

MBMBaM 792: They're Not Drunk, They're Just Fighting

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Intro (Bob Ball): The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's 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! 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 'Big-Dog Woof-Woof Vroom-Vroom' McElroy!

Griffin: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30, media luminary, Griffith McElroy. Beep-beep-beep-beep! Guys, check the chyron. Check the newspapers—

Justin: I see no chyron.

Griffin: Check the—there's a new—there's a chyron at the bottom of the screen right now that says, "Check it out." And it says Hamnet—it says "Hamnet watch." And this is a new movie out in theaters, and it's called Hamnet. And Hamnet is about the son of... professional playwright, Bill Shakespeare, had a son and named his son Hamnet. And so, this movie is called Hamnet. And it's a real guy, his name was Hamnet Shakespeare. And I thought I—

Justin: Wait, that's a real guy.

Griffin: I thought I knew a lot about this fuckin' dude, because like I've been in his shit before, Casca—

Travis: Deep in his shit.

Griffin: "Speak, hands, for me!" Fuckin' in there. I thought I knew everything about—

Travis: He's still got it.

Griffin: I thought I knew—

Travis: He's still got it!

Griffin: Thanks, man, I don't—I knew everything about this old Victorian man, or whatever—

Travis: No!

Griffin: Way before that, Dark Ages. He had a son? Cool, first of all. And he named him Hamnet, which is also cool, because he also wrote a play and called it Hamlet.

Travis: Now, hold on—

Griffin: And that's awesome.

Travis: This is what we need to talk about, Griffin, because I've known this for a while. And the thing that blows my mind, imagine—so, Hamlet—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is a real wiener, who murders people and like all this stuff, right—

Griffin: Bill Shakespeare's son becomes a kill—like kills guys?

Travis: Well, no! That's Hamlet. Imagine if Dad wrote a story about someone named Groffin—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Who was a real wiener, who complained all the time, and was just like—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: [spoofs sobbing] Uh-hu-hu-hu! And like killed a man?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I haven't seen the movie, and this is a— This is a Hamnet watch only sort of conceptually, because it looks so boring. But it's, he had the son first, called the son Hamnet, and then wrote a play about a real piece of shit. And was like, "I'll call him something that sounds a lot like my son's name, and not the other way around."

Travis: I believe so, yeah.

Justin: That's not actually historically how it happened.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: From what I understand—

Griffin: Mm-hm?

Justin: He wrote Hamlet, and then Anne Hathaway gave birth to their first child.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And she says, "Bill Shakespeare, tell me true now, what is—" And she was holding the baby up and she's like, "Bill Shakespeare, tell me true now, what's the best thing—"

Griffin: And she was shorn! She was shaved.

Justin: Shorn.

Griffin: She did that again. She said, "I like that look."

Justin: It's not Anne—Anne Hathaway is his wife, Griffin. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, sorry.

Justin: And she says, "Bill Shakespeare, tell me truly now, what's the greatest thing you've ever created?" And like without even thinking he's like, "Hamlet." And she's like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "What?" And he's like, "Hey, I said, ham net." [chuckles] "What?" "I said Hamnet."

Griffin: Ham net. And that's the name of our—

Travis: Ham net.

Justin: Which is what?

Griffin: That's the book's name now. —

Justin: I would like—[titters] "I would like to name—if I may! It's a name I've—"

Travis: "It's a family name!"

Justin: "Been calling him privately for a while now, Hamnet. Hamnet, I said."

Travis: "It's a family name that I came up with, because my father used to catch hams—"

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "In a net. He was a ham fisherman!"

Griffin: "Yes! And that's real." It would be as if Stan Lee, younger Stan Lee walks out of the hospital holding his little bundle of drawings and says, "Everyone, I'd like you to meet Spiber-Man." [laughs] "This is Spiber-Man, and he's my beloved son. I named him after one of my favorite guys, Excelsior!"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "I'm drunk!" It's like the only—

Griffin: "I'm drunk—"

Travis: "I named him after him, but not really!"

Griffin: "Yeah, they said that you shouldn't name kids when you're drunk, but I call this one Spiber-Man, and I put it on the papers and everything."

Travis: "I named it close enough to it that it's very obvious, but for some reason, I changed one letter!"

Griffin: Just so fucking wild, just so wild.

Travis: "This is my son, Excelsenor!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. I haven't—I haven't seen the movie, I assume it's just two hours of a man named Hamnet walking around going, "Ah!"

Justin: "I can't believe this."

Griffin: "Ah, man!"

Justin: "Not again!"

Griffin: "Crazy!"

Justin: "Everybody loves this play!"

Travis: "I believe it's pronounced Hamlet."
"No, I—yeah, no, I get that—"

Griffin: "No, it's not."

Travis: "I get that a lot, but Dad put a N in there because he's a wordsmith or some fuck. I don't know, man."

Griffin: But god—god blessed him—

Justin: What's the name fake play from Something Rotten, Trav? What's the name of the fake show on Something Rotten?

Travis: I don't know?

Justin: Omelet.

Travis: I'm kind of a jock.

Justin: Omelet, the musical.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Oh, that's hilarious. Hilarious stuff.

Griffin: I just—

Justin: Love Shakespeare.

Griffin: I love Shakespeare, and I love all of his stuff. It's cool that this movie came out. And it's gonna help ol' Hamnet Shakespeare's SEO, certainly.

Travis: Oh, yeah! For sure.

Griffin: Because now I think we're gonna get a lot fewer auto corrections like, "Did you mean the great—the great tragedy, Hamlet?"

Travis: It feels like a sequel to Shakespeare in Love, but that's only based off of the three seconds that I accidentally saw on a TikTok. And I was like, is this Shakespeare in Love? But no, it's Hamnet.

Griffin: Okay, three seconds of Shakespeare in Love, or three seconds of Ham Net?

Travis: I saw three seconds of Ham Net.

Griffin: Okay, I thought you were saying like, "I'm too cool for Shakespeare in Love, because I used to work at the great bard's like company on a corporate level."

Travis: No, no, no, Shakespeare in Love rules. I'm saying—

Griffin: Okay, just checking.

Travis: There's a moment where Geoffrey Rush says, "The show must..." And then someone says, "Go on." And you're like, that's how they came up with it! It's brilliant.

Griffin: That happens in Ham Net?

Travis: No.

Justin: That happens in Something Rotten.

Griffin: God damn it! They—

Travis: No, it happens Shakespeare in love!

Griffin: They gotta stop making movies about Shakespeare, guys.

Travis: And then Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks are hanging out, and they fight a big snake. No, that's Dragnet, sorry.

Griffin: God dang it.

Travis: That's Dragnet, the movie, based on the TV show of the similar name. Which one? Sorry, I don't know if Hamnet is about Hamnet or William Shakespeare.

Justin: Well, it's about—is William Shakespeare in it? Is there an old—

Griffin: He better fuckin' not be. I'll kick his ass. If I see that dude, I'm gonna kick his ass.

Travis: Wow?

Justin: Wow!

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Justin: Sheesh!

Griffin: If I see—yeah, dude.

Justin: Sheesh!

Travis: If you see him on the movie screen, you're gonna kick his ass.

Griffin: If I see Shakespeare—

Justin: You're gonna say, "Kids, stay seated." [chuckles]

Griffin: I do that, you know how heated I get and I have like real temper problems when it comes to people who have wronged me. And if I do see Shakespeare on a screen, fictionalized, being played by an actor, the real guy, whatever, I will go in there and kick his ass, Purple Rose of Cairo style.

Travis: Justin, I want to say that in your little short vignette of a scene you did there, were you imagining that Griffin has taken his nine-year-old and four-year-old sons to go see Hamnet?

Griffin: I bet it's okay for—I bet it's—

Justin: Both "scene" and "vignette" were very generous there, Trav. Thank you so much for that.

Travis: You're welcome.

Justin: Yeah, it was in that—guys, I'll be honest with you, from the moment—[chuckles] from the moment you said "Hamnet," I have been imagining an animated film about a pig Shakespear.

Travis: Yeah, like Spider-Ham, yeah!

Justin: And guys, nothing you're saying is erasing my pig Hamnet from my mind. It's just there. And like from the—

Travis: I love—Justin! In your brain—

Justin: So like in my mind, he was saying Hamnet, starring Seth Rogen as Hamnet. [chuckles] You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like I was—that's what I was seeing.

Travis: In your mind, they wanted to make an animated film about Shakespear. And they took the name Hamlet, and they said, "No, no, no, we gotta funny it up. Ham Net!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Okay, so the movie apparently—okay, guys, the movie starts, a written prolog states that in Stratford Renaissance England, Hamnet and Hamlet were considered the same name. I imagine this is like a—

Travis: There's no way!

Griffin: Return of Emperor Palpatine sort of crawl like, "Hey, listen up, you fun—hey, chuckle fucks! Before you guys start bustin' on your podcast, you should know that they used to say these names pretty much the same way."

Travis: Was Hamnet a nickname for Hamlet? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, dude. Sometimes they would just swap sounds around. That's why he came up with so many goddamn words. He's the great bard. But I'll kick his ass if I do see him once.

Travis: I know, Griffin. I get it.

Justin: Yeah, man. "I work in the defense industry, and routinely have to travel to military bases for my work. I'm also an avid disc golfer and love playing new courses.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: "A surprising number of—" What?

Griffin: Just that's awesome, that those two things are true about—that's awesome! It's cool.

Justin: A surprising—

Travis: I bet that overlap is bigger than you think.

Griffin: You think so? Between disc golf and the military?

Travis: Defense contractors?

Griffin: Yeah. I guess so.

Justin: You have to travel a lot, I bet—I bet you want just like any common ground, right? For people that travel a lot, I bet just like having something—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Where you can bond with people. I'm also—

Griffin: Yeah, like you—

Travis: And a lot of things that—a lot of things that fly through the air! A lot about trajectory.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: A lot about UFOs!

Travis: A lot of... yes!

Griffin: Yeah, shorts! You can wear shorts while you do it.

Justin: "A surprising number of bases have disc golf courses on base, often right in the middle—"

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Justin: "Of everything, which presents a dilemma."

Griffin: Well...

Justin: "How do I go out and rip discs after having these serious military meetings?" That's from Desperate to Disc in Orlando.

Griffin: I don't understand why this is a problem and not an incredible opportunity. Because if you're out there fuckin' Tony Stark and you're selling huge bazookas, or whatever it is I'm assuming that you do, I just assume it's huge bazookas, and you say—

Travis: Or huge bazonkas!

Griffin: [chuckles] Huge bazonkas, huge bazookas. And you say—

Justin: Jason Mantzoukas.

Griffin: And someone says...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You're rippin' 'zookas out there, and people are like, "How do I know I'm getting a good deal on these 20 bazookas you're selling me?" And then you turn around and fuckin'—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: Especially if you yell "pull."

Justin: Pull.

Griffin: Pull.

Travis: When you do it. And then the bazooka goes off, boom! Hits that disk like—

Justin: You say—you say "pull," and a 10-foot-tall Jason Mantzoukas launches a clay pigeon into the air? Hell yeah, dude.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Now hold on—

Travis: And you hit it with your disc, and the clay pigeon explodes, and you're like, "Now imagine if that was a bazooka." [chuckles]

Justin: Skeet, skeet, skeet.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah. You yeet your disc up into the sky, and someone blasts it with one of these new—

Justin: You yeet your skeet. You yeet your skeet.

Travis: Yeet your skeet!

Griffin: You yeet your skeet, and the—someone shoots a bazooka—

Travis: The two things meet.

Griffin: Blows up the disk—

Travis: And you can't be beat.

Griffin: And then they say, "Hell yeah, these are good bazookas." And you say, "What the fuck, man? That was on pace for a—for an ace! It's been so long, I can't believe you blew up my disc. Foul."

Justin: First of all, I don't love the idea that someone with this serious of a job is aware of us. And I have tried to be pretty firm about that, that if you do have a real profession or something serious like that, we would prefer you find your entertainment from more erudite sources. I don't like the idea that I'm influencing anyone of import.

Travis: Yeah, even subconsciously!

Griffin: Email us, tell us that you have a ding-dong job.

Travis: Yes, please.

Griffin: "I make my own bowling balls and sell them on Etsy," like that kind of stuff.

Justin: Secondly, what's confusing to me about this situation is, if you went to here and you started playing disc golf, what if someone else also started doing that, and then they wanted to talk to you about it, and talking about how you were doing it and comparing it to the way they were doing it.

Travis: If you were perceived is what you—yeah.

Justin: If that's a possibility, how do you even go on the boat ship base to begin with?

Travis: I assume they're not—

Griffin: You invented a boat.

Travis: Playing disc golf on top of like an aircraft carrier, because that would lead to a lot of lost discs.

Griffin: A lot of discs floating—

Justin: Yeah, but 3D printers these days.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: What does that mean? Finish—no, finish that sentence.

Travis: You can 3D print forgiveness.

Griffin: No, no, no, but Justin—

Justin: Pop a new one—pop a new one out.

Griffin: I want Justin to fin—no, I can't believe you fuckin' bailed him out—

Justin: Just pop a new one out!

Griffin: He was—

Justin: Print a new disk!

Griffin: You pop—

Justin: Print a new disc.

Travis: He's my brother in print, Griffin, I gotta back him up.

Griffin: I know you gotta support a brother—[chuckles]

Justin: Just because you're not a—just because you're not a filament—

Travis: A brother, yeah.

Justin: You don't have to come and rain on our parade. [chuckles]

Griffin: Damn it!

Justin: You know?

Griffin: "Filament" was the only other 3D printer word I can think of—

Justin: I am a...

Travis: A PLA pal? I also want to say this, if they put that thing square in the middle of the base, they're so excited when people are using it.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You see that sometimes where there's like an aspirational pool table, that someone has put in like an office or something, and they're like, "Everyone's gonna use this!" And then people are like doing their jobs.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like, you would see that like in a fire house, right? "Oh, yeah, this is a—" A fire station. "We put a pool table in here, and they can relax and do it." They don't wanna do that. They wanna sit—

Justin: It's like when you're hosting a holiday party, and you take out a tray of appetizers that you're very proud of, and set them down, and you expect the gravitational pull of the table, like the whole mood should shift.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's weird that people keep talking, you know what I mean? You kind of want there to be like hushed silence, slowly turn.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Those are pizza rolls. You know? Like the—you want the moment.

Travis: Ooh?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Cool party.

Griffin: Cool party.

Justin: I'm kind of hungry now.

Travis: Especially if you bust those out in the middle? Like that's a good way to get over a lull, or an argument. "Oh, no, they—a politics argument has broken out. But guess what I have? Pizza rolls!"

Griffin: A disc.

Justin: No, a—no, Travis—

Griffin: Oh, sorry.

Justin: No, we're not talking about pizza roll, man, we're talking about disc golf. [chuckles] It was a metaphor, man! I don't know why you're still talking about pizza rolls.

Griffin: You're really hung up on the metaphor of pizza rolls.

Travis: I do love the idea of like you're negotiating or whatever, you're talking, it gets heated, and you're like, "You know what? I think things are getting a little heated. Let's take just like a quick 45 minutes to an hour, I don't know how long a round of disc golf takes—"

Justin: "First person to call it frisbee—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But we'll bust that out."

Justin: "Gets thrown off the boat." Or the ship, or the base.

Travis: "And then we'll—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Much like the disk, circle—"

Griffin: Boat, ship, base, whatever it may be.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Justin really wants there to be a ship.

Travis: And then—

Griffin: Justin's this is like crazy about this ship that he imagined.

Travis: Just like a frisbee—ah, just like a disk.

Justin: I'm going back through the question to see where aircraft carrier—

Travis: Can I finish m! Joke?!

Griffin: Yeah, please finish, Travis.

Travis: Just like a disc, we'll circle back. Okay, now you can go.

Griffin: All right, that's good.

Justin: Trav, can you do the joke again—

Griffin: I'm glad we made space for that.

Justin: Like a frisbee? Because I missed it.

[pause]

Travis: Did it go over your head?

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: Oh, fuck, dude.

Justin: *Dang!*

Griffin: God damn!

Travis: I'm operating on four hours of sleep!

Justin: Four hours of sleep. And what is the temperature?

Travis: I didn't have—

Justin: What is your temperature right now?

Griffin: What's the current temperature?

Travis: It's 59 degrees in my house! My house was without power for 25 hours! While it was—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: Under 32 degrees outside. And I'm bringing the heat myself!

Justin: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah you are, dude.

Justin: Fire.

Griffin: You're an internal... comfunstion engine. And I'm having a great—

Travis: My Ron Funches engine!

Griffin: I'm having a great time.

Justin: God, Griffin's actually lowering his stock in his effort to compliment you. Griffin's getting worse!

[group chuckle]

Griffin: Sometimes—

Travis: I just, I love that support. This is not—

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: This is the opposite of a zero-sum game. This is a sum-sum game.

Justin: "I am a therapist, and I also have IBS. Coffee makes it worse, but I need it to stay awake each day. This presents an obvious conundrum."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: "Often, I find myself in the middle of a session, sipping on my iced mocha, when my tummy begins to grumble audibly. I start sweating, and let's just say the call of nature becomes undeniable. Up 'til now, I've been white-knuckling it through the rest of the session when this happens, but it definitely detracts from my focus. Thus, how can I maintain the quality of my services and also heed my bowels?" And I don't want to read the name of this one, but I will, Am I a Shitty Therapist?

Travis: Do you have an in-office bathroom, like an attached bathroom to your office? Because—

Griffin: Okay, I was wondering how in-office it would need to be—

Justin: Toilet in the center!

Griffin: For it to sort of thread the needle.

Travis: Originally, the thing I did picture was a porta potty, but I think that that might be—I mean, okay—

Griffin: Yeah, that's cool. Something with thing walls.

Travis: This might still work for the idea, because after they tell you something, you're gonna say, "Hm, that's—eh, that's a toughie. I'm gonna have to step into my thinkin' chamber."

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And then like you... But if it's a porta potty, you can make it like a TARDIS. And you'll be like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I'm gonna go back to your childhood and observe like how—"

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "Your parents treated you. I'll be right back." And then you're gonna play some loud TARDIS noises to cover—

Justin: Tortoise.

Travis: What's about to happen.

Griffin: Wait.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] Justin's doing the same thing. We live—we're the wind beneath your wings this episode, Travis.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I'm loving it.

Griffin: Hop on board, pal!

Justin: Occasionally pull in to, to get a tire changed. [chuckles]

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: You could get—if you've got a big enough singing bowl—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: You could say, "Hm, let's try a—"

Justin: Why, is it a toilet bowl too?

Griffin: "Grounding technique, close your eyes." No, I'm sorry you're not shitting into the singing bowl, I'm so sorry.

Travis: Oh, okay, okay! Ew! Ew! Ew!

Justin: I thought, how big would this bowl—

Griffin: [chuckles] No, I'm so sorry.

Justin: Have to be that you could shit in it—

Griffin: No, no, no, no—

Justin: While they rub it and not know what's up!

Griffin: No, no, no, no—

Justin: That's a big bowl, brother!

Griffin: No, I'm pretty sure the singing bowl needs to have its kind of own uninterrupted entirely—

Justin: [laughs] Any additional vibration—

Griffin: You're not supposed to get those things wet.

Justin: Or stabilization well ware to other is just gonna—yeah, yeah.

Griffin: It's gonna throw it off, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm trying to—

Justin: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Hit that god tone, and I'm trying to vibe with the universe.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Not the brown note.

Griffin: [chuckles] Not the brown note. I'm saying, with a big enough singing bowl you [sings] *pwang*!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: That thing's gonna be going for like four or five minutes, which is—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Should be enough time for you to get next door, blast off and get back.

Justin: "Hey, if this thing starts to slow down, you just gotta clang it again, all right? Or your meditation is gonna be all fucked up and you'll have ruined it." [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, man... If I had a singing bowl as part of my professional work environment and skill set, I would never let anybody touch that shit.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: My kids would always be coming in like, "Let me hit the singing bowl." And it's like, "You guys don't even understand how to get the right stuff out of this thing."

Justin: Wouldn't it be—wouldn't it be kick-ass if part of podcasting was like, just once in a while you were like, "Hold on..." *Bong!* And you just hit the singing bowl, and everybody just had to shut the fuck up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just like let the bowl do it. Let the bowl do its thing.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: I don't know if you clang a singing—

Griffin: Let the bowl speak.

Justin: Is that what you do with a singing bowl? You just fucking whack it with a mallet or something?

Griffin: I don't think you're—I don't think you're supposed to—I don't think you're getting gong action out of this thing. I think—

Travis: I think it depends on what kind of music you're playing.

Justin: That's true, Trav.

Travis: You know?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: If it's scream metal that you wanted to sing, I think you could do it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Could you incorporate, maybe get another like therapist in the practice that you're like—you can trade these kinds of favors with? And you'd like slip 'em a text, and then they'd pop in and they're like, "Hey, it seems like this guy is pretty well-sorted. We've got a real—this guy's childhood was real messed up. I'm gonna need you to—"

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: "Come over here for like five or 10 minutes, and help me through this one. And maybe bring a book." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] "For me."

Justin: Personally.

Griffin: Personally.

Justin: Trav, maybe the second therapist looks a lot like you, and you can get them to look away... for a moment.

Travis: And they travel there in the TARDIS, and it's you from the future!

Griffin: Your guys—you guys always bring—

Travis: When you've already pooped!

Griffin: You guys always bring magic into this. If we're gonna bring magic into this, what if you—

Travis: Whoa, Griffin! The doctor isn't magic!

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: It's science-based!

Justin: Apologies for—

Travis: Read a fucking book!

Justin: Trying to touch Oz over here, pal!

Griffin: Okay, well—[chuckles] the doctor gave me a special machine, and when I press it, it makes the poop leave my body with like teleportation.

Justin: No, I'm just saying—

Travis: He could probably do that.

Justin: You should have a second therapist that looks like you in the building, in case you gotta go do something! That's all.

Griffin: That you teleport—that you teleport in?

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: Fictionally?

Justin: You need that.

Travis: Okay, you're gonna have them lay on the couch, like I assume all therapists do, but I've never been asked to, and I should probably find a new therapist, because I've never gotten to lay on the couch and talk. And as they're talking, you're gonna slowly turn the lights down to a very soothing level. You're gonna play some white noise and turn that up a little bit. You're gonna maybe like pump some aromatherapy in the air, wait 'til they fall asleep.

Griffin: Goodnight!

Travis: And then you can go poop.

Griffin: Sleepy time! Here's that 432 hertz.

Justin: If you can—

Griffin: Surf, brother!

Justin: If you can somehow—

Griffin: Get ready! [chuckles]

Justin: Get the other person to poop—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Then you—

Griffin: With—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Scarecrow-esque brain tricks!

Justin: If you can somehow do that, then you pooping will somehow be such a supportive act. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yes. A huge—

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: Huge ethical violation!

Justin: "I'm there for you! I too will go to the bathroom!"

Griffin: Wow!

Justin: "Let's both take a bath—"

Travis: "I'm very empathetic!"

Justin: You gotta get the other person to want to use the bathroom more than you! That's what the water feature is there for, right? If somebody's gonna pee—want to pee, it's gonna be the patient.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: That's... great.

Travis: "I actually have a set of stalls where we could continue this conversation, brother."

Justin: Let it out, those are toxins.

Griffin: Here to help me—

Travis: Like a confessional!

Justin: "Those are toxins. I'm a bad therapist. Those are toxins. Let 'em out." [chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles] "Those are toxins. I don't know how any of this works."

Griffin: "Here to help me is professional illusionist, Derren Brown. He's just gonna say some words that are gonna make some things start happening inside your body. Ride with it."

Travis: "But it was all your idea."

Griffin: "But it was all your idea. But as long as you're going, I might dip out too."

Travis: "Whoops, I also listened to Derren Brown."

Justin: "Oh, no."

Travis: [chuckles] "Oh, no."

Griffin: [chuckles] "Oh, no. Wa-oh. Damn it, he got me again." How annoying must it be to be at the mall, walking and talking with your friends, and then all of a sudden, you just put both your hands up in the air, and you look around, and sure enough, Derren Brown's up there doing one of his specials. And he's like, "I got you all fuckin' again, you idiots! God, it's easy to make you ants do whatever the fuck I want!" Dude, I'm just—

Travis: "This is a social experiment, or whatever the fuck. [chuckles] Ha-ha-ha!"

Justin: What would you do if you worked for Derren Brown like around like pay negotiation time. You're like, "Derren, I think I deserve a little bit more." And he's like, "Look behind you." [chuckles] And then you look and you turn back and he's gone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know, he convinces you that you actually didn't need a pay raise the whole time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he's like, "How much do you think you're worth?" And you're like, "I don't know, a dollar less an hour that I'm making now?" "What the fuck?!"

Griffin: "What the fuck? How did you—"

Justin: "Why did I say that?"

Griffin: "Don't even sweat the cost of living, boss. Why are my hands up over my head?"

Justin: "Stop."

Griffin: "Stop it, Derren! God damn it."

Justin: "I'm a high school teacher. Earlier this semester, I elected to cut my own hair. It wasn't that bad. But one of my students runs a barber shop business out of his garage, and when he saw my hair, he wordlessly placed his business card on my desk." Ah!

Griffin: Awesome. That's cool.

Justin: "Now, it's time for a cut again, and after seeing his portfolio, I agreed to schedule an appointment with him." Great. "However, my partner recently mentioned that for the duration of this haircut experience, I will have to figure out topics that make good small talk. What do I talk with about a student who is good at hair, but who is not particularly high-performing in my class? Should I avoid topics related to school? Should I use it as an opportunity to enrich his academic life?" That's From Overdue a New Do, in Omaha.

Travis: Can I just say, I love when this happens, where like the first two thirds of the question, I'm like, oh, I see what—I see the problem here. And what the—and then you're like, "And that didn't bother me at all, but I will have to speak with them. What do I say?" And I'm like, I thought this was gonna be about the hair critique!

Griffin: There's some extraordinary power dynamics at work here, huh?

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Because you're the teacher and they are the student.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: You're... their academic life is—you hold it in your hands. And but also, in this moment, they're the one sort of holding the keys. And by keys, I mean scissors. I didn't need to put as many metaphors in there as I did, I was just saying—

Travis: Well, you could cut the thread of their fate. Just as they cut the hair of your head.

Griffin: Yeah. Or just to put it simply, in the classroom, you're in charge. In the barber chair, they're in charge. And that's complicated, but don't undersell the situation. This is toughie.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: This is a tough—

Justin: And I guarantee you, this student is also having some version of this. We all—we all think connection is a good idea until we're face to face with it, you know, until we're staring down the barrel of it. And it's like, "Well, I have to connect. Time to prepare for that."

Travis: There's also, oh my god, there's another thing. Hey, let—question asker, let me give you something else to worry about. If this was wordlessly exchanged, there was no talk of cost or price or money exchange?

Justin: Oh, god, are you gonna have to negotiate—

Griffin: It's a bribe.

Justin: Price too? Oh...

Griffin: Oh? I thought it was a bribe—I thought it was maybe a bribe.

Travis: No, I'm saying that, are they doing it out of the goodness of their heart, as you're their professor and you needed some help? Or are they networking their business?

Justin: Trav, I will say that sounds challenging, yet—but not particularly funny. So, I think—

Travis: Okay!

Justin: That you are probably right, that that is a problem. I don't necessarily want to unpack here, Trav.

Griffin: I wanted to explore the bribery route a little bit.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: Because it does feel like maybe this is a—

Justin: I'm getting panicky thinking about having to figure out what to pay this kid, and it is not my problem.

Griffin: I can tell—I can tell that your heart is actually racing.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah! So let's take that, rewind it back, and go back to... there is something about someone wordlessly handing you anything that feels threatening to me.

Griffin: That's bad. They should—they should—a business card is one of the most threatening things to hand to someone—

Justin: You assume that on the back of it is a number that is either very good or very bad for you.

Travis: Yes, correct.

Justin: It's a phone number of someone that can help you, or it's a number that something costs, that you don't have, or they'll kill you.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Something like that.

Griffin: What if it's like a—what if it's like a cool, embossed gold sort of business card, with just like a symbol on the front of it. Like some sort of like secret symbol with scissors or whatever in it. And then you turn it around, and there's just an address. That's cool.

Travis: Oh, shit! So, this is—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's like Kingsman.

Griffin: It's like a Squid Game.

Travis: It's like a Squid Game Kingsman.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: King's Game.

Griffin: It's like a crossover.

Travis: Squidman.

Justin: I feel like we need to—

Travis: Nicole Squidman.

Justin: Re-embrace silence. And I think that it's not something that we do a lot on this podcast, for obvious reasons, I think, being an audio show and everything.

Travis: Let's try it.

Justin: But—no, silence is a covenant. You know what I mean? And I think that we—

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: We forget sometimes that if you're sitting there thinking what to say, and the other person's sitting there thinking what to say—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You're agreeing on silence. And to break it is to break a covenant. You know what I mean? Maybe we just embrace the—maybe we just embrace it? Maybe just embrace that covenant—

Travis: I'm gonna—I'm gonna—

Griffin: That—

Justin: Of silence. [titters]

Travis: I'm gonna say something that I know you guys will disagree with.

Justin: I love that, Travis. Don't—it's never stopped you before, man.

Travis: But I've been out here breaking social—when I get my hair cut, I say, "Is it all right if I pop my AirPods in?" I pop my AirPods in.

Griffin: That's unacceptable.

Justin: I don't agree with this. [chuckles]

Travis: And here's the thing—

Justin: You called it exactly, Trav! You called it exactly.

Travis: Because I am of the opinion that they also don't want to talk to me. And so this way—

Griffin: Probably—

Justin: That's a—now, that's incorrect—

Travis: I'm letting—

Justin: Now that is a huge guess, because that's very person-dependent. There are people running around that just love to talk to people. I've met 'em.

Travis: I've been going to the same hairstylist for eight years. We've developed a mutual understanding with one another.

Griffin: They understand Justin—I can't believe in the same minute that you established that silence is a covenant—

Justin: Silence is a covenant—

Griffin: You would second-guess—

Justin: That does not need technology to be reinforcing it. Because that's a barrier, right? Silence, in that case, is a wall.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: I'm saying, we—

Griffin: What are you cranking?

Justin: What?

Griffin: What are you listening to? What are you listening to in those pods while you're getting your hair cut?

Travis: Usually videos—

Justin: Magnus Archives.

Travis: Dissecting—well, maybe. Videos dissecting horror video games that I'll never play.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: They're too scary for me to play, but I do want to know what happens in them.

Griffin: Yeah, and—hey, Trav, you should try hand 'em—hand 'em a bud next time. Hand 'em a bud—

Justin: Pop a bud in there and have a shared experience.

Travis: I thought you meant like a Budweiser! [chuckles]

Justin: No, I mean—

Justin: I love that, dude.

Griffin: Crack a Bud if you want to, but like pop about—pop out a bud from one of your ears, pop it in theirs, and you be like, "You know about fuckin' Freddy Fazbear? [chuckles] Cut my hair—cut my hair and I'm gonna—"

Travis: [sings] Cut my hair into pieces! This is a YouTube short!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs] Let's go to the Money Zone.

Griffin: Travis, don't hide behind your microphone after fuckin' nailing a landing like that, dude. Do not get sheepish when you smash—

Justin: It's guilt. I can tell, it's guilt. He feels guilty about the extent to which he's running the show today.

Griffin: You're fuckin'—

Travis: I was being impish.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, you're a little, a fuckin'—you're Allen Iverson, hanging from the rim with a coquettish little grin on your face—

Justin: All right.

Griffin: He-he-he-he-he! You just fucking got nasty on it, dude. Own that shit.

Justin: Let's go—now, we are actually gonna go to the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Can I tell you my problem I've been having?

Griffin: Yeah, just one?

Travis: No, just the main one that I'm thinking about right now, that's really boiling my noodle.

Griffin: Ew.

Travis: I signed up for so many random apps and websites and services and everything.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm losing a million and a half dollars a year.

Griffin: Whoa.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: A year?

Travis: A year.

Griffin: Okay, so this number you made up is dramatic, but it's also at the same time like kind of conservative. I thought you were gonna go silly, like 50 million a week, or something. But like a million and a half a year is just on the border of believable, based on what I know about your... financial responsibility.

Travis: I made it up.

Griffin: Which is—

Travis: Huh—yeah! I made it up. This is a number I made up, because it would be—

Griffin: Travis, Rocket Money is gonna save your life, buddy. You've gotta get on it. Rocket Money is an app, it's a personal finance app, and it does a bunch of stuff. I would say the thing that is most frequently useful for me, and it sounds like for Travis, is that it will go through your spending, and it will find subscriptions you forgot about. Like any—maybe you pay for twice and you forgot about it, and it will help you cancel those, help you lower your bills, help you track your spending, so that you can reach your financial goals and grow your savings. It's a really, truly great idea, and it works super great. They've saved users over \$2.5 billion, including over 880 million, which is more, Trav, than one and a half, in canceled subscription alone, that's—

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: Their 10 million members save up to \$740 a year when they use all the app's premium features. It sounds—

Travis: That's less, though!

Griffin: That sounds like maybe though you're going to be an outlier. It sounds like, on average—

Travis: Yeah, because it's probably an average! Yeah, it's an average.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's an average!

Griffin: So huge is your waste, that you might bump that average up a significant amount, depending on—

Travis: That would be amazing.

Griffin: So, cancel your unwanted subscriptions, Travis, please, Jesus. I'm worried about you. And reach your financial goals—

Travis: I'm worried about me too.

Griffin: And reach—

Travis: I was gonna fake my own death, but I'm really glad—

Griffin: Don't do that!

Travis: Yeah, Rocket Money.

Griffin: Because you know why? It's expensive!

Travis: Fuck!

Griffin: Instead, cancel your unwanted subscriptions and reach your financial goals faster with Rocket Money. Go to rocketmoney.com/mybrother today. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother today. [Rocketmoney.com/mybrother](http://rocketmoney.com/mybrother).

Travis: I'm gonna do that instead. I think that that's better.

Griffin: Yeah, cool.

Travis: Hey everybody, not for jokes, when my house lost power, and it was cold outside, and my power was out for 25 hours, yes, of course, I was worried about my kids and, you know, my wife and I, but we made sure to find an Airbnb we could stay in for the night where we could have our pets there. Because pets are a member of your family, you love them, you want what's best for them, you want to take care of them. And that's not just in emergency situations, that's every day, baby!

Griffin: That's every day. You gotta pamper that... little kitty.

Travis: Yeah, I was wondering what you were about to say, Griffin.

Griffin: [chuckles] I wasn't brave enough. Did you see the—did you see the courage fail—

Travis: I did. I heard—

Griffin: Travis, we had a whole moment—

Travis: I heard your—

Griffin: Dude, Justin had to run to a quick errand, and so it's just me and Trav here, and we shared a moment of fear and vulnerability in that moment when I almost—I said "pamper your..." And then I wasn't brave enough to say a different word about the kitty cat. So, but you do need to take good care of them, and Smalls helps—Smalls helps you do that. Gosh, we need to get to saying the name of these businesses way faster, man.

Travis: Yeah, that's true. Smalls cat food is protein-packed and made with preservative-free ingredients that you'd find in your fridge, delivered right to your door. And starting with Smalls is easy. You share your cat's diet, health, food preferences, all that stuff, and they're gonna put together a personalized sampler for your kitty cat, so that it can choose the ones that it likes best.

Griffin: Hm.

Travis: And after switching to Smalls, 88% of cat owners reported overall health improvements. And that's a big deal, from Smalls food.

Griffin: Justin has been using Smalls for his two precious angels, and he—

Travis: They like him better.

Griffin: They do like him better! [chuckles] I think that's the main takeaway. Like, they look great, their coat is shiny and waxin'. But I think the big takeaway is that they just seem to enjoy being around Justin more.

Travis: When we use—when we would visit, they used to pretty performatively display how much they didn't like—like, they would see us there and they'd be like, "Hey, watch this." And then they would like cuss him out and like say mean things.

Griffin: They'd cuss—they would speak, they'd be like—they'd be like, [in a high-pitched voice] And you would know like that they said that to—like they did it an inch away from his face, it's undeniable what he did.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So what do you—

Travis: But now, they like tolerate him and like occasionally even show him affection.

Griffin: Yeah, sometimes they'll get close to his face and be like, [in a high-pitched voice] "My cool dude." And they'll say "cool dude—"

Travis: And it's pretty nice!

Griffin: At him, real close, so—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: I guess, what are you waiting for? Give your cat the food they deserve. For a limited time, because you're a MBMBaM listener, get 60% off your first order, plus free shipping, when you head to [smalls.com/mybrother](http://small.com/mybrother). One last time, that's 60% off your first order, plus free shipping, when you head to [smalls.com/mybrother](http://small.com/mybrother). Smalls, pamper that...

Travis: Do it!

Griffin: [chuckles] Baby, kitty, precious. Fuck!

Travis: You'll get it.

[break]

Alden: Hello! This is Alden Ford.

Moujan: And Moujan Zolfaghari!

Alden: Two of the creators of Mission to Zyxx, your favorite improvised, obsessively sound designed sci-fi sitcom, here on the Max Fun Network. And the news... we're back!

Moujan: We're back! With an all-new miniseries set in the Zyxx universe! The Young Old Derf Chronicles!

Alden: Yeah.

Moujan: Will Derf find his own killer before it's too late?

Alden: Ooh?

Moujan: To find out how that question could possibly make sense, well, you just have to tune in.

Alden: Yeah. We're so excited that episode one is out right now in the Mission to Zyxx feed! So, if you are looking for a little break from your own galaxy, we would love for you to check it out.

Moujan: That's the Young Old Derf Chronicles. Search Mission to Zyxx, Z-Y-X-X, in your podcast app!

Alden: Or on maximumfun.org.

Moujan: Keep it fresh!

[break]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And this is a promo for Shmanners!

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Every week, we're gonna tell you about a bit of culture, a bit of history, how etiquette still applies in the modern day. All that stuff!

Teresa: We also love to do biographies and histories of and... you know, general procedurals. How to do etiquette in today's society.

Travis: So, come check it out every Friday on maximumfun.org, or wherever you find your podcasts.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

[break]

Justin: Great news, guys. Great, great, great, great, news. Our hero is back.

Griffin: What?

Justin: From—oh, sorry, I gotta do the intro, I forgot. [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Huh?

Justin: [continues riffing]

Travis: Ooh?

Griffin: Wa!

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

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: [sings] Squad.

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

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing]

Travis: Fanciful.

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. One of our favorite heroes of recent history in fast food advertising is back! You may remember him from the, "Do you suffer from need—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Commercial.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He is a giant buffalo with wings.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Which is truly ghoulish!

Travis: I can't remember who he works for, though. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: He works for buff—yeah, it's weird, huh? No, he works for Buffalo Wild Wings.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: And they're in a new—a new promo. It's the first ever holiday campaign for BW3s. Not a brand that you think of necessarily when it comes to the Yule time.

Travis: Is the theme of it, "Is your uncle in town?"

Griffin: [chuckles] Probably.

Justin: Maybe. Please! Do you know, this is where... that's where, when we were—I was in Cincinnati filming 'Til Death Do Us Blart. And afterwards, I had to wait for—get some food. And I had my pal, Tim Batt with me, and had to take him to an American eatery. And where did I choose? That's right, Buffalo Wild Wings.

Griffin: Did you go to B-Dubs?!

Justin: We went to B-Dubs, because that's the American experience right there, no problem.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: It truly is.

Griffin: Good call.

Justin: All right, truly. Now so, we're gonna watch this ad—

Travis: Speaking of, if you haven't listened to this year's Death Blart, it's great, and the video's up on YouTube. It was an absolute treat.

Griffin: We got to spend some quality time with Tim Batt, and Guy remotely.

Justin: You ready?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yup!

[an excerpt plays]

Santa: And that's why Mrs. Clause is on the naughty list. [chuckles] Ho-ho-ho-ho!

Hank: [chuckles] Santa, you bad, bad man.

Santa: Ooh, hey! This Buffalo Wild Wings pick six is a real jolly miracle!

Hank: A meal for two, for 19.99? Nothing better!

Speaker 1: Dude! Off my wings, Blitzen.

Speaker 2: Oh, is little upset?

Griffin: Can we pause?

Santa: Hey! Knock it off, Antler Clown!

Justin: So, this is a good time to pause.

[advert pauses]

Justin: It is—I will—

Griffin: It's a great time to pause, because there's been like five things. One, what's a jolly miracle?

Justin: It's a jolly miracle.

Griffin: Santa says that like it's a... thing that any of us have ever thought about before, like a Christmas, like a happy Christmas miracle.

Travis: I think it's a minced oath, Griffin, where maybe he was gonna say it's—

Griffin: Feels like a—

Travis: "It's a fuckin' miracle!"

Griffin: Yeah. Jolly is like—

Justin: "Shit, dude—

Griffin: Okay, interesting.

Justin: "It's fuckin' miracle." It's also, the entire ad is presented in a Rankin/Bass style. So, we are being treated to fuzzy burgers, fuzzy wings and fuzzy Cokes! Each more decrepit-looking than the last. I really hate looking at these yarn versions of food, guys. It's hitting bad for me.

Griffin: Yeah. Dude, think about the mouth feel of one of those Linton sort of buffalo wings. Yowzah.

Justin: Yowzah.

Travis: Are we not gonna talk about how they start it with the punchline of a joke, where Santa says, "And that's why Mrs. Claus is on the naughty list." And they were like, "Yeah, this is—this is what we want to lead off with."

Justin: It's Ribble, Travis—

Griffin: What did she do?

Justin: That's like—this is Santa, for 2025. May we?

Travis: Just a—

Griffin: He put is—

Travis: Okay.

[advert continues]

Santa: We've got kids to deliver! Fuck! How am I going to fly my sleigh? It's not like there's a flying mythical beast just hanging around with nothing to do...

Hank: You know I can't fly, right?

[a whip cracks]

Santa: Hya!

Hank! Oh!

Santa: Come on, Hank, you're scratching my sleigh!

Hank: I told you, can't fly!

Santa: Hya!

Hank: I can't do it! My wings are decorative!

Santa: You have to believe, Hank! Believe!

Hank: Oh! I'm doing it, Papa!

Griffin: So, he's flying—he is flying now.

Hank: Little Hank is doing it! I mean--

Travis: What's happening?

Hank: I told you I could fly.

Santa: Happy holidays to all! And to all, go to Buffalo Wild Wings! H-ho-ho!

Justin: You heard him.

Travis: What?

[advert ends]

Travis: Yeah, but—

Griffin: I don't—I don't want my—

Justin: Is there anything visually that you need to address before we move on? Because like, that was a lot to take in. And it was like, it's surprisingly well executed, I think, at least, it's adorable.

Griffin: Sure. For—yeah, from a visual aesthetics standpoint.

Justin: The thoughts are horrible.

Travis: But there's—

Griffin: I think it's—I think there's an—the thoughts and ideas are horrible.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: And there's an inherent sort of... failure to communicate here that is inherent, I think, to the nature of Buffalo Wild Wings trying to get a hand on the holiday ball. I simply don't think it's your purview, and I don't think it's your jurisdiction.

Justin: Yeah, this is their first ever one. They're trying to get—

Griffin: That's not your—

Justin: A leg in. Maybe they're making it a holiday thing.

Travis: But here's... this is the thing, though, J-Man, there's nothing in this that is specific to Buffalo Wild Wings, besides the fact—

Griffin: That they're eating at Buffalo Wild Wings.

Travis: That they're eating at Buffalo Wild Wings, and it's a buffalo with wings. But even that could have been a different buffalo wing—

Justin: Maybe this will help, Trav.

Griffin: I—

Travis: Restaurant.

Justin: There's no other ones.

Griffin: I'm right there.

Justin: Except for Wingstop, I guess, and Quaker Steak & Lube. Is that it? I probably—there's probably others. It's a good point. [chuckles] Secondly, not every—not any other buffalo wild—place has the first ever blind box inspired by the ads, which is available exclusively—

Travis: I don't want that.

Justin: To Buffalo Wild Wings rewards members. The cam—

Travis: Is it—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: A surprise by like what—what kind of wings are you getting? Is that what you mean?

Justin: They say in the—in the release it says the brand's iconic buffalo with wings is brought into the holiday spotlight in a stop motion short that's

styled like a 1950s Christmas special. Definitely, definitely... the story opens on Christmas Eve inside a Buffalo Wild Wings—hold on, I just need to double check this... Yeah, okay. Yeah, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer definitely came out in 1964, so like I don't know what they're talking about. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Hank and Santa share a pick six meal for two. And then they describe the ad, which is packed with humor, heart and unmistakable B-Dubs energy.

Griffin: Heart, let's touch on heart.

Travis: Heart! Yeah, let's—stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop!

Griffin: Let's come back to heart.

Justin: Humor, heart and—

Travis: Santa says "fuck!"

Justin: It's humor, heart and unmistakable B-Dubs energy.

Griffin: Okay, I'll get—I will grant you the former. I will say that it made me—there's an energy to this commercial that felt... threatening and like very masculine. And so, I will also grant you that it does have big B-Dubs energy. This is a—

Travis: They also showcase just two people getting randomly drunk before work and getting in a fight. So, I don't know—I don't—

Justin: They're not—they're not people, they're reindeer.

Griffin: So, is the heart their—

Travis: So it's—Justin! Then it's animals getting drunk in a bee—in a Buffalo Wild Wings.

Justin: They're not drunk, they just hate each other.

Travis: Animals came in and got drunk.

Griffin: Juice, listen, those reindeer were fucking faded. And I know that you have trouble sometimes sort of... you know, giving these places the benefit of the doubt, but those two reindeer were like fuckin' zooted out of their minds.

Justin: I mean...

Griffin: I don't want to see this hairy food anymore.

Justin: I don't blame you, but like... they got sodas. They clearly have sodas. They're not drunk, they're just fighting, because they're dickheads. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Sure. A random fight breaks out between two animals in a Buffalo Wild Wings. And they were like, "That's big Buffalo Wild Wings energy."

Griffin: I like this—I like this cute Hank, though! I like this cute—

Travis: Cute Hank works!

Griffin: Fuzzy Hank. He's way less scary than the other guys—

Justin: He almost would have to be. I mean, he would almost have to be. To bring the creative—

Travis: Why does Santa say "fuck?" I guess is my question.

Griffin: Why does Santa say "fuck" though?

Justin: I need to read this paragraph, because it sucks ass.

Griffin: Please.

Justin: "To bring the creative to life for fans—" That's how it starts.

Griffin: [shudders] *Ooh!*

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: [shudders] *Ho-ha-ha-ha-ha*, I love to hear the creative referred to like a—like it's—

Travis: "Our Buffalo Wild Wings imagineers."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I love to hear "the creative" referred to like it's a resource in Warcraft. "Bring the—"

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: "I've got 200 of The Creative, liege!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Buffalo—

Travis: "Put it through the mill!"

Justin: "Put it through the mill and turn it into content!" Buffalo Wild Wings is introducing a limited-edition Hank the Halls blind box for \$20, available December 10th, exclusively to new and existing Buffalo Wild Wings rewards members. They specify new and existing. Presumably, it's not offered to lapsed or banned Buffalo Wild Wings rewards members. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you think there's a restaurant on Earth that has a longer list of banned individuals than Buffalo Wild Wings?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Do Buffalo Wild Wings have their own sort of enforcers at the—like a sort of TSA face scan that they do before you come in? So thorough is their banned list.

Justin: Each blind box—

Travis: Why is it—can I also just say, "Hank the Halls" is nothing.

Justin: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah, it's true.

Justin: Hank the Halls is nothing. "Each blind box features a felt ornament that brings the campaign to life, starting with the star of the show—"

Travis: Ooh-la-la.

Justin: "The chicken wing ornament. Fans will also uncover scene-driven..." God, I hate reading these words. This is really taking a toll on my spirit. "Scene-driven—"

Griffin: I can tell, dude.

Justin: "Keepsakes like the reindeer brawl and Santa mid-swear." Scene—

Travis: Scene?

Justin: Scene-driven keepsakes—

Travis: Scene-driven keepsakes!

Griffin: From this—

Justin: From this one you just watched! Turning the spot—

Travis: "Grandmama! Grandmama! Where did you get this beautiful ornament of Santa swearing?"

"Oh, that came from a Buffalo Wild Wing blind box."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "On my first date with your grandfather."

Griffin: "I got very lucky with that blind box!"

Justin: "Fans will also uncover scene-driven keepsakes like the reindeer brawl and Santa mid-SWEAR, turning the spot's funniest moments into holiday decor."

Travis: Jesus fucking Christ.

Griffin: Jesus Christ, you guys are absolutely glazing this commercial PR—

Justin: Well, Griffin, that's because it's a cheeky reminder that Buffalo Wild Wings offers more than free food perks, it delivers more memorable rewards and unexpected delights for its most loyal fans.

Travis: Okay, okay, this is where I want to... I want to like dive into this for a moment.

Griffin: Take a breath, Juice. Catch your breath. Because I can tell this is really hurting you.

Travis: When they talk about Buffalo Wild Wings most loyal fans, I believe that there are people who enjoy eating at Buffalo Wild Wings, and I'm not saying that's not true. But when you tell me there are people who are fans of Buffalo Wild Wings to the degree that they will not only get ornaments based on a commercial they've just seen—

Griffin: The creative, Travis, please.

Travis: The creative.

Justin: The creative, thank you.

Travis: But also engage in a blind box roulette scenario.

Griffin: The blind box is the most insulting part!

Justin: Well, can I—can I tell you the quote? Listen, listen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Here's the—here's the quote. "Hank the Halls marks Buffalo Wild Wings' first ever holiday campaign, and serves to remind our fans that the holidays are a great time to come into our restaurants with friends and family," says Tristan Meline, chief marketing officer at Buffalo Wild Wings. "The blind boxes are—the \$20 blind boxes are—"

Travis: The fuck?

Justin: "Our way of saying thank you to our loyal fans with something special."

Travis: It's not.

Griffin: [laughs] "Thanks—"

Travis: It's not!

Griffin: "Give me 20 bucks. Thank you."

Justin: "Thanks, give me 20 bucks for a fuckin' felt chicken wing, dip shit." Because at—

Travis: "That you might already have. Thank you!"

Griffin: That you might already have! You've got six of these!

Justin: It's random!

Travis: Thank you!

Griffin: You're trying to get Santa swearing, because it's so irreverent and fuckin' funny South Park humor. You keep pulling chicken wings and reindeer fights.

Justin: We're all—

Griffin: You gullible idiot.

Justin: At B-Dubs—

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: "At B-Dubs, we're all about celebrating all your social occasions with our unique experience and delicious food and drinks." Hey, unique—

Travis: Weddings! Christenings! Funerals! [chuckles]

Justin: "Unique experience," that's really interesting, Buffalo Wild Wings. Tell me why you had to shut down the Buffalo Wild Wings at the Huntington mall and reopen as a Buffalo Wild Wings to go downtown. What a great experience that you don't even want me to have.

Griffin: Yeah, it sucks—

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: "While Hank is saving—"

Griffin: Justin's just jealous.

Justin: "Christmas, guests can pick—" Sorry, "While Hank is saving Christmas, guests can save big with—" This is a real—this is where it starts to get into like, are they trying to make people insane? "Guests can save big with Buffalo Wild Wings pick six meal." It's a pick six meal for two, starting at 19.99. "With the pick six—"

Travis: What?

Justin: "Guests can choose two entrees, two sides and two fountain drinks, all for 19.99. Options include 10 boneless wings, the all-American cheeseburger, or three crispy chip'n'dip—chicken dippers, paired with fan-favorite fries, tots or wedges. Want to upgrade, you can swap in buffalo or chicken, ranch or beer cheese, cheese steak for just three dollars more." \$20, guys! If that number—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Rings a bell for you, it should!

Griffin: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Justin: Because it's what they're charging you to get a felt chicken wing! Maybe! In a box!

Griffin: [chuckles] From a—

Justin: From a commercial!

Griffin: They made.

Justin: That's...

Griffin: [chuckles] If I say, "Here's \$40, head to Buffalo Wild Wings, grab us some—"

Justin: "Bring me 300 chicken wings, or..."

Griffin: [chuckles] Or two reindeer fights!

Travis: Yes, "Honey, I know times have been real tight this holiday season, and our food budget is a little low, but I've made an amazing investment—"

Justin: "Victoria, I keep telling you—"

Travis: "With our last \$20."

Justin: "This is an investment in the accrual value of collectibles, Victoria."

Travis: "Now, I haven't opened the blind box yet—"

Justin: You can either—

Griffin: I know—

Travis: "But no energy off of it tells me it's cursing Santa."

Justin: "You can either eat chicken wings tonight, once, or in 20 years, eat chicken wings every night of your life!"

Griffin: "Derek, you've bought 200 boxes."

"I know, the cussing Santa is the chase ornament. I've got a system, Victoria!"

Justin: "And as I keep saying, many of the boxes are just loaded with discarded bones! I don't know how their system is so faulty. They should be looking at the boxes, even if nobody else is!"

Griffin: "You have to go in bulk. Did you not see Jerry and Marge Go Large? If you buy 200 boxes, you get at least four cursing Santas. That's where the money is."

Travis: "I've been watching all of the YouTube content creators as they've gone through their blind box system. This is the meta, Darlene! Don't you understand?"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Do you not want to watch reindeer fighting on the tree every year?"

Griffin: God, what a dope tree. If you show up and it's just covered in little, tiny reindeer fights from the BW3s collection. "Yeah, I don't know, man, they

must have just stumped 'em into one big pallet, then that was just the day I got there. Goddamn."

Justin: Okay. Thank you so much to everybody who came out to Candlenights, the live version. But good news! If you weren't there, it's not too late. You can go to bit.ly/candlenights2025 and still check it totally out. It'll be streaming at December 19th, at 9PM. And we're going to be in the chat.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: Right. So—

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: You can still get your streaming ticket for that, and that's gonna be a lot of fun, so make sure you check it out.

Travis: Yeah, it's gonna be on demand December 19th through January 4th, so you'll have plenty of time to catch it.

Griffin: And also, all the proceeds still go to Harmony House, which seeks to end homelessness in the Huntington area through permanent housing and supportive service programs.

Justin: That link again, bit.ly/candlenights2025. Your support is really, really, *really* appreciated. So, thank you so much in advance.

Travis: Over at the merch store, we've got a dice tray and dice tray bundle with Balance dice, and the 2025 Candlenights poster and Candlenights ornament, by Scott Hotch. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will also be donated to Harmony House. So, head over to mcelroymerch.com, check that out. Get some gifts, I guess, for people, or for yourself! You're worth it.

Griffin: Yup. Hey, do we have a—oh, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. I'm so grateful that we're able to, you know, use that track as the introduction and outroduction of our show,

because the energy and the vibe is just so choice. Got a Fear here, a final Fear to take us out of the episode, and I'd like to read it.

Travis: Go for it.

Griffin: "This year, I want to be faster than my fear that there's a second cheese packet in the mac and cheese box." I guess if you dump it—

Travis: Because you pull the one out and you don't wanna dump it!

Griffin: Yeah, if you're dumping the noodles—

Justin: I've been there.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure, you—yeah, I get it, for sure.

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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