

MBMBaM 800: Platonic Soapbox Sex Coffin

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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 Tiberius McElroy.

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis 'Big Dog Vroom-Vroom The Rocket' McElroy.

Griffin: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, Griffin McElroy, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30 media luminary, fastball.

Travis: Whew, guys, it's episode 800 and I've got a big announcement, I've made a big decision.

Griffin: Well, I'm excited! Because we've got a real showstopper planned for—we've been buzzing for months about the big 800.

Justin: The big 800 that we realized a long time before now.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Hm, like October we started churning!

Justin: A long time!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We started generating ideas on big 800.

Travis: The numbers move sequentially, right? And like we knew we were doing like 795, 796, so like we definitely knew it was coming.

Griffin: Yes. And the facts—and the fact that we are always doing about 19 things at the same time did not stop us from remembering to recognize this important podcasting achievement, the 800.

Justin: The 800th episode.

Griffin: 800.

Justin: Yeah, the 800.

Travis: I just wanna—this is our 16th year doing it, and we're 800, which is a pretty good hit rate of—

Griffin: That's not bad, dude! It's not a bad hit rate.

Travis: I mean, that's 50 episodes a year. Pretty good.

Griffin: I feel pretty good about that. A little pat on the back for us working 50 hours a year. I think that's good stuff, guys, and we should be proud.

Travis: Hey, sometimes you go like an hour 15.

Griffin: Sure!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's true.

Travis: But I've got a big announcement, I—oh my god, I didn't think I would be so nervous, but... to celebrate episode 800—

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: I'm gonna do a face reveal. I think it's time!

Griffin: Yeah, right, Trav!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: The digital mask you wear is such a big part of your identity. It's on all the—

Travis: I know!

Griffin: Merch and stuff. You can't un—you can't take it off?

Travis: I've been working with a—

Griffin: You can't not be the Goober Man anymore?

Travis: I know!

Griffin: Your famous mask.

Travis: But I've been working with a face therapist.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: To help me, you know, recognize myself outside of the Goober Man mask, because like—

Griffin: Are we gonna see da Goober Man again after this? Or does this face reveal mean like da Goober Man is dead and gone?

Justin: This feeds really into the character.

Travis: I think the Goober Man will always be there on some level, you know what I mean?

Griffin: We're never—Juice, we're never seeing da Goober Man again.

Travis: You don't know that.

Justin: No, no, no, no, no—

Travis: Don't say that.

Griffin: I do know that. I've seen these things happen before in the past. Once people get a taste of people knowing what their face looks like, they get—

Justin: They love it.

Griffin: They love that shit.

Justin: They get beef—

Travis: The worry was—

Justin: Addicted to face guys. [chuckles]

Travis: I was starting to be more da Goober Man outside of like stuff than I wasn't, you know what I mean? There'd be times when I'd be sitting at dinner and like my children would call me Mr. McElroy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I'd be like, "No, it's da Goober Man, please."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You know? And then I was like, whoa, this has gone too deep. So—

Griffin: No, I mean, when you showed up for Christmas and you came in the door, and you were all hunched over and you kept yelling, "Pee-pee patrol," I was like, man, can we get one break from da Goober? Like, I miss Travis.

Justin: [chuckles] Or da Goob, as he—

Griffin: Da Goob, like—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Please, you're family! It's da Goob to you!"

Travis: It's da Goob!

Justin: And it's like, "All right, can I call you Travis, though? Or Mr. McElroy even—"

Travis: No!

Griffin: No, he wanted to be da Goober Man only.

Travis: "Goob me, bro!" I would say, you know.

Griffin: All right, well let's—enough fuckin'—

Justin: At 3:00 in the morning.

Griffin: Enough preamble!

Justin: Yeah, dude.

Griffin: Pee-pee petrol is over! Kill da Goober Man, let's see this bad boy!

Travis: That's my face.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: So my first—

Travis: What do you think?

Griffin: I guess my first—

Travis: What do you guys think?

Griffin: In my initial reaction—

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: My initial reaction, Travis—

Justin: Are the glasses prescription, I guess? [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: First of all—

Justin: That's where—

Griffin: Before we get into it, our reaction, how do you feel right now, Travis? Because I—

Justin: About your face.

Griffin: This must be a vulnerable moment for you and I want to make space.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah! What do you feel right now?

Travis: I feel very exposed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But I feel like I imagine other people—

Justin: Sorry, can you move the mic? Because I'm not—I'm not seeing the bottom—

Travis: Yeah, you're not getting the full—

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Project into it, because I do need to hear you.

Travis: You know—

Justin: I thought it would be a similar color, but it's—okay, huh.

Travis: The feeling of people like jumping into like a cold lake, which I've never done and will never do—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where it's like, "I feel alive." Like that's kind of a feeling I'm having now.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Although I am seeing myself now for the first time and realizing how much of my facial hair is gray and white.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But not at the mustache, which is like a dirty blonde.

Justin: So this is a face reveal to you as well. This is—this is a new—

Travis: Yeah, I've never looked!

Griffin: You've never—oh my god! So—

Travis: Yeah, I've never looked at it.

Griffin: I always—

Travis: Why are my glasses purple?

Griffin: I assumed, Trav—

Travis: What the fuck? Yeah?

Justin: You're indoors! [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, I know!

Griffin: I assumed that when we weren't doing the show, you didn't wear da Goober Man mask. But it sounds like you haven't seen your actual face flesh in quite some time?

Travis: No, well, what happened was, Griffin, these musketeers showed up—

Griffin: Move your mic back up, I can barely hear you.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, I can't hear you anymore, da Goober Man.

Travis: These musketeers showed up to where my evil twin brother had locked me in the goober mask.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And rescued me from the French prison that I was in.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: To take my rifle places Travis and free me from da Goober Mask.

Griffin: Okay. So that's the plot of Da Man and Da Goober Mask, is what you've just done.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Leo Capps was in that. [chuckles]

Griffin: Leo Capps was in that, he played Fartangen. And he was good.

Travis: No...

Justin: Da Goober—[chuckles]

Travis: Who was... what's that—that was Robin—

Justin: Wait a minute, are you telling me The Man in the Iron Mask is secretly a Three Musketeers joint?

Griffin: Yeah, they trick you, they don't tell you that.

Justin: Nice.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: But it's like—

Justin: That's cool.

Griffin: Yeah, it's like when you saw 10 Cloverfield Lane and you were like, "Wait, this is part of the Cloverfield ver—" Like it's that moment where it's like, oh, shit, it's big—it's bigger now.

Justin: It's weird how The Scarlet Pimpernel—

Travis: So what do you guys think of my face?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, oh, sorry, your face. Sorry, Trav. [titters]

Travis: Yeah, if you could rank it like on a scale of one to 10, where would you put it?

Griffin: What am I—

Justin: It's a—well let's—let's agree, third—[chuckles] Like if we're ranking, third, the face—

Griffin: Third, oh, yeah, let's—

Justin: Third. [chuckles] Third.

Griffin: The score is going to be great! The score is going to be great.

Justin: Yeah, it's great.

Griffin: It will be the third lowest score on the—

Justin: Third face.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: On the list. And we didn't do that, Trav. We didn't do the list.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: This date is coming in—

Justin: It's recency by a—

Griffin: This date is coming in—

Justin: It's recency bias.

Griffin: Real time.

Travis: It's vulture.

Griffin: I've got—

Justin: It's recency bias.

Griffin: My road dog, Nate Silver, sitting right by me.

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: He's pulling in the polling data—

Travis: On the big board?

Griffin: Live. He's interpreting—

Travis: Where was Da Goober Man on that list?

Griffin: He was also last, but way lower score. Because his mask—his face was bad. His face was bad.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like objectively pretty bad face. This is way better.

Travis: But I'm above him, right?

Griffin: "I like it. I like that face." That's Clarence from *It's a Wonderful Life*. I always thought that was a weird way to start that movie when they're like, "Here's the guy whose life you're gonna be saving," and he's like, "I like his face." Okay, Clarence—

Justin: "Will I be wearing his face, Lord?"

Griffin: No. [chuckles]

Justin: "No, Clarence!"

Travis: No!

Griffin: No...

Justin: No!

Travis: "I want to take his face off."

Griffin: "Joseph, I told you he was gonna do this. I told you he was gonna be weird."

Justin: "I think I'd like to make love to that pretty wife of his." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] No, Clarence, you can't actually—

Travis: Whoa, Clarence, no!

Griffin: You can't do that.

Justin: [laughs] "I'm gonna take his face... off."

Griffin: Mm-hm. Every time an a—

Travis: "Mrs. Bailey, would you like another flaming run and punch?"
"Please, let—just let us go!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Every time an angel nuts, a bell rings. And then a—and then some—"

Travis: Wait! Oh, so it's the other way around this time—

Griffin: "It's a transitive property, yes—"

Travis: Because normally, when the bell rings—

Griffin: "I like that face."

Travis: An angel gets its wings?

Griffin: I like—

Travis: That's horrifying.

Griffin: "I like that face." Anyway, what were we talking—oh, yeah, Trav... Eight.

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: And a half. You get a solid—

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: A solid IGN eight and a half.

Travis: So wait, where does that put your—if your ranking—if your score is above mine, what would you give your own face?

Griffin: Juice and I are neck and neck in a way where any type—right now, Juice—

Travis: We're not comparing necks, Griffin!

Griffin: Look at the comments! Yeah, yeah, yeah. Look at the comments, Juice is—Juice is the prettiest McElroy right now, I think that the comments all agree. And that's not like, I'm not, you know, I'm doing—

Justin: It's a lighting though, mainly.

Griffin: It's a lighting thing, but it's a—I mean, gosh, Juice, you have managed to harness—

Travis: Beautiful skin.

Griffin: You look great! I just want to tell you that—

Travis: Supple.

Justin: I don't want to do this.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Here's a question that's for you—

Griffin: You don't want to talk about how handsome you are, that's crazy.

Justin: "Dear brothers, my wife and I are at a—"

Travis: Yeah, you're just a—you're a handsome man that I would—

Griffin: Can Travis and I talk about how handsome you are?

Justin: I would rather—

Travis: If I wasn't related to you—

Justin: We're getting to a place where, no, I don't want to. But I will say this, "Dear brothers, my wife and I are at a concert for our anniversary. We're standing near the stage, and will be until the concert is over, so we don't lose our place. With three kids—"

Griffin: How?! Sidebar! How? How's everyone doing this?

Justin: How? How do they do that? How are you guys doing this without bathrooms?

Griffin: How do you do—how do you do—how do you piss and shit? That's crazy.

Justin: The choice spot for me is stage visibility, plus pathway to bathroom—

Travis: Balcony!

Justin: Plus pathway to refreshments.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Sitting down?!

Justin: This is what I need to triangulate that.

Travis: If I'm at a concert, by the way, and every—and I'm sitting down, and everybody like gets in the moment and starts to stand up, I've never felt more betrayed than my—than that moment.

Justin: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: It was like, "No, guys, but we all—"

Justin: "We just did this whole thing."

Travis: "I thought we all paid for this?"

Griffin: Now, when we fire up the old touring machine again, it pays off to get it close.

Travis: The Turing—the Turing machine.

Griffin: The Turing—yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yes, when—yeah, when we all take the Turing Test. Sorry.

Justin: So, "With three kids, date nights are rare, so we asked the woman standing behind us to take our picture to commemorate the occasion. We just looked at the picture, and it's maybe the worst picture of us ever taken. Zoomed out to point five, bad lighting, bad angle, the works. She took many pictures, and they're all terrible. We'll be standing by her for the next several hours. How do we get someone else to take our picture without alerting her to the fact that she did a horrible job?" And that's from Concert Pit Conundrum. I have an early thought—

Griffin: Go ahead.

Justin: This is untested by logic.

Travis: Please.

Justin: If I could just—

Griffin: Yeah, get it out quick! Because logic catches up to it.

Justin: Before logic catches up. If you befriend this woman, that's your best option. Because if you get in good enough with her that you could be like, "This is too good, I gotta remember—I gotta remember this. Stand with me and Janine over there." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Stand with us."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I want to get a picture with you. Not so close. You gotta be cropable."

Travis: Yeah, "It'll be like a funny one where there's like a gap in the middle where we can photoshop someone in."

Justin: Yeah! And you're like pretending like you're posing separately.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: But we're gonna have this jabroni over here take our picture.

Griffin: Point five is such a nasty trick. Point five is always like, "I'd love to get more of the scene in this picture." And then you take the picture and you look at it a month later and you're like, "This looks like shit. Why did I put

my kids in this weird fisheye Beastie Boys music video angle? This doesn't look good at all."

Travis: I think—

Griffin: They should know better just from that alone.

Justin: Yeah, I can't stand it.

Travis: I think you should just ask somebody else, because... she blew it. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, I think that maybe this is some constructive feedback via social interaction that needs to happen of like, "Hey, your photography skills are shit." And you're gonna pick up on that—

Justin: How would you do that, Trav? Go ahead. Go ahead, comedy man.

Griffin: Say that. Say that shit.

Travis: No, I'm not saying that!

Justin: Go ahead, chuckles.

Travis: I'm saying if you ask somebody else and she clocks it—

Griffin: And made the other person watch, say, "Pay attention. Learn."

Justin: "Watch this. Watch what I do here."

Griffin: "Watch this."

Justin: "Watch—you ever see a grown woman cry? Watch this." [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't... I'm not saying that there should be a mandatory test that people have to take once a decade, where they demonstrate basic sort of photographic—

Travis: Sorry, did you say to vote?

Justin: To vote. [chuckles]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah, this is my—this is my—

Justin: Griffin is not saying that. [laughs]

Griffin: Weird soapbox I'm gonna stand on. No, no—well, okay, so if we wanted to tie voting responsibility to this thing—

Justin: [chortles]

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: It's maybe not the worst idea in the world. In order to vote, you do need to take a once a decade—

Travis: Turing Test. [chuckles]

Griffin: Mandatory, 30 minute online—

Justin: Loyalty. [chuckles]

Griffin: Free—

Travis: Well...

Griffin: Photographing class.

Travis: Yeah, Myers-Briggs—oh, wait. Sorry, go on.

Griffin: No, photo—like photography.

Justin: Photographing class!

Griffin: Photograph—

Justin: This is the base skill that we need our—you know what, Griffin? Honestly, I want to like argue with you—

Griffin: See—think about it!

Justin: I want to argue with you, but like documenting through photography—[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: There's a vocabulary there that a lot of people lack. That's a good point, you know—

Travis: Like humanity.

Griffin: Five—a five minute—

Justin: We're a visual society.

Griffin: A five minute YouTube video about the rule of thirds will change your life. Five minute YouTube video of the rule of thirds... you're set, man. You really—I don't remember anything else from my college photography classes that I took for journalism school. I don't remember fucking—

Justin: Golden ratio?

Griffin: Who gives a shit? No one uses that. Rule of thirds, though!

Justin: Oh, that one's a good one.

Griffin: That's the best! And only one that you really need. It tells you exactly how much headspace to give 'em, exactly how to crop it. It's good stuff!

Travis: Do you guys have—I have a similar thing, to derail this a little bit, of like I took a film studies class and I remember one thing, and it's about the 180 rule of like people walking across screen—

Griffin: Yeah! Oh, yeah!

Travis: And it's that thing that I pull out when I'm watching a movie, and I'm like, "Hm... yeah, I really like the way they broke that—"

Griffin: Yeah, "Looks like they broke the plane." Yeah, I love that shit.

Travis: Yeah, "They broke that to show how discordant this is."

Griffin: I don't think I have gotten someone, a stranger, to take a picture of me and Rachel, I mean, since we have kids. Our journey—

Travis: You just make your kids do it?

Griffin: Our kids—yeah, god, that's—oh! That's good! There's something there—

Travis: Bebe does it! Bebe is incredible at it!

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: And Bebe knows she's good at it! She'll like, "You two get together, let me take a picture of you." I'm like, "Okay!"

Griffin: God, I love that for her—

Travis: And she's so good at it!

Griffin: God, that's so good. That will serve her so, so well.

Justin: Yeah, so—

Travis: She's like doing—

Griffin: Nurture that.

Travis: Angles and having pose in ways. And I'm like, "Okay! Thank you."

Griffin: We—Rachel and I are both blessed with pretty long arms. And now knowledge that when you press the volume up or down button, it does the shutter in photo mode. With those two things equipped, you can really get some pretty phenomenal pictures of yourself.

Travis: Have you guys ever been in a scenario where strangers volunteer—like, I was on a family trip. I was making like a selection of like selfies to build into a like album of like, here's selfies, exactly the same, of all the places the four of us have been.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: And a stranger saw this and was like, "Do you want me to take your picture?" And it's so hard to go, "No... No, I don't want that, actually."

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: "I would rather you didn't, because I've got a—I've got like a choice thing going here. And I don't know you. And one, I'm handing you—you're asking me to hand you my phone? I know a scam when I see one."

Griffin: People get so mad when they see selfie sticks out in the world, but it's like, have you done your once a decade photographing class that's online and free? I think so. I think you need to exercise your civic responsibility and vote, and buy the transit property, also take this online, free, mandatory photographing class that teaches you about the rule of thirds, and that the volume buttons do the shutter.

Justin: Depending on the show, there could be a moment. Like if you go to a Lou Bega show and you wait until he does Mambo Number 5, the other person is gonna be so in it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They're gonna be—it's gonna be rippin'.

Griffin: Your wife—

Justin: Like it's just gonna be—it's all gonna be joy. It's all gonna be pleasure.

Griffin: Your wife's name is Monica Angela Rita, and that's like, when that comes up in Mambo Number 5—

Justin: It's like such a big thing for you guys.

Griffin: Like, you want to capture that mo—that exact moment.

Travis: I bet that's confusing—

Justin: He actually wrote that lyric—

Griffin: About your wife.

Justin: As part of cameo for your wife.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I bet that's so confusing if you're at your first Lou Bega show and you somehow Mambo Number 5, and your name is Monica Angela Rita. And you're like, "Is he calling me on stage?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Am I supposed to go up there?"

Justin: That's such a—that's such a threadbare hypothetically for you—

Griffin: No, I like it! I like the idea of Lou Bega having a—one less lonely girl—[chuckles] call up where he's like, "All right, ladies—" Every time he gets on stage and he's like—finishes Mambo Number 4 and then he's like, "You know what the fuck's coming." And he's like, "And you know the rules, ladies. If your name is Angela, Monica, Rita—" Those are the only fuckin' three names I can remember. There's like 14 names in that god damn—

Travis: Sandra.

Griffin: Yeah, Sandra.

Justin: Citra.

Griffin: Citra. Yennefer.

Travis: Phoebe, Chandler.

Griffin: Lou Bega. Lou Bega. He says his own name. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He says Lou Bega.

Justin: He says his own name a few times. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [sings] "And when things are not going great, Lou Bega—"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [sings] "Lou, Lou, Lou, Lou, Lou-Lou-Lou-Lou, I had—" [sings] "For a month, it was Lou! Just Lou for a month! I broke my ankle in it was just Lou!"

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Sandra stopped by, but nothing got going!"

Justin: [sings] "Nothing got going, thought it would be Sandra. But Sandra wasn't feeling the leg thing."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [sings] "Lou-Lou-Lou-Lou-Lou-Lou-Lou-Lou." [chuckles]

Travis: [sings] "There's just a lot of Lous in—"

Griffin: The trumpet!

Travis: [sings] "In the spreadsheet I've built here, it's just a lot of Lous!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, no! [chuckles] So... yeah, there should be mandatory photography classes, and do—just do selfies.

Justin: That's it. How about another question?

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: "My husband just finished building a sauna room in our basement. It is awesome, and we would love to share the experience with friends. The problem is, the room is very small, about four foot by seven foot, half of which is taken up by the bench. So it would be—"

Griffin: I would argue that's fairly a pretty good size for a sauna, actually. I don't think it's that small.

Justin: "We don't want to fuck our friends—" Not that there's anything wrong with that. "So, is there a non-weird way to invite people to join us—"

Travis: That's a big blanket statement, by the way! Any of 'em?! Sorry, go on. [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah, just like listen. But that's not where they're at, okay? They want to invite people to this small, hot room in their basement without making it like a sex thing.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's from Sweaty in Suburbia. Now, the thing I do want to say before we get into it—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is that, as someone who has been on the other side of this equation—

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I would like you to please be... gentle with your husband when you were describing the size of the sauna. Because—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He worked very hard on it, and he probably knows it's not the biggest sauna in the world. So if you start talking about how hard it is to get a lot of people in the sauna—

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: That could be very hurtful for him, okay? I once made a deck in my backyard, and it was—and because of the size of the area that I was trying to account for, it is a very small deck. And some people think that my deck is kind of pointless. It's so small, there's no—there's no reason for me to have the deck. But I—

Griffin: I didn't say anything about your deck, did I?

Justin: I'm proud of—no—well... not with wor—

Griffin: Did I talk shit about—

Justin: Not with—

Griffin: I genuinely don't remember if I talk—

Justin: Not with words. Not with words.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: But I'm just saying that like, please find a delicate way of having these conversations. Maybe stick to words like "intimate."

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: Or... no, that doesn't really help your case, though—

Travis: No.

Justin: Does it?

Griffin: Yeah, that makes it worse. "Come into our intimate—"

Justin: Romantic.

Travis: Cozy! Cozy!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "28 square foot chamber."

Justin: Tiny, intimate—

Griffin: Hot.

Justin: Romantic, hot.

Griffin: Romantic?

Travis: Hot coffin!

Griffin: Nude.

Justin: Hot, nude.

Travis: [sings] Hot coffin.

Griffin: "Come into our hot, nude coffin."

Justin: [chuckles] "Our platonic, hot coffin."

Griffin: "Our plutonic soapbox sex coffin." [chuckles]

Justin: You know, it may—it may feel weird, because it is weird, friend. I don't know, you know? It's like—

Griffin: I don't know, man! That's pretty—

Justin: I don't know, man, it just—it may just like get weird, is the thing. Because like, some of it is not... huh. Some of it is not about the hang ups. Some of it is not about the things that you've been taught about saunas.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Some of it is about the reality of it. You're gonna get in there and it is gonna be like, "Well, what do we do now?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know?

Travis: That is—

Justin: It is gonna—

Travis: Yeah! Listen, as a man who's, let's say, lived with ADHD his entire life, anything that involves "and then we just exist in this moment."

Griffin: Yeah, that's—

Justin: Right.

Griffin: You gotta have an activity. You gotta have a little game. You gotta have something.

Justin: Gotta have something.

Griffin: Gotta have something.

Justin: A little ga—a little game, or a little game! Like, if you're gonna like—

Griffin: A little game or *a little game*. One of those two, for sure.

Justin: You know like, whatever! But you don't want that! You don't want the second one. Which is fine!

Griffin: Here's the—here's—

Justin: Like, what else are you doing in there, I guess is my question! It's gonna be boring! [chuckles]

Travis: You get a crab—

Griffin: Can—

Justin: Right?!

Travis: You get a crab boil going while you're in there. You're steaming yourself, you're steaming some crab. You know what I mean?

Griffin: That's pretty cool, actually. I like that. Put a—put 'em right on the coals.

Justin: What about this?

Travis: Oh?

Justin: What if you make a big deal talking to your friends about how you recently found out that you shouldn't do any sex stuff in saunas.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like it's actually dangerous, because the heat could act—you could—kill you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So like if you go into a sauna and—it can't be at all romantic or sexy, because you could die from that.

Griffin: Yeah. Here, can we actually, we could provide them a service. Just like, pretend like you're turning on the radio and then—but like play the next like 20 seconds of this show and—

Justin: Oh, that's good! Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: That's good.

Griffin: And then we'll put in like a news stinger, right? We'll give you some airspace.

Justin: Can I be—can I be the—I'll be the—I'll do the ads coming back. Half price, half price, half price, half price, half price shoes.

Travis: What a—what a specific reference.

Griffin: And then the stinger is gonna play in here, the news...

Justin: [sings a tune]

Griffin: We'll get a real—no, we have like—that's Roundball Rock. So that's John Tesh's Roundball Rock, they're not gonna play that before the news.

Travis: Okay, I got it. [sings] Down at the roundhouse!

Griffin: So they're gonna play—

Travis: [sings] When life gets me so down—

Griffin: We have—Rachel edits the show—

Travis: [sings] I know I can go down—

Griffin: Can put music—like a real stinger in here.

Travis: [sings] To where the music and the fun never ends.

Justin: Oh, okay, okay.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: No, well—

Griffin: Okay, so here we go—

Justin: Let me give you the—I'll do the thing—

Travis: [sings] As long as the music keeps playing—

Griffin: So don't start it yet! Start it in like a few—once we get it together.

Travis: [sings] You know what I'm saying.

Justin: Travis...

Griffin: Trav, you're gonna get us content struck for the theme song of—

Justin: I'm gonna do—I'm gonna do the ad, and then we'll come back.

Griffin: Okay.

[radio tuning sounds]

Justin: [sings] Tudor's Biscuit World is just like coming home.

Griffin: And this is where the stinger goes.

[news stinger plays]

Griffin: "Welcome back to Turbo News—[chuckles] this is Chet Flang. And today, we have a special report coming out of the industry of recreational health, saunas! If you do sex stuff in 'em, if some of the jizz gets on the stones, it'll kill you graveyard dead! That's from—that's from our lead researcher—"

Travis: "Yes, hello, that's me, the lead researcher, Dr. His Steamin'. Listen, we've studied countless couples in saunas, so many of them dead. We have so much blood on our hands. And you know what? We take full responsibility for that, for the good of the people."

Griffin: "Yes!"

Travis: "Don't! Don't sex in saunas!"

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Excuse—yeah, my name—my—yes, my name is Victoria Beckham, I'm from Nashville, West Virginia—"

Travis: "Oh, we've got a call in?"

Justin: "My name is Victoria Beckham, I'm from Nashville, West Virginia. I lost my husband, Daryl. He jizzed on the stones and then his face got all purple. And now he lives up in Jesus, with my brother, Simpleton."

Griffin: "So you heard it here, you four." [chuckles] "Don't—oh, wait, hold on, Dr. Steamin', a clarifying question. What if they promise really hard not to get any jizz on the hot rocks?"

Travis: "Any jizz in the air, jizz particles could still cause the problem. So it needs to be—"

Griffin: "What if they just do—what if they just do a little, it says here "hanky panky," but don't finish?"

Travis: "Even prejizz can cause—"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "My... my Daryl—"

Travis: "Freeform jizz can cause the problem."

Justin: "My Daryl was just—my Daryl was just shooting chalk dust out of there, and he still manages to kill himself."

Griffin: "Okay, Dr. Steamin', I need you to take a break, and I want to hear more from Victoria. You're saying that dust came out of your husband's penis after completion?"

Justin: "Like a—it looked like—it looked like one of those parallel bar gymnasts was about to do their thing, just a big plume of dust up in the air. And then it landed on the rocks and he—"

Griffin: "And that was enough to kill him, graveyard dead."

Justin: "It was only the particulate."

Griffin: "Okay. So what would you say, Ms. Beckham, to any quartet of two married couples who are maybe thinking about getting into a sauna and doing anything that might lead to any sort of discharge?"

Justin: "Just keep it all normal. Just keep it normal. Talk about—talk about friends, marathons, talk about chips you like. Just be normal in there, please don't—if anybody gives anybody the—even looks like an eye, or kind of a "huh," or they try to bring up La Seduction that they were watching on HBO, or anything like that, you get the hell out of there, okay? Prom—"

Griffin: "What now, what's that sh—what's that show, Ms. Beckham?"

Justin: "It's sort of an adaptation of— So, and Daryl brought it up—"

Travis: "Sorry, are you thinking of cruel—"

Justin: "Because he thought Daryl—"

Travis: "Cruel Intentions? Or—"

Justin: "Daryl brought it up because he thought he could bridge—Daryl brought it up because we watched it on HBO Max. I don't like things with subtitles, he does."

Travis: "Wait, when did Daryl die?"

Justin: "What?"

Griffin: "When did this happen?"

Travis: "Did Daryl die quite recently?"

Griffin: "Hey, I—hey. Hey, buddy—"

Justin: "Two weeks ago as the crow flies, if memory serves."

Griffin: "I'm the—I'm the anchor here. You don't ask the questions, Dr. Steamin'. Stay in your fucking lane."

Travis: "I'm just trying to figure out if Victoria's single or not, you know what I mean? Have you had time to grieve?"

Griffin: "I'm allowed to ask questions about other people's sort of—"

Justin: "You got time to grieve, you got time to clean. That's what my boss used to say."

Travis: "That's horrible." [chuckles]

Griffin: "That's really, Victoria—"

Justin: "It's the worst job i ever had."

Griffin: "Where was—put this place on blast."

Justin: "I'm there right now! I'm there now. It's at this Hardee's."

Travis: [in a deep voice] "Victoria, are you on the phone?!"

Justin: "I told you, this is my break! OSHA says I get a break!"

Travis: "If you have time to go on a break, you got time to clean!"

Griffin: "It sounds like he thinks this—sorry, can you put that guy on the phone, Victoria? Let's talk to your boss."

Travis: "Hey, it's me, Tom Hardy!"

Griffin: "So, Tom Hardy, I just want to check on something really quick."

Travis: "Yeah?"

Griffin: "If you're not—are you—is your suggestion that anytime you're not cleaning, is you have time to be cleaning during that?"

Travis: "Yeah! Even during cleaning, if you have time to clean, you got time to clean more!"

Griffin: "That's great, that's—why are you so interested in that? Like people need time to, you know—"

Travis: "Sin is everywhere!"

Griffin: "Okay."

Justin: "And that's all the time that we have for this evening! For Real News, I've been Victoria Beckham."

[news stinger plays]

Griffin: Wait, hold—wait, hold on—

Travis: "I've been Terry Gross."

Griffin: No, who am I? Hold on, wait, who am I? Wait, you were the anchor. Why did you become—

Justin: It took so long that she actually got a job as a co-anchor.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Because she's single and she—

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: Yeah. And she changed her voice.

Griffin: Okay, but this was turbo—this was Turbo News.

[new stinger plays]

Griffin: Gun to my head... get a gun to my head, \$200 held out in front of me, could not remember the name of the guy I made. That was a—

Travis: I think was Slang Johnson?

Griffin: That was a *long* run, guys. I am exhausted.

Justin: Well, get yourself together, Griffin, because it's time for us to go earn our—do our real job. We're gonna go the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Travis: I've decided to do a fun thing for this Money Zone. It's thematic. I thought we could do a thematic Money Zone.

Justin: Agreeing ahead of time too on the parameters, that's always fun.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Picture a place that is square.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Yeah? Do you see it?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now, picture your dreams there.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Picture your goals. Picture your future.

Griffin: How big is the square?

Travis: It depends on the size of the monitor or handheld device upon which you're viewing it, because I'm talking about Squarespace, baby.

Griffin: Okay. Oh.

Travis: It's a square space where you can put your ideas, your goods.

Griffin: That's cool, Justin's got a little square there he's trying—he's showing us. Show me your square, Juice.

Justin: It's just Squarespace.

Travis: Whoa, David Bowie! Where'd you get that shit from?

Griffin: Yeah, it's like a little plastic square. That's cool.

Justin: [sings] I need you to sell your fish food.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [sings] I want you to list your calendar appointment for me on the web!

Griffin: All right.

Justin: [sings] I have designers who've made templates like this for you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [sings] Reach out and grab them and then sell fish food online!

Griffin: This is a—this is a—this is a wild ride, guys!

Travis: Does it have to be just fish food, David?

Justin: [sings] You can do anything, you can blog about your dad!

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: [sings] You can post your pictures of Regis Philbin.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [sings] Whatever you want to do in your square! I've made the entire world for you in crystal, for your brother!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: What?

Justin: [sings] Just give me your brother and I'll let you make a fish food website—

Griffin: I want to be clear here, Squarespace is great, we've used it a lot to make a lot of beautiful websites that make us seem more professional than we are. I don't remember receiving a crystal at any point in this—in the transaction, in the service.

Travis: Did you give your brother?

Griffin: So, no, but they didn't ask. Is that like you have to type in, in the coupon code field, like...

Justin: You have to type in the coupon code field, "I submit my brother to the Goblin King."

Griffin: Yeah. And then he gives you a crystal and square.

Justin: He will give you a crystal. And that is like, I will say, it's a lot harder than—it's easier than Squarespace, in a sense, because like you just say the one thing, and then the Goblin King—

Griffin: And it's gone.

Justin: Pretty much takes it from there. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But in another sense it's harder, because it's not necessarily gonna be the website that you want.

Griffin: Right. [chuckles]

Justin: It is gonna—you know what I mean? [chuckles]

Travis: And it might change the dynamic of your podcast if you give away one of the brothers.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: 100%. Such a good point, Travis. [chuckles] The Goblin King will trade your brother for a website, but is it gonna have all the—are you gonna be able to sell stuff? You know what I mean? Are you gonna be able to—

Griffin: No! No! Because it's in a little crystalline square in your hand—

Travis: It's a crystal, yeah.

Griffin: No one's gonna get on there, man.

Travis: Do they have good Wi-Fi in the labyrinth? Will the brother still be able to podcast from there?

Justin: They don't know. I mean, these are the questions that the Goblin King Jareth isn't willing to answer. [chuckles] But Squarespace is, okay?

Travis: We need to get the Goblin King Jareth on Turbo News. They'll get to the heart of this!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: With their hard-hitting questions.

Justin: 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. I have been locked in—

Travis: Can I do my thematic thing?!

Griffin: Oh, you—

Justin: Oh, yeah, do you thematic thing.

Griffin: I didn't realize you had something to tie together, yeah.

Justin: I forgot, Trav. Do the second part.

Travis: Picture a square. Are you picturing a square?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: That you can put your adventures on, that you can put your loved ones on, that you can fill with memories.

Griffin: I'm pretty sure that it's rectangular.

Justin: [sings] Do you want this picture of your brother?

Griffin: Okay. So don't trade—

Travis: Jareth, I'd rather just have—

Justin: [sings] This picture of you and your grandmother at Six Flags!

Griffin: All right.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [sings] For this gem, give me your brother! And I will give you a gem that will show you pictures of your family.

Griffin: Okay, we could also just use Aura Frames instead of trading me for a picture of me on a little gem. I'm just saying, Aura Frames does this way, way better. And it doesn't cost me.

Travis: It means the world to me, Griffin, that you defaulted to Justin would trade you and not me. That means a lot to me.

Griffin: I think I'd be the easiest to trade.

Travis: Why? Why? Why do you think that? What makes you say so?

Griffin: I don't know.

Justin: Smaller.

Griffin: I don't actually—

Justin: Smaller, more compact.

Travis: Smaller, compact.

Griffin: I don't actually—I don't—

Justin: Easier to get in a trunk. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Probably.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: Jareth would have an easier time getting me up into the air on his broom than he would you. And that's not saying that—you're not—you're just like sort of built, you know? And I'm—

Travis: And I'm scrappier! I think you might fight it for a minute, and then you'd be like, "Okay."

Griffin: No, Jareth could absolutely beat my ass.

Justin: I've also seen Jareth like holding court with all the goblins. And like, the one thing I don't think that cat wants is somebody else pulling focus.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like it really, he seems to really enjoy just like holding court there.

Griffin: So anyway, Aura Frames!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Aura Frames is amazing.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Gang, these are quality digital picture frames. And what I really appreciate about 'em is that it's so easy to manage the photos on 'em. Instead of letting your photos just disintegrate in a group chat or some online group somewhere, instead of all that, why don't you put 'em in a beautiful Aura Frame? You just download the Aura Frames app, you can zip, zap, zup any of your pictures to the frames you've connected to. Get one for your gram—for grampy! Then get—put—do the app, and then you can put pictures on it so grampy doesn't have to.

Travis: You can get the fun experience I have, where I have the Aura Frame. And anytime a picture comes up before Dot was born, she starts to make plans of when we're going to go back to that place and recreate the photo with her in it. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's awesome, Travis. God, that's good. Your children are so powerful.

Justin: Charlie's watching TV, and a baby photo of hers popped up in the Aura, and I was looking at it and I said—she wasn't even really listening and I said, "Gosh, you remind me of the babe." And she said, "What babe?" And I said, "The babe in the photo." She said, "What photo?"

Griffin: Oh, man, you're so close.

Justin: And I said, "The photo on Aura."

Griffin: But then it fell apart, didn't it?

Justin: Then it fell—you said—

Griffin: You're so close, dude!

Justin: Actually, you saying it, you gave me the—it was you saying it—

Griffin: Oh, was it?

Justin: That actually ruined it. [chuckles] Because I had a really good—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, you had the whole thing?

Justin: Good one—good ending. And you actually—

Travis: [sings] Buy Aura Frames!

Griffin: Oh, I thought you were telling an actual sto—

Travis: [sings] Aura Frames!

Griffin: Sorry, I thought you were telling a real story of a thing that really, really happened between you and Charlie, and it almost organically became the bit from Labyrinth. But you're saying—

Justin: No, it was almost there, and I just couldn't—I couldn't stick it, honestly. Griffin, I couldn't—I couldn't do it.

Griffin: Yeah. So, Aura Frames is great, and we've, I think at this point, all of us have given them out. They're great gifts. Great gifts. But they're also nice to have around the home! We have one down in our living room, and it's always nice to just—

Justin: It reminds me of my house when my house wasn't blanketed in snow—

Travis: What house?!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: The house with the... the flower.

Justin: Named number one by Wire Cutter, you can save on the perfect gift by visiting auraframes.com. For a limited time, listeners can get \$35 off their best-selling carver matte frame with code "My Brother." That's auraframes.com, promo code "My Brother." Support the show by mentioning us at checkout. Terms and conditions apply.

Griffin: We're winning fucking that fuckin'—

Travis: So then we'll just—

Griffin: We're winning that iHeartRadio award this year.

Travis: That's what I was gonna say! We'll just clip that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Submit that. Boom.

Justin: That's the one. That will take up a large—I bet they typically will play the entire ad at the ceremony, but not this time.

Griffin: No.

Justin: No, no, not with this.

Travis: They'll play it at like 1.75 speed like everyone else does. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

[break]

Ella: Hey, Alexis.

Alexis: Hey, Ella!

Ella: What animal has the most teeth?

Alexis: I would guess a shark.

Ella: A snail.

Alexis: No, snails don't have teeth.

Ella: They have thousands! And they are freaky looking.

Alexis: No, I don't want that to be true, okay?

Ella: [chuckles]

Alexis: Did you know that the hippocampus in your brain is named after the half horse, half fish sea creature found in Greek mythology?

Ella: I didn't know that, but we're meant to be doing animal trivia, and hippocampus isn't a real animal.

Alexis: Well, that doesn't matter on Comfort Creatures.

Ella: You're right, it doesn't matter at all. [chuckles]

Alexis: Comfort Creatures is a cozy show for lovers of animals of all shapes and sizes, real and unreal.

Ella: If that sounds like your cup of tea, then join us every Thursday for new episodes on maximumfun.org!

[break]

Kumail: Are you a celebrity? Are you searching for meaning, connection and a little levity these days? Hi, I'm Kumail Nanjiani, actor, writer, and yes, a celebrity too. And I've got four words for you; Bullseye with Jesse Thorn. Are you tired of junkets? Red carpets? Sick of the endless spicy snacks you have to eat? Do you want to connect with someone who gets your work, and

laugh with you a little? Join me, André 3000, Tom Hanks, Tina Fey and many more, and become a guest on Bullseye with Jesse Thorn, from NPR and Maximum Fun.

[break]

Justin: [mouths the Haunted Doll Watch alarm sound] We got a Haunted Doll Watch.

Griffin: Oh my god!

Justin: This just came in across my desk.

Griffin: Oh my god, Justin!

Justin: Were you scared?

Griffin: I mean, it's just—

Justin: Are you scared?

Griffin: It's been a minute since I've seen a haunted doll around these parts.

Justin: Yeah, well, this isn't even a haunted doll, but we did have—I had a local connection on this one.

Griffin: Oh, shit?

Justin: So I felt like I needed to share it with you all.

Griffin: Yeah, let's see it.

Justin: One haunted item, piano key.

Travis: What?

Justin: Paranormal.

Travis: Like a single—

Justin: Unexplained.

Griffin: Like one—

Justin: Chilling haunted items. Eerie.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: That's the listing.

Griffin: And for sale is a P—is one piano key?

Justin: One—ahem, one—

Griffin: It was hard to find the noun in there to tell like what I was buying.

Justin: Yeah, so it's one—what you're buying is one piano key.

Griffin: Okay. Haunted.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: One piano key, haunted. Let me see if I can give you guys a decent visual to work with.

Griffin: Is it wearing a—

Justin: Of like one—

Travis: This is interesting because this is—this is such a good inversion, right? Of like try to figure out what's weirder, to buy a single key, or to have a single key to sell? Now, wait a minute.

Justin: You see what we got there?

Griffin: That's like 16—I'm looking at like 16 piano keys.

Justin: Yeah, but like you're buying one at a time.

Travis: They're all haunted.

Justin: Yeah, but you're buying—

Travis: By the same ghost?!

Griffin: Go to the next photo up, because I feel like we're looking at maybe even an entire piano's worth of keys, that are haunted. So that's 88, if memory serves.

Justin: Yeah, so he's like selling each key individually. Look, you could buy three for 6.99 a piece if you wanted to.

Travis: Is that parts of a single ghost?! Is it...

Justin: So you can get a deal.

Griffin: So you got—

Justin: You can get a combo deal.

Griffin: So we've got—

Justin: Why do you want more than one haunted key, pervert?

Griffin: No, I... okay, but like a piano that is haunted—

Travis: Is it individual ghosts?!

Justin: What?

Griffin: Let—one at a time.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: If a piano that is haunted like the one—

Justin: Let's say one at a time, and for sure not the guy with the list of all the words in front of him. One at a time, go.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, one at a time!

Justin: Not sure how to pick the priority, but let's start with Griffin.

Griffin: Are we talk—a piano is not a house for 88 ghosts.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: So true, dude.

Griffin: I guess that's sort of my starting point, it's—

Justin: So true.

Griffin: You can have one big ghost in a haunted piano that like tries to eat you up when the mouth goes up and down, like in Super Mario 64 or House. But the idea of, you know, the G and the F on the piano roll being ghost neighbors, that's not—that can't be true. Unless it's programmable—

Justin: I mean, you're trying to put—

Travis: And on each one is a different sound of "boo."

Griffin: Oh, that's cool.

Travis: And you can play like it, [sings] "Boo, boo, boo! Boo-boo-boo, boo-boo!" That'd be cool.

Griffin: No, there's no technology that would allow that, Trav.

Justin: You're putting a lot of human physical limits on these keys, I think. Like if you're a ghost, you just kind of figure it out, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, can I tell you—can—do you—

Griffin: I want to know more, yeah, for sure.

Justin: Okay. "Seven years ago, we purchased a used piano at CA House Music in Parkersburg, West Virginia."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So, we are—we are in our home state of West Virginia. If you don't know Parkersburg, it's a lovely place—

Griffin: So haunted.

Travis: It's where—it's where my friend Bobby was born, if that helps.

Griffin: It's where Bob was—

Justin: So if you know—

Griffin: You know Bob.

Justin: If you know Bob—you know Bob?

Travis: You know Bob.

Justin: So it's right... you know Bob. It's right up there, it's near Ohio. It's real close to Ohio.

Griffin: A lot ghost—ghost country, I call it.

Justin: It's ghost country. It's ghost country up there. North West Virginia. Anyway, "After having the piano delivered and tuned in our sun room, we noticed many random unsettling occurrences."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "They usually began once everyone went to bed late at night, we would randomly hear one of the keys strike. Immediately after, I would walk in to find no one or nothing in the room."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "This would also happen with the guitar if it was physically touching the piano."

Travis: Wait, what?

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: "This would also happen with the guitar if it was physically touching the piano."

Griffin: So anything that touches the—

Travis: The ghost would spill out?!

Justin: Right, the ghost would like—so this is like an interesting like asterisk on your question about the keys, right? Because if it's able to jump from piano to guitar...

Griffin: If it's able to do that, then what you get—what you do is you get a bunch of guitars, make a pathway connected all the way to the piano to the front door of your house. And once all the ghosts are in the last guitar, you sever the chain. Now you have one haunted guitar instead of 88 haunted piano keys. That's going to be a lot easier to manage, I think.

Justin: I would— "I would stay up late playing the guitar, leaning against the piano, and shortly after, I would hear the high E string picked one time."

Travis: As if the ghost is going, "You were playing the wrong string! This one! This one! God!"

Justin: Yeah, you—

Griffin: "Or this one."

Justin: The piano is like, "I can do that."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Why can't you play me? Just play me, please."

"After months of this happening a few times a week, I had convinced myself that maybe the strings were installed wrong, or had had a weak pin block or a rest plank."

Griffin: Yeah. That would all make it play itself, for sure.

Travis: And the guitar!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. I don't know why the assumption is that the piano is haunted, but let's read on. "Three months ago, I began to see things, objects and people in the room. I would get off the couch in the adjoining living room and catch a glimpse of someone watching me from behind the piano. Very creepy. The random key strikes became louder. Before this, they were faint key strikes. Now, they were forceful, loud, single notes, only one. For Christmas, I bought a family member a Ouija board. Their mother did not want it in the house, so I kept it."

Griffin: Okay. I think you—I think you knew exactly how that was gonna play—

Justin: Yeah, you knew what—you had a plan. "When I would come home early in the morning after a night shift, I would walk in the sun room to take off my boots before I go into bed. Four mornings in a row, the Ouija board was lying out on the piano. Nobody would admit to lying it there." So, we are to—I guess we're to assume that the piano is getting it out. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: To talk to people.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Use it on me!"

Griffin: "Come on!"

Justin: "Use it on me, please!"

Travis: "I got so much stuff to say! And I can only speak in A through G!"

Justin: "I tried to speak to the guitar, but all I could say was 'egg babe.'"

[group chuckle]

Justin: Okay, three—okay, "Three months ago, I started to see things and objects and people in the room. I would get off the couch in the adjoining living room and catch a glimpse of someone watching me from behind the piano. Very creepy. I looked in the same room to see someone sitting at the piano."

Griffin: Nice.

Justin: "I jumped up, snuck in the room, nobody was there. Thinking I was crazy, I got up, shut the sliding door, and I walked to the kitchen to get a Diet Coke. I walked back to the living room and the door was cracked open."
Griffin: [chuckles] Do you have a picture of the Diet Coke here—

Justin: "When I walked back in the room—"

Griffin: In the listing? A photo of the Diet Coke?

Justin: [chuckles] See if we have a victory in the offending Coke. Okay, that was it. Okay.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: No, no, no. "Thinking I was crazy, I slide the door, and then I walked to the kitchen to get a Diet Coke, walked back in the living room, and the door was cracked open. I then walked back into the room, and something pushed my shoulder and grunted. That was it. For the next eight hours, I tore the piano apart and threw it outside in my scrap pile for the dump." That's, yes, so that is what—let's see, yeah, this is what—[chuckles] You can see here—

Griffin: The scrap pile for the dumb, yeah. That's great.

Justin: There's a big pile of piano for the dump. There is the piano keys all torn up. And you can buy one of these, guys.

Travis: Eight hours?!

Justin: I read online that—yeah, eight hours.

Travis: It's not that big of a piano!

Justin: It's not that big off a piano. That is, yeah, eight hours?

Griffin: If my—

Justin: "I read online that bringing a haunted or spirit-attached item into a home, often via antique shops for secondary purchases, can introduce paranormal activity."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Including unexplainable noises, smells, cold spots—"

Travis: Especially if it's a copy of Paranormal Activity on DVD.

Justin: That's true.

Griffin: Ironically, very haunted, very quick.

Justin: "Days ago, I went out to the scrap pile and found a dead stray cat lying next to the cast iron frame of the piano."

Travis: [yells out] The piano did it!

Griffin: I don't know if the piano would—

Justin: No, listen. No, listen, guys! Listen—

Travis: It wanted to string a violin!

Justin: Listen. "Days ago, I went out to the scrap pile and found a dead stray cat lying next to the cast iron frame of the piano. It looked like it had frozen to death in the winter storm. I find it hard to believe it had nothing to do with the haunted piano."

Griffin: I mean—

Travis: You do?

Justin: I mean—I mean, it was—it was pretty cold. The pics posted, the piano and the door that would randomly be open or closed on its own. The door weighs around 100 pounds, it cannot slide open on its own. For the—if you give this as a gift, I strongly suggest you get permission.

Griffin: Your door is 100 pounds?

Travis: It's made of piano. Everything in the house is made of piano, even the guitar.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I just wanted to say, I—this seller—a lot of times when you read these, you get the sense that it's somebody who's like done a lot of 'em. This is not that. This is a person who I sincerely believe this entire story is accurate. Why do I believe that? Well, I clicked on their profile picture of the other items that they sell. Are you guys ready?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: For a real—okay. So, if you—I'm just gonna kind of slowly scroll down, if you guys—

Travis: Wait, before you click on it, can I point out my favorite thing about this entire listing?

Griffin: What is it, Travis?

Justin: Sure, yeah.

Travis: It's that if you buy one key, it's 19.99 each. But oh boy, oh boy, have we got a deal for you. If you buy four or more of these things, you're gonna save \$5! Then it's only 15.99 a key! These things are selling themselves! And playing themselves. Come on down and buy these keys!

Griffin: We are—we are looking to make over \$1,400 on this—on this one project. That's exciting for me as an investor.

Justin: It's a very good idea, and I hope it works out for them. So, let's take a look.

Griffin: What else do we got?

Justin: Share this tab. Okay, can you see?

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: All right, so guys, let's—

Travis: Huh.

Justin: We're not gonna—I don't—

Griffin: Oh, man.

Justin: I don't go down for these gendered categories, so let's just start looking at individual items. So what's the first—you start with the first item, and then you guys can just like kind of take turns describing what you see.

Griffin: Wowsers Bowsers, dude.

Travis: So, it is haunted. Haunted item piano key, paranormal and—blah, blah, blah.

Justin: Okay, so the haunted item is there. What else we got?

Griffin: Yeah, we love that. We also have a lot of four Tom and Jerry/Looney Tunes Welch's jelly glasses, year 1990 to 1994. That's 25 bucks, that's actually—

Travis: Classic!

Griffin: Pretty fuckin' good for—

Justin: Yeah, Trav.

Travis: If those were available, I remember us having those.

Griffin: And then—

Justin: What else we got, Trav?

Travis: Ballistic armor kit, one neck collar, one groin protector, one throat protector.

Justin: Griffin?

Griffin: That's good. As long as you protect your neck and your groin and your throat, that's—you should be good. Small red apple trinket box/hinged magnetic lock jewelry box keepsakes.

Justin: Next up, we got four—

Travis: [yells out] Alan Jackson! Greatest hits, volume two!

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: Cassette tape, brand new, sealed.

Griffin: 10 bucks for—

Justin: Griffin?

Griffin: The Alan Jackson—we got a Disney High School Musical jersey.
[chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Size large!

Justin: Travis!

Travis: Sure fit—

Justin: Travis!

Travis: Love seat, stretch, slit cover!

Justin: Griffin!

Griffin: We got a charcoal, smoker box, stainless steel, nine by four!

Justin: [chuckles] Travis!

Travis: Vintage, hyper freak show, fat boys, inline skate wheels! [chuckles]

Justin: Griffin!

Griffin: These are vintage hyper freak show fat boys wheels?!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: A 5-11 men's tactical jacket, medium, light gray, fleece lined, front zip pockets.

Justin: Travis!

Travis: Well, then we got, what is that, a 5-11 men's tactical jacket, and we—

Griffin: I just did that.

Justin: Oh, you lost interest, didn't you, Travis?

Travis: Fox, mini, jeweled, pewter trinket box, wildlife, décor, small jewelry box!

Griffin: Got a single curated pod drip tray.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: This person really—

Travis: Huh...

Griffin: That's a lot—that's a lot of different kinds of stuff!

Justin: It's a lot of different kinds of stuff. So, I think I believe the story. I believe in this haunted piano. And here's all I'll say, I'm not buying any of these, but you could pick 'em up for 20 bucks a pop. So, I would love it some of our listeners could—[chuckles]

Travis: Or 15.99 if you get in bulk!

Griffin: Or 15.99 if you want to get—

Justin: Yeah, buy in bulk!

Griffin: A deal, yeah.

Travis: I just think it's really sad, this story of a stray cat that used to sneak into this woman's house, or this person's house, I don't know, they used to sneak into this person's house, walk on the keys. And then when the stray cat saw that the piano was dead, notebooked itself right next to the piano and said, "I too shall die with you."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] "I miss you, friend."

Travis: I think that's beautiful.

Justin: "No more while I the high E string on the guitar."

Travis: How about another question?

Justin: "Recently, my landlady stopped by to assess a problem I have with my washing machine. While making casual conversation, she mentioned that she's in massage school and is required to give free massages to family and friends for her certification. I desperately want a massage after shoveling snow from the recent storm and because of recent work stress, but my partner thinks it's weird to get one from our landlady. Brothers, is that weird? If not, how do I go about asking her if she's willing to give me a massage?" That's from Stressed in Silver Spring.

Griffin: God, I feel you. Update.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Update. All the hardware stores in D.C. are sold out of everything anyone could ever conceivably use to combat snow. So, I was not able to

acquire a pickaxe. Instead, my attention was drawn by the employees at the hardware stores to just get a big claw hammer, and you can smash the ice. So, that's me in my front yard for like 45 minutes yesterday, smashing ice apart with the backside of a claw hammer on my hands and knees.

Travis: Do you feel good?

Griffin: Like a real doofus. It doesn't look cool, it doesn't feel cool. It feels bad on the body. So, I sympathize very much with you, friend in Silver Spring. That said... I don't know if you can ask your—I don't know if you can ask your landlord for a massage.

Travis: I think you missed the window for it to be casual.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: If the moment when the—

Justin: Because then it's like I've been thinking about it. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah! If the moment the landlady had said like, "I gotta give massages, you know, to practice." And he said, "Oh, I'd love that. Man, I'm in so—" Right then, natural—

Griffin: Right then is fine!

Travis: Part of it, it's great. If later you're like—

Justin: "Sign me up!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Hey..."

Griffin: I don't want to—

Justin: But-but-but-but-but! Okay, but—

Griffin: But-but-but-but-but!

Justin: But how the fuck are you gonna do that kind of calculation on the fly? I can't do that kind of fuckin' mental math! You know what I mean?

Griffin: Oh, you'd have to be a fundamentally different—

Justin: I don't have a beautiful mind! I can't like—

Travis: You'd have to be this guy!

Justin: Do all the different fractals!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? I can't do that!

Griffin: Yeah. Travis can.

Travis: You just gotta hone your brain, Justin.

Griffin: Hone your—[chuckles] hone your brain.

Travis: Just hone your brain!

Griffin: Hone your brain and ditch your shame, bro.

Travis: I just, the answer is to speak before you think. That's what I do and it works out great.

Justin: Yes, but like—yeah, but no. I mean, we have equal numbers of questions being like, "Brothers, why did I say this? What the fuck is wrong with me?"

Travis: Oh, yeah, no!

Justin: "Why did I run my big stupid-ass mouth?" [chuckles]

Travis: It's not great! But occasionally, I get free massages! I don't know what to tell you. [chuckles]

Justin: Travis has had a lot more massages than I have, to be—to be—

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: That's—yeah! I mean, he's—

Justin: Empirical about it. [chuckles]

Griffin: He's figured it out. I feel like—I don't want to do anything to push any kind of stigma on massage therapists and their craft—body work, I think it's—I think it's all wonderful.

Travis: And needed.

Griffin: My hang up is that it's your landlord.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And to me—

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: That is an orange juice and pizza kind of combination. I feel like it introduces a social dynamic that I don't think anyone is really capable of unpacking and processing.

Travis: There's a deeper level here that is the reason I would say no, is I don't want to be somebody's practice person for things like this.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Travis: There's a reason they said friends and family! Because those people are fine with it not being great—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Right away. You gotta practice.

Justin: Yeah, but like then pay for one.

Travis: If you need a massage—

Justin: Then pay for one!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Then pay for one. Then pay for one.

Travis: If the landlord gets in there and you're like, "This is nothing."
[chuckles] Or it's like, "Well, it's worse."

Justin: You think it could be worse? I guess it could be, right? I mean, if you can make it better, there's got to be some bad rubbing. [chuckles] They could break it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah, right?!

Justin: Right? I guess.

Travis: "I'm gonna try twisting this!"
"Ow!"

Griffin: "Ow. No."

Justin: "Ow!"

Travis: "Oh, okay, yeah, no, no, no."

Justin: "Is that a good ow or a bad ow?"
"I don't know!"

Griffin: "I don't know. You're the professional!"

Justin: [chuckles] "You're the professional!"

Travis: "I'm gonna bop it!"

Griffin: I—

Travis: "I'm gonna try bopping it."

"No, bop it!"

"I'm gonna flick it?"

"Don't flick it!"

"What do I do?"

"Rub it."

"That wasn't part of the game!"

Justin: I think it's hard because your body sends you pain messages to tell you to punch. And if you tell it like, "No, body, this is good for you." [chuckles] And you don't know that your body might not trust you anymore. What if you're wrong and it's actually bad for your body? Your body will be so betrayed.

Griffin: "Was that the fucking Five Point Palm Exploding Heart Technique? Don't do that on me back there."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Don't do that. Why'd you do that? My heart's..."

Griffin: "I got five steps, though. That's my loophole."

Travis: "Would you carry me out to my car?" [chuckles]

Griffin: "Carry me out to my car."

Justin: "Put me in the trunk."

Griffin: Yeah, you missed your window, sorry. We can't help.

Justin: Sorry...

Griffin: We can't help with a lot of these. We can't help with this one. But—

Justin: Yeah. That's tough—and that's hard for us, honestly.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It's tough.

Justin: If you think that feels good—[chuckles] you're wrong. Like, it's tough for us too.

Travis: Nobody ever talks about how hard it is on us to not help you. To not do a good job to know, ah—

Justin: Yeah, we'd love to be helpful. It's just not—

Griffin: I'd love to.

Justin: It didn't come together this time. You know?

Griffin: But check—but check this out, check this out. The reluctance that got you into this situation, also, I want you to recognize, serves you well in a lot of other situations. You're not jumping into the thick of it and just saying, you know, "I'll take a—I'll take a massage, thank you," without thinking about it first. That behavior also I think is gonna—it'll ser—it'll pay off in the long run.

Justin: Pay off in the long run.

Travis: You're welcome.

Justin: It's just a lifestyle that's too late to—

Griffin: You took the L this time. You took the L. Don't change your life.

Justin: You'll get 'em next time.

Griffin: Or you won't, but the—it's all—it's about the long game.

Justin: It's a long—it's a marathon, not a sprint. Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. [chuckles] I want to tell you about some new stuff in the—in our merchandise store. If you head on over to mcelroymerch.com, we've got a "it's a good day for a fish to die" hat. And there's a Miggy hoodie designed by Bryn Dougherty. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month are going to be donated to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, which provides free immigration and legal representation to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Griffin: Hey, we got some projects we're doing on YouTube. First of all—

Travis: Dark, dark projects!

Griffin: No, they're cool projects.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Pretty much every Tuesday at noon, we play video games together. We just started playing *RV There Yet*, which is a real—a real silly one. Had a lot of fun doing that one. The last Tuesday of every month we're also doing McElroy Family Clubhouse, that old chestnut. And then also throughout the week, we're doing solo streams of us playing games. Justin's been playing the Steven Spielberg movie director game on the—what if—what system is that on?

Justin: Steven Spielberg's film director game.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: The game. Steven Spielberg's a movie genius.

Griffin: Travis does *ADHD Detective*, plays mystery games. I do *Trial by Fieri*. Doing a one hit randomizer of *Majora's Mask* on Friday. So, just go

follow McElroy Entertainment System on Instagram, and you'll be updated anytime we do any of our gaming content.

Travis: We also have, over at championsgrove.com, we got three packages left. That's coming up in May. Come hang out at a castle in Hocking Hills, Ohio, play games with cool people. Talented guests like Krystina Arielle and Haley Whipjack and a bunch of other folks. Check it out at championsgrove.com. We'll see you there!

Griffin: Hey, it's almost one month to the day also until my Choose Your Own Adventure book, *The Stowaway*, comes out.

Justin: Whoa!

Griffin: You can pre-order it now. And in fact, I would hugely appreciate if you would take a—take a moment to do it. It's 10 bucks. 10 buck paperback—

Justin: Come on!

Griffin: Come on. And it's a fun story! And it's a—it's age appropriate for younger readers, which is not something—not usually a color we paint with. It's not on our palette often. But—

Justin: Is it my turn to throw something?

Travis: Oh, no, it's my turn!

Griffin: [Bit.ly/griffinstowaway](http://bit.ly/griffinstowaway)—

Travis: I've got the perfect thing.

Griffin: You can go and preorder that, it comes out March 10th. And go ahead, Juice.

Justin: I was gonna try to throw this plastic thing because—

Griffin: Oh, yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! I thought—

Justin: It's an SD card holder. I thought maybe—it's got little hooks on it, so I thought—

Griffin: Is that your crystal gem?

Justin: Yeah, that's my crystal gem. I thought maybe if I threw it at the acoustic foam, it might like stick to it.

Travis: It's not gonna make a good sound, though?

Griffin: Oh, that would be sick!

Justin: It would be sick.

Griffin: The sound won't... Really hum it. Stand up! Don't throw sit—we—can we promise each other to never throw sitting down? Hum that shit.

[thud]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy. It didn't stick. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah! I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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