

MBMBaM 794: Candlelights XXX

Published on December 22nd, 2025

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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, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, it's an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

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

Griffin: What's up, Trav Nation? And happy Honda Days. It's me, your sweet baby elf... little stinker elf here to create some Christmas mischief, Griffin McElroy. [snickers]

Travis: What? Oh, okay, what kind of Christmas—

Justin: Sorry, one more time, Griff?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Hey, everybody, it's me, it's—hey, Trav Nation—

Justin: No, no, no, just the—

Griffin: Happy Honda days. It's me, your sweet baby elf... a Christmas elf, here to cause Christmas mischief, Griffin McElroy. [snickers]

Travis: What kind of Christmas mischief do you have planned?

Griffin: I eated all the candy canes. [snickers]

Travis: Well, that's gonna hurt your tummy?

Griffin: It did. And it hurted it so bad, burning. Too much peppermint, burning it up. But how else am I going to do Christmas mischief? Smash all the gingerbread houses?

Travis: Hey, I want to talk about A Christmas Carol for a second.

Justin: Oh, really?

Griffin: Yeah, which one?

Travis: No, just like the general concept.

Griffin: All right, cool.

Justin: The show or the carol? Like the singing, the idea of singing?

Travis: No, the book. The story?

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: The story, the book.

Travis: How long do you think—

Justin: I'm playing Scrooge tonight, you see—

Travis: Oh, this will be great then!

Griffin: You're Scroogin'?

Justin: Tonight, I will be the Scrooge.

Griffin: Nice, dude.

Travis: This is great then, Justin, because you could—

Justin: At Huntington City Hall tonight, I will be the Scrooge.

Travis: The thing I've always wondered about, how long do you think it sticks?

Griffin: Yeah. This is... this is a great—this is a great topic of conversation. How long does it—how long does he stay good? Do you think he makes it to next Christmas? Do you think he makes it to New Year? Do you think there's a scene, if that movie or play or book or whatever that keeps on going, December 31st and his nephew's like, "Hey! It's been so fun partying you—with you for six straight days. Do you want to come over for New Year's tonight and stay up past midnight?" And Scrooge is gonna be like, "I... that sounds actually—I'm burnt out, man. I have to take a break."

Justin: I think it will probably—I think it—there's a reason that every single version of Christmas Carol you see, the one thing that they won't do is make it to Fred's party later that Christmas.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: You don't—you don't see—because I think Scrooge makes it to dinner before he's like, "Fuckin' hell, man. These people are all—there are so many people—"

Griffin: There's so many.

Travis: "There's so many people. I just—I also just gave away a lot of money."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "And like forgave a lot of debt. I promised Cratchit a ray— Like, that's enough, right?"

Griffin: "My business is ruined. My business is ruined."

Justin: "I'm ruined." [chuckles]

Griffin: "I'm ruined, from—" Also, I think the second—

Justin: The Minister's Cat is a— "Go ahead, Uncle Scrooge." "I'm ruined."

Griffin: "I can't."

Travis: [chuckles] "I'm ruined."

Justin: "I'm ruined."

Griffin: "I simply cannot."

Justin: "I have nothing. I have nothing."

Griffin: I think the first time—

Travis: "Are there pour houses and work houses and stuff? Because I need to go—I need to go to one, yes."

Griffin: "That's funny, I never thought for me!""

Justin: He shows up—[chuckles] he shows up the next day, he's like, "Listen, Bob, I know I talked a big game about helping get Tiny Tim and I would love to hit you back on that, but I am bereft, my man. I gave it all away, I got nothin'." [chuckles]

Griffin: "I spent your son's legs medicine money on big turkey money, and now I don't—I can't do it anymore!"

Travis: "Do you guys like that turkey—that turkey was great though, right?"

Griffin: "Great turkey though, right? Filled his belly up!"

Justin: "Do you have any of that left, because I am feeling a might peckish."

Griffin: Hm... I'll drink a—

Justin: Because of the hard times.

Griffin: "I'll drink a broth of the bones, Bob! I have nothing! I've given—"

Travis: "Anything you've got, man!"

Griffin: "These ghosts have taken everything from me!"

Travis: "I could be your son? I'm better than Tiny Tim! I'll arm wrestle that mother fucker!"

Griffin: I know how to change myself—

Justin: Ebby Cratchit, they'll call me. [chuckles] Little Ebby Cratchit.

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: Sweet Ebby! The 85-year-old son of Bob Cratchit.

Justin: What's that? You don't want someone that communes with ghosts? I understand. This is a very superstitious era.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And yeah, that's—I get it.

Griffin: Oh, you're burning me? I'm being burned.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: I'm being burned, yeah—

Griffin: I am being burned.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: It's fair.

Griffin: There's also no scene in the show where Ebenezer Scrooge like comes up to someone and is like, "What's up? Take this little ham. I'm good now!" And the person's like, "Actually, still, fuck you, though."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "You really have been a monster for a long time." I think someone puts up a little bit of resistance to Scrooge's kind of transformation, and he's gonna be like, "Wait a minute, what?"

Justin: What?

Griffin: "This isn't some—what? You didn't—you didn't hear the thing about where the ghosts hurt me good?"

Travis: No, no, no, here's a doll that I bought for you. I'm 42 years old. You ruined my business.

Griffin: You have to forgive me. This is a doll. That's child logic, Scrooge.

Justin: That may be completely fair, because the other unifying factor of every Christmas carol story is that they cannot let you know what Scrooge is spending at the end, they have to invent all kinds of currencies. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: It's always like, "And there's three talents for the duck, and here's 10 crowns and—for this 60 pence." How much? Nobody knows, dude, he's just chucking coins.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: "15 million zeni for the biggest, fattest Christmas goose!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Do you accept Doge coin?!"

Justin: A fat a Chocobo as...

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "A fat a Chocobo as my zeni can purchase!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: It also occurred to me this year for the first time, I'm 42 years old, I've watched so many Christmas carols, that the implication of Jacob Marley telling Ebenezer Scrooge that, "Your chain is even bigger and heavier than mine—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is that there is another end of that where there is somebody who has committed very minor sins against humanity, who has like a chain of like paper loops or something, you know? And it's like, "Yeah, man, you gotta carry this around." And it's like, okay—

Griffin: Okay!

Travis: Yeah. Cool, man.

Justin: I gotta tell you guys, I swapped roles with Tim Irr this year, the WSAZ's own anchor, Tim Irr.

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: And this year, he's Jacob Marley, and I'm Scrooge. And last year it was reversed.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And yeah—

Travis: So it's like a really slow like played out True West kind of thing, where it's like—

Justin: Yeah, exactly! Yeah, exact—

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: "Once a year, we switch!" Yeah.

Justin: "We barely know our own lines, and we kind of barely know each other's lines."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: No, but he's—he came and he's like, "Justin, check these out." And he holds up his chains. [chuckles] And he is very clearly being brought down by the weight of them. And I'm like, "Tim, why—" He's like, "I went to Huntington Steel and I told 'em—"

Griffin: Fuck yeah, dude!

Justin: "I'm gonna play Jacob Marley, I need—I need chains." And they're like, "Yeah, we can make you some chains." And they're—so they made his chains and it's like such a great commercial for Huntington's own Huntington Steel.

Travis: In the words of Lawrence Olivier, I believe, try acting. You don't, yeah, you don't have to, Tim. But then again—

Griffin: I'm glad you did.

Travis: Then Tim gets swole! Because by the end of the run, he takes the chains off and he's dunking over everyone.

Griffin: So scary.

Justin: Last night—last night—here's Tim Irr's dedication to method. Last night is our final rehearsal before the show. Tim Irr is wearing gym shorts, a T-shirt, chains and a mouthful of green blood that he barfs on me for no reason—

Griffin: Fuck yes, this sounds awesome.

Justin: That I can discern, and with no warning.

Griffin: This sounds like a good show.

Justin: This is what it's like working with 'No Fear' Tim Irr.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And is it fake green blood? Or...

Justin: It's still staining the stage of the City Hall auditorium—

Griffin: Don't tell—

Justin: So hopefully you can—

Griffin: Don't tell anyone.

Justin: Check it out for yourself.

Griffin: Did you have to switch roles with him because most of Scrooge's role in the show is to be scared of ghosts?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: And that is simply not an emotion that Tim Irr is capable of even emulating.

Justin: You don't realize how much time—if you're playing Scrooge, you're basically just sad about your girlfriend and like listening to ghosts.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: That's pretty much it.

Griffin: That's basically—

Justin: And you gotta be scared a lot.

Travis: And then being in pretty strict denial when Ghost of Christmas Future shows up, and you're like, "Whose grave is that? That could be anybody's grave, right, man? I know that this whole evening is kind of centered around this guy."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "So that's just some stranger's grave, right?"

Griffin: "I know I'm 75 years old and it's the dark ages, but that can't possibly be my grave."

Travis: "Oh, Aboneezer Scrogay. Mm-hm, some stranger, huh?"

Justin: "I don't think so."

Travis: Yeah?!

Justin: In this one, I—

Travis: "There's snow all over it or whatever!"

Justin: I do this one different. I distract the Ghost of Christmas Future and then I flee into the audience, and then I become one of them.

Griffin: Whoa?

Justin: And then it becomes kind of an interactive game where you have to find Scrooge.

Travis: And one of the audience has to die.

Justin: And one of the audience has to die. Hey, this is an advice show, and I—Travis has gathered some of your Candlenights questions, because it is our holiday, still.

Griffin: We're gonna cuss on this. We did very—we did our best not during the show, the live show, which you can now watch on demand whenever the hell you want to.

Travis: This is Candlenights XXX.

Griffin: That URL is bit.ly/candlenights2025. You can watch it anytime from now until January 4th, on demand, at your leisure, and ring in the holidays right with us and some of our buddies and family members.

Justin: "Friends at my school bring in treats and gift bags that represent the special holidays their families celebrate. What types of things should I put in a gift bag for Candlenights? I am in second grade." That's from Candlenights celebrant, Killian.

Griffin: Hell yeah, this is... there's not—the problem is there's not a lot of props from Candlenights that can fit in a school bag. A lot of the stuff we deal with is *big* stuff. Big bush. Big bushes. Very, very, very long candles, that's sort of—

Travis: I think of a Buick.

Griffin: A Buick is part of it, yeah.

Travis: Maybe just bring 'em a Fortnite? Fortnite is intrinsically like—

Justin: A Fornite like a card?

Travis: I mean, whatever a Fortnite is, just bring 'em one of those, that's very Candlenights-related. We did do a Candlenights-Fortnite tie-in this year. I think that went through, right? But—

Justin: Did that go through? I think that might have got held up in development hell.

Travis: No?!

Justin: The bisdev hell, maybe.

Travis: Ah!

Griffin: They were too busy with The Simpsons stuff and they said, "Sorry, boys, maybe next year." But they've been kicking this can down the road for four or five years or something, it's... I don't think it's—

Justin: I gotta be honest, Killian, you just gotta bring in a bunch of Lik-M-Aid, you know? [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: It's like it doesn't—I'd love for you to represent our fake holiday, but you're in second grade and you got a lot of life to live. What you should do is just bring in enough Lik-M-Aid Fun Dip for everybody.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: And if you give everybody Lik-M-Aid Fun Dip Fun Dip, maybe it's got a Christmas tree on it, maybe it doesn't, I don't care, they won't either.

Travis: It doesn't matter.

Griffin: They don't.

Justin: They're just gonna be so stoked that Killian brought Lik-M-Aid Fun Dip. [chuckles]

Travis: And maybe a \$5 bill in each bag?

Griffin: Well, Killian's not gonna bring in a bunch of cash, I don't think. And I'm not sure, are they still doing Lik-M-Aid Fun Dip?

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, baby. Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Just because you won't buy your kids cool shit, doesn't mean that the rest of us aren't into the Lik-M-Aid Fun Dipping candy cigarettes.

Travis: And Griffin, if you don't have any, I could go around my living room and just kind of shake out my couch cushions to get probably at least two packages worth that my children have just left all over the place.

Justin: You could also go to any Citgo in Hurricane, West Virginia, and there are rows and rows of them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Of kid chaw. No, kid chaw, sorry—

Justin: Kid chaw. [chuckles]

Travis: Kid chaw is Major League Chew, so I guess... Lik-M-Aid is teaching you to chop it up in the lines, I guess?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Do you think the first guy that had big—[chuckles] do you think the first guy that tried Big League Chew, he brings it into the dugout, puts a huge wad in, right? And he's chewing. And the other guys are like, "Cool. That guy's cool." And then he's like still chewing it and they're like, "Greg, you have to stop! That's disgusting, dude, you're doing it wrong!" And he's like—

Travis: "You're actively chomping it!"

Griffin: [spoofs gnawing sounds]

Justin: It's like, "Greg, stop, dude! You're gonna get sick! That's not how you do it!"

Travis: And then he blows a big bubble and they're like, "Wizard!"

Justin: "You made it pink, dude! You screwed up! You're sick!"

Griffin: I had a—

Travis: "Is that you gums? Your tongue's expanding rapidly!"

Justin: "Your gums are falling out!" [chuckles]

Griffin: I had an airplane neighbor tuck us in while they were sitting next to me on the flight, and I realized that I don't really know what happens to those in the—in the mouth. [chuckles] I've never done one. I know everyone's pretty wild about these things. Does it just kind of loose-leaf tea in there? Or does it—

Travis: Just steeps.

Justin: Park 'em. Park 'em and let 'em steep.

Griffin: Park 'em and steep 'em.

Travis: So take your classmates a bunch of Zyn, I guess?

Griffin: I wouldn't do any of that.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Here's the thing, Killian, you can—Candlenights is a—is a panreligious... pan... I don't want to say that part, because you're in second grade. Personal pan holiday. It can be whatever you want it to be, put whatever you want to in this bag. Maybe it's like Lik-M-Aid Fun Dip, maybe it's—

Travis: Stickers? Kids love that shit.

Griffin: Stickers, if that's your thing. And guess what? That's part of the canon now. It's a big, big umbrella over here.

Justin: Do you guys know how many times in the week leading up to Candlenights, long-time friends and family would come up to—have came up to me and said, "Is this something in Candlenights?" And I would have to like really think like, "I actually have to go check a Wikipedia page. Excuse me for a second, because it is—there's a lot in there, and I have to go look." [chuckles]

Griffin: We had a night—

Justin: Also, it can be—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Sure, it can, anything can.

Justin: Just chuck it in there.

Griffin: We had a night where we were picking up some of like the set stuff from the storage facility for... is it Heart in the Park or—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. So, the outdoor theater—so all these like play props, background set dressing. Just walking through there with a group of like 20 people and kids and just being like, is this a candle—here's some boxing gloves, is this a Candlenights?

Travis: Here's a big green door from the Wizard of Oz, when you go in the Emerald City. Is this anything?

Griffin: Is this something? Here's a whole-ass TARDIS. Could this be a Candlenights?

Justin: Oh, the TARDIS was—I felt—[chuckles] This is a good story. So, I built a TARDIS two years ago, and it went to a fantasy maze thing, and then it got stored at that building. And it got buried with sets, and I didn't—I couldn't get it. But then there was—there was 20 people there at that building, and then I looked at everybody there and I was like, "You know what would be so cool in the lobby?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: If you came to—if you came to Candlenights and you were wondering why the TARDIS was in the lobby, it is because it was a way station between there and my house.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: Because I wanted...

Travis: That's labor embezzlement, Justin!

Justin: Yes, I have smuggled... Oh, god, which reminds me, the clown boxes at the building I have to go get. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's at the Keith Albee still?

Justin: No, sir, it's at the storage building. I have to go get it and put it in my home.

Griffin: Oh, okay. Maybe leave it there, it's—

Travis: Yeah, you don't have to put it in your home, Justin.

Justin: Imagine, guys, if it was like right here.

Griffin: I don't.

Travis: Here's what you do, Justin, you're gonna get the clown box, you're gonna put it just out of frame. And then you're gonna move it like half an inch a year, slowly into frame.

Justin: The long game.

Griffin: That's awesome. That's so cool.

Travis: Well, we're gonna be doing this for 100 years.

Justin: "I'm just wondering how drunk I can get at my work holiday party. They specifically pick Friday so we could start the party at 12, and not have to work after. Meaning drinking is allowed at the party. It's a bar/arcade thing. The thing is, I don't really know the people that well at the party. I only work one day a week in person, meaning I do not see these people that much. I would consider us acquaintances. Is that better or worse if I get abso..." excuse me, "If I get absolutely tabled in front of them?"

Griffin: [chuckles] I haven't heard that before.

Justin: In my defense, "absolutely tabled" is a lot.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In front of them. Partying Hard in Pittsburgh, is who that's from. Boy... I mean, obviously, this answer is going to be different for everybody. You have to know thyself.

Griffin: Are you cool to—are you a cool hang?

Travis: Yeah. That is—

Griffin: That's a huge one.

Travis: That's the real question, right? Because you're not... The question isn't how much alcohol can you put into your body?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's what level of behavior can you hit...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And still be cool.

Justin: God, that's such a fine line, though, because you have to be... you need those inhibitions, don't you? I mean—

Griffin: Sometimes.

Travis: [sings] You need your inhibitions! Don't go out in the rain! It is cold when you are wet.

Justin: Nobody wants to get rained on all the time.

Griffin: Yeah. You're wet now, cool.

Justin: You're wet now, uh-oh.

Griffin: Great! Uh-oh.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: What are you gonna do about that?

Justin: You know what my inhibition says?

Travis: You didn't think about that, did you?

Justin: Stay inside.

Griffin: I remember very, very, very distinctly a Halloween party I went to probably 10 years ago in Austin, at a friend's house. I was dressed up as Sonic the Hedgehog, and I got—I drank too much. I drank... I drank way too much. This is before, you know, we had kids. And my friends were leaving the party, and I pretend to do a spin attack, like Sonic does, and jumped in their back seat, of their car.

Justin: Oh, Griffin!

Griffin: And was like, "Hey, can you take me home?"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And then after that—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: After that, I got out of the car. The next morning, I had a thought, which was, maybe I'm not a cool hang, at a certain degree. And I don't think I ever, ever got that drunk again for the rest of my whole life. That was my Christmas Carol, that event. So, if you know the boundaries for yourself, I think go nuts. But I'm also uncomfortable telling anyone to get fucked up, or tabled, as you said, on this podcast that's being recorded.

Justin: Yeah, I mean... [chuckles] you know, I think the answer here is to just not be the drunkest person there.

Travis: Always the goal.

Justin: [chuckles] I'm thinking about it. If there's one person that's like going—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Real hard, you can feel pretty comfortable not be—in fact, you may be sort of a median that that person needs, you know what I mean? You may need something in the middle that like, "You know, I wasn't so terrible. Jerry kind of got a little bit messed up, if memory serves. It wasn't all bad!"

Travis: Oh, that's nice! You're a bridge!

Justin: We're all have— "We were all having a lot of fun!"

Griffin: Now, there—another thing that impacts the answer to this question is like, how good are you at arcade games? Because if you get—you can get really, really fucked up, but if you're hitting swishes on that connect four basketball game, like puttin' 'em up, no problem, knocking 'em down, Larry Bird, then I think people are gonna sort of talk about you in like a cool way from then on.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: They got—

Justin: As long as you're sinkin' 'em. I mean, I think, if anything, in the past 20 years, we've learned that like if you are good at athletics, you can basically get away with whatever you want. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You can do anything!

Justin: So like—

Travis: Especially if you get better with every drink, it's like, "Well, their average is going up?"

Griffin: Yeah, "They just connected five, holy shit!"

Justin: "My wife is the equine manager for university staple. Each year, we help Santa by putting horse treats in each horse's stocking. The student boarders love walking to the horse treats from Santa and sharing in the equine holidays. However, sometimes the horses see us helping Santa with the treats. Our question is, how do we make sure the horses continue to believe in Santa and fully understand that we are mere helpers of holiday bliss?" That's from Your Friendly Neigh-borhood Santa Helpers.

Travis: Can I say, one of my favorite thing that my children... watch children shows, because they're children. And I always enjoy when there's an animal-based universe, but still a human Santa. Peppa pig does this, and I—

Griffin: Mickey Mouse does this, Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. Yeah, no, you can't have like—

Justin: Must be a man.

Griffin: You can't have like a fox Santa Claus?

Travis: No.

Griffin: Like, that sounds— "I'm dog Santa." That's fuckin' crazy, man.

Travis: That if a horse sees Santa, they're not like, "Why isn't he also a horse?" They're like, "No, I get it. That's Santa." You know?

Justin: Do you think that's because they don't—like, parents don't want to reckon with cat Santa? Like they don't want to have to deal with like the questions. Like the questions around Santa are already pretty complex, like, you don't want to have to get into cat Santa and...

Griffin: Well, with cat Santa, that's easy to explain, because like you're not gonna see Santa Claus. He's a pretty sneaky dude, as a rule. So, if that's true, cat Santa?

Travis: Oh my god.

Griffin: No one's ever—this is a—this is a creature that is going to be impossible for you to spot. It exists in a quantum state.

Travis: It would also be really useful if your Christmas tree ever falls over like during the night and you're like, "Why happened?" Like, "Cat Santa."

Griffin: Cat Santa.

Travis: "Cat Santa got in here."

Justin: Now, in Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever—

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Tartar Sauce, which is the name of the grumpy cat—

Griffin: It's not called—it's not named Grumpy Cat?

Justin: No—

Travis: He is a grumpy cat, Griffin.

Griffin: Why does he have two names? That's crazy.

Travis: "Grumpy cat" is a descriptive term.

Griffin: Right, but it's also—

Travis: My name is not "Middlest Brother." You know that, right?

Griffin: No, but you're not a cat. You're not an online cat. You can have as many names as you want, you've earned it. But the cat has a bunch of different—

Travis: You don't think Grumpy Cat's earned it?

Griffin: I've just never heard Tartar Sauce before, and the thing is not called "The Grumpy Cat, Tartar Sauce." It's just called "Grumpy Cat."

Justin: Tartar Sauce is the name of a cat. It performed as Grumpy Cat. It was a character it played, okay?

Griffin: It can't be a character or perform as anything. [chuckles] It's a cat with a cat brain, that you can train to do little tricks, but he's not Daniel Day Lewis. He gets one name, and that name's Grumpy Cat.

Travis: You fuckin' tell that to Morris the Cat, to Benji, to Lassie. What are you even talking about, Griffin?

Griffin: To Lassie? Lassie, the dog, Lassie?

Travis: Was played by a different dog?

Griffin: Hm... I think they should just call it Lassie.

Justin: In May 2013, Grumpy Cat Limited partnered with Grenade Beverage LLC to market the Grumppuccino iced coffee beverages.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: Then in December 2015, Grumpy Cat Limited filed a lawsuit against Grenade Beverages LLC, citing trademark infringement when the beverage company expanded its line of Grumpy Cat coffee offerings beyond what was originally agreed upon, producing and marketing a Grumpy Cat roasted coffee—ground coffee, even after being told by email that they were not approved to do so. So, if you picked up that ground—[chuckles] that ground Grumpy Cat coffee, good news! You got a counterfeit, unlicensed—[chuckles]

Griffin: I take it back. I take it back. Grumpy Cat can have as many as you want. I don't want Grumpy Cat coming after me in a sort of legal... a legal arena.

Justin: That's right. That's right.

Griffin: There's no way.

Justin: Besides, Tartar Sauce died in 2019, so you don't have to worry about it.

Travis: What?

Griffin: Oh, man...

Travis: So, horses see you delivering presents...

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Are you in costume? Are you yourself?

Griffin: Yeah, there's a question of investment, because like you could also just have someone else put these presents in and have them look like elves or whatever, if you're worried the horses are going to see you and be like, "Wait a minute, you live here. You're not one of Santa's helpers."

Travis: Because you probably don't have a fireplace and a chimney in the stables, right?

Griffin: Probably not, that seems like wildly unsafe. There's a lot of hay in there.

Travis: So they would have to be delivered inside.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If you had sold your horses on horse Santa, then you could have done this with very little worry, because they would never assume that a human would help horse Santa. But if they think human Santa, and they see you doing—they're gonna put two and two together. You know what I mean? Like, they're gonna draw their own conclusions. Like, I know it's kind of

shitty to assume all humans know each other, but like that's how horses are sometimes.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I feel terrible because my first impulse was to think, surely, the reindeer are responsible for the horses. But then it's like, why would I assume that, you know what I mean? Like...

Griffin: They are not their brother's keeper. Also, who pulls horse Santa's sleigh? Do you think he's been working on that for a while, trying to like test out some other—

Travis: Human beings.

Griffin: Just nude humans.

Justin: Dang, dude. [chuckles] Nude humans with...

Travis: That's where, if you're truly naughty—so it goes naughty list, coal, really naughty, Santa takes presents away, *super naughty*, you have to pull horse Santa's sleigh nude in the winter weather.

Griffin: You are a nude Christmas beast of burden.

Justin: And antlers grow out of your head!

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And antlers grow out of you. That's cool.

Justin: And you become incredibly well-endowed.

Travis: Wow!

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Justin: And you have bat wings. Huge, leathery bat wings.

Travis: Hell yeah! Actually, hold on, I'm coming around!

Justin: And you meet the one—the one fae alchemist that can set your heart free. This winter, Hearts Ablaze—

Travis: Yes!

Justin: From Big Giant Head LLC, the romantasy book you've been waiting for.

Griffin: Hearts Ablaze.

Travis: Won't you guide my heart tonight?

Justin: Ho, ho, ho.

Griffin: Ho.

Justin: Ho?

Travis: Oh my god, yes.

Griffin: [chuckles] We do 'em five times!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Only a few of 'em were the Santa kind.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Get in the sack.

Justin: *Wink.* We don't need it anymore, but let's go to the Money Zone.
[chuckles]

Travis: Hoof Beats and Heartbeats! Okay, go on.

Justin: Damn!

Griffin: Damn.

Justin: That's good! We're rich!

Griffin: Damn, Daniel.

Travis: [chuckles] Done it again.

[theme music plays]

Justin: [sings] 'And you gotta be Zocdoc, don't ya? Gotta find the best doctor!' Hi, everybody. I'm Justin McElroy, paid endorser for Zocdoc. You know, it can be a real pain in the butt—

Travis: We don't say that enough! Sometimes people must think we're just big fans of these companies, but we're paid to talk about them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Now, I'm a paid endorser, but also a client for Zocdoc, because I needed somebody to work on my butt. And when I needed the best butt specialist in town, you know where I turned? Zocdoc. Because they can help you find doctors that take your insurance, are located nearby and are a good fit for any medical needs you might have. And it's a free app—

Travis: Justin, I noticed—if I could interrupt real quick, and I never do this—

Justin: Oh, interrupt the ad to say something?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, please, go ahead.

Travis: The speed at which you went from "when I needed someone to work on my butt, do you know where I turned," to "Zocdoc," there was no air in there. Did you maybe, on some level, know that Griffin and I might inject some kind of funny punchline there?

Justin: Only on this show could professionalism be mistaken for Machiavellian tactics. Do you know what I'm saying? Like, no, Travis, I'm just a fucking pro, and once it starts flowing, it's not stopped. Unless, I don't know, my younger brother wants to get his fingers all over it.

Travis: Yeah, Griffin!

Griffin: Not me, man.

Travis: I don't want to get my fingers in your butt at all, Justin!

Griffin: When I see you in flow state, dude, I just step back.

Justin: What else can you do?!

Griffin: What else can you—

Travis: Interrupt them!

Griffin: Light up a stogie and you just watch him fuckin' do it.

Justin: [sings] 'What else can I do?' He's on fire again. Okay, listen... Zocdoc.

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: I forgot, you've like—

Travis: Shit!

Justin: It sucks now. [chuckles] Damn it! Dude... this is like, this is—

Travis: You know, when Justin needed someone to work on his butt, do you know where he turned? A mechanic. And I said, "Justin, don't do that. Go to Zocdoc." And he did it.

Griffin: And he did, he went to Zocdoc. It's a free app and website where you can search and compare high-quality, in-network doctors and click to instantly book an appointment. Gosh, I've done this so many freaking times here in DC. Gosh, it's been a real lifesaver here, trying to—just a little guy, trying to make it in the big city.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And find somebody—find somebody to look at his... you know, his polyps and whatever.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Thank you, Zocdoc, for helping me out.

Justin: So stop putting off those doctors' appointments and go to zocdoc.com/mybrother, to find and instantly book a top-rated doctor today. That's zocdoc.com/mybrother. Zocdoc.com/mybrother.

Travis: You know, when I'm looking for ready-to-eat meals in under two minutes, there's only one factor I consider, and that's Factor.

Griffin: That was awesome.

Travis: Thank you. Took a lot out of me. Factor's chef-prepped, dietitian-approved meals are designed to make it easy to stay balanced and energized through the most indulgent time of the year, which is, I assume, now?

Griffin: Yes. Can't you tell?

Travis: No? I mean, maybe April. I go pretty ham in April.

Griffin: I'm soaking a foot bath of clarified butter right now. That's how I do a decadent holiday.

Travis: Unlike meal kits that require prep and cooking, Factor delivers fully-prepared, ready-to-eat meals in just two minutes! And they've got all kinds of different options in there, seafood choices like salmon and shrimp, at no extra cost, and you can savor global flavors. *What?* That rhymes.

Griffin: I'm looking at the menu right now. We got cremini mushrooms and meatballs with cream cheese potato mash and broccoli and carrots.

Justin: Oh!

Griffin: That shit looks so very good! I'm lookin' at Tuscan pesto baked salmon with white beans, spinach, potatoes and broccoli. These look so delish, guys! Scrummy!

Travis: So don't eat farts—

Justin: Scrummy? Yeah.

Travis: Don't eat farts, eat smart, at factormeals.com/brother50off, and use code "Brother 50 Off" to get 50% off your first box, plus free breakfast for one year! That's code "Brother 50 Off" at factormeals.com, for 50% off your first box, plus free breakfast for one year. This exclusive holiday offer won't last! Lock in your savings before the new year rush! Offer only valid for new Factor customers with code and qualifying auto renewing subscription purchase. I realized that there's stuff we have to read verbatim, but they don't have rules about the two words you can say before you read it.

Griffin: Before! You can say anything before or after the stuff, so you can say stuff—like, I'll tell you guys right now listening at home, because you can't see the ad copy, it didn't say don't eat farts.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Travis said that and just like let it sit. But it's fine, because then he said all the stuff he's supposed to say after that. Loophole!

Travis: I like to add stuff into the ad and then see if they update ad copy later for like things not to mention.

Griffin: [chuckles] It's a fun game, yeah!

Justin: [chuckles] In hindsight...

Travis: "Well, there's no rule that said he couldn't say don't eat farts, so we're gonna add that on. But we can't grandfather it in, so..."

Griffin: [chuckles]

[break]

Presenter: Good evening. Thanks for tuning in to 101.1 Max Fun. It's midnight here on Host to Coast, and we've got Sarah from Michigan on line one.

Sarah: Hi! I'm calling in for some help. I used to love reading, but between grad school, having kids and the general state of the world, I can't seem to pick up a book and stick with it anymore.

Presenter: Sarah, this is an easy one. Just listen to Reading Glasses! A podcast designed to help you read better. Brea and Mallory will get all the pressure, shame and guilt out of your reading life. You'll be finishing books you love in no time.

Sarah: Great! That sounds amazing! Also, I do think my husband is cheating on me with Mothman. Can you help me with that one?

Presenter: Ooh! I don't think they cover that. Reading Glasses, every Thursday, on Maximum Fun.

[break]

Benjamin: Hey, do you have a favorite episode of Star Trek?

Adam: If you do, you should also have a favorite Star Trek podcast.

Benjamin: Greatest Trek is about all the new streaming Star Trek shows, and it's a great companion to The Greatest Generation, our hit show about back catalog Star Trek that you grew up with.

Adam: It's a comedy podcast by two folks who used to be video producers, so it's a serious mix of comedy and insight that fits right into the Maximum Fun Network of shows.

Benjamin: And Greatest Trek is one of the most popular Star Trek podcasts in the world.

Adam: So, if you're following Lower Decks, Prodigy or Strange New Worlds, come hang out with us every Friday, as we roast and review our favorite Star Trek shows.

Benjamin: It's on maximumfun.org, YouTube, or your pod catching app.

[break]

Justin: [sings] Throw your clothes into the fire!

Griffin: Oh, shit. What?

Travis: What?

Justin: [sings] Throw your wine into the trees!

Griffin: [chuckles] Why?!

Justin: [sings] Put the dog in the closet for a while! That's a Christmas to me!

Travis: Huh...

Justin: [sings] That's a Christmas to me! That's a Christmas to me. You and me and Greg and Rebecca and a tree.

Travis: What?

Griffin: He's flowing. Dude, flow state.

Justin: [sings] 'That's a Christmas to me.' Hi. This is a Christmas—

Griffin: Fucking chop it up, dude.

Travis: Yeah, man, that was wonderful. Everybody clip that, chat.

Griffin: Clip that, chat.

Justin: I realized that I was—this incredible game where I have invented some Hallmark movies, but also have included some real plots from Hallmark movies. I realized that I was compromising it by reading them. Because by reading these plots, I am going to, with my inflection or my, you know, my micro expressions, now that we have video, you're going to be able to tell. So, I'm going to send—so, I'm gonna send you guys the descriptions.

Griffin: Oh, I see. And then we can read them.

Justin: And then you're going to read them, okay?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And then you two can figure out.

Griffin: That's smart.

Justin: Because you're not gonna have me putting any... you know—

Travis: And then you're gonna guess which one's real?

Justin: No. I'm not gonna—

Griffin: That's weird, because you made 'em.

Justin: I'm just, I can't participate, that would be wild.

Travis: Oh, so then people are gonna call in and do like phone polls and stuff to guess which—

Justin: No. Travis, you're up.

Travis: This is "Oi to the World." Premieres Sunday, December 14th. Stars Brooke D'Orsay and Jake Epstein. "After a water line at a temple breaks, the members celebrate Hanukkah at an Episcopal church. But since Christmas Eve falls on the same day, each choir director must set aside their old rivalry and collaborate." There's so much story that comes in there at the end!

Justin: Yeah, they sneak a lot of the story in at the end with this one.

Griffin: Travis, what do you think?

Travis: Oh, a water main breaks, okay, they have to go to a—okay, that's a movie. But then there's an old rivalry between choir directors, that's a Hallmark movie. You know what I mean? Like...

Griffin: Yeah. I... Do you have a guess, Travis?

Travis: I don't think it's real.

Griffin: I know it is actually real, we talked about it on Wonderful.

Justin: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Okay, I've been compromised by your—yes, it is real. "Oi to the World" is a real Hallmark film with Brooke D'Orsay and Jake Epstein, who's had to be having a rough couple years, but I hope he's hanging in there.

Travis: Yeah... I realized that I think I was giving Hallmark too much credit, where I was like, "Oi to the World," I don't know, it seems reductive. It seems to be making fun... Yeah, so that couldn't be real. It is!

Griffin: No, they did—it is real. It's real.

Justin: All right, Griffin, next up.

Griffin: Let's see, we got... "A Limitless Christmas."

Justin: [chuckles] I don't want to give—Griffin... sorry, I'm trying to keep my—I'm gonna turn off my camera. No, I'll...

Griffin: [chuckles] "A Limitless Christmas" is—and remember, Trav, we gotta guess—

Justin: And Griffin—

Griffin: We gotta guess if it's real or not!

Justin: And Griffin, you—[chuckles] Okay.

Griffin: So, this is "A Limitless Christmas," starring Brad Lee, L-E-E, Cooper—

Justin: I was hoping you wouldn't notice that. They were hoping you wouldn't notice that.

Griffin: And Clarice von Winsberg. "President Eddie Mora may have weaned himself off of NZT 48 following the events of Limitless, but when the big man in the North—can't say Santa (legal thing)—finds Blitzen dead and Mrs. Claus, von Winsburg, kidnapped. He turns to the only man smart enough to be both naughty and nice." [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, he figured out a way.

Griffin: Production note, per ongoing litigation with CBS, the events of the Limitless TV series will not be referenced in "A Limitless Christmas."

Travis: I was wondering, okay, I was gonna ask, yeah.

Griffin: Hm...

Justin: This is tough, because there have been a lot—we've seen Guardians of the Galaxy holiday special, we've seen—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know, Buddy the Elf's Musical Christmas, so it's not out of the realm of possibility that a big Hollywood film would be adapted into a...

Griffin: No, for sure!

Justin: A smaller scale. [chuckles]

Griffin: And of all of them to get the adaptation, I do think Limitless is the, is—it can't be like a Silver Linings Playbook Christmas—

Travis: No.

Griffin: Because they did actually kind of wrap that one up with a nice little bow.

Travis: Well, they could do Silver and Gold Linings Playbook, and it's just more about—

Griffin: Oh, the names are great, Trav! I'm saying that they completed the arc.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: I don't want to touch that world. Leave it. It's perfect.

Travis: But Limitless, there's NZT 49, 50, 51.

Griffin: Yeah. Meat on the bone.

Justin: Travis, you're up!

Travis: You know, Justin, I do have a sneaking suspicion it's not real—

Justin: First though, I need you two to vote.

Travis: I choose to live in a world in which—

Justin: On whether or not "A Limitless Christmas" is real.

Griffin: Oh—

Justin: You think it's real?

Griffin: I don't think—

Travis: I choose to live in a world in which I think it's real.

Griffin: I want to live in Travis' world too. It's not, but I want it to be it.

Justin: Sorry, I made up "A Limitless Christmas."

Travis: Ah, damn it! Is there another one for me here?

Justin: Yeah, it's in Slack. I sent it to you directly this time.

Travis: Okay. "Christmas at the Catnip Café." "After a marketing executive discovers she's inherited a cat café from her aunt, she wants to sell the property so she can afford the down payment on her dream condo. Conflict arises when a veterinarian who owns the other half of the café is on—intent on keeping it afloat." Now, Justin?

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: We did all watch this movie together in your home, when we came together to record the Candlenights—

Griffin: "Watch" is an interesting verb to use there, Travis. It was, maybe more than any other film I've ever watched, just kind of... happening around—

Travis: Yeah. It was incidental.

Griffin: Yeah. It was—it was as though—

Justin: We did, didn't we? Yeah.

Griffin: It was like watching a movie from someone sitting two rows in front of you, catty-cornered on the aisle of an airplane—

Travis: It was like watching a movie that someone else is watching in the movie that you're watching.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, what do you think?

Travis: So, I did think it's real, J-Man!

Griffin: It is real—

Justin: Do you think that was real?

Griffin: It's also, it's so obvious that some maker of these fine holiday films ran out of things to do holiday films about. And then like their nephew told them about cat cafés and they're like, "I can Christmas that. I can Christmas that up, for sure."

Justin: "I can Christmas that up a little bit."

Griffin: Cat Café, veterinarian, hot veterinarian, good to go. Yeah, that's not—

Travis: Well, it's three hot per set up. Small town something—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Meets big town something, at a blank.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: So, what did you think? Real?

Griffin: Yeah, we watched it together, so—

Justin: All right, Griffin, you're up.

Griffin: This is a "A Grand Ole Opry Christmas." It premiered Saturday, November 29th. And I'm gonna—a lot of these names, I'm not gonna do good by, but here we go. It stars Nikki DeLoach, Kristoffer Polaha, Rob Mayes, Eliza Maher, Luke Benward, Sharon Lawrence and James Denton. That's a huge cast. Why did—why are there that many names above the...

Justin: Great question. And I just kept writing 'em, or I—

Travis: A grand ole question!

Griffin: Plot. With plenty of appearances from famous country artists like Brad Paisley, Megan Moroney, Rhett Akins and more. "This Hallmark holiday movie tells the tale of a songwriter who abandons her passion after her late father, a country music icon, dies in a tragic accident. But when the Grand Ole Opry asks her to honor her father's legacy, she time travels back in time when her father was still alive." [chuckles] I had it locked in until those last two little bits there! "She time travels back in time when her..." What is that—the Grand Ole Opry says, "Will you please honor your father's legacy in a holiday concert?" And she travels back in time to when her father was still alive?

Travis: That's not unused—

Justin: It's a lot of SFX, I think, budget. A big special effects budget.

Griffin: Damn, man. I didn't expect a real one to slip—a real hard one to slip in here, because I don't know.

Travis: I want to say it's fake, because I think they would have called it like "Grand New Opry," or had some play on time travel in the title.

Griffin: I'm gonna say it's real, just because the fact that it came out November 29th, feels really out of pocket to me.

Justin: It's real! That's a real— "Grand Ole Opry Christmas" is a real film.

Griffin: How does—what is the vehicle through which she travels back in time? I'm curious.

Justin: It's a Cadillac Seville. 1967 Cadillac Seville, that has the gigawatt stuff from Back to the Future. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, cool!

Griffin: Whoa, it just has the Back to the Future in it?

Justin: It just has the back—it says the doctor, Doc Brown, he is—name is in it. And he's like, "It's got the stuff from Back to the Future!"

Travis: Yeah, "We put all the gigawatts in there."

Griffin: I love that. I love—I think they did that in Looper too, when they like, "We don't want to explain all the time travel stuff, it's Back to the Future stuff."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "We're doing Back to the Future stuff."

Justin: Syd and I watched one that was another time travel one, that was "A '90s Christmas." Because I was hoping it would have lots of fun '90s gags, but—and then I realized you have to pay for those. So it's really just

kind of like ugly. [chuckles] You know, it was like—just looks old and bad. But the film takes place in 1999.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: And she is sent back to try to save a relationship that she didn't nail back then, and make everything good with her life. She's sent back in time to 1999.

Travis: Then why not call it like W-H-Y 2K?

Griffin: Well—

Justin: Yeah, but here's the thing, Trav, the thing that she doesn't do—you know, the thing that I would...

Griffin: Any movie where you time travel back before, let's say, the turn of the millennium.

Travis: Yeah, before—

Justin: There's not even a moment—

Travis: Say September 10th, 2001?

Griffin: Yeah, anywhere from there, before.

Justin: 99, I feel like you have to ask the question, at least someone has to be like, "You can't change his—" Like you gotta do something, right? Like at least—

Griffin: You should do something.

Travis: I need someone to reboot Quantum Leap, specifically for every time Sam quantum leaps before September 10th, 2001. The first thing he says is like, "So, I've gotta be here for this reason, right, Al?" And Al's like, "No!"

Griffin: No...

Travis: "Not this time!" He's like, "No, Al—"

Griffin: "You want me to—"

Travis: "It's gotta be this, right?"

Griffin: "You need me to help this lounge singer become super famous. That's cool and all, Al. Can I write a letter or something to the president now?"

Justin: Last one, Travis.

Travis: [chuckles] Okay. "Fuck, My Husband is a Ghost."

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: It stars Jennifer Stanton and Everly Westlane. "As the Christian bible teaches—"

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: "Jennifer, name thing is coincidence, has waited until marriage to experience physical pleasure with her new husband. But when she smooshes through his ectoplasm on their wedding night, she realizes that Beauregard T. Wainscoting II is, in fact, not an extremely dedicated Civil War reenactor, but indeed the ghost of an actual Civil War general. Bad news, ladies! He fought on the wrong side. PS, the events of the film take place on December 21st through the 27th, but are not substan... sub... substantively festive."

Griffin: Okay. It just happens to be set around the holidays—

Justin: I think that's what I understood while I was reading it, that it just happens to be set—so it's not—it seems like they kind of made the whole movie, then forgot to make it about Christmas.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And maybe they just kind of were like tying in a Christmas thing at the end.

Griffin: It sounds like they have their work cut out for them, to turn this guy into a heartthrob.

Travis: [chuckles] Yes. Now, I do—

Justin: A lot has changed. [chuckles]

Travis: I do like that the title would imply that the biggest problem to overcome is that he's a ghost. And don't get me wrong, that is definitely a hurdle that's in there.

Griffin: Huge problem. But...

Travis: But...

Griffin: There's some ideological stumbling blocks that I think would also get in the way.

Travis: Now, he has had like 160 years.

Griffin: Yeah, that's crazy. [chuckles]

Justin: That's what surprised me about watching it, that there is a lot more going on... Darn it. Shouldn't let that slip, that I watched it.

Travis: Well, Justin, since you watched it, can you tell me, does Beauregard T. Wainscoting II have a moment where he's like, "And also, I feel really bad about having—"

Griffin: "About all the bad stuff."

Justin: He leads with that. [chuckles] Like that is the first thing—

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: He's like, "Listen..."

Travis: [chuckles] "There's a lot of cards I gotta lay out on the table right now."

Griffin: It'd be awesome if he got—

Justin: "I'm gonna say something to you first that out of context is gonna seem strange, but you have to understand something right up front, and then we'll get to the ghost stuff." [chuckles]

Griffin: "I actually was visited by three ghosts last night, but it was just kind of like a chill hang. Because that's sort of my whole vibe."

Justin: "My thing." So, what do you guys think?

Griffin: I don't actually think this is real. I think you didn't watch it, and I think you're fibbing to try and trick us into a trap.

Travis: I'm gonna have to side with Griffin here. Griffin makes a really convincing argument. I don't think it's real.

Justin: [sighs] Ah... yeah, it's fake. I made it up. It's not real.

Travis: Damn it.

Justin: Yeah, it's not real. I had fun doing it, but...

Travis: I'm glad!

Justin: Yeah, it was fun to do.

Griffin: I have fun hearing it, hearing 'em.

Justin: Yeah, it was fun to do, like I—

Travis: I liked saying "smooshes through his ectoplasm," that—

Justin: Travis, when I wrote that, I really felt like I had done something for the day. You know, I felt really good about myself.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Is that describing a sex act with a ghost?

Justin: Yeah, that's how I imagined—

Griffin: Is smooshing—

Justin: It the first time. I thought about—it was a Black Mirror thing where it was like, what if you did wait 'til marriage, but then when you smooshed into your partner, you found out that they're a ghost for the first time right then.

Griffin: Dude, yeah.

Travis: Was he also waiting 'til marriage that he didn't know that would happen?

Justin: He knew 100% it would happen. [chuckles] Like 100%.

Travis: So she smooshed through his ectoplasm, then he handed her a book that said like, "Let me explain the fact that I am both a ghost and—"

Griffin: "Man, I've wanted to talk to you about this long time."

Justin: He was oath-bound. He was oath-bound so he couldn't tell her his true nature, because he had sworn an oath to the Avillian gods.

Travis: And to Robert E. Lee.

Justin: And to Robert E. Lee.

Griffin: True love waits, but—

Justin: Who he keeps throughout the whole movie is like, "But I will say, Lee was a cool dude!"

Griffin: A lot of apologetics.

Travis: "Those statues of him are really good art, if anything—"

Justin: "They're good statues, but—"

Travis: "It's history, Debbie!"

Griffin: "But..."

Justin: "But..."

Travis: "Debbie, it's history! But I understand! But I do want to say, I get it... What are they gonna do with those statues though, not that they're down?"

Justin: [laughs] "No one wants to see art go to waste, Deborah!"

Travis: "I'm just saying, I got a big—a big kind of gazebo thing in the back of my, I believe I'm supposed to call it now an estate. I'm not allowed to say the plant—ah! No, I almost said it."

Justin: "Deborah, do you not wish to provide a place for the pigeons to roost?" [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Shouldn't the sparrows be able to rest their wings somewhere, Deborah? Why not our backyard on our huge commemorative statue of my good friend, who I do not like." [chuckles]

Travis: "Can't stress—"

Griffin: "I had—he has some positions that I do not share."

Travis: "We can put a sign up that says "ironic," if that makes you feel better."

Justin: "A small sign, of course, in case the general—" [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: His ghost—

Travis: "He comes around sometimes."

Justin: "He may come by! Listen! If Robert E. Lee's ghost comes by, you have to promise to be cool, Deborah!"

Travis: "And you're probably wondering what other ghosts there are. Just us two!"

Griffin: "Just us two."

Justin: "Just us two!"

Travis: "Just me and Robert E. Lee!"

Justin: [chuckles] "It's wild!"

Griffin: "You would think not a bad setup for you. Only, he only speaks in riddles, Barbara."

Travis: "And he hasn't come around to maybe issues the way I have."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Yeah, we found this weird old cave on a full moon, Barbara, there was a coin, and we each touched it, and now here we are!"

Travis: "Basic science!"

Justin: "I wrote Pirates of the Caribbean."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "A true story based on my life."

Travis: "But do I get any credit?"

Justin: "Do I get a single thin dime?! No, that's why I'm selling my life's story, "Fuck, My Husband's a Ghost." Thank you for—"

Travis: "Based on a true story."

Justin: "My story! My personal story." [chuckles]

Travis: "Could you also type it out for me? Because I'm unable to interact with your typewriters and computers and whatnot. Shall we smoosh again, my love?"

Justin: [chuckles] "My neighbors have added a new feature to their exterior holiday décor this year, a 12-foot-tall, bright white wooden reindeer. I have to drive by it to get to and from work, and it scares the heck out of me—" Wow! Sorry, I scrolled down, it's really big. "Any suggestions for ways to make myself braver so I don't get jump scared twice a day when I go by it?" That's from Concerned about Comma in Cleveland. I mean, it's a big—

Griffin: Guys, this reindeer is bigger than one story of a house. It is bigger than a—

Travis: And dramatically lit!

Griffin: Ranch-style home. It's dramatically lit, it's—I mean, it is also lit, fam. But if I saw—

Justin: I see this thing and I want to start circle strafing with a plasma rifle. This thing's—this thing means trouble.

Travis: They have also placed it as though it is considering breaching containment.

Justin: Yeah, that's a really—

Griffin: It has its chest stuck out proudly, as if to say, "I'm gonna jump this fuckin' candy cane—"

Justin: It is! It's also away from the home. It's not welcoming to the home. It's standing as a proud guard.

Griffin: It's retreating—

Travis: Yes. You know, there's a community, I think it's Norway, maybe, where every year they build a giant wicker Christmas goat. And they try to guard it every year, and yet, every year, someone manages to set fire to it and burn it to the ground.

Griffin: It's a game. It's a fun game, for kids, guard the goat.

Travis: I'm just saying.

Griffin: I don't think you should burn this 12-foot tall, bright white reindeer, despite the fact—

Travis: Not with all those lights on, Griffin.

Griffin: Despite the fact that it would go up so nice. And it would go up so—

Travis: It would look really cool! It's looks—

Griffin: Wow.

Travis: Cool!

Griffin: Wow-wow-wow-wow!

Justin: Yeah. They're just dot—this thing—look at this thing. It's like a lant—it looks like one of those paper lanterns. It's just dying to go up.

Griffin: It's just die—it wants to very badly.

Travis: Could you—

Justin: I'm not even a pyromaniac, and I'm—

Griffin: No, I don't love it either—

Justin: Loving the idea—

Griffin: But—

Justin: Over here. Don't do it.

Griffin: Don't do it, obviously. But it will make it easier for Santa Claus find their house, to land and make presents.

Justin: It is wild that we didn't get a question like this at Halloween. [titters] This person must have a really tough time then, right? If they're getting scared by big reindeer, that's got to be tough to see like big scarecrows with skull heads all the time.

Travis: Well but, at least then, Justin, you're able to know and read in the intention of the thing, right? I see a big, scary scarecrow, I know exactly why it's there. It's there to scare me. I see this thing? This thing don't have no eyes or mouth or nothing. There is no emotion conveyed. So, I'm able to read—like place upon this thing any emotion that I feel when looking at it. And that's—

Justin: This thing looks like it's been oriented this way because ley lines pass through it. It's like a very—

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: It's a scare—yeah, it's a scary. I would push it over three times, because with my decorations, that's all it takes for me to decide they're never going up again.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: If the wind—

Griffin: So one time—one time they could be like—

Justin: One time, that's on—

Griffin: It was the wind. Yeah.

Justin: Second time, that's just life. Third time, fuck this thing!

Griffin: Yeah. This thing's too tall!

Justin: Too tall! Too stupid! Fuck it!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: You could also, I'm looking at the height of this thing relative to the house that it's decorating, sneak under cover of night, lift it up, reorient it so it's staring into the second-floor window.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Of their own house.

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: And I think they'll make the decision to take it down.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: No, that—no one wants that.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We call it My Brother, My Brother and Me, because that's the name of it. And anything else would seem kind of silly. Thank you to everybody that came to Candlenights, at the beautiful Keith Albee theater. It was a wonderful event. You were all so kind to come. If you didn't see it, you can go to bit.ly/Candlenights2025, you can still watch it 'til January 4th. And I think that you're really gonna like it.

Travis: I know you're really gonna like it.

Justin: I know you're really gonna like it.

Travis: Also, wanted to let everybody know, because of the holiday season, us and our staff, we're going to be, you know, taking a break for the holidays, like we do. So, our—

Justin: Thank god, dude. I'm *exhausted*.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: I mean, Candlenights really takes—does take it out of you.

Travis: Yeah! And so we're gonna take a break—

Griffin: You had to move a whole TARDIS. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm still bushed.

Travis: I don't know how the doctor does it. But we'll be back January 5th... back, tickling your funny bones.

Griffin: Gosh, that was a gross way to say it.

Travis: Yeah, I know. I felt bad about it.

Griffin: There's some merch up in the merch store, over at mcelroymerch.com. Got a dice tray and dice tray bundle, with some beautiful TAZ: Balance dice. There's also a Candlelights poster and Candlelights ornaments, designed by Scott Hoch, that is up there. And 10% of all of our merch proceeds this month will be donated to Harmony House, as will 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales for Candlelights, both the live version and the streaming on demand version.

So, help support Harmony House... Sure. How about this Fear? And I think this will probably be our last—is this our last Fear of the year? Last Fear of 20 Thunder Drive, and it's a real—it's—this one's a real one. Start your engines. "This year, I want to be faster than my fear of cracking an egg and a baby bird falling out."

Justin: God! Oh, god, that hits—that hits deep! I've had that happen a lot.

Griffin: Never happened to me. Never happened to me, still—

Justin: Oh! It's never happened, but like I think about it.

Travis: Yeah, of course it's never happened.

Justin: I still think about when I got a double yoker. Oh, god, I hate it.

Griffin: Oh, dude...

Justin: Ah... My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: Double Yoker was the name in France for Joker: Folie à Deux. Which is weird, because you would think they would just use that.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: But they used Double Yoker instead, and it's like, there's not two Jokers—

Justin: [spoofing a French accent] You're the Double Yoker! [chuckles]

Griffin: Why not just call it Folie à Deux? Like why do people—

Justin: Mon dieu! [laughs] [spoofing a French accent] The double Joker, he is doin' it again!

Griffin: Crazy. I'm Griffin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy. Did I already say that? Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, you already did.

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

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

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