The recipes are customized based on the needs of your dog, its size, breed, allergies, activity levels and more. You don't need to thaw it. There's a lot of dog foods now that like you find in the refrigerator at the pet store, or it comes like frozen. You don't gotta do that. And you can make the switch to Sundays by right now going to sundaysfordogs.com/mybrother, to get 50% off your first order. Or you can use code 'My Brother' at checkout. That's 50% off your first order at sundaysfordogs.com/mybrother. [Sundaysfordogs.com/mybrother](https://sundaysfordogs.com/mybrother). Or use code 'My Brother' at checkout. Woof-woof, Big Dog approved.

Justin [as Peter]: Griffin Andrew McElroy.

Griffin: All right.

Justin [as Peter]: My name is Peter Riddles, I'm an agent to the stars. I know you've fallen on hard times, and I got good news for you.

Griffin: Which hard times—

Travis: Ah, Griff, you've fallen on hard times? I didn't know that.

Justin [as Peter]: I know you've fallen on hard times, Griffin—

Griffin: Which kind of hard times—I've fallen on a few different types of hard times.

Justin [as Peter]: You've been struggling to pick up work lately. His brothers can't—

Travis: Oh, Griffin, I didn't know?

Justin [as Peter]: Carry his coat tails anymore. It's been—it's sad, Travis, he's reduced—he actually wrote a book, if you could believe it. It's getting pretty sad.

Travis: A book? Was it like a novel?

Justin [as Peter]: He had to write a book—

Travis: Like a big—

Justin [as Peter]: He had to write a book. But listen, I'm gonna turn things around for you, baby, because I have... I've been learning the web, And I'm gonna be charging you an absolute premium to make a website for you, because I've taken the time to make myself into an expert, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin [as Peter]: So, for a very reasonable fee—

Travis: Sorry, what was your name again, agent?

Justin [as Peter]: Peter Squarespace, is my name, and I'm—

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Are you sure?

Justin [as Peter]: Yes, I'm—yes.

Griffin: Are you sure that's the name you said at the start?

Justin [as Peter]: [chuckles] I said Peter Reynolds.

Travis: Reymnolds? With an M?

Griffin: Which one—Pete, which one is it?

Justin [as Peter]: Not Reymnolds.

Griffin: No, obviously not Reymnolds.

Justin [as Peter]: Certainly not Reymnolds!

Griffin: Yeah. So, what did you need me to—

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] What did you need me to do, Pete?

Justin [as Peter]: [chuckles] I'm making you a website, baby. And yeah, you gotta pay me a bunch of money, because I'm a—I got a big team of experts, and they can let you do whatever you want with a website, Griffin.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin [as Peter]: You're gonna have to pay me a huge premium, because our websites that we build? They can do anything. You can sell stuff with these, you can—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hey, Griffin—

Justin [as Peter]: Post your photos.

Travis: Can I talk to you over here real quick?

Griffin: Yeah, you keep going, Pete.

Justin [as Peter]: You're gonna miss out on the deal!

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: What's up, Trav?

Travis: Hey, Griffin, I think that this Reymnolds guy is maybe trying to take you to the cleaners, because you can do all that with Squarespace. You don't need—you don't need Reymnolds—

Griffin: He did say his name was Peter Squarespace.

Justin [as Peter]: We got—wait, wait, wait, I don't want to interrupt, but we got—we got world-class designers—

[Justin's phone starts ringing]

Justin [as Peter]: Hold on.

Griffin: That was crazy!

Travis: Getting a call from another client?

Justin [as Peter]: Sorry, I got another guy coming in, hold on.

Griffin: Really? That's your ringtone for—

Justin [as Peter]: No, Griffin's dragging his feet! I don't know! Maybe I'll have room for you, because Griffin's draggin' his feet!

Griffin: I know that's Sydnee! I know for sure that's Sydnee!

Justin [as Peter]: What, just because the ringtone is On the Wings of Love, that's gotta be my wife? You're ridiculous.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: You're married to Sydnee too?!

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Travis: Peter Reymnolds—

Justin [as Peter]: It's a sequel!

Travis: And Justin McElroy are both married to Sydnee?

Justin [as Peter]: Sydnee Two, the sequel to Sydnee. [titters]

Griffin: Yeah, so—

Justin [as Peter]: Listen, listen, I have world-class designers that have made templates—

Griffin: Right.

Justin [as Peter]: For me only, and I can let you use 'em for an exorbitant fee.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin [as Peter]: Go ahead with what you were saying, sorry.

Griffin: First of all, the book that I'm writing is The Stowaway. I've written it, it's... it's coming out next year. You can pre-order it a bit.ly/griffinstowaway. Really excited for that. I didn't make—

Travis: A Choose Your Own Adventure experience.

Griffin: It's a Choose Your Own Adventure experience. Penguin—

Justin [as Peter]: This is why you're never going anywhere.

Griffin: Yeah. Penguin Random House made the website for that one, didn't—did not—did not have the opportunity to whip one up. But if I did, Mr. Reymnolds, I would—I would use Squarespace, and not whatever bogus bullshit you're trying to sling my fuckin' way, dude. I've got you dead to rights in my sights, and I know that it's not right what you're doing.

Travis: So, don't fall for Peter Reymonlds' predatory practices. Instead, head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use offer code 'My Brother' to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

[break]

Jackie: Jackie Kashian, hi, and welcome to the maximumfun.org podcast, the Jackie and Laurie Show, where we talk about stand-up comedy! And how much we love it, and how much it enrages us.

Laurie: We have a lot of experience and a lot of stories, and... a lot of time on our hands. So, check us out! It's one hour a week, and we drop it every Wednesday on maximumfun.org.

[break]

Alex: Most of the plants humans eat are technically grass.

Katie: Most of the asphalt we drive on is almost a liquid.

Alex: The formula of WD-40 is San Diego's greatest secret.

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Alex: And at maximumfun.org.

[break]

Travis: I never know if Justin's waiting for one of us to talk, so he can interrupt it with a bit.

Griffin: [spoofs Munch Squad intro] Yeah, no.

Travis: And so like—

Justin: What? No.

Travis: Sometimes, I just like to do a gentle—

Justin: [mouths Much Squad riff]

Griffin: All right.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Yes.

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

Griffin: Squad.

Travis: Squad!

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

Griffin: Squad.

Travis: *Squad.*

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating! And finally, someone's doing something about Elf. Guys—

Travis: About Elf?

Justin: Scooter's coffee—this is the first—

Travis: That's not a real place!

Justin: This is the first press release I've ever had that is also adventure.

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: So, I want you guys to experience it—

Griffin: Is there anything we should know to be ready for the adventure?

Justin: Just imagine it in your mind's eye, I guess, to experience the adventure.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Press your own adventure.

Justin: "At Scooter's Coffee, smiling is our favorite. Scooter's Coffee has partnered with those—[titters] those wizards over at Warner Brothers Discovery Global Consumer Products."

Griffin: It doesn't that, it doesn't say sentence.

Justin: What?

Griffin: The wizards at—

Justin: No, I added wizards, but it does say, "Has partnered with Warner Brothers Discovery Global Consumer Products."

Griffin: Man alive.

Justin: A Globo-Chem corp! [chuckles]

Griffin: Fuck, man.

Justin: "Happy Holidays, from Globo-Chem!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "To bring out smiles and holiday cheer to coffee drive-throughs far and near, the holiday menu at Scooter's Coffee is filled with magic and sweet surprises, inspired by New Line Cinema's film... Elf."

Travis: Which is at least 15 years old at this point.

Griffin: Which is at least—

Justin: A thousand years old.

Griffin: 600,000 years old.

Justin: Throughout the holiday season, you've got drinks and food items that feature maple, peppermint and cherry flavors, that's inspired by the holiday classic film. Each drink comes with—served in a cup featuring, guys, designs inspired by Buddy the Elf and Jvie's North Pole looks. And there's a steek—there's a sticker! Featuring a friendly face from the North Pole.

Griffin: Can you give me the original take on that? That—

Justin: There's a steeker.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: A steeker. [chuckles]

Justin: It's a steeker. There's a steeker, with a friendly face from the North Pole. Now, they don't go so far as to say it's Santa, but I'll be fucked if it's not Santa!

Travis: It's trademarked.

Justin: It's a steeker, but they can't say steeker—a Santa steeker.

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] Collect 'em all, collect all the *weew-weew steekers*.

Travis: [in a high-pitched voice] Collect a little bit of stickers!

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] Collect a *weew-beew*—

Justin: Many stores will also feature holiday lighting and decor, inspired by Buddy the Elf's—

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Journey to New York City to save his—find his father.

Griffin: Shit, yeah. Save his father would be better. It would be better.

Travis: First of all, cherry? Second, I love that they put in the press release, "Check this, folks, we're doing something new and different this holiday season. Our store? Holiday decorations."

Griffin: "Trees and shit. Garlands, you mother fuckers."

Travis: "We're gonna have lights!"

Justin: I really, the—I really like the version of this journey where the sea serpent that greets Buddy is played by—in the TV animated special, I don't know if you guys know this, but the sea serpent that says goodbye to Buddy is voiced by one Matt Lauer, a real black mark on an otherwise pristine production. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] A delightful film, yeah.

Justin: A monster, playing a monster, fantastic. Hey, the Candy Cane Forest Mocha! "Hot or ice-blended, features our world-class espresso, combined with decadent mocha and peppermint flavors, a mocha drizzle and topped with whipped cream, more mocha drizzle and peppermint chips."

Travis: Wait—

Griffin: More mocha drizzle?

Travis: That's too much mocha drizzle?

Griffin: That's a lot?

Travis: That's a mocha storm!

Griffin: Why do I need two strata?

Justin: I didn't even like saying it.

Griffin: Two strati of mocha drizzle?

Justin: "No matter which peppermint option you choose, we're bringing the candy forest to you." Now, we're gonna go through the sea of swirly twirly gumdrops.

Travis: Sure.

Justin: And have a Swirly Twirly Sugar Cookie Latte. That's hot, iced or blended.

Travis: Well, now, hold on.

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: A sugar cookie is not a gum drop?

Griffin: Not even close to a gum drop.

Justin: Yeah, dude. Yeah, dude.

Travis: They're two wildly different sweet like universes?

Griffin: How—

Justin: Everybody hates gumdrops.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And their old, busted-down flavor. [chuckles]

Griffin: They suck so bad. [titters]

Travis: They're good if you wanna build with them and toothpicks?

Justin: That is good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's the only reason they keep making them. That's the reason—only Michaels sells gumdrops, because they're only for crafts.

Griffin: Have we talked about it feels like this sounds like—this sounds like the kind of thing we've definitely talked about before. But is there a gingerbread house eating contest that happens after the gingerbread house like creation contest? Because I would love to see someone try to pound down more than like... a half dozen gumdrops.

Justin: You know what happens to the gingerbread houses that Disney World makes, right?

Griffin: What?

Justin: They become houses for bees!

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: I guess, yeah, man, I guess—

Justin: Griffin, what they do is they take them out... and they become houses for bees!

Griffin: Okay, you can't just say they become houses for bees, that is... nature reclaim-

Travis: I don't know how much clearer he can say it?

Justin: Griffin, here's what I'm saying. They chuck 'em out there.

Griffin: Where?

Justin: Alligators! Where the alligators and mosquitoes are. [chuckles] They chuck 'em out there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then they bring a bunch of bees and they say, "Fuckin' go for it. We got a new queen here, and she loves this gingerbread house. And this is her gingerbread castle and—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Maybe we'll name her Anna and glue a little wig to her, or whatever. But here's—the point is, you guys live in this fucking house now! Eat it up."

Griffin: Yeah. That's—

Travis: I—

Griffin: That sucks for them, man. That's a bad—

Justin: Are you kidding? It sounds pretty fucking good—

Griffin: It sounds pretty fucking good! Except it's like, "Oh, guys, it's wintertime and our house is gone. What happened?"
"We eated it at all, because it was sweet candy and cookies—"

Travis: It's wintertime in Florida and California, Griffin, don't get on your high horse.

Justin: Yeah, it's, what, 60? 60 in the afternoon. Come on.

Travis: Also, I want to say, here's my pitch for a gingerbread house eating competition. It's not how much or how fast, it is, in fact, how long do you think you can wait and then still be able to consume—

Griffin: Driest.

Travis: Yeah. So it's like—

Griffin: Driest, hardest.

Travis: I'm gonna wait. But if you wait too long—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then you go to eat it, and you're like, "Actually, this is no longer consumable," you're disqualified.

Griffin: Yeah. I have to imagine that there is—they make space for like the Big Gulp full of water that they just dunk 'em all in, get it soft and gulletable, like they do in the hot dog one.

Travis: It would be different categories.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? There would be with liquid, without.

Griffin: With toothpicks, without.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Toothpicks is—

Justin: Get 'em down.

Griffin: Chomp 'em down. It's faster to eat the toothpicks, definitely.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: It is. You gotta—it's a few extra chews.

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: There's a—there—okay, so now, and finally, we got treats inspired by Buddy the Elf. "You did it! Congratulations." You made the whole journey through the press release. "Celebrate your holiday—"

Travis: Now they're Elf-flavored.

Justin: "Celebrate your season victories with maple-infused options that don't skimp on the syrup. The Buddy the Elf Maple Caramelicious, hot, iced or blended, features our signature drink." I'm assuming they mean coffee.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "But we put an Elf-inspired new spin on the classic. Creamy Carol me—meets maple, and rich espresso before being topped with whipped cream—"

Griffin: Creamy Carol?

Justin: "Creamy caramel meets maple and rich—"

Travis: Creamy Carol is the woman who puts the whipped cream on all of the drinks.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: That's true. She hates it when you call her that. It's—

Griffin: "Where's the cream on my thing?"
"Creamy Carol is... had a death in the family. Creamy Carol is—"

Travis: "And none of us are trained on it."

Griffin: "Creepy Carol is on sabbatical. It's rough, man. I do not know what to say to her."

Justin: "Perfect for making snow angels, the Buddy the Elf Maple Chai gives your favorite spiced chai an Elf upgrade, with warm notes—"

Travis: How—wait—

Justin: "Of golden maple syrup."

Travis: How is it perfect for making snow angels?

Justin: You dump it on the ground. [chuckles] And then you—no—

Griffin: Dump it on the ground in the shape of an angel.

Justin: It's perfect for making snow angels, because you need a—after you've gotten in down there with Jovie and made beautiful snow angels, then you need a warm-up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Before you go find your dad... James Caan.

Griffin: [chuckles] I love you Daddy James—

Justin: He's on the naughty list.

Griffin: Yeah, he is.

Justin: "Don't have as much of a sweet tooth as Buddy the Elf? Try our Son of a Nutcracker Brewed Coffee, a special limited brewed coffee featuring notes of dark chocolate, roasted nuts and warm, brown sugary bread." It's all based on a movie that's older than your kid's kindergarten teacher, believe it or not, amazing. [chuckles]

Griffin: Great flick—

Justin: Can't believe it.

Griffin: Great flick.

Justin: Great flick!

Griffin: This is one of the more comprehensive brand partnerships I think I've—it's like—

Justin: Dude, we're not even done! Welcome to the—we're filled with holiday cheer. "There's plenty more to cheer about with our Cheery Cheer Sparkling Float, tart cherry and vanilla flavors mixed with sparkling soda and creamy, snowy vanilla float topping and whipped cream, for a carbonated cup of cheery cheer." This one's trying to fuck with me. I'm not great of a reader, but this one is trying to make problems for me intentionally.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Which is rude.

Griffin: How big is their menu? That they can slot in two dozen Elf—

Justin: "Our new Snowball Fight Cake Bite—"

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay.

Justin: "With a delicious bite of vanilla cake goodness, with creamy blue fillings, surrounded by white chocolate and topped with—" They're now getting into like deep cut Elf references that only the—

Griffin: Uh-huh!

Justin: Real Elf heads—

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: [chuckles] Only the real Elfies remember this.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: There's exclusive co-branded ex—sorry, Elf Scooter's Coffee merchandise. That's how I'm say—or no, sorry, we're pronouncing those, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is that what we settled on?

Griffin: That is—yeah.

Justin: "There's co-branded Elf X Scooter's Coffee merchandise, makes for a sweet holiday gift, available in stores and online. Our Son of a Nutcracker tumbler, a stainless steel 32 ounce insulated tumbler—" Finally, folks, a cup with Elf on it! [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think—I think we finally did it, guys! A coffee mug... with Elf.

Griffin: You've... they've like tripled the size of their core menu offerings—

Justin: "Additional merchandise is available at scooterscoffee.com, including a Son of a Nutcracker blanket, featuring the same design—"

Travis: Did they just get rights to the one saying? The one quote?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] "What did you guys have left over that we could just troll for?" So, that is an exciting partnership. I'm excited to get over to Scooter's. Never been to one. Can't imagine I'll go now. Too much Elf stuff, so overwhelming.

Griffin: Too much Elf stuff!

Travis: You would have to say the name of these things out loud to order them—

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: You got to.

Justin: Because—yeah, can't do it, won't do it. Can't—

Griffin: I'll do it like I do it at like a restaurant where I don't know how to pronounce some of the menu items. Where I'll be like, I will have the... stew." And they'll know what I mean when I say like—

Travis: "This one?"

Griffin: I would like—

Travis: "Can I have this one, please?"

Griffin: "May I have the cherry beverage?" And you know...

Travis: "And how many does that cost?"

Griffin: "You want me to say Son of a Nutcracker? You have a knife in your hand, you're saying, say Son of a Nutcracker."

Justin: "Out loud? Okay."

Griffin: You said say—

Travis: "Oh, you're Scooter?"

Griffin: "You said say Son of a Nutcracker, or I can't finish? You said that to me, a customer at your coffee shop?"

Justin: "Thank God, this place is a drive-through. [chuckles] I wouldn't want to stay here for very long."

Griffin: "Yeah, no thanks."

Justin: "On the first day of class, our TA told us not to raise our hands, but simply to speak up when we had something to share. For context, I'm in grad school, and there are about 20 people in the class. I respect the TA and want to follow that request, but I keep forgetting and raising my hand anyway. To say this bothers her would be an understatement. She's clearly annoyed, and has even begun to threaten docking grades. I've started to realize what I'm doing partway through raising my hand and try to pass it off as running my hand through my hair or stretching."

Griffin: Awesome!

Justin: "I can only do this so many times before it looks suspicious. The other day, I tried to pass off raising my hand as pretending to shoot basketball, and it didn't go over well. Brothers, what are some other convincing ways that I could pretend I am not raising my hand?" That's from Teacher's Pest in Tennessee.

Griffin: Stretch.

Travis: No, they already said stretching.

Justin: I mean, they did cover that. Now say, pretend to shoot basket ball.

Griffin: Pretend to shoot a basketball. [chuckles] A big one, in the hoop.

Justin: Did it—already did it. It's done.

Griffin: Damn.

Travis: Pretend like you're raising an antenna to get better reception on your invisible hand radio?

Griffin: Yeah. That's good. Pretend to grab a bug?

Travis: Oh, that's a good one!

Justin: Oh, that's a good one, if you just like... snap it out of the air and then—[makes a chomping sound].

Travis: Maybe bite—

Griffin: Body odor—body odor check.

Travis: Write a fun phrase on the palm of your hand.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: They'll think you're cheating. They'll think you're cheating.

Travis: No, no, no, so that when you raise your hand, they see, and it just says like, "Hi, TA."

Justin: They'll kill you.

Griffin: Oh! Wait, no, Travis has a good idea! Waving!

Justin: [titters]

Griffin: "Hi!"

Travis: "Hi!"

Justin: "I'm not—don't call on me, I don't have shit!"

Griffin: "Don't call on me!"

Travis: And give 'em a thumbs up. Let 'em know they're doing a good job.

Griffin: "Just glad to see you teach."

Justin: Air high five. [chuckles]

Griffin: It sucks that you—

Justin: "Great point."

Griffin: It's—

Justin: "Great point, tech."

Griffin: Sucks you only get to wave when you say hi or bye to someone. You should be able to mid conversation be like, you know what—

Travis: I wave all the time! What are you talking about?!

Griffin: "You know what? I'm fuckin' stoked all over again to be talking to you, man! Here's a big one for you, dude!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I'm not very good at waving too, so I do it all the time to try to practice.

Griffin: Yeah. I've never—

Travis: Sometimes when I wave, it makes it seem like my wrist is disconnected from my hand.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And it's just kind of... all over the place.

Griffin: Oh, it's—yeah, that's—you need to—you need to—it needs to be more of a lever action.

Travis: I can't. I'm trying to do kind of more of a Princess Di—

Griffin: No, man.

Travis: You know, parade wave.

Justin: It would be—you know what would be nice? If we use the wave as a symbol to like start the conversation over. Like, I'm not—like, I've accidentally lied a couple times, and I don't want to have this anymore. And you're going to talk to me about something I don't care about.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I just want to start over, please.

Griffin: Gotta watch that hand, man.

Travis: You would have to limit the amount of times you could do that, right? Like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You could do that like once a conversation.

Griffin: Do you guys think... John Cena, the first time he did the "you can't see me" thing, he was just waving at himself? Because he was like—

Travis: Oh, or he smelled something?

Griffin: He wanted to—that's possible, too. Stinky—

Travis: Or he wanted to smell something?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He was trying to... waft.

Griffin: That was it! It was Cena Vs Rock, and The Rock was like, "Do you smell what The Rock is cooking?" And John Cena was like, [sniffs] "I don't know, man."

Travis: [sniffs] "I'm trying."

Griffin: "That looks cool. That looks really cool."

Travis: That's another thing you could do. You could do the John Cena wave. You start to wave your hand, and then you're just wave it right in front of your face!

Griffin: That's cool. Yeah, you raise one hand, you raise the other hand, bring it down in a crotch chop.

Travis: [chuckles] Oh, yeah!

Griffin: We are really brutalizing our microphones during this question.

Justin: It's—I've been seeing interviews of John Cena lately pop up on TikTok, and he's talking about a lot of like debonair stuff. Like his—like his preferences of coffee, or—

Travis: I watched that as well, Justin. Very debonair.

Justin: Very debonair. And it gave me the strain... a strange emotion I don't think I've ever had before, which is the feeling that I am glad John Cena is as big as he is, so he is not bullied. Because I think if John Cena was not John Cena size, he would get bullied a lot. Like I felt weirdly defensive for a John Cena that didn't exist.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: That didn't have his huge muscles, you know what I mean? But I'm glad he is as—he is as... John Cena is as big as he needs to be.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And I don't think I understood this, because I was not a wrestling person.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And—but he is, I will say, it seems like widely bullied, in that—even in that world for a strong man, it seems like even people who like wrestling bullied John Cena more than they would feel comfortable bullying a man of his size.

Travis: Well, he left wrestling to go to—

Justin: Generally speaking.

Travis: Go to Hollywood, Justin, where being debonair is appreciated. Now he comes back and he's like, "Y'all bullied me when I was just a big, strong wrestler, but look at me now."

Griffin: "Look at me now."

Justin: I'd like to get a gut check from Griffin on this angle of John Cena being highly bullyable, because I feel that in my bones and I want to know if it's a right—a right feeling.

Griffin: I need—I need 10 seconds.

Travis: Can I also just say, Justin, he wasn't always that big. Like, as much as I want to picture a 10 year old John Cena who's absolutely jacked, and it's just the same, but scaled down to 10? There must have been a time where he did get bullied, and he thought, "I'm gonna become an absolutely jacked mountain of a man."

Justin: Yes, but what I'm saying is like, I think his huge—

Travis: [sings] Baby Cenas.

Justin: His hugeness is directly proportionate to how big of a dork he was. He real—like, a lot of people would have that realization, and they'd do like 20 push ups and be like, "Okay, I'm all right. I feel comfortable." John Cena is like, "I'm gonna... I think I need to get just... really huge."

Travis: He got—

Justin: To be able to like carry off—

Travis: Just like me! Like that's what I did. Because, you know—

Justin: Yeah. Oh, yeah, Trav. Yeah, the Travis McElroy system, he called it, I think. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah. Got real big—

Griffin: In 2000—

Travis: Weirdo.

Griffin: In 2002, John Cena debuted the alias that he had at the time, which was a freestyle rapping wrestler named The Doctor of Thugonomics.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [panting] I'm gonna hyperventilate.

Justin: Okay, so—

Griffin: This is... real.

Travis: Canon. This is canon.

Griffin: 100% fully, fully super—I know—guys, I get it that that sounds like some shit I would say, that would be made up, on this show where we say made up shit all the time, like Man Vs Baby. But that's very real. I have to imagine—

Justin: No wait, Man Vs Baby is real too. [chuckles] I want to be clear.

Griffin: [titters]

Justin: Damn it. Okay. Go ahead, thank you.

Griffin: I have to imagine—

Justin: Did you guys make up the—

Griffin: That where he is—

Justin: Because I didn't even Google it. [titters]

Griffin: It's very real. I have to imagine where John Cena is now, the frame—the frame he occupies now, was largely, he was pressed firmly into that mold.

Justin: Like a play—like the Play-Doh Dentist.

Griffin: Like a Play-Doh Dentist!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Because of a slingshot effect that he took around Doctor of the Thuganomics, to come back. He went, "Whoa!" And everyone was like "This sucks!" And he was like, "Rip!" [makes an explosion sound]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And he launched back forward into the huge guy mold. And now he's like, he is where he is now. And that's like a... who does that? Who can make that fucking transition? Nobody.

Travis: Now, my question is, did The Doctor of the Thuganomics have a PhD or a medical degree?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Because even in there—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What it applies is—implies is that the character went, "Yes, I could just be a layman of the thuganomics."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But I will attend more schooling."

Griffin: Yeah. Debuting The Doctor of Thuganomics character in 2002, Cena began performing freestyle raps and promos, and wore jerseys and hats as part of his gimmick, along with the slogan, "Word life." So he had to—he had to—[claps three times] They had to crush him at the bottom of the fuckin' pit. Batman broke his back—

Justin: Ground him down.

Griffin: So he could climb back up. Now he's the fucking fear, you know what I mean?

Justin: I love that.

Griffin: I love that for him!

Travis: God...

Justin: Good for you, John. Cool journey. Would love to get you on My Brother, My Brother and Me, or McElroy Family Clubhouse. Standing offer, John.

Travis: Or just a cool hang if you—if you're afraid of the attention—

Justin: Cool hang, and I'm not gonna bully you.

Travis: If you're afraid of all the attention you would get from guesting on our show, I understand that can be off-putting. We can just chill out and play Fortnite together.

Griffin: That's fine.

Justin: My—

Griffin: You can be in fort—

Travis: You can—you can play as yourself!

Griffin: I can be you, John, in Fortnite.

Justin: He probably doesn't play as John Cena, right?

Travis: No, but I bet it would make him more comfortable if you did.

Griffin: "You do pickle—you do Pickle Rick!"

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: John Cena loves that. John Cena is still talking about Pickle Rick, guys.

Justin: [titters] John, hi, the invite was real. Griffin doesn't mean this.

Travis: No, please, please—

Griffin: I do fully mean—

Travis: Ignore that part!

Justin: John—

Griffin: I do fully mean it. He's on his farewell tour season still, in WWE. And every once in a while, it'll be like, "I'm about to take you down like Pickle Rick." And they're like, "Dude, you can't fuckin'—"

Travis: So, you're saying, Griffin, there's two things— There's two things John Cena loves that we know about, the perfect flat white, which he discusses at length in the video Justin and I watched, and Pickle Rick.

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: So, when John Cena goes into a coffee shop, he orders a flat white to see if they know what they're doing. And then ask the barista also, "What are your feelings on Pickle Rick?"

Griffin: Yeah, and you know it's—it's like he... he's—he hasn't seen it. He said he—and he said in an interview, he's not—

Travis: Oh? He hasn't John seen it.

Griffin: He said, "I'm not allowed to watch Rick and Morty, but I—"

Justin: It's on Adult Swim—[chuckles]

Griffin: He said, "But I see a lot of like really funny stuff about this guy—"

Travis: "I'm busy studying thuganomics—"

Justin: I haven't—

Travis: "Is what my parents told me."

Griffin: Right.

Justin: I haven't watched it, but I asked AI to generate a version of it for me based on what I knew about it—

Griffin: A clean version.

Travis: I saw the T-shirt at Hot Topic! And I was—

Justin: I do like—

Travis: So focused on the iconography.

Griffin: Yeah. He is a subscriber to the American Journal of Thuganomics, because you can't just like learn that shit in 2002 and then—

Travis: No, he goes to the conferences. Yeah.

Griffin: Constantly changes.

Justin: It's for the articles. [titters] Hey, thank you so much for listening to My Brother, My Brother and Me, a true podcast full of absolutely true stuff!

Travis: For grown-ups!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: For dogs! [titters]

Justin: This is true. On December 6th, we're going to be doing a Candlenights show, right here in Huntington, West Virginia, at seven PM. That includes a virtual stream ticket. If you want that digital premiere of recording the show with bonus behind the scenes footage, that premiere is going to be December 19th, at 9PM Eastern, through—and you can watch that through January 4th. We'll be in the chat on that, hanging out with you, watching that.

All benefits from this show are going to be donated to Harmony House, which seeks to end homelessness in the Huntington area through permanent housing and supportive service programs. I don't need to tell you how important that is right now, and we would really appreciate any support you can provide. Tickets for both those events are available at bit.ly/candlenights2025.

Travis: Also! If this goes out at noon on Monday, which it normally does, that means that Champions Grove 2026 tickets are on sale right now. So, Champions Grove, real quick, the whole pitch is, there's a castle in Hocking Hills, Ohio, called Ravenwood Castle. It is a castle, hotel, event space. And on Memorial Day weekend, we have rented it out, me and the Champions Grove folks. And I'm bringing in some game hosts, and you know, people who do amazing projects in the TTRPG space, to run games. You guys come in, we run the games for you, you play games with each other. We have events, we have fancy dinners, we have all kinds of stuff that you can—

Justin: And you're gonna meet a bunch of cool people. I went to the first one and it was a delight.

Travis: Thank you, Justin! And that's Memorial Day weekend. And we have accommodation packages for two to four people. You rent out the accommodation, and that also is going to give you, when you get the accommodation package, you get access to the event, and then you're going to reserve the hotel room through Ravenwood Castle. You can find out all the information, championsgrove.com, it's there. That's also where you can get the packages. But like I said, it's on sale now, and the spots are limited, so don't wait. Championsgrove.com.

Griffin: Two more quick things. I did write a Choose Your Own Adventure book. It comes out March 10th, next year. It's called The Stowaway. You can pre-order that at bit.ly/griffinstowaway. And we also have revealed the cover for the final Adventure Zone graphic novel adaptation, written by us and our dad, illustrated by Carey Peach, The Adventure Zone: Story and Song. That one comes out on July... 14th.

Justin: There it is.

Griffin: July 14th. And you can pre-order that at theadventurezonecomic.com. It's... it's a lot of stuff happening next year. Oh, and thanks to Montaigne for the use for our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. [in a high-pitched voice] It's a great one. Great track!

Justin: We got a—

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] Steekers!

Justin: A Fear, Trav, that we want to be faster than this year.

Travis: We sure do, Justin. Would you like to read it?

Justin: "This year, I'm gonna go faster than my fear of a large flock of birds coming down and taking me away into the sky forever."

Griffin: [titters]

Justin: Fair enough.

Griffin: Clean.

Justin: It's fair. Yeah.

Griffin: Simple.

Justin: That would such.

Griffin: Simple and clean.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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