

MBMBaM 797: Safe and Full of Grubs

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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, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

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

Griffin: What's—whoa. Welcome—

Justin: No! Actually, no, dude.

Griffin: I think actually you need to—I think you need to drop one—

Justin: [chuckles] Nah, dude!

Griffin: No, no, no! Stop, stop, stop! I like 'Big Unit.' I like 'Big Unit.' You need to lose something else. Because I do think it pushes—I understand that this is da brand.

Justin: It's getting a little—it's giving Usidore I think at this point, Travis.
[chuckles]

Griffin: A little bit.

Travis: Yeah, it's giving Usidore. Yeah, I get that.

Griffin: But you need to drop one of the conditionals. One of the—

Travis: Can I be Big Dog Unit?

Griffin: No, that—

Justin: Big Unit Dog? [chuckles]

Griffin: No, that sounds like an elite—

Travis: Big Unit Dog. Unit Big Dog.

Griffin: "We're Unit Big Dog, and we got Osama bin Laden."

Travis: Dog Unit.

Griffin: Like we need—just drop one of 'em.

Justin: Unit Big Dog—god...

Griffin: Just think about it. I'm Griffin. Just think about it. I'm Griffin McElroy, the youngest. 30 Under 30, media luminary, built Ford tough, fuckin' huge, huge danger McElroy.

Travis: Yeah, that—I mean, it works.

Justin: Yeah, I guess. It doesn't—I don't know, it feels a little on the nose.
[titters]

Griffin: Justin, you started this episode—you kicked us off with—

Justin: Always do—

Griffin: Such—

Justin: Always do. [chuckles]

Griffin: You always do, but you did this one like right after we did our sync, right after we did our count, you had such a robust energy that made me

think like, this guy's got a fuckin' intro that is screaming to get out of him. That is absolutely—

Justin: I think it sucks—I think it sucks that my—[chuckles] I think it sucks that my enthusiasm for recording a podcast with my brothers could be mistaken as... a prepared competence. [chuckles] I think that sucks.

Travis: This is—Griffin—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: This is all the build up. Griffin, Griffin, this is the—he's about to do The Prestige now.

Griffin: I know, he's fuckin' trying to give us the ol' rope-a-dope, you son of a gun.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, he's about to drop an amazing intro.

Griffin: I know—

Travis: Just give him the runway.

Justin: I'm just a happy person. I'm just, I'm a, I'm—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: Happy about what?

Griffin: Sure, man.

Travis: Justin, what's making you so happy?

Griffin: Happy about the new Rowan Atkinson project that we're gonna fuckin' jazz on for—War with Grandpa 2 is out, you say? Like, you've got something in the fuckin' holster, and I can't wait.

Travis: The one—wait, Griffin, the one where he's a serious detective, and it doesn't appear to be a comedy? Is that the one you mean?

Griffin: No, War with Grandpa, you do—we get grandmas in there. We gotta be careful, guys. I feel like it's a Beetlejuice rules, where if we say the name of the movie one more time, we will end up talking—

Travis: No, I'm saying that in—Rowan Adkinson has a new one where he's serious detective, and it's not a comedy.

Griffin: Oh, is that true?

Justin: Are you kidding me?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Sorry, wish list, much—sorry, fave—[chuckles]

Griffin: Sorry, fave. Gotta go fave real quick.

Justin: Sorry, I faved it. [chuckles]

Griffin: Queue that—

Justin: Hey—

Griffin: Queue that shit up, 'Flix!

Justin: Did you—Did you guys know we're doing another—did you guys know we're doing another Fockers, by the way?

Griffin: Oh? Nice.

Travis: Wow!

Justin: I just found this out today.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: Did you know this?

Griffin: No, that's cool.

Justin: Did you know we're—the Fockers are back.

Griffin: What are we calling—

Justin: America's favorite family, the Fockers, are back.

Griffin: What are we calling it this time, because it's 2026.

Justin: What would you call it?

Griffin: What would I—

Justin: Call it—what would you call it? Title it, right.

Travis: Mother Fockers.

Justin: Mother Fockers is—Travis, it's not. But god, man, it should be, huh? Go ahead. Griffin, what do you got?

Griffin: Focker family re—it's not anything cool, it's like Focker Family Reunion, or...

Travis: Focker, I Barely Know Her.

Justin: It's Focker In-Law.

Griffin: Focker in—Focker In-Law?

Justin: Focker In-Law. A young man named Henry, son of Greg and Pam Focker, faces family chaos when he decides to marry a strong-willed woman who appears to be his complete mismatch. It is Ariana Grande!

Griffin: Oh?

Justin: We are having the time of our life.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Isn't that weird? That the first movie I think is just called Meet the Parents. And then at some point they were like, "I think it's funny that we gave them the last name Focker, and we should incorporate that into every future movie."

Justin: And it is good. It is good.

Griffin: It's cool, yeah.

Justin: We love it.

Griffin: They should have just called them Fucker. What if they just had the courage of their convictions to call them the Fucker fam?

Justin: I think it's—[chuckles] the interest—the most interesting thing about Meet the Fockers to me—and Focker In-Law, that's—I just thought it's great that we're going back. And yeah, Bob's back. [chuckles] Ben, Bob.

Griffin: Ben, Bob, Billy. The whole crew.

Justin: Owen, Terry, Skyler—[chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, we got the Skyler, we got the jizz? Dude—

Justin: Skyler's—

Griffin: Fucking anything that dude touches—

Justin: Skyler's last name I did swallow, because I wasn't sure if we were all agreeing on the hard or soft G. [chuckles]

Griffin: You can't—

Justin: So I kind of swallowed the—

Griffin: You can't swallow the Gisondo, Justin, that's—[chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] Please, don't swallow the Gisondo!

Travis: Hey now, some people prefer it.

Griffin: Now, listen! I'll see anything that dude's got—

Justin: Now, can we be—[chuckles]

Griffin: Can we be serious now? I'll see anything or purchase anything with Skyler Gisondo in or on it.

Travis: That's an influencer right there, folks.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Hugely influential.

Justin: Ah, man... Prosper Bellizia plays elderly male on trail. If you're a Prosper Bellizia fan—

Travis: Hell yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. So, meet the—this is what I want to say about Meet the Fockers, or Meet the Parents, or whatever it was, when he says, "I have nipples, Greg, could you milk me?" Whatever I feel about that movie—I don't even think I've watched that whole movie. But I think that joke is so powerful that it escaped the balance of that movie and etched itself into the American consciousness. [titters] And I think it is just the strength of, "I have nipples, Greg, can you milk me?" That is actually, I have said not as like a sarcastic like—but it's just, you deploy it at the right time, everybody loves that reference.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: It's a great—it's a great, pure, incredible joke. I don't think we need four movies about it. But I did love it.

Griffin: And he says it in every movie, like—

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: But with different inflection each time! Like at one point, there's an emergency where they need milk and he's like, "I have nipples, Greg! Could you milk me?!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he's like very sincere about it.

Justin: Yeah, I love the one where he's like, "I have nipples, Greg." And then Ben Stiller was like, "I know." [chuckles] You know? Like it's like—

Travis: It's very slender!

Justin: Because the audience knows, you know what I mean? Like we know the rest.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I liked how the—I liked how at the end of the—of the Joker, he said it to the—to the Joker during the talk show. When he like got pulled the gun and he's like, "You get what you fuckin' deserve!" And he's like, "Hold up. I've got nipples—I've got nipples, Joker."

Justin: [chuckles] "I have nipples, Joker."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: "Can you milk me?"

Justin: I'm laughing about how good the joke is. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: For sure.

Travis: I really love in the newest Die Hard when he says, "Yippee ki-yay, nipple Focker."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: It's such a good—it's just a little wink.

Griffin: It is—

Travis: You know? Like you wouldn't catch it—

Justin: It's a fun wink.

Travis: You wouldn't catch it if he didn't know—if you weren't looking for it. It's such a good easter egg.

Griffin: Does he answer the question? Because I—the correct answer is, "I don't know. Maybe. I don't know what you're pack—I don't know what you're packing."

Travis: That's true! "Do you produce milk?" Should be the follow-up—

Griffin: "Do you produce milk? You tell me, I can't answer that question for you. It feels—it feels prying, to tell the truth."

Travis: "I'm willing to try, if you see it as a bonding experience? Like, are you sincere right now?" That would be such a weird—everyone else at the table should have turned on Bob De Niro in that moment.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where he's like, "I have nipples—" And like just, "Dad, you know that's not—"

Griffin: "That's inappropriate."

Travis: "What he's talking about."

Griffin: Hugely.

Travis: "And like, why the fuck would you bring that up? I'm glad you have nipples, Dad. That you're not some kind of like, I don't know, Kyle XY kind of clone thing, like completely smooth on your chest."

Justin: Can I mention one other media project to you guys that I've been really thinking a lot about?

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, and Trav, he fuckin' is—

Travis: I knew it!

Griffin: A double feat! We thought that it was gonna be the Fockers thing, but he's got another one fuckin' ready.

Travis: Oh, he left the call.

Griffin: He left... He got too scared.

Travis: We need to be—I think we need to be more gentle with this, Griffin.

Griffin: Be chill and gentle this time, because it's—

Travis: Okay. Justin, you can come—okay. Yeah, when you're ready.

Griffin: Oh, no. Travis, you made a face that was a little too...

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Just like, we don't want anything—no, he keeps disappearing. Shoot.

Justin: Have you guys heard about the new Patrick Dempsey project?

Griffin: No, man?

Justin: I've only watched the trailers. [chuckles]

Griffin: McDreamy?

Justin: Yeah, McDreamy is back. And I'm—

Travis: Is it his—is it his new restaurant where you order plates for the table, Dempsey Dim Sum?

Griffin: Mm!

Justin: It's not—that's good, Trav. I really, I don't think that this new show is very tasteful, and I don't think it should be a show. I do think it is an adaptation of a foreign show that I'm sure is very good. I'm sure the show itself is very powerful. I will say, the trailers... It's a show called Memory of a Killer. And this is the plot, I'm just telling you the plot from the show.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Losing one's memory is a devastating hammer blow for anyone, but for Angelo Flannery, the stakes couldn't be higher. His hitman job would be perilous enough, but there's an added pressure. Angelo lives two totally separate lives, fearsome New York City hitman, and sleepy upstate Cooperstown photocopier salesman and father. [titters]

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Having built and maintained a brick wall between the two worlds, Angelo has seamlessly juggled and compartmentalized for years. But now that's about to change, because Alzheimer's is a foe he can't outrun, and he already knows too well how this ends, as his older brother is already lost to the condition.

Griffin: So are we—

Justin: It is this—

Griffin: Are we rooting for Mr. Dempsey in this?

Justin: So the—well, the show is about, it's—the tagline is, "About a man who lost his memory, but gained a conscience."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And what we are—[titters] what we're supposed to understand is, the man will be at the photocopier store.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And then he will open a closet.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And inside that closet, there will be a dead body.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And he will think—

Griffin: "Uh-oh."

Justin: "What the fuck?!"

Griffin: "I gotta call the cops."

Justin: "I gotta call the god dang cops!"

Griffin: Right.

Justin: "I gotta get the cops on the phone!" And then that's the show.
[chuckles]

Travis: I also, can i just—

Justin: Like, you know what I mean? Like I don't know how they're gonna build drama out of the fact that the man—you know what I mean?! Like—

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: It doesn't seem like it's gonna be a good show to watch, I guess, would be my main thing.

Travis: They just kind of throw in there, don't they, that he's built a brick wall between those two things. Like that's a thing one can do if they try.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like that I've built a brick wall in my brain.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: To be like—

Justin: What's called a mental wall.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: It's a foolproof system.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: I think the better version of it, though, because like they definitely want you to think that he's gonna be like—he's like, "The photocopier thing seems cool. I would rather just—much rather be doing that."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: "If I have to choose between these two lives." I do think it's gonna be a lot more fun to watch this guy in the murder business.

Griffin: Murder mode.

Justin: The murder mode. And then all of a sudden he's like, "Hey, I gotta sell this guy a copier." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Like just mid things, a guy walks back in the room and is like—

Travis: Mid thing, he looks over and sees like outdated like daisy wheel printer or whatever and he's like, "Hey, time out. Time out from the fight real quick."

Griffin: "Time out."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That dot matrix—

Travis: Have you looked into—

Griffin: "This dot matrix bullshit you've got going on back there is stuck in 1993, my friend. You need to get with the times!" Is it like a—is it a transformation? Like when the full moon comes out, he becomes a killer, and then when it goes away, he's a photocopier salesman?

Justin: I don't know, Griffin. I think it's why probably Alzheimer's isn't a great plot for a TV show, because it doesn't work. [chuckles] There's not like magic rules with it, as far as I know.

Griffin: Right, sure.

Travis: "Oh, no, I ate spicy food! My Alzheimer's!"

Justin: I don't—yeah, I don't think it's like that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I don't—I don't mean to make—I don't—I'm not making light of Alzheimer's—

Travis: Making fun of the show.

Justin: Like just to be clear, I'm not making light of Alzheimer's—

Griffin: Classically, the least—

Justin: Dr. McDreamy, who should know better, is.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I guess. He's being a little distasteful. [chuckles] But not me!

Griffin: Alzheimer's is famously the least funny sort of condition or idea or thing.

Justin: Yeah. But I don't think—I do—I do feel like whoever came up with like, "You know, there could be... What if my—what if this Alzheimer's story was a bit more exciting?" It's like, I don't think anybody wants that, really!

Travis: No, no, no!

Justin: I don't think you need that!

Travis: I want to see—I want to see—

Justin: This Alzheimer's story needs a body count! Like, I don't think that's what we've been missing, you know? [chuckles]

Travis: I hope—I hope there's a scene where that brick wall he's built in his mind breaks down, and he realizes that he's made all this money from being like a New York like assassin guy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But also has chosen to work as a photocopier salesman, and that's completely unnecessary from all the money he earned as like a New York assassin. And he's like, "Fuck, man! I wish I had remembered I had all this money, so that I didn't have to put in a nine to five." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, it sucks.

Justin: It's gonna be great when he pulls up to the photocopier place in a slick new Lamborghini and they're like, "Where'd you get that?" And he's like, "I don't know. I guess being a hitman has its perks." And they're like, "No, you've never had that car. Did you just—did you just take—" [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I guess I just took it from a guy I killed." [chuckles]

Griffin: Did you just say you were a... a hitman has its perks?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Is that where you go when the full—"

Justin: [chuckles] "I'm not supposed to tell you—"

Griffin: "Is that where you go when the full moon comes out?"

Justin: "I'm always forgetting though, I'm not supposed to tell people I'm a hitman." [chuckles]

Travis: "Shit."

Griffin: "Shit."

Justin: "Because of my canonical narrative Alzheimer's, that works much like werewolf rules."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "That I forget when the—when the moon sets."

Griffin: All right.

Justin: There's still time, Patrick, you got two weeks before the show comes out. [chuckles] You can cancel it, it's not too late.

Griffin: Give it up! Give it up, 'Flix!

Travis: Shelve that one.

Justin: No, that's Fox! That's going straight to TV. That's straight to broadcast. We had to get this one right in front of the grandparents immediately. [chuckles]

Travis: With trailers for Mother Focker, or whatever—Focker In-Law, there it is.

Justin: Focker In-Law. This is an advice show, all right? And you send us your questions, and we read 'em, and then we help you. That's the way it works. "I'm a teacher, and I want to ride the bus to school, the yellow bus that takes the kids." Yup. "I work in a rural area, so the busses sometimes travel long distances to pick up kids and deliver them to school. I live about a 20 minute drive away, and I see the bus pass by my house before I leave most mornings."

It's definitely a lot faster to drive myself, but I don't like wasting fuel, and our teacher parking lot is not great. I often need to be at school early or stay late, but whenever I can, I'd love to take advantage of that ride that teases me as it passes by every morning. It's the only reliable public transportation we have around here. I don't actually know that it's against the rules, but I don't see anyone else doing this, so it has to be, right?"

Travis: Well, no.

Justin: Well...

Griffin: Well...

Justin: No. I will say—I will say, outside of the educational profession, this is a hard no, I think.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: I don't think you can see a school bus and say, "Well, the Chipotle I work at is pretty close to the elementary school."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I'll probably—I'll just skitch." [titters] I don't think that that's—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I don't think that's okay.

Griffin: Now, that actually—no, that is okay. If you're a teacher?

Justin: That actually is okay.

Griffin: You can skitch on any—I think, actually, if—regardless of your profession, if you get on the back of a bus, skitch style, it should be okay. Because you've found a loophole, and one that looks fucking cool at that.

Travis: Yeah, dude.

Justin: Can you imagine having to sit next to a teacher?

Griffin: On the bus?

Justin: Every day. [titters] Like the teacher gets on the bus and it's like, "What am I supposed to do? You know, like, are we..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Am I in trouble?"

Travis: Are they a cool teacher? I think in that case, you need to have some kind of show—

Justin: Listen to our show, man.

Travis: You need to have some kind of indicator of like at what—is it like when you enter school zone, now you're in teacher mode. But until then—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Oh, a hard—

Travis: You're just—yeah.

Justin: A hard—a hard—

Travis: Like Severance! It just takes you—

Justin: Like memory—like—or like memory—or famously like Memories of a Killer from 30 seconds ago.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: I mean the walk off the bus. [chuckles]

Griffin: I bet the bus driver would be stoked to have some adult company, don't you think?

Travis: Yeah! In the jump seat.

Griffin: In the jump seat, ooh!

Travis: Do busses have those?

Griffin: Co-pilot, hello! You can do the special break. That's cool.

Justin: Oh, that would be cool, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What if they have vastly different interests?

Griffin: Well...

Justin: [chuckles] You didn't see that coming, did you?

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Every day, you get on the bus and they're like, "Did you see—hey, did you see that red-breasted lark this morning?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's like, "No, Dan. As always, I don't look at the birds."
[chuckles]

Travis: I guarantee that they have at least, they have one thing in common, and it's which of the kids are shitheads.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? The ability to be like, "You ever had Derek on this bus? Oh! Fuckin' Derek!"

Griffin: "Oh, Derek."

Travis: Yeah. And then Derek's standing behind them like, "I thought I was doing better?"

Griffin: "Ah, shoot. I've really been working hard this year."

Travis: "I've been working on that."

Justin: I think this is so smart. I would absolutely do this in a heart—this is not like a—I'm not speaking figuratively. I think this is great.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: The kids are gonna get a big kick out of it. You can get on there with like... I mean, absolutely uninterrupted sense of purpose. You are going to your job, you are—there is nothing more you could be doing. But you don't have to be doing anything.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's the dream. That's beautiful.

Griffin: Well, you are, I think—you are a little bit responsible for the kids, I think. If you are an adult and you're a teacher and you're on the bus, you're a little bit responsible for the kids, don't you think?

Justin: Okay, that's inter—okay.

Griffin: Don't you think you're a little bit—

Justin: That's interesting. I mean—

Griffin: So now it's like—

Justin: No, but let's figure that out, though! I don't think that's assumed?

Griffin: Right, right.

Justin: Do you have like culpable—

Griffin: I figured—I figured it out already. You're absolutely culpable and responsible. You have now added extra job to your day!

Justin: [titters] Okay.

Griffin: Awesome! This is like if—

Travis: To what degree, though?

Griffin: This is like if every time I walked up the stairs to my office, I had to be making jokes the entire time I walked up the stairs.

Justin: Do you think—do you—okay.

Griffin: That's not good?

Justin: Like yeah, I guess. I mean like, I think there's also a world where like I think the cool teacher comes on, and then like stub out a cigarette.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: On the floor and they're like, "Listen, I don't get paid to give a fuckin' shit about you until we get through that door. Just don't be—I got a hangover. Don't be loud." [titters]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Don't yell at me. I don't give a fuck."

Travis: So, what we're talking about here is a special pod within the bus that is—

Griffin: So, I was just thinking, a first-class cabin situation on the school buss.

Justin: Curtain of Zion, kind of. [titters]

Griffin: Just like—

Travis: Something that says, "Not here." Like, this is—the rest of this bus is school.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: This pod is not school.

Griffin: And maybe the pod pulsates a blue light and makes a loud humming noise when you go into it. So that the rest of the kids on the bus are like, "What even is happening in there? Do you know—do you know about Mr. Dempsey? Yeah, he goes—" I don't know why I used his name. He goes—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "He's the pod one, right?"

"Yeah. Every day he gets on the bus with us, he goes into a special pod. There's a loud hum and a blue pulsing light. And he comes out—"

Travis: "He calls it the Teacer's Lounge!"

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: "Which is weird."

Griffin: "It's so crazy."

Justin: Griffin, didn't Mr. Dempsey used to be an actor? What happened?

Griffin: He did. He for—he—I guess the wall came down, and maybe that's what the pod is for? He looks the same when he comes out of the pod, it's not like a tanning booth or any—I don't know what's happening in there.

Justin: You know, this is such a good idea, to have a separate adult section. But like, we were so cavalier to get rid of smoking sections, weren't we?

Griffin: Hm.

Justin: But like this—we didn't even think about the repercussions. We used to have a great little built-in adult place, you know, a place where just adults could exchange ideas. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Get their energy up, get excited about new ideas. [chuckles]

Griffin: A third lo—a third location! What it was.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I guess what we're saying is, bring back smoking sections. Make smoking cool again! Right? That's what the question's about—wait, hold on, I'm rereading it.

Griffin: I think the question's not about—

Justin: I don't think it's about that.

Travis: I'm rereading the question here. "I'm a teacher—"

Justin: Where would you—do you—

Travis: "I wanna ride the bus—"

Justin: I do think though, the one complicating factor, the only issue I have with this is, going back to seat selection on a bus and having to do that every single day. That is—

Griffin: That's no good. That's no good.

Justin: That's rough. I don't want to look at Jeremy and be like—and he's like, "What's up? What's up, Dr. McElroy? It's so good to see you." And I'm like, "Yeah... no problem, Jeremy, it's so good to see you too, man—"

Travis: This is you—wait, hold on, this is you in this scenario and you're Dr. McElroy?

Justin: I went back to school to get my doctorate.

Griffin: Why did that—why did your character—

Travis: To become like a middle school teacher?

Griffin: Why did your character, a—

Justin: I'm not a—I'm not a teacher, right?

Travis: Right now?

Justin: So I might as well be a doctor teacher. I mean, if I'm gonna be—it's just a thing I made up.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Like I might as well—

Travis: Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Griffin: Yeah. Sure. Okay, can I—

Travis: Then why go PhD?!

Griffin: So how does—

Travis: Justin, why not—why not go like neurosurgeon or something? Why go PhD?

Griffin: Because why is he on the school bus—

Justin: Why would I go get my P—you think I can pay back my fucking doctor school bills on a teacher's salary, Travis? [chuckles] You're high.

Travis: Yeah, you know what? You're right.

Griffin: So, check this out. Check this out. I walk on the school bus, there's no public transportation in my city. And the only way that I'm able to get to my job at the school I think can be responsible to the environment is to take the school bus. So, I jump 30 feet into the bus, and I go into my little pod. And the bus driver's like, "Hello, Professor Spider Man." And I'm like, "Hello."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I go into my booth. And in there—

Justin: And the bus crashes. And they say, "Is there a doctor on the bus?" And Professor Spider Man says, "No, not me." And then I raise my hand and I say, "I'm a medical doctor. I can help." [chuckles]

Travis: Wait, you are now?! You did go to medical school?

Justin: I got my JD, Trav. I got—it's a dual degree.

Griffin: PhD.

Justin: Judas Prudis.

Griffin: JD.

Justin: I have a P—

Travis: Judas Prudis, yeah.

Justin: I have a dual PhD with Judas Prudis. [chuckles] Where I'm—

Griffin: I grad—I graduated high school judas cum prudis.

Justin: No, what sucked is—guys, this sucked—is I went to school to be a doctor.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then I got this special kind of amnesia and I forgot I was a doctor, and then I went back to school.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I got—learned as a lawyer. And then I built a brick wall—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Between the two. This brick wall.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: And then—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then you had to sue yourself for medical malpractice!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I showed up to court—

Travis: It was very hard. You were on both sides of the case.

Justin: I showed up to court ready to meet this Dr. McElroy everyone's so intimidated by. [chuckles] And imagine my terror when I found that that Dr. McElroy *was me*.

Griffin: Is it possible to remake this Memory of a Killer show, real quick before it comes out, and make it so that the double life is—

Travis: A pre-make! If you will.

Griffin: Is he—the double life he is living—

Justin: A de-make. [chuckles]

Griffin: A de-make!

Travis: A de-make. [chuckles]

Griffin: His double life is that he runs a photocopier shop, and then on the other side of the mental wall, he runs a different photocopier shop.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, if we're gonna de-make it—

Justin: Across town!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: If we're gonna de-make it, then why not make it, he runs a photocopier shop, and there is—maybe he spills some soda or something on one of the photocopiers, and accidentally photocopies himself.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And now this other version of himself opens a rival photocopier shop.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: This is cool! So like a clone comes out of the printing machine, because they spilled a Coca Cola on it. A Coke Zero.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: This is already a Gravity Falls episode, guys—

Travis: I mean, if we can get that endorsement, that would be—that would fund the movie, frankly.

Griffin: Yeah. That's cool.

Travis: If we could get Coca Cola.

Griffin: That would be a cooler—that would be a cooler show.

Travis: Oh! But the clone starts doing really well at photocopy sales, because he knows the ins and outs, he was photocopied.

Justin: He was photocopied.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: It's in his blood. Toner's in his blood. It's called Toner Cloner.

Griffin: Toner Cloner is good. Travis, that's like your ninth one. We've been going 24 minutes, that's like your ninth one, man! You're fuckin' on—

Travis: I used it all up for the year.

Justin: Do you save—

Griffin: You're on fire!

Justin: Do you save toner—do you save toner—do you save Toner Cloner Boner for the sequel? [chuckles]

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Or is it like—

Griffin: Yeah. That's what he says every time he messes up, it's his catchphrase. "I made a toner cloner boner."

Justin: "I challenged my dad, who lives in Southern California, to a "Big Year," to see as many different birds as possible, January 1st through December—"

Griffin: Just gotta google that real quick and see if it's a thing.

Travis: You know! Like the movie The Big Year! With I believe—

Justin: Like the movie The Big Year.

Travis: Top of my head, Steve Martin—

Griffin: Jack Black and Owen Wilson? I've never heard of this movie! This is fuckin' jam-packed with talent!

Justin: "I live in Northern Illinois, and did not anticipate him taking this challenge so seriously. He's already been to six different parks/beaches and has seen 30 plus bird varieties. I've seen 12. How can I see more birds than my dad? We're both amateur birders, but he obviously has the advantage of location." That's from Flipping The Bird on Him.

Griffin: Okay—

Travis: First of all, you should have anticipated your dad taking this seriously. He's a dad, of an adult person, I assume, since you're listening to the show and emailing us. And I don't—like when I'm a dad, and my kids have moved out, and they're living their lives, the free time I will have—

Griffin: Holy shit.

Travis: To do things?

Griffin: Unthinkable.

Travis: Ah!

Griffin: A big—a "big year" is an informal competition among birders, who try to identify as many species of birds as possible within a calendar year in specific geographic area. I've never heard of this before, but it's very, very, very, very powerful to me. And I feel like I've actually—

Justin: I would say it's kind of an underground thing were it not for the major motion picture starring Jack Black and Steve Martin.

Griffin: Which, again, I had not heard of—

Travis: Oscar award winner—

Griffin: Had not heard of until this very moment.

Travis: Griffin, will you google, since you're already doing it—

Griffin: Yeah, I'll google.

Travis: Do zoos count?

Griffin: Do zoos count a big year?

Justin: I can't imagine they do.

Griffin: Do zoos wink—do you count— "I don't see why not," this guy on Reddit says. Lots of birds in zoos—

Justin: They're birds!

Griffin: Lots of birds in—

Justin: Count 'em!

Griffin: Lots of birds in zoos come from all over the world. Now, fuckin' AI at the top is like, zoos do not count towards a big year.

Travis: Of course—of course the bots would think that!

Griffin: Yeah, but the humans are like—

Justin: Leave me alone, bots.

Griffin: Fucking go for it, dude.

Justin: I have a—I have a slam dunk. This is actually a good plan.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh, okay?

Justin: You plan on a secret visit to your dad for the holidays. You keep the race close. You don't tell your dad you're coming in. When you—

Travis: When your dad asks if you're coming in for the holiday—

Justin: You say no.

Travis: You say no! [titters]

Griffin: You lie.

Justin: You say no. You say no. You lie. You get in a couple days early, you see every fuckin' nasty, feathery bitch that this guy has already seen, right? So, you're eating his lunch completely.

Griffin: Can I, just real quick, just—

Justin: You show up and you're like, "Dad, it's—"

Griffin: Quick logistics thing, how do they—how do you—how do they do that? How do they see—

Justin: However the fuck you look at birds, Griffin!

Travis: With your—

Justin: I'm a strategist. [titters]

Travis: With your binoculars, I assume.

Justin: With your binoculars and your notebook!

Griffin: But the—

Justin: I don't know.

Travis: Justin can't look at the birds for the question asker.

Justin: I can't look at the birds for him, but he shows up and he looks at all the fuckin' birds that his dad looked at.

Griffin: In a few days, just like pow-pow-pow-pow-pow—

Justin: He knocks out the location thing.

Griffin: Pla-pla-pla-pla!

Justin: Yeah, Griff.

Griffin: Scopin' 'em.

Justin: And then he shows up and his dad—ba-ba-bing-bang-bang.
[chuckles] Cops knock on the door. A cop knocks because his dad grows weed, and he wants to freak his dad out, right? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: The cop knocks, *bang-bang-bang-bang-bang!*

Griffin: It ain't hard—it ain't hard to freak that dad out.

Justin: [chuckles] And he goes to open and he's like, "Oh my god! Silip!" And then it's like, "Dad?" And it's like, he's so happy to see you. And you're like—you whisper in his ear like, "Checkmate." Because he's not—

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: He can't go anywhere. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: He can't do anything. He doesn't know about the 30 birds you've just already seen while you've been kicking it.

Griffin: Yeah, that's awesome. You open up—

Travis: That's a great plan.

Justin: It's awesome.

Griffin: You open up your bird or notebook and show him the list, and he's like, "Oh, cool." And then it unfolds like a pornographic centerfold magazine.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Keep on folding, Dad."

Griffin: You haven't—

Travis: That's great, Justin. I have a slight, small suggestion that would require a little less work. Lie!

Justin: No. Okay, see, Travis—

Travis: If I say I saw a bird—

Justin: It's—

Griffin: Justin, let him cook! We say yes first, and then we shit on it.

Travis: If I say to you I saw a fucking condor yesterday, I want you, Justin McElroy, to prove I didn't!

Justin: Yeah, Travis, I... I don't have to prove you didn't, I just don't have to give a shit. [chuckles] Do you know what I mean? Like, you can feel however you want, and I will close that door in my heart, and you'll never look at it again. You know? Like—

Griffin: Trust is the only commodity in the birder community. Once you lose that—

Justin: Thank you. This is what I'm saying, Griffin, it's all built on trust.

Griffin: If you lose that—

Justin: I mean, anybody can—

Griffin: No one's gonna fuckin'—

Justin: If you lose that—

Griffin: No way. No one's gonna believe that—

Travis: That explains so much, because I have not heard from my birder group chat since I said I saw the giant golden eagle from Rescuers Down Under.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That specific one?

Justin: Travis said he saw the Luck Dragon, and how points is that?

Travis: Yeah, I saw Falkor the Luck Dragon.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he was wrestling—he was wrestling with the giant golden eagle from The Rescuers Down Under. And then I realized they were actually mating.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they had a baby that was half Luck Dragon, half giant golden eagle from Rescuers—

Justin: You saw it.

Travis: Down Under. And I saw it!

Justin: You saw it and ate it. [chuckles]

Travis: I saw it. And then—

Griffin: "I ate its eggs! So, that's 20 extra points—"

Travis: Well, no, those were not Travis' eggs. Those are not Travis' eggs. So, I wasn't allowed to have them.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I had my own eggs from the poacher that I work for—

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Gave me those eggs.

Griffin: Yeah. Awesome.

Travis: Thank you very much. Anyways, they didn't believe me, and now they don't invite me to things anymore.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: But that one was true! That one was actually true, guys.

Justin: That one was real.

Griffin: That one was really—

Justin: You were on Periscope when that happened, so I remember—

Travis: That's true.

Justin: Very clearly. Hey, you know where else I—you know where I'd like to take you, Travis?

Travis: Where?!

Justin: To the Money Zone.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: To the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Justin: I feel like if you—if you got a big idea, you want to get moving on it, beginning of a new year, you know, this is the time to start taking steps. And can I say, a great way would be to start a website. Hi, it's Justin McElroy, paid—

Travis: Whoa.

Justin: Endorser. I think that if you—

Travis: I thought you were just a regular Joe? I didn't realize you were an endorser?

Justin: I'm a paid endorser. I'm a paid endorser. If you wanna start—

Griffin: [sings] Endorser! Yeah.

Justin: I think that building your own website for your idea, your business—

Travis: [sings] Get your own website!

Justin: Is a great way of—

Griffin: [sings] Fuckin' Squarespace now!

Justin: Organizing your ideas and trying to figure out where you stand with them. You want to bring people into this vision? You share your website with them. "Hey, everybody, I made this." And it's gonna look great! It's not gonna look like you made it. It's gonna look good, because they've got world-class designers.

Travis: Yeah, it's not gonna look like the bullshit you normally make. Justin's right.

Justin: Not your usual trash.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. It's gonna look—[smacks lips] primo. [chuckles] This is some—this is—

Travis: Uncut website, bud!

Griffin: Sorry, can you give me that—

Travis: You're gonna love this.

Griffin: Can you give me that foley again? Because I've never heard quite...

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: Usually, it's part of a smooch—

Justin: It's just like this—[smacks lips] primo.

Travis: It was dry and wet at the same time!

Griffin: It's really dry—it's a dry and wide aperture sort of smack.

Justin: [smacks lips] Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. You don't—you don't—

Justin: A smackerel.

Griffin: I don't think chefs do that. Like, "Let me taste that ragu." [sharply inhales through pursed lips]

Travis: Ah!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [continues inhaling through pursed lips]

Travis: "*Ah-meh!*"

Griffin: [smacks lips]

Travis: "*Mah-mah-mah-mah-mah!*"

Griffin: "Yum-yum-yum-yum-yum!"

Travis: "Delicious!"

Justin: Squarespace is a marketplace of ideas, and they've been supporting this podcast for so long, and we appreciate them so much. Head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use offer code 'My Brother' to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Travis: I want to tell you guys about Rocket Money, because it's very realistically near and dear to my heart. One of my goals in 2026 is to be more financially responsible, have like full like budget of everything, keep track of everything. Feel like an adult for the first time in 42 years.

And Rocket Money has made that so easy and has really helped me on this journey. There were things when I logged on to Rocket Money that was like, I had to fill out a form once in like 2018 and I was like, yeah, free trial for this PDF filler thing, and then I won't ever think about it again. And then it's been seven years—

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, sure.

Travis: Of that. And Rocket Money was there for me, not only in alerting me of that, but then also taking care of the cancelation for it. Rocket Money is a personal finance app that helps you find and cancel your unwanted subscriptions, monitors your spending and helps lower your bills so you can grow your savings. So, it's not just the unwanted subscriptions, they will also not only track like your spending, but will alert you if something is coming up, or if there's a big purchase made, all of these things.

They'll categorize your transaction, you—they'll help you set your budgets. There's all kinds of stuff that Rocket Money can do for you. And they help you save money! They have a full track record of it. So, let Rocket Money help you reach your financial goals faster. Join at rocketmoney.com/mybrother. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother. One more time, rocketmoney.com/mybrother.

Griffin: Big ups. Big ups to Rocket Money for literally just now reminding me that I am subscribed to an application that is a prank that makes it look like your screen is broken, for \$10 a week. Thank you so much, Rocket Money—

Travis: \$10 a week?!

Griffin: For catching another one in the fuckin' dragnet. Yeah, man! Yeah, man! But Travis, the cracks look so convincing. I did not subscribe to this app, *obviously*!

Travis: Oh, okay. It was Rachel? [chuckles]

Griffin: It was Rachel. She loves pranks and doing pranks to me. She knows how much I—

Travis: I'll break your phone for \$1 a week.

Griffin: Yeah, cool.

[break]

Sierra: Hello! I'm Sierra Katow, host of TV Chef Fantasy League. And I'm here with Max Fun Member of the Month, Dan Kotnik, who has been a Maximum Fun member since 2023.

Dan: Thank you very much!

Sierra: As the Max Fun Member of the Month, Dan, you'll be getting a \$25 gift card to the Maximum Fun Store.

Dan: Cool!

Sierra: And you get a special Member of the Month bumper sticker.

Dan: Yeah.

Sierra: This is a huge one, you get a parking spot at Max Fun headquarters, HQ, in Los Angeles, California!

Dan: Sounds good.

Sierra: Is there anything else you'd like to add as Member of the Month?

Dan: This is my opportunity to say thank you to everyone that is a part of Maximum Fun, because you guys have just created a media environment that clearly resonates with a lot of people. Being able to do that organically is really impressive, and I think that's the root of why I've been such a big supporter. And so, I want to just thank you guys for committing to that goal.

Sierra: It's for members like you, Dan. And you, specifically, are member of the month for a reason.

Dan: [titters] Thanks. Bye.

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

[break]

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: We're back!

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Hua!

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

Griffin and Travis: [yells out] Squad!

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

Griffin and Travis: [yells out] Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. I did want to bring a quick update for everybody who has been waiting, all the Noodles and Co. Fans, like myself, have been—

Travis: I consider myself part of the Co, frankly.

Justin: That's beautiful, guys. That's beautiful. Good news, guys.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Steak stroganoff is now stroganon. [chuckles]

Griffin: Stroganon.

Travis: Okay. Huh.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Stroganon.

Justin: Steak stroganoff is now stroganon.

Griffin: So, it's instead of being strogan-off, it's—now it is strogan-on.

Justin: Strogan-on.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Noodles and Company—

Travis: This like somebody accidentally just dropped some random chunks of beef into a bowl.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Noodles and Company, the fast casual known for craveable, globally-inspired noodle dishes, is bringing back a cult favorite, steak stroganoff. Back by pop—

Travis: Can I just say, "globally-inspired" is the least anything. As opposed to—

Justin: Yeah, it's like—

Travis: Like Mars? As opposed to like—

Justin: Impacted by the outside world.

Travis: "This is how they eat it on Venus." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Back by popular demand and available for a limited time only, Strog's wavy egg noodles are enveloped in a rich mushroom sherry cream sauce, and finished with tender marinated steak." Yada-yada-yada. "Fans begged, they pleaded, emotions ran high. Noodle and Company listened, bringing steak stroganoff back with an over-the-top return, inspired by its fans' loudest social pleas. To honor the overwhelming demand, Noodles and Company turned real social posts into AI-powered mini melodramas."

Travis: What?

Justin: "Celebrating the fans' love and the influence it had on stroganoff's return."

Griffin: This is just—it's just—this is just—this is just all of them now, I think. I worry this is going to be all of 'em now.

Travis: "To celebrate your love—"

Justin: I'm running—

Travis: "We just, we destroyed acres of forests." [chuckles]

Justin: "Our guests are at the center of how we shape our fuckin' menu," said Joe Christina, president—

Griffin: Whoa! Did he?!

Justin: [chuckles] No, he didn't. Sorry.

Travis: "And fuck all the haters!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] "Fuck the haters and fuck rice."

Griffin: "Fuck this flesh world—"

Justin: I'm sorry—

Griffin: "I want to be an AI man now!"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Put me in the noodle-verse!"

Justin: "Fuck the haters, fuck—"

Travis: "Fuck bread bowls!" [titters]

Justin: "Fuck gnocchi! For real." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "We're thankful for the fans who patiently, or sometimes not so patiently, waited for its return. And we're excited to welcome this nostalgic timeless favorite back as the temperatures drop." There's another quote. "Steak stroganoff fans did more than ask for its return. They showed us how deeply this dish is woven into their rituals, memories, engravings—"

Travis: What?

Justin: "And we fuckin' listened."

Griffin: *Wow.*

Travis: What does that mean?!

Griffin: It means you—

Justin: It says it means the strog is everything! [chuckles]

Griffin: The strog is everything.

Justin: "Because strog means so much to our guests—" that's what she said. "Because strog means so much to our guests—" I didn't mean that in a Michael Scott way.

Griffin: Why would she—why would she—why would she say that? Strog—

Justin: Because—

Griffin: "Strog means so much to our guests," who would say that? What is the context in which that would be—

Travis: And how did they show it?! How did they show it?! Were they pulling out clips from home videos of like, "Look! Look! Do you see what we're eating there? Steak stroganoff! And that was my dad's last day with us." [chuckles]

Griffin: Travis, I'm not gonna leave this behind. Justin said, "That's what she said," after, "Strog means so much to our guests—"

Justin: I didn't—you didn't let me finish. I was trying to clarify. I didn't mean that in a Michael Scott sense. I meant she said out loud, "Because strog means so much to our guests." [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay. I was trying to think of a context like if you were the ticket taker at like a pornographic movie theater, and as people came in—

Justin: No, I'm saying she's directly quoted as using the word "strog." [chuckles] That's what I'm saying.

Griffin: Okay. Okay, that's cool. That is cool.

Justin: "Working with our creative agency, Fortnight Collective, we transformed real fan submissions into playful, over-the-top, draimatic—" [chuckles] There's an "AI" in there. "Draimatic re-enactments, using AI as a creative tool and guided by human insight, to bring their words and emotions to life and celebrate the fandom behind this iconic dish." Hey, hey,

shout out to marketers and people in advertising. Shout out. If you cannot see how quickly how short you are making the bridge—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Between the people that run Noodles and Company, and just putting it into the computer their goddamn selves. I really, my friend—

Griffin: It's great work if you can get it, man!

Travis: Well, now, Justin—

Justin: The sun—the sun is setting, my friend. [titters]

Travis: It took a lot of very skilled technicians and programmers to make the AI stop turning out images that said Joe Roganoff.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: It took a lot! The AI kept wanting to make it Joe Roganoff.

Griffin: Well, it's that they—

Travis: And they had to go in and really tweak the parameters.

Griffin: It's the thing, Trav, where like AI doesn't know how many Rs are in the word "strawberry." It's like that sort of thing, where someone said "Joe Roganoff" once, and for whatever reason, that was like one of the first things it learned. And so, if you try to peel that away, then the whole thing's gonna unravel.

Justin: Trav, remember how you—

Travis: Like a kid saying pasghetti.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Remember how you were talking about, how can they prove that there's fans? From February 10th through February 25th, Noodles and Company is searching for its first ever cheek... [sighs] hah... It's not fair that I should stumble on this when all these words are basically made up. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm not held accountable. Noodles and Company is searching for its first ever chief stroganofficer.

Griffin: All right. But I thought it was stragon—

Justin: The casting call—

Griffin: I do—I do know that it is stroganon now. So, pick a fuckin' thing, guys!

Justin: Yeah, their—the casting call invites fans to prove they are not just steak stroganoff lovers, but true fanatics. This is the guest who never misses a stroganoff season, checks their Noodles rewards religiously and has been counting down the days since the dish disappeared last winter.

Travis: Strogan honor guard.

Griffin: Strogan honor—strogan—were you trying—was that whole time, you were trying to think of—

Justin: The whole time.

Travis: Not the whole time.

Justin: The winning monolog—guys, this is—

Griffin: Monolog!

Justin: This is an incredible prize. The winning monolog, whoever comes up with the best monolog about how much they love the strog, will be

transformed into one of Noodles and Company's AI-powered mini dramas, featured across the brand's social channels and website!

Griffin: Okay, coo.

Travis: Are they gonna Mike TV me?!

Griffin: It sounds like it, man. [chuckles]

Justin: Now, I do want to tell you guys one other thing, because I was feeling pretty down about this, because I was so excited about it being stroganon, and then the AI was like—bummed me out. But then—

Griffin: Seems like we didn't really come back to the stroganon thing.

Justin: Yeah, it's like whatever. But Arby's launches a new Italian beef dip sandwich. Now, Arby's—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I don't—I don't—

Travis: They didn't already have one?

Griffin: It's new.

Justin: Yeah. No, they had—so, they had the French dip.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: With the au jus, but now they got a new Italian beef dip. Because they're going for it now, they're doing it like it is in Chicago. "To mark the launch, Arby's partnered with entertainer Whitney Leavitt in a new digital spot that highlights the sandwich's Chicago roots and robust flavor profile." I don't know who she is, I think she's a Mormon dancer. But there's a—that's a—that's a thing you can be now, I believe. "But in conjunction with the product debut, Arby's will host The House of Italian Beef, a limited-time pop-

up experience in New York City, created in partnership with Chain, the experiential brand co-founded by actor and writer B.J. Novak."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "The pop up will be open to the public from January 23rd through the 24th. Designed as an interactive museum, The House of Italian Beef explores the history culture and craftsmanship behind Chicago's iconic sandwich, while offering attendees an opportunity to sample Arby's Italian beef dip."

Griffin: There's been a tremendous opportunity that has been missed here it feels like, to me. A partnership with B.J. Novak, that's huge. You can do—you can do a lot with that. But it seems like you haven't done the best thing with that, which is a commercial series in which he gets up there and says, "And now I'm proud to announce that B.J. stands for Beef Juice. I'm Beef Juice Novak, and I have been this whole time."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "And I'm excited to tell you about my new Arby's sandwich. Take it from me, Beef Juice Novak, it's a squishy one, folks. Wet as hell."

Justin: "Fox Entertainment, in 2023, acquired a stake in B.J. Novak's food experience company, Chain." You remember B.J. Novak, man? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah! He just did a different—he just did a different thing, and he opened up his whole own restaurant thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is—when Fox invested in it, this is what B.J. Novak said. This is just—we love quotes here on Munch Squad. We love quotes. "Food continues to define culture. It's how we celebrate, how we remember, how we connect. No one understands how to turn culinary storytelling into cultural obsession like Fox Entertainment and Studio Ramsay Global. We're excited to work

together to bring Chain experiences to more people," said B.J. Novak, the guy from The Office.

Travis: Well, actually Justin, he sold that too. It's the guy from The Beefest now.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He sold the rights to being called the guy from The Office to Arby's, and he's the guy from The Beefest.

Griffin: He's the—they changed the whole show. Have you not watched—

Justin: Good for B.J. Novak, man.

Griffin: Have you not—

Justin: He's out—he's always out there doing something.

Griffin: Have you not watched The Office since the Arby's company bought it and changed it to be—

Justin: [chuckles] Is that what The Paper is?

Griffin: Yeah, The Paper is—yeah. They're really back-dooring the beef side of—[chuckles] they're back door—

Travis: It's the paper that they wrap the sandwiches in.

Griffin: They've back-doored the beef pretty hard on this one.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: It's stroganion, when they backdoor the beef!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. Oh, I—

Justin: It's stroganion when they backdoor this beef.

Griffin: Yeah. Just stroganon my backdoor 'til I beef.

[group chuckle]

Griffin: Nothing!

Justin: I didn't realize how important strog was to me until this—

Griffin: Yeah, dude!

Travis: That's what she said! [chuckles]

Griffin: I tried to do my rituals without it, and they didn't fucking work!

Justin: They didn't work. The viscosity! It's a viscosity issue! B.J. is not gonna use AI in his Italian beef sandwich restaurant museum.

Travis: Well, hopefully he will. "Italian" has "AI" in it.

Justin: I hope!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: That's true, you can't spell "Italian" without B.J. Novak's Chain.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's got AI right in it.

Griffin: Right there.

Justin: B.J, you can have that for free, if you want to put that in your com— just capitalize the "AI" and—

Griffin: Oh, Trav—Juice!

Justin: Triple your net worth. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's really sweet, that you think he heard the thing about Beef Juice Novak and continued listening to the show.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And wasn't immediately like, "I've got to go—I have to do this before—"

Justin: [chuckles] He's probably on the phone with his private yacht dealer right now.

Griffin: It's crazy, guys!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You made a beef juice sandwich and you partnered with a guy whose initials are the same as beef juice.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's crazy, guys! You fucked that up.

Justin: It's right there!

Griffin: Maybe if you used your fuckin' brains for a second instead of having the computers do it for you, the neurons—computer can't think of something like Beef Juice Novak. Guarantee you, a million computers—

Travis: Yeah, we need to have a Griffin-versus-computer-off to see who could think of "Beef Juice Novak" faster. It's a very niche competition, admittedly.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I'd smoke it, dude! Like there's stuff it can do, but I would smoke its ass at that. I would smoke its robot ass.

Travis: [titters]

Justin: Let's do another question. "Brothers, after any rainstorm, we get an ungodly amount of grubs on our back patio. We have tried everything we and Google can think of, but they stay for ages and return every time. I cannot own a chicken in my neighborhood, and I really don't want one." That's a fucking crazy sentence. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, dude. Say it again.

Justin: [chuckles] That sentence is wild!

Travis: "Anyways, back to the question!"

[group chuckle]

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: "As I was saying—"

Griffin: They were doing voice—they were doing fuckin' text to speech on their phone sending this question in when a—[in a old-timey voice]
"Chickens-eh! Chickens for sale!"

Travis: "No, I can't have one in my backyard, and I don't want to! Anyways, grubs on the back patio."

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: "Take this beautiful, fertilized egg!"
"I can't have chickens in my house, and I do not want one. Anyway, so guys, the grubs—"

Justin: "Anyway, I'm trying to email a podcast in here." [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "I'm in my pod, Derek! I told you not to talk to me!"

Justin: But can I say one more thing?

Griffin: Yeah, please, dude.

Justin: For the future, not wanting to own a chicken is enough.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It doesn't have to also be illegal. Like, it's enough to not—

Travis: One of those two excludes it! "My city said I could, but I don't want one."

"My city said I can't, and I do want one." Either way.

Justin: "I would like to borrow someone else's chicken for a day or two, but how—where do I go to borrow a chicken? And how can I convince them that I will return their chicken safe and full of grubs, and definitely not eat it?"

That's from Bountiful Bugs in Billings. [chuckles] If you don't know how on earth it would ever happen, it may be because it has not happened on Earth.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: That is a possibility.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It may be your—this is where you find—this is where opportunity exists. It's in that narrow crevice between good ideas and bad ideas. You know what I mean?

Griffin: We live in that fuckin' crevice, dude.

Justin: That's opportunity.

Travis: My neighbor's got chickens.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: That's illegal, Travis! They can't have—

Griffin: They can't. No one is.

Travis: I'm not gonna—

Justin: They don't want chickens!

Travis: I'm not gonna say which neighbor or where I live, or where they live.

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: But they also did get a rooster, which isn't as bad as I thought it would be.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But man, if roosters only crow when the sun's up, that guy has no idea what time it is.

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: But—

Griffin: Now, that's an interesting idea, Trav, is crows. Why does it have to be chickens? Maybe there's ways to attract birds to your yard?

Travis: Make a friend.

Griffin: Like no—whatever the opposite of a scare—do they make a scarecrow, but it's just like a sexy—

Travis: A welcome crow?

Griffin: A sexy bird that people—

Travis: Alluring crow.

Griffin: An allure—yeah.

Justin: Crows are really smart. You could probably just pay 'em and give 'em like fair wages, and insurance—

Griffin: Or grubs!

Justin: And benefits and stuff.

Griffin: That's it, you don't need to pay 'em! This is a sweet spot. You've got a fuckin'—

Travis: You've got—

Griffin: Bird paradise.

Travis: You're offering!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: They should be paying you to come and—

Justin: It's actually sick that you're offering these grubs even a chance to stay a part of the great chain, you know? I think that that's beautiful, because I—

Travis: Yeah, that's true, Justin. To give back.

Justin: I'm pretty sure if there's a bunch of grubs outside my house, I'd knock 'em out of the great chain with a pressure washer like extremely quickly. So, I think it's beautiful that you're trying to come up with a really natural solution.

Griffin: When you blast them with the pressure washer though, they absolutely fucking explode, dude. Don't their nutrients go down into the soil to become enrichment for the corn or what have you?

Travis: Even more grubs.

Justin: That's true—that's true, every—

Griffin: I don't think you can blast something out of the circle, dude.

Justin: That's true—

Griffin: I think it's hubris to think you even can.

Travis: Yeah. It can't—the circle can't be created or destroyed, Justin.

Griffin: No, it can't be broken. You can make it have a bit more of a circuitous route in the circle, like if you blast—

Justin: I just, I guess I feel like nature and fate has arranged those molecules to be those grubs. And I feel like they could hang out together a bit longer. But when I put on the zero-degree nozzle, those molecules are no longer in a grub-like orientation.

Griffin: [chuckles] No, they're vaporized.

Travis: Now it's star stuff!

Justin: [chuckles] They have returned as to dust.

Griffin: But that's what I'm saying, Juice, a bird swoops—

Justin: Every breath you take has a little bit of Julius Caesar's last breath, and a little bit of grubs from the back porch.

Griffin: A little bit of the grub that you pressure-washed out of your—out of your grass in your yard. [chuckles] Which I cannot—

Travis: And out of this corporeal plane!

Griffin: I cannot imagine—

Justin: I keep losing track of this conversation because I blew those grubs out of reality so bad, I don't know what we're talking about.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: It actually poked little holes in reality.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: That's like causing some issues.

Griffin: And fucked your yard—fucked your yard up real bad. Real, real, real, real bad.

Justin: Yeah, but it's worth it. I'd do it again. Fuck grubs.

Travis: The tiny screams make it all worth it. [chuckles]

Justin: I want to help somebody else.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: I got a few minutes. "I recently started going to pelvic floor physical therapy twice a month. Appointments can range from yoga-like stretches to internal exams in my various holes. I've learned that making conversation with my physical therapist during it relaxes me both mentally and physically, to make my sessions more productive. What are some topics for conversations I can have with my doctor that aren't too invasive during my

invasive therapy? For reference, we are both she/her people." That's from Keeping it Low-Key in The Down Low. Okay, you've come to... the exact right place.

Griffin: Okay. Didn't know where that sentence was going.

Justin: My brother, Griffin, is an expert in the field.

Griffin: Yeah. I definitely didn't have to just google what a "pelvic floor" was. So...

Travis: It's the opposite of a pelvic ceiling!

Justin: He's being modest. He's being modest.

Griffin: There's a lot of stuff happening down there that we've sort of grouped together as the pelvic floor. That's what—I've learned about the "big year" and the "pelvic floor" in this one episode of this educational—

Travis: And you can write down spotting the pelvic floor in your big year notebook.

Griffin: Yeah, let me write that down. I heard it. I heard the pelvic floor.

Travis: You guys, hey, you guys could talk about Stranger Things. There's going to be lots of opportunities to bring that up, right? Like the Upside Down, right?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: You could bring that up, or—

Griffin: That's funny, yeah. And you can keep doing that too, even—

Travis: There's lots of portals that open up in Stranger Things.

Griffin: That's true. I don't think that that's... I think that's pretty yucky, but...

Justin: This is why everybody's *gotta* memorize 1000 great jokes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If you memorize 1000 great jokes, you're going to be the hit of every party. There is no pelvic floor exam that can withstand 1000 great jokes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Please. You're going to have themed ones. You're going to have ones that are pelvic floor—I'm saying if you order this book of mine right now—

Travis: Oh?

Justin: [chuckles] For two payments of 19.99, we're going to get you 100 great jokes within the next four to six business weeks.

Travis: Can I just make one payment of like, what, 38.98?

Justin: We haven't printed all—we haven't printed all 1000 great jokes. [chuckles] So it starts 100 great jokes.

Griffin: Have you not printed them, or have you not come up with them?

Justin: I have not written them.

Griffin: So there's—

Travis: Okay.

Justin: This is a kickstart—this is a Kickstarter, Griffin, and you are currently violating an NDA. [titters]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So, do you want users to submit their great jokes?

Justin: I would love that. You can, instead of buying the book, if you just want to submit say 50 great jokes—[chuckles] or 60 great jokes, then I can send you one. That's no problem. I'll send you one of the later ones, though.

Griffin: Will you accept a lot of grubs instead? I don't have jokes or money, but I do have grubs out the wazoo.

Travis: You get the grubs, you give 'em to the crows to write the jokes for you.

Griffin: Please they're smart—

Travis: The crows write the jokes.

Griffin: Crows are so—

Justin: The crows... we don't need AI, we need a lot of crows.

Travis: We need a lot of crows. They're smart!

Justin: We need a lot of smart crows. Syd showed me a video of a crow talking yesterday.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then I was supposed to go about my day—

Travis: What?

Justin: After seeing this crow say "wow" and "mom," and stuff like that.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. I hope they don't learn to talk too much, because I—

Travis: Was it Crowen Wilson?

Griffin: Trav...

Travis: [spoofing the Owen Wilson wow meme] "Wow."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Wow."

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: Damn it!

Justin: God, son of a bitch! [laughs] Hey, thanks so much for listening to our podcast. I hope you've had half as much fun as we have.

Travis: [guffaws] We've had a real good time here, folks.

Justin: Trav, I was listen—I was listening to an old—this is relevant, slightly. I was listening to—watching a clip of the second episode of the MBMBaM TV show, and I heard a joke of yours. [chuckles] It was kind of a burn on me that I've literally never clocked, and I've watched it 20 times. It's when I'm trying to say "ghost beef," and I'm coming out of the closet in the dorm room. And I'm laughing so hard, and I can't get it out. And you say, "Whoa, pal, save some laughter for the rest of us." [chuckles] It's such a mean thing to say to somebody—

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah. While they're—

Justin: Who can't do their—

Griffin: That was, I think, our first day of shooting as well.

Justin: So good.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: Oh, god.

Travis: That was good.

Justin: Hey, thank you so much. What do we got—what do we have going on? What do we need to tell people? What's up?

Travis: Well, Clubhouse is returning next Tuesday, January 27th, at noon, Eastern Time. We're going to be streaming Clubhouse from now on, on the last Tuesday of each month. We've also got Super McElroy Brothers, it's going to be this Tuesday, at noon, Eastern Time. And we'll stream all other Tuesdays. Make sure to follow @McElroyEntertainmentSystem on Instagram for all our gaming content.

Also, there's very few, I think four, at the time of recording, packages remaining for Champions Grove. Those are going to be 10% off. For a new year, new you, new fun time special. Go to championsgrove.com and check those out. If you've already purchased your package, you'll be able to get first grab at the available sessions and stuff like that. Championsgrove.com. We've also got some new merch!

Griffin: Can I do the merch?

Travis: Yeah! I was gonna throw it off to you.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: Tell us about it, Griffin!

Griffin: I want to tell you about the merch over at mcelroymerch.com. There's a lot of it. There is a Balance bundle for TAZ: Balance. It's got a TAZ **dice** tray, set of Bureau of Balance dice and a Zonecast car decal. You can really rep the OG set from The Adventure Zone. And 10% of all of our merch proceeds this month will be donated to Immigrant Defenders Law Center.

Again, all of that is over at mcelroymerch.com. If I could do a quick plug, my Choose Your Own Adventure book comes out in less than two months, on

March 10th. It's called The Stowaway, and you can pre-order it now, it'd be very helpful to me, at bit.ly/griffinstowaway. I'm very proud of it and very, very stoked for that to come out. Thanks to Montaigne!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." I really enjoy the words of that song. Talk a lot about the music and—I am so distracted, because Travis has a little duck that he's—

Travis: Yeah, I'm thinking about throwing this duck.

Griffin: *Oh, yeah, baby!* That's gonna make a good sound!

Travis: I've got a lot of shit behind me.

Griffin: You need to set up like a pitcher—we all need like a pitcher's net.

Travis: Yeah. I was thinking I could throw it at my chair?

Griffin: Okay. And here—

Justin: Don't make a big meal out of it. Just throw it at the chair.

Griffin: And here is Travis' heater for the Big Boy. It is a small plastic purple duck, about the size of my fist.

[thud]

Justin: You talked over it.

Griffin: I talked over it. Travis, can we get one more throw, my friend?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Just one more. A good one. Really hum it.

Justin: Hey, can I have our Spotify play button? [chuckles]

Travis: Shut up!

Griffin: Hum it.

Justin: I want the YouTube award.

[thud]

Griffin: That was good!

Justin: Trav, one more! Trav, I was talking. And I promise this is not gonna be a bit, because I have to use the bathroom so bad I'm gonna die.

Travis: Shut up then!

Griffin: Okay. The chair isn't making a very—

[thud]

Travis: Fuck!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chortles] My name is Justin McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy!

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

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

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

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