

MBMBaM 799: A Regular Human Footballman

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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? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis 'Big Dog Woof-Woof Vroom-Vroom The Rocket' McElroy.

Griffin: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me—I'm so distracted by 'The Rocket.' Your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy. Let's keep it short.

Travis: That's how he gets you. That's how the rocket gets you. You get distracted by a rocket then *boom!* 130 mile per hour fastball.

Griffin: Yes, that's it. So, I've noticed that you've tried working in like quite a bit of pitching and fast throwing kind of like terminology into your honorifics.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And I want to applaud you for that. I think it's really good. I think there's a lot of really good nicknames associated with being a professional baseball pitcher, and I think you've hit on a lot of them. I'd love to just be Randy Johnson.

Travis: Do you mean The Big Unit?

Griffin: Uh-huh! Can I Travis, please? I feel like I have to ask you if I can use the—

Travis: Yeah, you can be The Big Unit!

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Justin: There was a genera—we—

Travis: What—hey! Can we all agree, too, by the way, that if you're Randy Johnson, and they start calling you 'The Big Unit—'

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That you're like, "Oh my god, guys, thank you." [chuckles]

Griffin: "Guys, thank you so much, that's so huge."

Travis: "Thank you so much!" And it's like, "Oh, because you're really tall."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "No, no, no, no, but it also makes it sound like I have a huge dong."

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: "And I love that. Thank you guys so much."

Griffin: What are the— "Here comes Sammy 'Massive Wiener' Sosa!" And he's like, "Wow, thanks, guys. I'm just hitting home runs out here. That's crazy that you think that."

Justin: Part of the appeal, I think, is that we were—our age of guy was raised on this generation of film this—I wanna—I'm almost tempted to think of as a sub genre, in hindsight. Where apparently, we went to every like middle aged, white screenwriter dude and said, "Hey, what do you most want to write a movie about?" And he's like, "I think a magical baseball kid."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Because there's like—there's like eight magical baseball kid movies that came out within six months of each other. [chuckles] And it really did shape a generation of kids who want to grow up to be a magical baseball kid.

Travis: There were at least two movies in which a full-blown like nine year old child either became the star pitcher of a team or owner of a team.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: And we as a society went, "Yes. That could happen."

Griffin: We also had Angels in the Outfield.

Justin: Magical baseball kid.

Griffin: It became so that if I was taken to a sports film, I went to see—I go to see Little Giants.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: With my boy, Tricky Dick Moranis. And I'm in there and I'm watching it—

Justin: Love to get Rick on the show, by the way, as always.

Griffin: Would love—holy shit, what a get. I would be at the credits of the film, crying in the theater, and Daddy would be like, "Why are you crying?" And I'd be like, "Because none of the kids got powers."

Travis: None of the kids got powers.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I can't—Rudy, it's like, I've seen this exact guy do magic stuff before.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But you're telling me he's not—okay, he's not a small magic—

Travis: He got pirate gold, and then he was just a football man?

Griffin: And then he's just a foot—a regular human football player? What's he doing? Running and tackling? Cool...

Travis: One time.

Griffin: Flying? No?

Travis: We watched the whole movie, Rudy plays about one minute of football. Come on!

Griffin: Holy shit, you don't get—I hope you guys don't watch that movie hoping to get to watch Sam Astin play—Sean Aston play football, or Sam Aston. It doesn't happen that much.

Travis: It doesn't.

Justin: [chuckles] Whoever that is, I'd hate to see 'em. This is a—this is a... this has been a long few days here in the house. I haven't been able to technically leave this building that I'm in, with the children. Sydnee hiked to her parents' house today so she could ride down in her dad's big car. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: To Harmony House, and I'm still here.

Griffin: God, you're so fuckin' lucky to have a father in law with a big car. That's the dream, dude.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: I know. So cool. I wanted to ask how you guys have been holding up, because yesterday, Griffin, you said something that, honestly, I meant to mention yesterday, and it's been stuck in my head. And Travis and I started talking about it before the show. Before we started doing McElroy Family Clubhouse, it's the last Tuesday of every month, at noon, before we started doing that yesterday, you came on and said, "Sorry, guys, I just shoveled snow for 15 minutes, and I'm more tired than I've ever been in my entire life."

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: And I just wanted to see if you are doing okay? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. Have you guys played Minecraft?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I was looking at pickaxe inventory in the like—in my walkable kind of like hardware store options, because that's what I need. The snow became turbo snow, that froze and refroze so many times that it's hard, like rocks. And I need a pickaxe, or perhaps a mattock, as they're sometimes called, now that I know after shopping for one. And I think I'm gonna get out there with a five pound *mattock* and smash this stuff apart. Because it's the—

Justin: If you do not film that, we're not brothers anymore. I need high-res, glossy video of you with a, sorry—

Griffin: I'll be honest, I've never used—

Justin: A mattock, you say?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: A mattock?

Griffin: I've never used a pickaxe before. I've never even attempted—

Travis: What?! No, wait!

Griffin: No, listen—

Travis: Griffin! You've gotta be—

Griffin: No, listen—

Justin: Wait! That doesn't—

Travis: Fuckin' kidding me!

Justin: Wait! Hold on, Griff!

Travis: Wait, now Griffin!

Justin: That doesn't seem right!

Griffin: I'm almost 40—

Travis: You've never used a pickaxe?!

Justin: You?!

Griffin: I'm almost 40. There's a lot of—

Justin: And you're you!

Griffin: And there's a lot of actions I can like imagine what it's like to do them with my body, right?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I've never done a cartwheel, but I can—I think I know what it would be—I have no idea what to expect. I may not even—this may be a Mjölnir situation where I cannot even get this bad boy over my head.

Justin: My suspicion would be that in the full range of motion that it takes to swing a pickaxe, one of those muscles has never been used before.

Griffin: Guaranteed, dude!

Justin: And has basically atrophied to dust. And like upon its first use will just—*puh-twing!* Done. [chuckles] The whole operation.

Travis: It's possible, Griffin, your arms will fly off, like a child's toy, where the child has maybe overestimated the possibility of the action figure.

Justin: You'll just be leaking Stretch Armstrong goop out of your elbows.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: Just hear a rubber band snap in there somewhere. [chuckles]

Griffin: And it couldn't—

Justin: "I swear to god, Mom, he swung the axe and it sounded like a ball of tin foil just crinkling up! It was insane!" [chuckles]

Griffin: And there's no way, guys, for me to privately practice this incredibly intimate act.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm going out on my front yard—

Justin: Everybody's kid's got a foam diamond pickaxe from Minecraft, right? You can get in there and take a few practice swings—

Griffin: It's not gonna be the same! This thing is heavy and sharp! And I'm lifting it way up over my head, and then I swing it down hard?

Justin: How are you gonna get to the mattock store?

Travis: Then Griffin, you gotta go full bore first time. I want you in a hard hat, I want you like jump suited, I want you singing like a coal mining song or like the song from Frozen.

Griffin: If I get more than one hit in, if I—yes, if I get two to three hits in and I get into like the rhythm, then it'll be like—

Travis: [sings] Born of cold and winter gale and mountain rain combining!

Griffin: [sings] Gonna get the cubes and I make them nice.

Justin: Whoa, now, okay, now wait a minute.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: What if... it like activates something? Because you come from the hills, your blood is from those Appalachian hills.

Griffin: I'm scared of that, dude!

Justin: You've got coal in there, you know what I mean? You got coal in your blood.

Travis: You got slurry in your blood!

Griffin: I just redid—I just redid my whole office. And it took a long time. I can't get 'the bug' now to become a—

Justin: [chuckles] The mining bug.

Griffin: I can't become a findin' miner down there when I've just redone my whole office. I'm not gonna be in here?

Justin: Griffin, this is what—I think this is the fear, right? You chip your car out with the mattock and you're like, "Fuck... yes...."

Griffin: Yes, that's awesome.

Justin: And you just like—

Griffin: Oh, don't get me wrong! Guys, also, also, time out! There is a part—

Justin: You just, you hit the cement—

Griffin: There's a part of me that thinks when I smash this big thing into little chunks and hurl them out of the way my car, that's gonna feel also real good!

Justin: Yeah, but you keep going, man. You hit cement and you keep going!

Griffin: Keep pounding, keep pounding, keep pounding.

Justin: Like, keep going! You're a miner now!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's how anybody starts! You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I heard... Don't put it in front of you when you already have it, you know? Like that's—just dig! You're a miner!

Griffin: I hit a fiber optic—I hit a fiber optic wire? No problem, baby!

Travis: [chuckles] You're mining for JPEGs now!

Griffin: Did you guys know about fiber optic wires in the ground, that if like a construction crew hits one of those, they're like, "Well, that's gonna cost like \$200,000 to fix." [chuckles] It's like the biggest uh-oh accident that you can make in this life, is being a construction person or an excavator of some sort, and you look down in the pit and you see a little teeny little fiber optic cable, it's like, "Oh, I'm ruined! Shoot, dang, I hit the cursed pipe, and now my life is financially in shambles."

Justin: [chuckles] It's the opposite of an oil—

Griffin: It is, yeah!

Justin: It's like it's an inverse—it's sucking the value away.

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: Through the pipes. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's like if the Beverly Hillbillies hit a fiber optic cable, and instead of getting to go to Beverly Hills, they had to go... underground. They had to go underground, to hide.

Justin: Griff, what's your plan—what's your plan for getting to the mattock store?

Griffin: So, there is a hardware store that is up a hill from our house. The hill is slippery and slidey, but the good news is I have two—I have two—

Justin: What's your plan B? [chuckles]

Griffin: I have two small mattocks. Now, these are too small to use on the thing, but I can—[spoofs ice climbing sounds]

Travis: Have you thought about call—

Justin: You have pitons?

Griffin: Pitons to go up the hill, yeah.

Travis: Call ahead to the hardware store, pay them over the phone and just have 'em slide the mattock down the hill to you.

Griffin: Slide it right down, I had that thought, Travis—

Justin: Slide it down.

Griffin: But again, it is a sharp, five pound shard of straight steel. And this thing coming at me at terminal velocity—

Travis: All-American steel? Tonka tough?

Griffin: It's super-duper tough. This thing could put a hole right in me. I can't wait to become—

Justin: Griffin, the—

Griffin: An earthen—

Justin: The awe with which you're speaking about the beloved weight five pounds let's me know that maybe you haven't engaged with a lot of—

Griffin: Five pounds of hot, sharp metal, yeah, coming down at you—coming down the hill at you.

Justin: [chuckles] Five big pounds!

Griffin: You think—

Justin: Five huge pounds.

Griffin: You think it's gonna be a grounder? If it hits a pebble, hops up in the air, embeds itself in my head? And that's how—I always knew I'd go out that way. I thought by leaving the hills, it would become less likely.

Justin: They may not even want that liability of chucking pickaxes down hills. [chuckles]

Griffin: Here's my next question—

Justin: Now that I think about it.

Griffin: I use this pickaxe to smash out my driveway to get free, and I keep going down a little bit, and I destroy a fiber optic cable. What do I do with the five pound pickaxe now? Where do I put that in my house?

Travis: You need to get a big rock in your lawn that you kind of bury—like wedge it into.

Griffin: Fucking cool. Yes.

Travis: So it's there in case of another mining emergency.

Griffin: Travis, there's every possi—there's every possibility that is what's going to happen when I try to dig out my driveway, is that it will get embedded in the ice outside. And then I will—it'll be out there in it then. Then it belongs to—

Travis: I love—

Griffin: Whoever's brave enough.

Travis: My little—my little brother, who I love very much, I love that your worry is you'll strike the ice too good that it will bury the pickaxe too deep in it to be removed.

Griffin: Yeah, no, I think that represents poor pickaxe technique. I don't think you're supposed to get it so deep in that you can't pull it out.

Travis: I guess my bigger worry, if I were you, would be that my pickaxe would glance off the ice, embed itself into the front of my car, straight through, I don't know, the radiator or the engine or whatever.

Griffin: Yeah. Wow, that would be—

Justin: My basic—my basic rule for tool use is this, Griffin, think about the cool way you think a tool was supposed to be used, and it's probably not like that. It's probably a little bit different than that, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So like with a soldering iron, you think that you would just get in there and start glooping around. But no, no, no, you're supposed to heat things up—

Griffin: So fucking disappointing, the first soldering iron.

Justin: So the mattock, you're probably such like use the edge of the mattock to like gradually—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like you hit it with the—it's probably not even the fun way like that you see in movies.

Griffin: I've played so much Minecraft, when you mine into a tree—which, first of all, I don't think I could do that. I don't think I can use my mattock to smash up a tree or a wall in my house. Maybe I could actually do that. But when you go at it in Minecraft it's like pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop! There's no fucking way, man! This thing's huge and heavy!

Justin: It's not—it's probably not like that.

Griffin: Pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop! I don't think so...

Travis: Not at first.

Justin: Where do you need to go? [chuckles]

Griffin: Why do I need to get my—

Justin: Where do you need to go?

Travis: To the bigger mattock store.

Griffin: Can I tell—

Justin: Where—sorry, I'm trying to underline in my head, can you hear? Where do *you* need to go? [chuckles]

Griffin: Right. You're saying like why do I need to dig out my driveway so bad that I'm gonna go buy a pickaxe?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know, man. I just got—I just got the jitters, I don't know.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Just got—just got the bug.

Justin: I know your job! Like I know what your job is, I'm your boss, like I'm—

Griffin: I genuinely, I think it's from when we lived in Austin and got snowed in super bad when Rachel was eight months pregnant. And the whole city was like, "We don't know what to do with this fuckin' snow, guys." It's so cold—

Travis: [chuckles] "Hey, guys, we never thought this would come."

Griffin: "This hard rain has flummoxed us!"

Travis: I had to go out—

Justin: Yeah, everybody has faith in society 'til it fails them, right? A tree fell on my house one time, and then I get real—I get real antsy around trees!

Griffin: You actually—

Justin: I get real skittish about trees!

Travis: I had to go out—I had to make a journey out yesterday.

Griffin: Where'd you go?

Justin: Oh, did you?

Travis: I had to ship some stuff and—

Justin: I'm sorry! I thought you're—[chuckles]

Griffin: "I had to shit and I couldn't—"

Justin: I thought you were about to—have to go out to the outhouse.
[chuckles]

Travis: I had to shit, and I don't do that at home—

Justin: "I held it in for three days and I can't do it, Teresa! I gotta go, babe!"

Travis: I can't do that at home, it's where my kids live.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And no, I had to go ship some stuff, I'm participating in Project for Awesome. And I'm gonna be on the live stream, and I made some 3D printed wooden ducks that I signed.

Griffin: Oh, that's great.

Travis: I signed 'em from me and from Magnus.

Justin: That's cute.

Travis: And I had to ship them. And the whole way I'm driving there with the open box next to me because I hadn't sealed it yet, thinking if I get into a car accident right now and 30 little ducks are—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Very hard to explain.

Griffin: They're gonna need Benoit Blanc to figure out what the fuck was going on in there!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: The day before was a level three like snow emergency, where we—I would have been arrested for being out on the road. And the next day I'm like, "Super cool, time to get these ducks in flight. Go ducks, go!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Let me hit you with this. Let me hit you with this. Benoit Blanc picks up—sees Travis' dead body in this car, surrounded by many wooden ducks. He picks it up. "Looks like we've got ourselves a murder most foul." And then name of the movie would be called A Murder Most Foul: A Rian Johnson Mystery.

Travis: He picks up a duck and he goes, "I think I quacked the case."

Griffin: That's—

Justin: Wait, duck... duck! Exclamation point.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: A Murder Most Foul—

Griffin: Duck, duck—

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: A Knives Out Mystery. [chuckles]

Griffin: A Murder Most—A Knives Out Mystery. That's cool.

Travis: And he sees one of the forensics like grabbing my butt, and he's like, "Duck, duck, goose! Hey!"

Justin: [chuckles] Okay.

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: "Leave that dead body alone!"

Justin: That was the last one.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: That was the last one. You got—you scraped some rust off with that, and so we should move forward. [chuckles] I'm at the air—

Griffin: There was a little bit extra under the rust. I'm glad you did that, Travis.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: We use all parts of the joke.

Justin: I'm at—I'm at the airport—

Travis: You can put it on my bill!

Griffin: That's cool, dude.

Travis: [titters]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: [chuckles] Stop. Stop.

Travis: "All right, shake a tail feather—"

Griffin: I don't think—

Travis: "We got a crime to solve!"

Griffin: I do have to poke a hole in the premise a little bit. I don't think they call Benoit Blanc in to solve car accidents. [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs] Only—

Justin: [chortles] "What could have stopped this size of a vehicle?! What could have stopped—there's a destroyed vehicle in the middle of the road, tire tracks leading away, god damn it! What could have done—what kind of huge gorilla? Is there an escaped gorilla from the zoo that may have—"

Griffin: "He was momentar—"

Travis: "Now, I can't help but notice! He was googling, who was that guy in that movie trailer that one time? Could that be a clue?"

Justin: What if he looks up and he's like—he looks dead pan at the camera and he's like, "Oh my god, a bear is driving."

[group chuckle]

Travis: "How can this be?"

Justin: "How can this be?"

"I am at the airport. There is a massage chair right by my gate. I've had a pretty exhausting trip, and I'd love to loose things up a bit before I get on the long flight home. Is it weird to use a massage chair at an airport? If I do use it, what is the appropriate level of satisfying noises I can make before it gets weird?" That's from Boarding Pass to Bliss from Cape Coral, Florida.

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

Justin: And the shared massage chair continues to be one of the weirdest like unforced errors as a society that we continue to invite on ourselves. It's this incredible little dance that we've just squirreled away in some of our most vulnerable moments.

Travis: I think—okay, here's my pitch, boys. You tell me what you think. You are allowed to use it, it's not weird to use it. If the entire time you're in

it, you appear, one, anxious to get out of it, and two, thoroughly uncomfortable—

Griffin: You think that's okay?

Travis: I think if you're in it, and it's clearly like, "I got in it, but only until they call my name. And I'm springing out of this even there's five minutes left on this chair. I do not enjoy this. I want out of this so bad."

Griffin: Yeah, can you also, could you just look around and be like, "Can I get out yet, guys?" Like yell that to everyone nearby. Maybe you're yelling at some friends who dared you to get in the chair. People see that, they're like, "He doesn't want to fuckin' be in there."

Justin: If I see that, though, I'm gonna—see, I make judgment calls. If I see people sitting in the massage chair and it is clearly activating, doing its... special thing, I look at their face. And if they're enjoying it, I assume they paid for it. If they're looking like it's like, eh, kind of annoying, I assume someone else paid for it and left, and then they sat on a moving chair.

Griffin: That swooped in like a nasty little hermit crab.

Justin: They swooped in, but they don't want to—they want to act like, "This isn't what I wanted." But like secretly like, "Oh, baby." [chuckles] You know, like they're loving it.

Griffin: If you have a business suit on and you're like on your Blackberry while you're doing it, I'm like, that's cool, that person needs some tending to so they can get back to like the huge, important deal that they're working on right now. I think—I think massage chair as professional device, I think is actually a pretty cool look.

Travis: Could you bring it all the way around? Where you kick off your shoes, you put on a robe, maybe some cucumber slices, right? A little face peel?

Justin: Ooh, pamper.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Then you get in it. You charge it up for an hour and a half. [titters]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What's weirder, the massage chairs at the airport or the shoe shine guys at the airport?

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: Nothing makes me feel like there is another world, there's a whole other thing happening when—except when I see the shoe shine guys at the airport. Because I see a guy doing the shoe shines, I see a guy getting the shoe shines, sometimes both those guys are younger than me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sometimes both of those guys are older! So, I don't think it's something that I'm eventually gonna find out about how this happens. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's not—

Justin: How we get into this circle.

Travis: Can I tell you what gets—

Justin: I don't know how!

Travis: Justin, what gets me is, sometimes I have some nice leather boots that I enjoy wearing. Sometimes when I travel. The shoeshine person is never on duty when I'm wearing the shoes that—

Griffin: It's rare to find it.

Justin: It's not for you, though?

Travis: Yeah, I know!

Justin: Like it wouldn't be for you. Right?

Griffin: I've—

Justin: It wouldn't be.

Travis: I've thought about getting it, but then I thought, how long do I stand by the shoeshine place in my boots, hoping they come back?

Griffin: It's just, it's bewildering to me. I don't wear shoes that need—that can be shined most of the time.

Justin: Could be.

Griffin: Almost ever do I wear shoes that need shining or could be shined, made of a material—

Justin: Shinier?

Griffin: That could become lustrous with a wipe.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: And I know that other people do do that, but do we need a whole cottage industry around a specific type of shoe material? That most people, I don't think, are wearing most of the time?

Justin: You see the phone booths, and you see—you know? You see a phone alcove and you're like, remember when?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Remember when, pops? You know? Like, remember—"

Griffin: I do see those—

Justin: "When we used to use tho—" Like, it seems like the shoeshine guys... I don't know!

Griffin: Have you seen—

Travis: I feel the same about newsies.

Griffin: Yes. [chuckles] Yeah, man.

Travis: Why do I always see newsies at the airport—

Justin: Yeah, why are they out there? Selling papes.

Travis: Selling papes?!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. I think that those booths that they have set up where you can rent to use it as a workspace for like 15 minutes, if you needed to like do a meeting or something, I don't know how much money that costs, but there should be a little hole on the wall of that thing with a bill slot on it. And if you put \$50 into that, the hole opens up and you're allowed to do one fart in there, and they can't get out. I think that would be a great investment, and it would raise a lot of money for our schools. And...

Travis: I just love the idea that we got rid of phone booths, and then built booths that people can use their smartphones in.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: It makes me so happy.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, no, \$25 is much more expensive than a phone booth. And \$50 if you use the fart hole.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: Do you think there's in a—the Superman comics book somewhere, recently, there's been a scene where Superman's in like a bitcoin exchange booth?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [chuckles] You know what I mean? And so he's like, "Let me in there!" You know, like—

Travis: He steps into one of the nursing pods!

Justin: "I gotta exchange my alt coin!"

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I think he wrestles for a while about whether or not he's allowed to go in the nursing pod to become Superman to save the airport. He's like ultimately—

Justin: Oh my god! TM! TM! TM! TM!

Griffin: TM! TM! TM! TM!

Justin: We'll write that one shot.

Griffin: He's like ultimately—

Justin: [chuckles] We'll write that one shot, please.

Griffin: I'm actually going to save a lot of mothers if I'm allowed to go in there and go sicko mode, and become Superman. So like, I do think it's worth it. The optics are terrible.

Justin: [chuckles] Superman has to find another lactating mother to go in with him. He's like, "You don't have to nurse. Just stand here. Don't look either. Promise."

Travis: Yeah, "Don't look, and assume I'm just still here in the booth the whole time I'm gone." Because that's the real problem, if he goes in there as Clark Kent, he can't then leave as soon—he's gotta leave super fast, so they've got to assume that Clark Kent's still in there doing something the entire time Superman is doing his thing.

Griffin: Uh-huh! Superman comes out of the nursing pod and he's like, "I left my friend Clark in there! I'm gonna lock the door behind me! I will come back and set him free. And then I will vanish from existence." [chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles] "He's gonna be busy for 30 to 45 minutes in the nursing pod. Don't bother him."

Justin: Do you think Superman frequently enters restrooms and thinks, "Well, what I have to do is much easier in the accessibility stall. And I will be very brief."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "So, perhaps that would be—I'll look around, I think I'm okay." You know—or no! You know what? If he comes walking out, though, and then Superman comes walking out of the accessibility stall and it's like, "Really, Superman? You need the whole big space just all for yourself?"

Travis: Yeah, "You don't know how I do it in there, I'm an alien!" [chuckles]

Griffin: So many people—

Justin: "I might have two butts! You don't know!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Hey, I don't know which of my holes it's coming out of!"

Griffin: There—

Justin: "Why don't you get out the way? That meteor is coming! Move." [chuckles]

Travis: "My tentacles shoot out to anchor me down while I'm doing my business!"

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: "Much like the Thanatar, I have a tube that exits my rectum where the poop comes out."

Travis: "I do everything with great force! Everything! Don't you understand? I wish it wasn't like this! God, how I wish! Sometimes I wish there was a red sun just over the potty! God damn it!" [chuckles]

Justin: "Yes, do you have a super plunger?"

Griffin: "I need a *big* toilet hole."

Travis: [chuckles] "I need a kryptonite toilet bowl!"

Justin: I can only use part— "I can all use parchment paper, I—that's the level of durability I need to wipe. That's how tough my stuff is."

Travis: "And can I just say? Wide pipes. I don't want to go into detail."

Griffin: Wide pipes, wide fittings, yeah.

Travis: "Wide pipes!"

Justin: Wide, wide pipes. Looks like the—looks like the XL Hershey bar factory there. [chuckles] Big, wide, like a symphony bar.

Travis: Just a straight shot.

Justin: "I've recently gotten into balloon sculpting, ie. making cool balloon swords and monsters and shit. It's a cheap, low stakes hobby, and despite the occasional pop, is surprisingly relaxing. Of course, I blow up a lot of balloons to practice, which, of course, take a lot of space when inflated."

Brothers, I live in an apartment, how do I squash this rising balloon pile without pissing off my neighbors?" That's from Clowning in Connecticut.

Griffin: That's cool. I decided.

Justin: I mean, my impulse is like kill your little darlings, you know what I mean? Like, you're resting on your past works. Just like pop them—

Travis: But how?

Justin: And look towards the future.

Griffin: But how, without pissing off the neighbors, Justin? That's sort of the core—

Travis: Because if I have a neighbor and every 15 minutes—

Griffin: Sorry, did you think the neighbors would be pissed off if he just got rid of his incredible balloon art?

Travis: "No! Oh! I liked that one!"

Justin: I thought he just didn't want to get rid of the—I just thought it was like they're very... just like proud of 'em.

Griffin: Proud of 'em.

Justin: I don't know, I'm not allowed to throw trash away at my house, so I forget that other people are allowed to. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Right, sure.

Travis: That is true. When my kids get a balloon animal from a fair or whatnot, we gotta wait for that thing to die of old age, you know? And even then—

Justin: Yeah, it's a permanent fixture, right?

Griffin: Oh, Jesus Christ, guys, for Henry's ninth birthday, we went to Michael's, and we brought the kids, and we—to get balloons. And Gus got these enormous six and seven balloons that have been floating in the corner of our living room. Yes, like the meme, thank you so much, Travis. And they have been really in a dance of like dwindling kind of death for, genuinely... for two and a half months or so. Six is still rockin', seven went down a long time ago. Six, but it's at that point where it's like a barometer, just kind of going up and down depending on the time of day. So, that can be exciting, but you probably don't breathe helium out.

Justin: There were a couple of years where it wasn't so hard at my house, but eventually the girls caught on that these magical pen pals were never gonna write back, no matter how many notes we attached to the balloon saying like, "Here's an email if you find this, like let us know," or whatever. That was a pretty good—until they realized that it's just going into the, I don't know, forest, probably, and I don't wanna be a jerk.

Travis: Yeah, into a bird's stomach or something.

Justin: Into a bird's stomach or something, the ocean.

Travis: I think that what you wanna—

Justin: Probably in the ocean. [chuckles]

Travis: You're gonna save up all these balloons, maybe to the end of the week, and pop them all at once in like a suplex or a full body dive or something. And you're gonna fake a huge sneeze when it happens. And then after the loud—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: After the loud popping sound, and this is important to sell it, you're gonna have to scream in pain, like this huge sneeze popped something in you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is there a—is there a risk that they send help? Like call the authorities or something to check on you?

Griffin: Yes. Every time they will send help. And then you say, "It's balloon popping time. I had to—I'm not injured, I had to pop all these balloons." I think it would probably scare me more, Travis, to hear someone scream—do a scream sneeze from the apartment above me than to hear the sound of many balloons popping.

Justin: Is it—is it littering if you throw them out the window? Or is it kind of like a—

Griffin: I think textbook.

Justin: Magical thing?

Travis: After they pop?

Griffin: Textbook littering, I think.

Justin: I don't think it's like if a balloon animal—you find a—you see a—if you saw a balloon dog floating through the sky? You wouldn't be like—

Griffin: "Beautiful."

Justin: "Who would ever?" You'd be like, "Oh my god."

Travis: Justin?

Griffin: "Beautiful."

Justin: "Things are gonna be okay."

Griffin: "Whimsical. I remember, youth."

Travis: They don't fill balloon animals with helium?

Justin: Yeah, dude, they float down to the ground. And then you see it on the ground and it's like, "Oh my god, there's a balloon dog on the ground. What a day!"

Travis: And it's got—

Justin: You know? It's not litter!

Travis: "It's got a message for me! What, it's the black spot?! Ah, marked for death!"

Griffin: I'll say this—

Justin: You don't mark people for death with your black spot balloons, for the last time, Travis.

Griffin: [chuckles] I'll say this, if you—

Travis: I just think that would be the way—

Justin: I'm not gonna join your weird assassin cult!

Travis: If I was gonna be marked for death by the black spot, I would want it to be delivered to me by a monkey on a hat that I could wear around, until—

Griffin: A big crown, yeah.

Travis: The time... of my death.

Griffin: I think if you throw your balloons out at a certain time of day, it's only gonna take three maybe days before children start to kind of like congregate at the balloon time, as you, the fuckin'... the Once-ler comes out and makes it rain doggies and monkeys and crowns and swords and stuff.

Justin: That sounds pretty good, right? Now that you're saying it, it sounds like pretty magical actually, right?

Griffin: Actually, yeah, you're the Once-ler now. Only instead of giving out sort of, you know, lessons about how to be a good person, it's balloon—it's balloon animals largely.

Justin: The metaphor is getting a little—

Griffin: The metaphor got a little murky, yeah.

Travis: But I do love this theory that people who do balloon sculpting didn't start doing it because they wanted to give them to people, but rather started giving them to people because they wanted to do balloon sculpting, and then realized they needed to get rid of them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right?

Justin: The hope is it's a virtuous circle, right? I mean, you hope at some point that that just, yeah, you do love to give these things away to people. And yes, your friends do love to take them. I mean, you hope.

Travis: Yeah. And the one thing you can make is the virtuous circle. It's pretty easy—

Griffin: Right, it's not hard.

Travis: You just take the balloon and just kind of—[chuckles] ah... the virtuous circle.

Justin: It's not a big deal, actually.

Griffin: Hey, can I ask you guys a question?

Justin: Uh-huh.

Griffin: The Once-ler, to teach the child about the Lorax and the environment and everything, required a payment of 15 cents, a nail and the shell of a great-great-great-grandfather snail. The fucks he doing with that

stuff, man? What are you gonna be doing with that, Once-ler? With 15 cents.

Travis: Building a life.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Why do you need a nail and the shell of a great-great-great-grandfather snail? Are you gonna put that in that? And then what's the 15 cents for? You fucking pervert. Why do you need payment to teach me a lesson about how to be a good person and the environment?

Justin: It does feel like the Once-ler is maybe dabbling with occult forces beyond his powers and control.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: It feels like he's getting into some sort of curse or something that he heard.

Griffin: There should be a page at the end of The Lorax where the Once-ler pops his head back out and he's like, "Oh, shit, also, I eat all that stuff."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "I eat 15 cents, and I love eating nails. And great-great-great-grandfather's snail shells is my favorite snack."

Justin: [chuckles] "I eat all of it."

Griffin: "Don't litter, for fuckin' real. Hey! Hey! Hey! Are you littering?"

Travis: "Leave the trees alone! But if you find any more great-great-grandfather snails, you know where to bring 'em!"

Griffin: "You know, fuck those guys!"

Travis: "This nasty dog! I'll see you tomorrow, Timmy."

Griffin: "See you, Tim!"

Travis: [chuckles] "You're a cool dude! I don't care what they say. All right! You want to chat—you want to like hang out later? I don't have anything on. You must—like, I don't have anything planned. You left—"

Justin: "I'm gonna eat some snail shells." [chuckles]

Travis: "I got enough for two—okay, you're gone. Okay, cool."

Justin: "You left. Cool." Let's take a quick break—

Travis: I miss the Lorax, I miss him so much! [chuckles]

Justin: We're gonna head to the Money Zone. [sings] "How bad can I be?" We're gonna take a break, and then we'll come back. We'll talk about other stuff. Let's go the Money Zone!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hey, guys, I know we're in the Money Zone, but can I speak candidly for a second?

Griffin: I guess so.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: Can you make it about Zocdoc?

Travis: I'll get there.

Griffin: Like tangentially—oh.

Travis: Are you ever reading Dr. Seuss books to your kids and think, "Yeah, it's easy to write rhyming stuff when you use makeup bullshit words."

Griffin: Absolutely it is, dude.

Justin: Yeah, man.

Travis: I mean, some of the stuff's really good, but some of it is like, yeah, man, I could... I could do that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, man.

Travis: Okay. I just wanted to make sure—

Justin: 20-Thunder-Drive.

Travis: We were all on the same page.

Griffin: "He went to the glop of the party pump pumpers and had a big glop of his glumpy glop glumpers." Like, it's fucking easy, dude. You don't have to work—

Travis: That's why you can't trust—

Justin: 20-Make-It-Stick.

Travis: Every doctor in the world. But you know what you can trust?

Griffin: What's that, Travie?

Travis: Zocdoc, to help you find the right doctors for you.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely. I don't think Theodor Geisel is on Zocdoc. I don't think he has an account.

Travis: For many reasons, I would guess.

Griffin: For a—for a ton of reasons.

Justin: Yeah. For a slew of reasons.

Griffin: But if you are have a—if you have a problem, yo, I'll solve it. Check out Zocdoc and let a doctor resolve it.

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: Because I don't know how to do any kind of medical stuff, and that's why when I moved to DC and I didn't have any doctors, I got on zocdoc.com and they were like, "Let me hook you up." And they did. I've made great friends through Zocdoc. I think—I think a lot of my doctor—

Travis: That's not—that's not—

Griffin: I think a lot of my—

Justin: That's not—that's not one of the—

Travis: Something that they advertise, but—

Griffin: I don't think they advertise that, but I will say like—I will say like, a lot of doctors have become my closest friends here. So... And they know that, like—

Travis: There's a sadness to that I can't place, but it's there.

Griffin: It seems pretty obvious what the sad—the shape of that sadness is. But—

Travis: I'm nearing... old age. I'm in my twilight years. And I've had to get so many—now it's started to be like health is an escape room.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where I go to a doctor to solve one thing, and then it opens up three more puzzles for me to solve.

Griffin: A clue. A clue. Yeah, absolutely.

Travis: Yeah! Went to a rheumatologist who was then like, "Hey, you should also get like a nerve test and a vascular test," and a bunch of stuff. I don't know how to find those people, that's why I use Zocdoc.

Griffin: But now you're the healthiest you've ever been. Zocdoc's a free app and website that helps you find and book high-quality in-network doctors, so you can find someone you love. I know we've said a lot of other bullshit here, but that's—

Justin: Or a best friend.

Griffin: Or a best friend. [chuckles] I didn't say best friend. Some of—some of my—

Travis: Whoa, they may be listening.

Justin: You said someone to love, or a romantic partner.

Griffin: Some of my best friends!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I wouldn't have found them if not for Zocdoc. I also wouldn't have been treated for my many conditions. So, stop putting off those doctor's appointments, go to [zocdoc.com/mybrother](https://www.zocdoc.com/mybrother) to find an instantly book a doctor you love today. It says that, it does say, "A doctor you love." So, I do think a friend—

Justin: It does say that.

Griffin: Fits the bill.

Justin: That's fair, Griff.

Griffin: That's [zocdoc.com/mybrother](https://www.zocdoc.com/mybrother). [Zocdoc.com/mybrother](https://www.zocdoc.com/mybrother). Thanks, Zocdoc, for sponsoring this message!

Travis: Did we even mention what it—I think we missed the part where—

Griffin: I said it, I said—no, I said it.

Travis: Zocdoc is a free app?

Justin: You said, he said it—

Griffin: Yeah, I said that part—

Justin: He did a good job, yes—

Griffin: Yeah, I did that part.

Justin: Really good. You should listen, you were—

Travis: Maybe I need to get my hearing checked.

Justin: Yeah, check out zocdoc.com.

Travis: What?

Justin: You heard me, coward.

[Zocdoc's jingle plays]

Dan: The Flop House is a podcast where we watch a bad movie, and then we talk about it.

Elliott: Robert Shaw in Jaws, and they're trying to figure out how to get rid of the Ghoulies. And he scratches his nails and he says, "I'll get you, ghoulie."

Dan: He's just standing above the toilet with a harpoon. [chuckles]

Elliott: [chuckles]

Dan: No, I was just looking forward to you going through the other ways in which Wild Wild West is historically inaccurate.

Stuart: You know how much movies cost nowadays, when you add in your popped corn and your bagel bites, and your cheese fritters?

Elliott: You can't go wrong with a Henry Cavil mustache. Here at Henry Cavil Mustaches, the only supplier!

Stuart: [laughs]

Dan: The Flop House. New episodes every Saturday. Find it at maximumfun.org.

[break]

Kirk: Say you like video games, and who doesn't?

Maddy: I mean, some people probably don't.

Kirk: Okay, but a lot of people do. So, say you're one of those people, and you don't really have anyone to talk to about the games that you like.

Jason: Well, you should get some better friends.

Kirk: Yes, you could get some better friends, but you could also listen to Triple Click. A weekly podcast about video games, hosted by me, Kirk Hamilton.

Maddy: Me, Maddy Myers.

Jason: And me, Jason Schreier. We talk about new releases, old classics, industry news, and whatever, really.

Maddy: We'll show you new things to love about games, and maybe even help you find new friends to talk to about them.

Kirk: Triple Click, it's kind of like we're your friends. Find us at maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[break]

Justin: [mouths the Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Yes, dude.

Justin: Huh? [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, a podcast within a podcast, profiling latest and greatest in brand eating. You know what cuffing season is? If I said forget cuffing season, would you know what I meant?

Griffin: That's where you—

Travis: Is it sexual?

Griffin: I think it's where you... someone comes in as a sort of sexual... tag in. Like a tag in, a replacement. You tag them in. And you go, "Your turn." Is that right?

Justin: Cuffing season is when you tag in, sorry, what was it? You tag in a sexual partner and say, "Your turn?"

Griffin: It's saying like, "The two of us will make love. Let's get in a ringer. Let's bring in a—someone's—a pitch—"

Travis: Coming off the top ropes. [chuckles]

Griffin: A sort of pitch—a pitch hitter sort of situation. And then the—and then the other person has a special chair they get to sit in—

Justin: Okay, before Griffin over shares anymore, I'm gonna release us all from our prison. Cuffing season is—

Travis: No, cuffing season is like when—you gotta find somebody before Valentine's Day or whatever.

Justin: Well, yes. Or it's not really that—

Griffin: Hm, I'm pretty sure it's—pretty sure it's the other thing!

Travis: With the special chair?

Justin: So it's—

Travis: It could be two things.

Justin: The idea is that for the cold months, you hook up. You hook up for the cold months. And then you have a partner for the cold months as a short-term thing. I don't know why—

Travis: That you truly love? Deeply and make a deep con—

Justin: That you truly love. But—

Griffin: On the hot months you say, "No, thanks! It's too—"

Travis: It's hot girl summer!

Griffin: "It's too hot!"

Justin: "I'm single, everybody. To have sex." [chuckles] "Forget cuffing season, Sonic wants you to break up with your burger."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "Introducing the new all-American smasher lineup." Please, guys, hold your questions.

Travis: I have so many.

Justin: I will answer your questions, but I'm sure just from me saying that, you're fucking going wild with questions. We'll get to 'em. Okay?

Griffin: This is not a question. Can I just say something? It's not a question. It's not a question, can I say it? What even is a smasher?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: What's a smasher?

Travis: That's a question.

Justin: That's legitimately—

Travis: You were a journalist for a long time!

Justin: I'm gonna answer that in a level of detail that you will be furious about.

Griffin: It's because it went up.

Justin: For too long! "For too long, fast food burger fans have settled for relationships that just aren't working."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "Burgers that keep going up in price and down in quality."

Griffin: Yeah, I hate that.

Justin: So Sonic—

Travis: Are those two separate ideas? Sorry, that is the question. They're settling for relationships that aren't working. And also—

Griffin: And also—

Travis: The burgers.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: The burgers.

Justin: And they're also—if they had happier relationships, they may cook for themselves more, or want to, you know what I mean? Like, get in some more lean proteins, I don't know, but it's two different things. "Sonic is introducing the one worth committing to, the all-new, all-American Sonic Smasher. Most fast food burgers promise more than they deliver, but the all-American Sonic Smasher is different."

Griffin: It's good!

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It's actually good! "We made it good!"

Justin: [chuckles] "These other burgers are dirty shit bag fucks."

Travis: There's been—

Griffin: "We will promise you—"

Justin: "This burger?"

Griffin: "We'll promise nothing!"

Justin: Nothing.

Griffin: "This burger is here. You come get it."

Travis: There's a lot of stressing, even early on in this press release, about it being all-American.

Justin: You don't even know how early on it is! [chuckles]

Griffin: Shit.

Travis: Is the Americanness of my burger here in the state of Ohio something that I should have been concerned about prior to this?

Griffin: I don't know even how they would get you non-American burgers there, as landlocked as you are.

Travis: [chuckles] I wasn't aware that that was the thing I should be checking for.

Justin: It is going to be impossible to detect the presence of AI in these things because they have been absolutely half-baked for a decade. Like, I don't know.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: How will you tell? You know? Like, let's take... This was written by humans. "Most fast food burger promises more than they deliver. The all-American Sonic Smasher is different. Hand-smashed, made to order, and stacked with classic toppings people actually crave." That's what it says. I don't know what that's about though. Is that like—

Griffin: That's such talking, yeah!

Justin: That's shit—but are they saying like other places are putting on like bean sprouts, and nobody wants that? And they're giving you the good shit? I don't understand.

Travis: I also—

Justin: It's proof—

Travis: I've never been to a McDonald's and thought, "This burger is really promising me something."

Griffin: Yeah, no.

Travis: That's never been—

Justin: "This means something to me."

Travis: What that exchange is about.

Justin: "It's proof that when it comes to burgers, Sonic is everyone's perfect match. That commitment comes to life—" [chuckles]

Griffin: What the fuck?!

Justin: "That commitment comes to life with the \$6 all-American Smasher Meal, a complete burger meal that punches above its price point."

Travis: What?

Griffin: A lot of aggressive sort of terminology in this—

Justin: Yeah, the commitment comes to life.

Griffin: "This smashin' punch meal is gonna—"

Justin: My Brother, My Brother and Me, episode—

Griffin: "Fuckin' blast your fuckin' face, you nerd. It's gonna—"

Travis: Do you—

Griffin: "Wedgie your butt, strong!"

Travis: "Do you have a shitty boyfriend? The Smasher Meal is gonna punch him in the face, and prove that he's the right one for you. He's got tomatoes

and shit that you like. Does your boyfriend have tomatoes on him? No? Fuck him!"

Justin: "He's got the stuff you actually want."

Griffin: This—

Justin: "It's got—it's got crispy onions and barbecue sauce, and a huge dick. It's got exactly—"

[group laugh]

Griffin: Whoa!

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: "It's got exactly what you crave!"

Griffin: I'll be honest, there's a structural question there that I have, where I don't know how—

Travis: Just top—

Justin: In a text—a textural question. [chuckles]

Griffin: No! It's a burger construction question, because if you're gonna put one—

Travis: Where's the dick?!

Griffin: If you're gonna put one of those one there—

Travis: That classic Wendy's slogan!

Griffin: How does—

Travis: "Where's the dick?!"

Griffin: How does the top bun sit—

Justin: "Where's the dick?!" I love that.

Griffin: Atop it if there's a sort of irregular—

Travis: I assume the dick was coming out of the burger, Griffin! I didn't assume it was atop it.

Justin: I'm ready for you guys to—I'm—you know what? This is not anything worth looking at, but I am going to like, I have to at least share something here with you, to give you some—some—

Griffin: Are you gonna show—are you about to show me a little burnt up, crispy burger? Yeah, god damn it, I love that stuff. I wish I didn't. I hate how smash—smash burgers as a concept is so vulgar to me, and yet when I see one I think, I bet biting into that is awfully salty and crispy, and good.

Justin: Oh, man, it's good. I love to make 'em at home too, they're good. But right off the griddle. Anyway, the—

Travis: This is also—

Justin: Ah, boy, I'm getting hungry for smashers! "The new all-American Sonic Smasher takes the ori—" okay. This is where we're gonna get into the minutia, where your questions are gonna start coming hot and heavy. And I beg you to hold them—

Griffin: Okay, okay.

Justin: When we do have a Q and A.

Travis: Can I make an observation, Justin?

Griffin: Not a question. Don't—

Justin: Yeah, an observation, not a question, Trav, that's fine. No problem.

Travis: There is definitely a trend in these fast food press releases where, for whatever reason, the food must be photographed in some kind of colored void, that I will never understand. There's no context.

Griffin: You need perspective. You need to know how big this meal is by having some drop—

Justin: Yeah, they're floating in the snacking zone.

Griffin: Shadows on it.

Justin: "The new all-American Sonic Smasher takes the original Sonic Smasher even further, with flavors designed to deliver premium quality in every bite, without the premium price tag."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: "We recognize that the first version of the Smash, we fucked up! We know it!"

Griffin: "We fucked up—"

Justin: "We fucked up!"

Griffin: "So bad."

Travis: "We could have—"

Justin: "We fucked up and we're embarrassed."

Travis: "We could have smashed it harder! We didn't smash it hard enough." [chuckles]

Justin: "Each all-American Sonic Smasher is hand-smashed."

Griffin: [exhales sharply] Ah...

Travis: Yes.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Just fuckin', no tools, just—*tss!* Hot palm on the griddle!

Justin: *Tss!* [laughs]

Griffin: *Tss! Ah!*

Justin: [yells out] *Aah!* They beg us—

Travis: "Other burgers are smashed by AI! But here at Sonic? Real humans smash these burgers!"

Justin: "We beg 'em to buy the robots! We beg 'em to buy the burger smashing robots! We *hate* to smash the burgers with our hands!"

Travis: "They keep saying, "Dave, the calluses are developing! Soon you won't even feel it anymore!" But it's been five months!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "We had a guy on our 16th Street location bring in some sort of heavy metal plate to do the smashing. We said, "No, sir.""

Justin: No way!

Griffin: "Skin on skin contact is important here at Sonic Drive In."

Travis: "That's how you form a bond!"

Griffin: "That's how you bond with the burgers."

Justin: Each all-American Sonic Smasher is hand-smashed and made to order, featuring two patties made with Angus beef, seasoned and seared to perfection, for crispy edges and a juicy center."

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: "The patties are layered with melty American cheese, crisp lettuce, ripe tomatoes, crinkle cut pickles, diced onions, ketchup and mayo, all served on a pillowy, soft potato bun, fresh off the grill. It's the classic all-American cheeseburger leveled up."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: In what way?

Griffin: It's high.

Justin: The lineup includes double and triple options, with or without crispy bacon.

Travis: Okay, but so then the smash burger *isn't* leveled up. I would need to pay to level it up.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: [sighs] Hah, there's so much. The ratio of burger to produce on this thing is pretty crazy, and I know that those numbers get thrown off once you do bring smashing into the mix. But I'm imagining the bite of this thing, and it is extraordinarily produce-forward.

Justin: Is that maybe—do you guys think there's a chance that the smashing machine ends with him getting fired from UFC, and he ends up running the smashing machine at Sonic? [chuckles]

Griffin: That's possible.

Justin: Do you think there's any chance that that's like—and then they're like—he's like, "I can do it with my hands, just let me be the smashing machine."

Griffin: I don't think any one of the three of us is ever gonna know the answer to that question authoritatively, Justin.

Justin: That's very fair, actually.

Griffin: Why can't they run the lettuce and the tomatoes and the pickles through the smashing machine and make them also flat? Why is only the meat flat? Why are we not working with very, very flat lettuce and pickles?

Justin: They want you to hand-squish those yourself. "The Sonic Smasher proves you don't have to settle," said Ryan Dickerson, the chief marketing officer at Sonic, who would—it's a premium—

Travis: Wait, hold on though. That's a bold statement to not have any qualifier on. "You don't have to settle for fast food," no, no. It proves you don't have to settle.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: About anything!

Justin: "It's a premium, made to order, hand-smashed burger that's simply better than you'll find anywhere else in fast food, or even fast casual. It's America's favorite for a reason."

Travis: I'm telling you—

Justin: With the all-American—

Travis: "I'm telling you, Steve! This lawsuit is going nowhere. They're offering you a deal. Take it!"

"No. My smash burger tells me I don't have to settle."

"I don't think that's what this is about, Steve!"

Griffin: "I can—I'm going to court!"

Justin: "I deserve better. I deserve all the crinkle cut pickles that the world has for me, Steven." [chuckles] "It's an all-American favorite for a reason. With the all-American smasher lineup, we're offering our best burger in a classic way people love, without cutting corners on quality. And at \$6 for a

full meal, we're not just offering the best value, we're raising the bar for what a fast-food burger relationship should be."

Griffin: Yeah. That doesn't mean anything, but go off, king! With your fast-food burger relationship.

Justin: Now, okay, now we have reached the FAQ.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Okay. So now I will answer the que—now I will tell you what your questions are.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: About this.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And you—and I will then tell you the answers to your questions.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So...

Travis: Do I have to settle?

Justin: So, Travis, you can take the first question.

Travis: How does the all-American Sonic Smasher—

Justin: Travis, could you wash—could you raise your hand?

Griffin: It's only nice—

Justin: Yeah, Travis. Travis! Travis! Go ahead.

Griffin: I'm stretch—do some stretching in my chair. It is not raising my hand, do not—

Justin: Travis, then Griffin!

Travis: Okay. Travis McElroy, Travis McElroy Times. How does the all-American—

Justin: Thank you, Travis.

Travis: Sonic Smasher differ—excuse me, Sonic Smasher TM, differ from the original Sonic Smasher TM?

Justin: I've asked you to stop saying your initials during your questions. That's unnecessary to watermark those.

Travis: I'm just trying to raise my SEO. I'm really trying to get brand awareness.

Justin: The all-American—great question, Trav. The all-American Sonic Smasher builds on the original Sonic Smasher by adding classic burger toppings; lettuce, tomato, ketchup and mayo, plus bacon and triple patty options. Both burgers are hand-smashed, they're made to order, and feature two patties made with Angus beef, melty American cheese, crinkle cut pickles, and diced onions. Griffin, what was your—you had something?

Griffin: Raise my... Jesus, man...

Justin: That's not necessary. This is a fast-moving thing, I need you to just go ahead. I already called on you, so, Griffin?

Griffin: Griffin McElroy, Yummy Food Times. What is included in the \$6 all-American Smasher Meal?

Justin: So, you do have an all-American Sonic Smasher, medium tots or medium groovy fries, medium soft drink or—

Griffin: They don't call them. They don't call them that.

Justin: Or—they do—medium—Travis?

Travis: Yeah, Travis McElroy, Washington Post. I actually want to circle back to my first question—

Justin: Oh, congratulations. [chuckles]

Travis: Thank you. I want to circle back to my first—the—

Justin: Never give up. [chuckles]

Travis: Getting my initials in there paid off. I want to circle back to the first question. You said that the new Sonic Smasher came with more toppings, but then listed all the topics that came on both of them, and it did seem to include everything.

Justin: So, your question is—it should be—I think your question, if you look—what's your question, Travis?

Travis: How long will the all-American Sonic—

Justin: What was your question you had?

Travis: [sighs] Ah... How long will the all-American Sonic Smasher TM and \$6 all-American Smasher Meal be available?

Justin: A limited time. Griffin?

Travis: How limited?

Justin: A limited time. I'm sorry, a limited time! [chuckles] We don't have any more information for you than that. Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah, sorry, I had my hand raised for a long time. You didn't call on me, so I—

Justin: No, thank you, go ahead.

Griffin: Hi, Griffin McElroy, CBS News. Is the \$6 all-American Smasher Meal available in the Sonic app?

Justin: Yes, the all-American Sonic Smasher and the \$6 all-American smasher meal are available in the Sonic app and online—at participating locations. I have one—time for one more, Travis. Travis, one more.

Travis: Yes, I have a question about the heat at which jet fuel burns?

Justin: [chuckles] Sorry, any other burger-related—

Griffin: He loses his turn, I get to do mine?

Justin: Griffin, yes, Griffin, what's your follow up, Griffin?

Griffin: Griffin—Griff—hey, everybody! Griffin McElroy, One American News Network. And I am here ask you—

Travis: [chuckles] Oh, boy!

Justin: [chuckles] Wow!

Griffin: Does the all-American Sonic Smasher replace the original Sonic Smasher?

Justin: So no, and this is why we've been so clear about—like, no.

Travis: I'm glad I didn't ask such a stupid question.

Justin: So the all-American Sonic Smasher ex—

Griffin: Excuse me?

Justin: Existing—

Griffin: Sorry!

Travis: I said I'm glad—

Griffin: Stop the answer! That journalist over there just said some mean shit about me.

Travis: That shit wouldn't fly at the Washington Post! Name questions like that. I'm out here trying to get to the truth!

Justin: [chuckles] Get that man out of here! Have him escorted out!

Travis: [yells out] I won't be silenced! I won't be silenced!

Justin: Taze him, bro! Taze that man!

Travis: I don't know what's going on with the Smasher!

Justin: It's just an expansion of the menu. Thank you so much—

Griffin: So you're saying I can go to Sonic and say, "Let me get a Sonic Smasher and an all-American Sonic Smasher?" That's unhinged.

Justin: [chuckles] I know, dude. That's why they had to do an entire press release with a Q and A to explain this unhinged shit!

Griffin: That's fuckin' wild, dude! Let me get—

Justin: No, man! It's a...

Griffin: "Let me get the new shit and the busted old shit that we all know was a mistake."

Justin: "For other countries! I want that busted old one that you would ship over to like China or something. You know, I don't want that good old American burger that you have. I want the good stuff."

Travis: That stuff John Cougar Mellencamp sings about.

Justin: Yeah. [chuckles] A little burger for Jack and Diane!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: You get it.

Justin: 'Ey! Thank you so much for listening to our podcast.

Travis: [yells out] 'Ey!

Justin: We really appreciate it.

Griffin: Must be the funny!

Justin: [yells out] Must be the funny! Wow.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: That's a new tagline, it just like... wow.

Griffin: Wow, man.

Justin: Sick.

Griffin: It definitely didn't use—

Travis: Characters welcome!

Griffin: It definitely wasn't a thing for like must see TV, NBC, like 1999. They definitely didn't parody that.

Justin: Nobody knows! Nobody knows.

Griffin: This is original—

Justin: Nobody knows .

Griffin: 2026 material.

Travis: [sings] It's unbelievable. Oh!

Justin: *Oh.* [titters]

Griffin: *Oh.* Cool.

Justin: That's good too, Trav. Did you write that?

Travis: I did.

Justin: That's good.

Travis: We've got new merch!

Justin: Yes, we do, Trav. Yes, we do.

Travis: We've got—[chuckles] "It's a good day for a fish to die" camo hat, which is absolutely wonderful. And a Miggy hoodie, designed by Bryn Dougherty. You can find—

Griffin: The hat is also Miggy related! If you've never watched like Clubhouse, you're probably pretty confused by the fact that we are selling an extremely Bass Pro Shops coded sort of piece of merch.

Justin: Yeah, but you should watch that show.

Griffin: Yeah, it kicks ass.

Travis: Yeah, it's good, man!

Justin: Now it's even less of a commitment, once a—once a month? You can't come watch our great show? I just did a whole thing about Avatar, explaining all the land fauna of Avatar for an hour.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You're not gonna watch that?

Travis: Bryn is @doughermouse on Instagram, spelled D-O-U-G-H-E-R-M-O-U-S-E, doughermouse, on Instagram. Check 'em out. Also, 20-Make-it-Stick sticker, designed by Lucas Hespenheide, @mooselybased on Instagram.

We've got the Candlenights video on demand, pay what you want, with all proceeds still going to Harmony House, you can check that out. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, which provides free immigration legal representation to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Griffin: Hey, we got bunch of streams, guys! We're streaming so freaking much on the McElroy Family YouTube channel. Like Justin said, last Tuesday of every month, at noon, we do McElroy Family Clubhouse. Every other Tuesday, the three of us get together and play video games for a show called Super McElroy Brothers.

And then like three times a week, we also go up and we do individual streams of us playing cool games and old games and weird games. And that's all if you follow @McElroyEntertainmentSystem on Instagram, you can get up to the minute updates on all of our gaming content. We're streaming so freaking much, so please watch it.

Travis: And just follow McElroy Family on YouTube, and you'll catch all the stuff there. A few more packages available for Champions Grove. Go to championsgrove.com, get them while they're available, and we will see you there.

Justin: I'm sorry, I just love this big picture of—

Griffin: It's the big, big burgers at—

Travis: Yeah, real—

Griffin: Hey! Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It's a—it's really a track that helps me center myself each morning—

Justin: When you're looking for something to throw.

Griffin: I got chapstick that's like—that's—I feel like it's helpful sometimes to use objects that like people know—are like familiar with the kind of heft of it. So, I'm gonna—

Justin: Make it stick, Griffin.

Griffin: I'm gonna take my headphones off—

Travis: Make it chapstick.

Griffin: So I can really go to the other side of the room and get a good chuck. So then like, you guys have like 10 seconds. You guys have like—like give me like 10 seconds and I'm just gonna throw it.

Travis: Can you give a big wind up too?

Justin: Maybe like a three, two, one?

[pause]

Travis: Should we be counting?

[thud]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin Mc—was it even on camera at all?

Justin: This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me!

Travis: Yeah, a little bit.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Kiss your dad square on the lips. [chuckles]

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

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