

## MBMBaM 807: Riding in Floors with Boys

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**Intro (Bob Ball):** The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a 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 music plays]

**Justin:** Hello, everybody. Welcome to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** What up, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog" "Woof-Woof" "Vroom-Vroom" "The Heater" award-winning McElroy.

**Griffin:** And you already know what it is, Trav Nation. It's me, your sweet baby brother, Griffin "30 Under 30" media luminary... award-winner McElroy. Saying "award-winner" in there when I'm already saying another award I won, the 30 Under 30 media award...

**Travis:** Awards-winner?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Awards-winner is maybe a cleaner way of doing that, McElroy.

**Justin:** Welcome to our show. We hope you are having a great, great week. Guys, what's been happening? [laughs]

**Griffin:** Damn, man. I was about to say, I guess Mr. Bean's not out here making any new Netflix series to speak of whatsoever. I guess Timmy Chalamet hasn't said anything silly and injurious to his career lately, 'cause I've—

**Justin:** Oh, no, we didn't talk about Timmy Chimmy.

**Griffin:** We did! We talked about Tim Chim, for sure.

**Travis:** We did!

**Griffin:** We definitely had a *whole* ten-minute intro about Tim Chim.

**Justin:** Did we talk about Timmy Chimmy?

**Griffin:** We did do a pretty extended Timmy Chimmy [crosstalk].

**Travis:** About ping-pong man, yeah.

**Griffin:** A lot of the times, we just barrel into these, and it's like, "Oh, that's right."

**Justin:** We don't leave anything for *us*. Don't leave anything on the bone.

**Travis:** You know how, last week, Justin took a bold stance and said that Easter candy was the best candy?

**Justin:** Uh-huh? Has the email been blowing up, are people freaking out?

**Travis:** Oh, yeah. All over the place, just full agreement.

**Griffin:** Gun to your head, right now, what is the login for our email address? I guarantee none of us know it. I guarantee you we—

**Travis:** I know it, but I'm not gonna say it out loud.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Can you guys give a little space for me to make a bold statement?

**Griffin:** I guess so.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I believe the time has come – it's been 30 years – to try again at *The Phantom*.

**Griffin:** The Phantom superher—

**Justin:** I can't do— Travis?

**Travis:** The Billy Zane.

**Justin:** You have pounced on us, in a moment of weakness, to monopolize this show to talk about Billy Zane's *The Phantom*?

**Travis:** In the year 1989, *Batman* by Tim Burton came out. And all the studios said, "We need to get on this right now." The first to the gate? *Dick Tracy*, 1990.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** 1991, *The Rocketeer*.

**Griffin:** Yeah. So all that old shit.

**Travis:** 1995, *The Shadow*. 1996, *The Phantom*.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Before and after its time, somehow.

**Griffin:** Yeah. The golden age of radio really had a, if memory serves, not great run at the cinemas.

**Travis:** Correct.

**Justin:** Right.

**Griffin:** Most of those films you described, they did go way, way down—

**Justin:** It was a bunch of guys who remembered it from [holding back laughter] when they were kids, greenlighting it, thinking that today's kids are gonna love it, but it's all busted and dusty.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "Is this one gonna be our *Batman*?" they said. And the answer was no.

**Griffin:** They were— It was a sort of run of stories about wealthy men who punched other men, and that made them worthy of a cool superhero nickname.

**Travis:** Yes. So—

**Griffin:** And America said, "I don't get it. What's Billy Zane's powers, even? Is he strong? Mm, no."

**Travis:** He punches.

**Justin:** No.

**Griffin:** He punches, he's—

**Justin:** He punches, and this is something that people forget about, an advantage that The Phantom has over Batman. He does not have any superpowers.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** He's just a long line of crime-fighting folks. No superpowers. What he does have that Batman doesn't have: two guns.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And they're not magic guns.

**Travis:** No!

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** They're two [laughs] normal guns. They're not even the same guns. It's two...

**Griffin:** Different.

**Justin:** Just two guns... [laughs]

**Travis:** Two guns.

**Justin:** ... that he had. Like, it's a revolver and a pistol. And he just said, "I guess I'm a superhero now!"

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Justin:** And he runs around in a mask, and he's like, "Hey."

**Griffin:** And I don't see why this era of film and radio is behind us.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** 'Cause that's still a message that's like—

**Justin:** It was— This is a beautiful message.

**Travis:** He also had a ring.

**Justin:** [through laughter] Okay.

**Travis:** With a skull imprint on it.

**Justin:** So it was romantic too. There's a romance angle.

**Travis:** When he punches someone with his skull ring, it leaves a skull imprint on their face.

**Griffin:** Yeah. So he— He's out there, shooting, and fuckin' out there mushroom-stamping fellas who are criminals. And then he's like, "Damn. I guess I'm The Phantom now."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** "Stop calling me my normal name, Billy."

**Travis:** And here's the best part of this 30-year-later reboot. Part of The Phantom, right, is that he can commune with his past Phantom relatives.

**Griffin:** I don't know that.

**Travis:** So when the Billy Zane one, the ghost of his dad shows up, you can have Billy Zane show up as the ghost of *his* dad.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And The Phantom in this one's gonna be played by *Lucifer's* Tom Ellis.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** Wow. Wow. Wow, bold.

**Griffin:** We flexible on that?

**Justin:** Bold.

**Travis:** No.

**Griffin:** Got any wiggle room? We got any wiggle room there?

**Travis:** No.

**Justin:** You got any wiggle room?

**Griffin:** Oh, no.

**Travis:** Bill Hader's gonna play the villain.

**Justin:** Oh, wow!

**Travis:** Xander Cage, I think is his name?

**Justin:** Are you— Are you—

**Griffin:** *Xander Cage?*

**Justin:** That's from *XXX*. So I'm certain you're not [crosstalk].

**Travis:** You are correct. It's something like that.

**Justin:** [laughs] Xander Cage is 100 percent—

**Travis:** Xander Drax?

**Justin:** It's— What?

**Griffin:** It might be Xander Drax.

**Justin:** So Travis, are you in the scripting stage? Do you have an outline? What are you needing from us?

**Griffin:** Do you want our approval? Are you looking for money? What's the—

**Justin:** Do you want us to tell you to stop? I could do that too. I could provide that service.

**Travis:** I guess I'm just looking for support and... money.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I do need, if you guys would invest, let's say 50 million each, I think that would be enough to get us started.

**Justin:** Um... Hmm. Well, do you have any wiggle room on the lead? 'Cause it's nobody I or anyone else—

**Griffin:** Or the money?

**Justin:** Or the money.

**Griffin:** Do you have either a little wiggle room on the lead, or a lot of wiggle room on the money [crosstalk]?

**Justin:** And Griffin, I don't wanna get too bad.

**Travis:** You can get more money, if you want.

**Justin:** I don't wanna get super heavy here, Trav. What if— The character. Do you have any wiggle room on just a different sort of—

**Griffin:** On the character?

**Travis:** You're thinking two Phantoms?

**Griffin:** And I guess sort of just to do a big, broad scope—

**Travis:** Twin Phantoms?

**Griffin:** Big, broad scope here. Do you have *any* wiggle room on the idea? On the—

**Travis:** You're thinking, just go ahead and lock the trilogy down?

**Griffin:** No, I'm saying like the *whole* idea of it here—

**Travis:** *Oh*, you're thinking a Shadow/Phantom crossover.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Yeah, we could do that.

**Griffin:** "I'm The Shphadow."

**Travis:** You wanna play The Shadow?

**Griffin:** "I'm The Shphadow, and I have four rings, and I have nine guns. I can tell when people are lying, and when I punch them, it leaves a little skull."

**Justin:** I don't wanna do the powers. I want classic Phantom, no abilities, a man with guns and a mask. And a dad that told him he had to fight crime, or else—

**Travis:** Bag of gems, a wolf, a horse. He had a nickname, The Phantom.

**Griffin:** The Phantom had— The Phantom was his nickname.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** No. The Ghost Who Walks.

**Justin:** Sure. That's—

**Griffin:** Oh, that's cool.

**Justin:** So on his birth certificate, it says The Phantom?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** The Phantom doesn't have an alternate name. His dad said, "We all fight crime. And you have to, my dad did, and his dad did. And we've all done it for 500 years. I don't know how we keep having kids, [wheeze-laughs] finding the time for that, but we are doing that."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "You are gonna need to do that, though, son. It's really important that you get up there, and—"

**Justin:** "Yeah. You do need to actually have an offspring. You gotta have a kid to Phantom after you. [laughs] That's a big part of it."

**Griffin:** It sucks. It's like, guaranteed you're gonna be bad at being a father. Like, guaranteed.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Justin:** Guaranteed.

**Griffin:** 'Cause as soon as you create life, you then now grab that ring, grab those two guns. You're Phantom now.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Can't be there for baseball games.

**Travis:** And that cool thing would be if you would be able to survive until your son reaches adulthood. But there's no guarantee on that one.

**Griffin:** Hasn't happened yet.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Hasn't happened so far.

**Justin:** "You never met your grandpa, and that's pretty common."

**Griffin:** "Or me!"

**Justin:** "Or me. [laughs] Hi."

**Travis:** I wanna see—

**Justin:** "Hi, this is a diary entry [laughs] you're reading."

**Griffin:** "The reason you're so scared of me, a ghost right now, is because you don't have any awareness of who I am. I'm your father. I helped make you. I conceived you."

**Justin:** [laughs] "We barely have enough time to have a kid. We Phantom for like 18 months [laughs] and then we usually get killed. That's usually the way it shakes out."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Justin:** “We impregnate someone. We get to be The Phantom for 18 to 24 months of solid crime fighting.” ‘Cause you gotta make sure— I don’t think you can get out there and be The Phantom unless you have a bun in someone’s oven, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You at least need—

**Griffin:** Absolutely. It’s in the contract, yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, you can’t get out there and start dodging bullets unless there’s someone ready, or cooking, to [through laughter] take it up.

**Griffin:** Yeah. But also guaranteed in the contract is that you do get at least 18 months of being alive after that. The bad guys know to take it a little bit easy. And then after a year and a half, maybe all of a sudden they stop pulling their punches, or they crash a big biplane into your biplane.

**Justin:** That’s when we lose the most Phantoms, Griffin, is that transitional phase when we get into the lethality.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. But you do get your 18 *good* months of being The Phantom.

**Travis:** If you’re a criminal who goes up against The Phantom, I bet the inconsistency of when The Phantom appear— ‘Cause it’s like, yeah, for 18 months, The Phantom was everywhere. And then 17 years passed, no Phantom!

**Griffin:** No Phantom.

**Travis:** And then *suddenly*, there's this Phantom again.

**Griffin:** Yeah. No one believes him. No way. If you're a bad guy, you can probably get a lot of leniency. Basically any time you see The Phantom, you can congratulate him on their child.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** 'Cause they are under two years old, or perhaps not even born yet. Like, "Hey, congrats. The fact that you are here now, talking to me, punching me with your strong ring, means only one thing. You have either conceived life, or are a new father. And I'm proud of you. Congrats."

**Justin:** [laughs] Every Phantom is fighting with the ferocity of a father-to-be, [laughs] because they barely had time.

**Griffin:** They are. They are.

**Justin:** Yeah, there's something to fight for.

Do you think, though, when Phantom— Guys, I feel like Phantom is two degrees off from the worst manosphere nonsense. He *does* have a bloodline, right? "No, my dad's genetic material is proven to be crime fighting—" Like, gross.

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** He's the chad who walks! [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah. [laughs] The chad who walks!

**Griffin:** Diaper— [laughs]  
[clapping]

**Griffin:** “Diaper changes? I don’t really do that stuff.”

**Justin:** “No. No, no, no. It’s called punchmaxxing, so I punch you, but you take it with the ring. So... it’s like, the more forces in it.”

**Travis:** “And I leave an imprint with the skull. And yeah, those are perfect cheekbones.”

**Griffin:** Yeah. I tell ya, I do like the ring though.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I tell ya, I do like it. From a toyetic standpoint, we are— The nerd ring market is quite stale. We’ve *all* got our green ones.

**Justin:** Our dad has bought us all the different Green Lantern ones there are.

**Griffin:** That there is.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And Phantom, in the reboot, it could be like maybe there’s 12 different skull rings.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** And they’re made of different metals, and they different— Give him power.

**Justin:** Flash ring with the costume in it. Got a few of those.  
This is an advice show. And a lot of people like to forget that when it’s convenient for *them*.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** But I'll never— I'll never forget.

"I am a fifth-grade teacher at an elementary school. Once a week, our custodians drive a floor-cleaning Zamboni through the hallways. At the start of the school year, one of our custodians offered to let me drive it. I got very nervous and drove only about three feet forward before stopping abruptly and awkwardly mumbling, 'Thanks,' as I hopped off. For the last six months, I've watched with longing every week, and wished I could have the chance to redeem myself. I feel prepped to go farther and faster than before. [chuckles] Brothers, how do I get offered a turn to drive the hallway Zamboni again without seeming desperate?" That's from *Fast and Floorious in Florida*.

**Griffin:** I have to imagine this is a holdover from last year, when we were telling everybody to hit that 20' Thunder Drive [crosstalk].

**Justin:** Yeah. But this is a really good opportunity, though, to Make it Stick.

**Griffin:** True.

**Justin:** Because now, you're gonna take a second shot at this Zamboni driving. There's gotta be a different— There's gotta be a name for this.

**Griffin:** There's gotta be a different name for it.

**Justin:** Gotta be a name for the floor Zamboni mopping machine. Rideable mop? That sounds wrong. [wheeze-laughs]

**Griffin:** What about a Zoomba? Like a Roomba that you zoom on?

**Justin:** That's already— [wheeze-laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, that's already taken.

**Griffin:** Zumba is already a...

**Justin:** Yeah, Zumba's already a thing.

**Griffin:** Athletic— Yeah.

**Justin:** Against all odds, yeah.

**Travis:** Maybe like a cool cowboy hat and a leather jacket. And you're leaning up against the lockers, and say something like, "Lemme take another shot at that bronco." Something that makes it like, yeah. You're a lot cooler now than you were before. Right?

**Griffin:** I wouldn't— No, I wouldn't hand over the keys if that's the energy. If that's the energy— If I'm the custodian, and that's the energy you came at me with, if I get the sense that you want it *too* bad, I'm not gonna hand over the keys to my— 'Cause I'm responsible for anything that happens. You might drive it into a classroom, and eat up all the desks with it. *I* get in trouble for that, 'cause it's my name on the side of the thing.

**Travis:** Maybe bring in your own, and try to drag race?

**Justin:** Ooh! That's interesting.

**Griffin:** We couldn't even tell you what the name of the thing was. So how are you gonna google it and buy one of your own? It's not a Zoomba. How do you find it?

**Travis:** Flea market?

**Griffin:** Cleaner—

**Justin:** Clean [crosstalk]?

**Griffin:** Cart— Cleaner cart.

**Justin:** “Cart cleaner cart”? Mm. That doesn’t sound right. Griffin, if you google, I’m gonna be so mad at you.

**Griffin:** I’m not gonna google it. I’m too busy coming up with jokes.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I can’t do those two things at the same time. You know that.

**Justin:** It’s like a lawn mower. It’s like a riding lawn mower.

**Griffin:** Yeah, but a ground mower.

**Justin:** Riding floor cleaner? Riding floor— Dirt mower.

**Griffin:** Riding floom— Riding floors...

**Travis:** Flow rider.

**Griffin:** ... with boys. Riding in floors with boys.

**Justin:** Riding in floors with boys!

**Travis:** Yep.

**Griffin:** [holding back laughter] I think is probably what it’s called.

**Justin:** Probably what it’s called.

**Griffin:** I bet you’re not the first person who has had this experience at this school.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And I bet you, if you walk up to this custodian, hat in hand...

**Justin:** Mm.

**Griffin:** You're not even gonna be able to get two words out before the custodian will be like, "I know. You've got the itch now. You've got something to prove. Go for it."

**Justin:** But it's humiliating, Griffin. If this person had— I'm sure this person thought of, "Just get over it and ask to do it again." [laughs] I hope that crossed their mind.

**Griffin:** I'm saying they will be delighted to shepherd another...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** ... young pupil – who is a teacher, but in the ways of riding the floor rider, I bet they'll be stoked. There'll be a little wink, a little twinkle in his eye, like, "Yeah. I remember that fear. I felt it too. But now, let's become bigger than it, together."

**Travis:** I think that you have to take into consideration the gift that you're giving. Because I think I'm not breaking any new ground here when I say that often, custodians are overlooked, underappreciated.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** The idea that you got on to this floor scrubber, this— Riding on floors with boys, was that it? [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yep.

**Travis:** Then couldn't handle the power, must have been such a warm feeling of like, "Yeah. Not everybody can handle this ride like I do." And then you're coming back and saying, "I want another shot, please." Right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That's gotta feel good, if you're the custodian!

**Justin:** I—

**Griffin:** It's gotta feel good if you're the custodian. You're giving a great gift.

**Justin:** I just feel like... [sighs] you've proven that you're a liability. [laughs]

**Travis:** Well, yeah!

**Justin:** You've proven that you can't handle the power. I mean, we got kids in this hallway, and you made it ten seconds in before you flipped. You think, right now, that you could handle it, but I bet before you tried the first time, there was no part of you that thought, "What if I flake out after ten seconds?"

**Travis:** That's true.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I just don't know— I think maybe you owe it to yourself, and to this person, to try to get to know them as a person first.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** I think if the first conversation you had with them is, "Again?" They're gonna see you as just a conduit.

**Travis:** Yeah. Since the incident.

**Justin:** They're using you for your machine. I think that you gotta start building your confidence back up by just a daily exchange. Like, "Hey.

Remember my humiliation? I promise I'm not normally like that. [laughs] I can do better."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "But I'm not asking for another opportunity." Just get to know them as a person.

**Travis:** And maybe start living your life like someone who is ready for a Zamboni ride again, until the custodian—

**Justin:** They notice.

**Travis:** You just feel a tap on your shoulder.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And you're like, "Oh, yeah?"  
And they're just like, "You're ready."

**Justin:** They saw when you were ready before.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** They're gonna know the time is right again.

**Griffin:** But now, you've been cruising the halls in power wheels. And you've been scooting around. Maybe during the class field trip, you bring the custodian, and you guys go to play bumper cars. Like, little things.

**Justin:** Just the little things [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** Little things that say, "I can operate a small, non-standard vehicle and be trusted."

**Travis:** You made one out of a cardboard box and scooted around the floor in school after hours.

**Griffin:** Start with that. Start with a little box you scoot around with.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And write, "Trash Zamboni" on it. So that he knows the illusion you're trying to create.

**Travis:** And you've set up cones, and you're weaving between them.

**Griffin:** Cones, and you're sweeping between. Yeah.

**Travis:** And you bump them, and you get really upset, but you go back and you try again.

**Griffin:** It's the persistence he's looking for.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [laughs] Here is a possibility. What if, the next time you see them with the floor mop riding appliance, the next time you see him rolling around—

**Griffin:** Can we just call it a Zoomba?

**Justin:** Zoomba's fine.

**Griffin:** Until someone comes up with a fewer-syllable name for it.

**Justin:** Zoomba's good. That's gonna save a bunch of time. The next time you see him on a Zoomba, dump a popcorn bucket on the ground. And then it's just like, "Well, this is humiliating. Please, allow me."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** “Cause you know that I know— You know I know what I’m doing here.” Now, the bet that I’m making [laughs] here is that they don’t remember how bad you did last time.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** What I’m hoping is they only remember that you have driven it before, right?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** So when you’re like, “Please, allow me. This is my mess. I couldn’t ask you to clean this up.” And then they’ll maybe let you take a shot at it.

**Griffin:** Can I—

**Justin:** Before they remember how bad it went the last time.

**Griffin:** Can I season it? Can I season it a little bit?

**Travis:** The popcorn?

**Justin:** The popcorn?

**Griffin:** ‘Cause it’s very good, but—

**Justin:** No, it’s on the ground, Griffin. I think it’s wasted.

**Griffin:** The idea is very, very good. But if you just drop all the popcorn on the ground right there, the custodian’s gonna say, “Just pick it up with your hands and throw it in the garbage can.”

**Justin:** [wheeze-laughs] But you're the— [laughs]

**Griffin:** If you please let me season it. If you walk *by* the custodian...

**Justin:** [through laughter] I don't think so, Griffin.

**Griffin:** If you walk by the custodian, and then as you walk by him, you look down at your bucket, and you say, "Aw, man! It has a goddamn hole in it. I've left a *trail* of popcorn down the hallway."

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** Around the corner, back into the cafeteria.

**Justin:** [laughs uncontrollably]

**Griffin:** Forming a sort of, I guess you could call it, a course. It does go all the way around the school.

**Justin:** When the janitor said, "Clean it up [laughs] with your hands..."

**Griffin:** [holding back laughter] Yeah.

**Justin:** [through laughter] What did he— What am I— Am I a student? Am I an employee? What is his relationship to me, that he looks at me, says, "Clean it up with your hands?"

**Travis:** Now— To be fair, Justin, in your scenario, you were making eye contact with the custodian, dumping your popcorn on the floor.

**Justin:** No! No, you absolutely— The cloaking was implied! Of course, you cloak it! You don't make a big scene, man! It's *implied* that you do it in a stylish fashion.

**Griffin:** Okay, but Juice, say the custodian says, "Yes. Hop on, clean up your mess." You clean up your mess.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** If you just dropped it on the floor, you have recreated the initial Zamboni scenario where they only rode it for a few feet before they got scared. If you create an entire, beautiful course...

**Justin:** Okay, so what if you trip and upend the bucket— Like, throw the bucket forward?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Is that maybe something?

**Griffin:** That's gonna be hard to do without being clocked for embellishment.

**Justin:** I feel like you understood what I was saying.

**Griffin:** But if it turns out you have a hole in your box—

**Justin:** You're being intentionally obtuse right now. I feel like you understand the premise, and you're just trying to shoot— Like, it could be anything.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I was about to say you're trying to blow holes in it, but you're literally trying to poke holes in the bucket.

**Griffin:** I did blow a hole in it.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** The hole in the popcorn bucket, too, you can show him and be like, "Do you think this was like a penis joke thing? Like this is [crosstalk]?"

**Justin:** [laughs] That should endear you.

**Travis:** Sabotage.

**Justin:** That'll endear you, for sure.

**Griffin:** "And this bucket slipped back into the general stack of popcorn buckets? That's—"

**Justin:** "I don't know how these things keep recirculating, guys. What a way to save a buck, [laughs] y'know?"

**Griffin:** "That's crazy!"

**Justin:** "My neighbor regularly comes out on his balcony and sings. He has a *beautiful* voice, and I enjoy hearing it. Whenever I come outside to hear better, he stops. How do I tell my neighbor that I wanna hear that thing? For reference, he sings R&B/soul, and we are 25 feet apart." Ho, boy. That's tough, isn't it?

**Griffin:** I feel like you're gonna—

**Justin:** 'Cause it's not for—

**Griffin:** It's not for you.

**Justin:** It's not *for* you!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Then why on the balcony?

**Justin:** 'Cause it's for them.

**Travis:** *Ohh.*

**Justin:** [laughs] You know?

**Travis:** It's an *Evita* thing.

**Justin:** It's an *Evita* thing. It's for them— "Hello!" Do you ever address— You gotta address! "Hello!" Why have a balcony, if you're not gonna address people?

**Travis:** [sarcastically] Yeah! We've all done *that*, Justin!

**Justin:** We all— "*Hello!*" Any time you are elevated above other people in a fashion they did not expect, it is incumbent on you to stand above them, and say, "Hello!" like you're a little king.

**Travis:** "Greetings, subjects!"

**Justin:** Yeah, you have to do that.

**Griffin:** If you don't, it's rude.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's rude otherwise. "What are you— I saw you up there. You just glanced down at me. What, do you think I'm some sort of worm or bug?"

**Justin:** Just pretend to be a little king for a second.

**Griffin:** Pretend to be a little king for just a minute. It's good.

**Travis:** Can you yell, "Encore"?

**Justin:** What?

**Griffin:** You can't yell anything. You can't let it—

**Travis:** "Encore."

**Griffin:** You can't— You have to hide. You can listen, crack a window, do something. But why do you *need* to be— Why do you need to see it?

**Justin:** [wheeze-laugh]

**Griffin:** Why do you *need* to be closer to it? What is it making it better about it, to be closer? Are you thinking, it's good for him that you've come out, and now you have an audience? That's good? Because I don't think that's the—

**Justin:** He does it for money. You know that, right? This is his job. He can't *give* it away to you for free.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** You understand. You have to pay for the show. The show stops, 'cause you came outside.

**Griffin:** You know that singing is his— How do you know singing is his job, and he makes money for it?

**Travis:** No, what Justin's saying is when you hear your neighbor singing, go to their front door. Slide a ten-dollar bill underneath. *Then*, you can go out on the balcony and listen all you want to, 'cause you paid for the show.

**Justin:** He sang— Okay, I might be— We need to dig in a little bit now, 'cause I've probably made an assumption here. "For reference, he sings R&B/soul." To me, if you have chosen a genre, then that, to me, communicates that you're a professional.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** I, as an amateur singer, will attempt all styles. [laughs] In my house, there *are* no limits. You know? I can sing whatever songs strike my fancy. I don't pick a genre, and stick to it. Now, maybe this person just has a more specific music taste. But to me, they're a professional vocal stylist. That's the impression that I get.

**Griffin:** Okay. I don't think that's an outrageous leap. I think that is sound logic, Juice.

**Travis:** It's a shame that we used *Phantom of the Opera* for the trombone question recently. Because this would be another—

**Griffin:** It'd be a great *Phantom* situation.

**Travis:** If you were to slink out onto your balcony like it was a box seat in the opera, in full Phantom regalia, and you were to shout something like, "Sing for me, my angel of music!" he would have no choice.

**Justin:** I think what's hard, Travis, is we all would love a Phantom, wouldn't we? We'd all love a Phantom to come sweep us up [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** Very Phantom-forward, this episode.

**Travis:** The Phantom, a Phantom.

**Justin:** A Phant— Any Phantom. The Phantom, any Phantom. [laughs] Just everybody wants a Phantom to root for 'em and say, "Your talent. I wanna kill you, [laughs] 'cause I love it so much."

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Justin:** You know? [crosstalk] wants that. Everyone wants— I dream that

eventually, I'll do a podcast about dragons so good that someone will come and say, "I'm gonna k— [wheeze-laugh] I'm gonna keep you prisoner!"

**Griffin:** Is that what he wants to do? Okay, so hold on.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't think the Phantom of the Opera wanted to kill the lady from *Phantom of the*—

**Justin:** I've seen *Phantom of the Opera*, the musical *and* the immersive version, *Masquerade*.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So be careful!

**Griffin:** So you're saying, in *Phantom of the Opera*, the Phantom gets the opera singer down into the sewers, and he's like, "Well, time to drown you!"

**Justin:** Christine. She has a name, Christine.

**Griffin:** "Time to drown you, now!"

**Justin:** No.

**Travis:** Christine, yeah.

**Griffin:** "Guess it's time for drowning!"

**Travis:** Christine Daaé.

**Justin:** No. She just like— I'm gonna be— I'm sort of simplifying the plot for you, Griffin, [wheeze-laugh] a little bit. It's more complex, honestly.

**Travis:** He definitely wants to kill Raoul. That's for sure.

**Griffin:** Well, yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, sure.

**Travis:** He's *willing*— Like, I don't think he's being extremely cautious regarding Christine's safety.

**Justin:** Right.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Right?

**Griffin:** That's fair.

**Travis:** 'Cause he doesn't have a Kroger, a Tesco, down there in the sewer. So he's not even thinking— He's like, "You're gonna come stay with me, Angel of Music. And I guess God will provide our groceries."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** He does have to send the Angel of Music out.

**Griffin:** Act 2, she gets appendicitis.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** She gets appendicitis, act 2. And then he's like, "Fuck, man. I thought—"

**Travis:** Now, he needs an Angel of Medicine, and [laughs] has to go capture one of those.

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing] Or, barring that, an angel.

**Justin:** "Hey, Christine? Could you become an Angel of DoorDash? 'Cause cash is running a little light down here, and I would love one of us to pick up a job."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "And if you wanna make this work – and I know you don't, but if you *do* wanna make this work – you've gotta start bringing in an income! 'Cause I can't— The music's not taken off yet, you know that!"

**Griffin:** It's not.

**Justin:** [laughs] "You know that! You *gotta* get a job."

**Griffin:** [singing] "The sandwich from the Jimmy Johns is here!"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [singing] "On your front porch."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** You guys think they'd hire— That felt really good coming out of me. Do you think they would hire me for a whole run of just—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Only if you introduced yourself that way.

**Griffin:** Notifications.

**Justin:** "Hi, I'm Griffin McElroy, and Phantom stuff feels really good coming out of me." [wheeze-laughs]

**Griffin:** It feels really good coming out of me.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Which kind of Phantom?

**Justin:** "I believe it will feel good to ingest, and also to expel from myself."

**Griffin:** Uh-huh! Billy Zane stuff, musical stuff, whatever you need. I'll get the Phantom out.

**Justin:** Listen. If we're gonna play for this reboot of *Phantom of the Paradise* that I wanna bankroll, we gotta take a trip to the Money Zone.

**Travis:** How many Phantoms are we doing!?

**Griffin:** We're doing a lot.

**Justin:** I just wanted to get that one in there, 'cause that's the only other one I know.

**Griffin:** Okay.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Listen, y'all. Listen. I love all of our sponsors, obviously, because they pay me and I love that. I am a *huge* fan of Fast-Growing Trees, our sponsor this week. I have a Fast-Growing Tree in my front yard that is a flowering beauty. I love it very much. I also have a Fast-Growing Tree from Fast-Growing Trees, it's a lemon tree, that grows in my office. And that—

**Griffin:** I've seen that lemon, dude. Holy shit, dude.

**Justin:** You said that the lemon's looking good. I got two apple trees that

are doing beautifully. I'm happy to see those guys comeback. Both from Fast-Growing Trees.

**Travis:** This Fast-Growing lemon tree has been working on this lemon in my office during the winter with such a *Little Engine That Could* attitude that I was sure— For a while, I thought that that lemon was purely decorative. And then, it got a little sunny out. Boom! Yellow as the sun.

**Griffin:** That's how it works! Sucks it up.

**Travis:** I love it.

**Griffin:** Sucks up that sunlight.

**Travis:** Did you know that Fast-Growing Trees is America's largest and most trusted online nursery, with thousands of trees and plants, and over *two million* happy customers? They have all the plants your yard or home needs, including fruit trees, privacy trees, flowering trees, shrubs, houseplants, family trees.

**Griffin:** [singing] Privacy tree, a tree for money!

**Travis:** [laughs] Sorry, what?

**Griffin:** It's like, "Privacy tree, a tree for money." Sort of like "Private dancer, dancer for money."

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** It was like a— Yeah.

**Travis:** They have giving trees. Listen, I'm a huge fan. I'm gonna get more from them, because I like how fast these trees grow. It's not just a name, it's *true*! And now, it's the perfect—

**Justin:** It's not just a name. It's trees!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah! Wow, Justin. You blew my mind.

**Justin:** Thanks, man. Well, now you can blow your wallet at [laughs] Fast-Growing Trees.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** It's the perfect time to plant.

**Griffin:** I don't think that's a great verb to use.

**Justin:** Now, you can blow your wallet at— Blow your wallet on plants! What's wrong with that? That's a great—

**Travis:** Now, you can blow your load!

**Justin:** Blow your wallet on plants. Now is the perfect time to plant. They have great deals on spring planting essentials, up to half off on select plants, *and* listeners to our show get 20 percent off their first purchase when using code "my brother" at checkout. That's FastGrowingTrees.com, code "my brother." Offer is valid for a limited time, terms and conditions may apply.

[ad plays]

**John:** This is John Hodgman and Janet Varney coming to you from the flight deck. Please be comfortable. We have now reached our cruising altitude.

**Janet:** Well, that's correct. You are now free to listen to the latest season of *E Pluribus Motto*. As always, this season will discuss the official models of US states and territories for your enjoyment.

**John:** If you look out the window, you'll see local iconography and creatures of all sorts we will discuss this season, including California quails.

**Janet:** Puerto Rican frogs.

**John:** North Dakota horses.

**Janet:** Spiders of New Hampshire.

**John:** And all matter of official and unofficial state cryptids. I've now turned on the enjoyment sign, so please start enjoying new episodes of *E Pluribus Motto* every other week on Maximum Fun, and wherever you get your podcasts.

**Janet:** Sit back, relax, and enjoy your listen.

[ad changes]

**Speaker:** Saginaw, Michigan. Galveston, Texas. Albany, New York. The twin cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and Muncie, Indiana. We've just added these cities to the growing list of meetups on April 23rd for Max Fun Meetup Day.

Didn't hear your city, or don't know where your local meetup is? Head to [MaximumFun.org/meetup](http://MaximumFun.org/meetup), and we've got all the details there. And if you still don't see your city listed, host your own. Find somewhere. A park, library, cafe, bar, any public space a small group can hang. Then, fill out the form at [MaximumFun.org/meetup](http://MaximumFun.org/meetup), and we'll add you to the page so other folks in your area can find you. That's [MaximumFun.org/meetup](http://MaximumFun.org/meetup). Hope to see you on April 23rd.

[ad break ends]

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Griffin:** [howls]

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Griffin:** [howls] Yes!

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] [as a vampire] I want to munch!

**Griffin:** [simultaneously] Squad!

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Squad!

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I want to munch!

**Griffin:** [simultaneously] Squad!

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Squad!

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. My name is Count Donut.

**Griffin:** You've had a pint of, haven't you, Count? You've been ready to roll, dude.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I've needed it so bad!

**Griffin:** Yeah, I can tell, man.

**Travis:** A fine cape, too.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** So much wild, wild things happening in the world of donuts. I've been waiting.

**Griffin:** The cape looks great.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Thank you so much. Well, I've recently upgraded. My friend Nate, [laughs] he made me this. It's a [wheeze-laughs] cape vault. Stores my cape from cat piss!

**Travis:** Aha!

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** No cat can get in here! This is Count Donut's special bin! Thank you again, Nate, for this great bin, so no cats can piss on this.

**Griffin:** When they do a charity estate auction of all of our goods and memorabilia...

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Paraphernalia, yes.

**Griffin:** ... I think the Count Donut cape vault is gonna bring in a healthy sum.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I will give you guys a secret about this, though. And you must promise not to tell!

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** It's a half cape!

**Griffin:** It's a little half cape. It's a half cape.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** It's just a dickie. [laughs] Just a little dickie of a cape.

**Griffin:** It's a dickie cape, yeah.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** The cat don't even want to piss on this, guys.  
[laughs] It's—

**Griffin:** It's too little, yeah. That's great, man.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Too little, too fine, to piss.

**Griffin:** You sure it's not a regular-sized cape for a very little child Dracula?

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** No. There are no children Draculas. We have standards!

**Griffin:** [laughs] Okay, cool, man. And don't say what the number you think it is— Don't say it.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** You won't like it. [laughs] Let me say this.

**Griffin:** [through laughter] Okay, dude. What's new in the world of donuts?

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I dough!

**Travis:** What?

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I dough!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I dough? I wanted to make sure that, no, it's not just the accent. Dunkin' doesn't— It's "I dough."

**Griffin:** Just "I," letter I...

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Dunkin' pops the question with "I Dough" ring boxes, wedding cake munchkins, and a Vera Wang bridal surprise for National Proposal Day.

**Griffin:** I say, if Vera Wang shows up with any kind of donut-related material, that will be a surprise indeed.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Dunkin' is marking the unofficial start of wedding season a little sweeter, just in time for National Proposal day. Oops, we missed it – who cares? The brand is celebrating its new wedding cake munchkins, donut hole treats, and just for one day only, giving away a limited-edition "I Dough" ring box at [laughs] participating Dunkin' locations worldwide.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Do you see it now? Now do you see it?

**Travis:** National Proposal Day...

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Now do you see it? Do you see it now?

**Griffin:** Yeah, I see it now. Yeah.

**Travis:** National Proposal Day feels like an invention designed to make a large group of people sad.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And that group is made up of many different people. You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You wouldn't be able to nail it down just by guessing, but...

**Griffin:** If I got proposed to on Proposal Day, I would feel like such an asshole.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** It's a little bit basic.

**Griffin:** You're just doing it for the holiday. Your heart's not really—

**Travis:** But there are also people who would be sad they *didn't* get proposed to...

**Griffin:** Sure, absolutely.

**Travis:** ... on Proposal Day.

**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** That's right. It's a bad day. We can all agree. At Dunkin', love is always brewing. Well, it's not coffee, so I assume [laughs] something was brewing in there.

**Griffin:** [giggles]

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Inspired— That's right, I said it!

**Travis:** Mm!

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Inspired by the season of proposals, bridal showers, bachelorette trips, and weddings, the Dunkin' ring box comes with a wedding cake munchkin inside!

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** For free.

**Travis:** Is there a ring inside *that*?

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** It's a glazed blueberry cake donut hole with wedding-cake flavored sprinkles? Vulgar. [laughs] Giving guests a fun new

way to pop the question, or celebrate life's sweetest moments, or rescue themselves from some sort of insulin [laughs] event that they're having that they need to reverse.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'll tell you right now, if we could bottle the energy that would happen the moment you would kneel down in front of your partner, holding this pink box. And open it up, and there is a donut hole inside.

**Griffin:** The toxicity of that single— That second. That *moment*.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** You have to hold up the box where it says Dunkin' on it. You have to make sure they read.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Like, "Look! Read the let— You see this, right? Before I open it. You're looking at it, the same as me, right? Okay."

Dunkin' and Vera Wang is inviting fans to say, "I dough!" To help inspire unforgettable "I Dough" proposals, Dunkin' and iconic bridal designer Vera Wang—

**Griffin:** Any thoughts on Vera Wang's sort of— I mean, you're a stylish guy.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Yes, well, I know that she is currently serving as Dunkin's chief proposal officer.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** So you don't, like, keep up, necessarily, with bridal fashion.

**Travis:** I also noticed, Dunkin' there didn't specify marriage proposal. Is Vera Wang making business proposals on Dunkin's behalf?

**Griffin:** Gosh, what a—

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Yeah, she's their biz dev guy now. [laughs] It's crazy.

**Griffin:** I mean, probably pretty good at it.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I would assume.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I want you all to see this. This is wild. Griffin, please read, so they know I'm not joking.

**Griffin:** From March 20 to April 3, fans who incorporate the Dunkin' "I Dough" ring box into their proposal moment can enter the contest by posting their proposal video on TikTam— Tik...

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** TikTam.

**Griffin:** Instagram or TikTok.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** If it's on TikTam.

**Griffin:** TikTam or Instatok. Tagging @dunkin and @verawang and using the hashtag #DunkinVeraWangcontest. That's a lot of business to put on your proposal, man. That's a *lot* of business to put on there.

**Travis:** *All* of it!

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** That's a lot! It's a lot. You win an incredible trip

to Vera Wang's flagship salon in New York or Beverly Hills. And Griffin, what is this last little perk? [laughs]

**Griffin:** As a special finishing touch, Vera Wang will embroider the winner's go-to Dunkin' order inside the gown, ensuring they have something brewed for their big day.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** My go-to Dunkin' order is a DoorDash order to a better place. [laughs] I go—

**Griffin:** [laughs] It's a begrudging airport 6:00 AM, only thing open, sort of—

**Travis:** I need to eat something to sustain my human body.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** My go-to Dunkin' order is, I order you to throw me out of here. [laughs] So I am not forced to purchase.

**Griffin:** [giggles]

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Though, to continue the celebration, there is a "Something Brewed" merch collection. [laughs] It's a merch collection with exclusive Vera Wang x Dunkin' pieces. You know what? Let's take a— [laughs] Let's take a—

**Travis:** This is good, because not only is the proposal covered, but outfitting your bridal party is also sorted.

**Griffin:** Yeah. So...

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Oh, boy, is that ever sexy. [wheeze-laughs]

**Griffin:** It's a Dunkin' robe.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I do want this.

**Griffin:** This does it.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Glass tumbler. Oh, here's the collection. Oh, they've got monogrammed— Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** Yeah. So like two of their clear beige beverages, cheers-ing for their satin-sleeve set that they're [crosstalk].

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** I've got to navigate away from this page before I do some very unfunny ordering [laughs] on here that will take me into some—

**Griffin:** [laughs] Yeah. We've talked about this before, it's unethical for you to spend Justin's money, Count Donut. You are on his login.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** It's good, though. It's really good, though, guys. [laughs] Look at the "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something brewed."

**Griffin:** I feel like this is— Shit like this turns up at your Mansion on O Street. Like, just the weirdest imaginable merch.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Yes. This is ephemera.

**Griffin:** This ephemera is going to end up on eBay, and it is going to accrue one more dollar in value over the next 50 years.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Get in early. So that's very exciting for them, I hope. I hope they're pleased with what they've done. [laughs]

**Travis:** Have you ever been married, Count Donut?

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, good question.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Sorry, what?

**Travis:** Have you ever been married?

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** Yes.

[pause]

**Griffin:** Okay, cool.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** If you ask me any other questions about it, you will have to go back and delete everything! Just leave it at yes, and say, "Thank you so much."

**Travis:** Well, thank you so much, Count Donut.

**Griffin:** Thank you so much, Count Donut.

**Justin [as Count Donut]:** It's been my pleasure, thank you.

**Griffin:** I feel like when they do these contests, and the way you enter the context is just by tweeting, "Sure do love my Arby's," they still only get like 15 people that go in for it. The idea that—

**Justin:** [speaking normally] Do you think anybody— Did anybody participate in the one that we were trying to get people to do [through laughter] last week? Did anybody—

**Travis:** The Hut Crust Connoisseur?

**Justin:** The Hut Crust Connoisseur.

**Griffin:** The Hut Crust Connoisseur.

**Travis:** Yeah, I won it.

**Justin:** I meant to, but then I didn't.

**Griffin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** I won it.

**Justin:** You won it? Oh, Trav, congrats. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That would be a fun arc.

**Travis:** I got fired.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** This is also— I don't know why they're being extremely busy. Still, in a Munch Squad, even in a Dunkin' related thing, I just gotta— They're becoming more of a merch store than they are a...

**Griffin:** Food restaurant?

**Justin:** ... donut place. And they're not even really a donut place [wheeze-laugh] by my reasoning. Like, it's a banana-themed package they're doing. And they'll sell you a Dunkin' banana hammock. They'll sell you a Dunkin' banana costume.

**Travis:** And an actual hammock.

**Justin:** And an *actual* hammock. Like, a banana hammock in a banana hammock.

**Griffin:** And a copy of Bananagrams.

**Justin:** A copy of Bananagrams.

**Travis:** They're a lifestyle brand, is what it is.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It's more of a lifestyle brand, yeah.

**Griffin:** They're in the fulfillment business of everything.

**Justin:** They are. But you gotta act fast with these things, because this—  
See this collection?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It's already— It's like—

**Griffin:** It's gone.

**Justin:** It's *gone*. It's over. They're already in Vera Wang now. You can't even get this banana shit. [through laughter] It's already headed to the landfill.

**Griffin:** How about another question.

**Justin:** Yeah, I love this one. "I work at my local radio station as the, quote, 'news guy.' There's currently a box of 24 ice cream Drumsticks in my staff room freezer. I do not know to whom they belong, and I really want one. Brothers, what can I say on the mic to get whoever owns these things to give me an ice cream treat?" That's from Missing My Mint Chip in Manitoba.

**Travis:** Is it still sealed? Do you think we can assume it's still— If you say there's a box of 24...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Unopened.

**Justin:** Well, this is such an important distinction, Travis. Like, it's an incredibly important distinction.

**Griffin:** I have to imagine it's an individually-wrapped scenario. I've never gotten a box of—

**Travis:** Sure, sure, sure. But is the box opened yet?

**Justin:** This is what— It's 24 Drumsticks. I feel like, if it was opened, why would you list the number? 'Cause that information is no longer relevant.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Right. If it's opened, and there's 24 in there— There'd probably be 23, right? If someone opened it and took one, broke the seal. 23— 18 is basically the same number as 23.

**Justin:** You could eat four or five.

**Griffin:** So you could eat four to five of 'em, and probably get by scot-free. If there's only a handful left?

**Justin:** That's inter— That really is very applicable to Drumsticks. If you have a big box of Drumsticks...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And someone comes in, eats— There's 24 in there. Someone comes and eats five Drumsticks. You sit there and house five of them. And someone's like, "Hey. Do I need to order Drumsticks?" from the next room. You're gonna look in that box, and be like, "Absolutely not. We got a fucking million Drumsticks."

**Griffin:** "No way. We are so good on Drumsticks, dude."

**Justin:** “We basically have infinite Drumsticks still, man.” You could eat three or four more Drumsticks before you’re even thinking about replenishment.

**Griffin:** As long as it’s above half, you are golden.

**Justin:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** Especially if there are consistent flavors, and it’s not a mix of like— There’s some vanilla, and some chocolates.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Because if I get down to it, I’m like, “Where are all of the chocolate ones?” *That’s* off-putting.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Now, I will say, of all the disciplines of radio station employees and hosts, news is not the pillar I would want you to be in to say something on the microphone to get an ice cream treat later. There is a certain seriousness to that job, and there’s obviously very serious things happening all the time. And it would be tough to transition from literally any news story about anything that’s happening in the world to, “And in other news, Brian wants a creamy treat. Whoever’s—”

**Justin:** I mean, if it was easy, they’d take it to a different show. You know?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. No, I guess I’m saying, can you change jobs? Can you be in— Sports commentators can say whatever the fuck they want, whenever the fuck they want.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Because they don’t have to say that much stuff. It’s like, “Oh, he’s

got it back in the blue line, and it went in!" But the rest of the time, they can be like, "Did you see that new *Jurassic World* movie? I've got some plot holes I found." Like, they can just say whatever. You can't [crosstalk].

**Justin:** You could just start rambling about it in-air, like, "Two balls, one strike. You know, there's still that same box of Drumsticks in the freezer, and I would love to touch— One ball, three strike."

**Griffin:** "Those your Drumsticks, Bill?" Like, yeah—

**Justin:** "Hey, Bill? Are those your— And he's out, and he's hit by the pitch, and he's bleeding. He's bleeding everywhere."

**Travis:** "And if you don't call in in the next 20 minutes, I'm gonna eat one of those Drumsticks."

**Justin:** "They sent an ambulance out. I think he's dying. [laughs] He's been hit by a pitch, and he's dying."

**Travis:** "Just like I'm dying for one of those delicious Drumsticks."

**Justin:** "This is the worst thing I've ever seen in 25 years of professional baseball broadcasting." [laughs]

**Griffin:** "His whole head came off. The baseball hit him, and his whole head came off."

**Justin:** [crosstalk]

**Travis:** "There wasn't chocolate at the bottom, holding his brain in, that's for sure."

**Justin:** "There's only one thing I could think of that would [laughs] help me to erase this terrible memory from my head."

**Griffin:** "Oh, man, it's Kid's Day, too, here at the ballpark. That's a shame."

**Justin:** "Oh, man, all these kids are watching."

**Griffin:** "Bill, are those your dippy bars, or not!?"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Bill?"

**Justin:** "If only someone would bring me a delicious ice cream treat, I think it would be quite a ball for this troubled soul who just watched a man bleed out at home plate." [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Oh, the pitcher—"

**Travis:** "Oh, he's walking it off. Fuck!"

**Justin:** "He's walking it off. He's a zombie."

**Travis:** "Now I'm never gonna get an ice cream treat! God damn it."

**Justin:** "Now I'm never getting an ice cream treat, he's alive. Oh, no, he's doing the thing where he's walking off. Everyone's applauding. Big fucking deal! [laughs] Sorry for saying that on-air. They're asking me to leave. [wheeze-laughs] Okay."

**Travis:** "Yeah, I'm being fined."

**Justin:** "I'm just gonna take the box with me, actually. Fuck you guys! I don't need this job, I'm a news man, okay? I don't know why I got into sports. Just to get some ice cream treats? Fuck the McElroy brothers! [laughs] What were they thinking?"

**Griffin:** [wheeze-laughs] "This banana ball shit has gone too far. His whole head came off. I thought he was dead! God damn this trickery. Your jokes. It's so funny."

**Justin:** You could use the news to issue a product recall.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** Yes. Yes! Yes.

**Travis:** Yeah, there couldn't be any negative ramifications for that.

**Justin:** No, it's fine.

**Griffin:** No one's listening.

**Justin:** Like, listen. If you got this specific kind of Drumstick— “Hey, folks. Check your cupboards. We just got this across the AP wire. If you have this specific mint chip, you should call your office and say, ‘Throw it out!’ Just ask whoever’s nearby. You know what? I’m gonna go check. That’s how serious I’m taking this.”

**Griffin:** “This recall only applies to... My current zip code, and also, it says here— It says here, ‘If you’re a radio man, you’re immune to the diseases in the ice cream.’ So if you’re a radio news man, it says you can eat the dippy bars.”

**Justin:** You don't have to eat `em on premises, Griffin. First of all, this radio station, there's probably one person there. It's probably just the one person working. So just take `em out to your car. Leave them in the cooler that you brought with you.

**Travis:** The perfect crime.

**Justin:** Perfect crime.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Perfect crime.

**Travis:** Maybe introduce the story like, "Tragedy struck today when newsman Bill got real hungry for the ice cream treat. But he was denied by morals, by common decency. Please call in and tell me I can have them, Steve. Please? Steve."

**Justin:** What'll be sick is, when Brian comes, too. He's like, "Steve. I would like you work on a story. I have recently had some Drumsticks go missing from the fridge, and I would like you to work on a story about that."

And you can say, 'cause you're the news guy, you can say, "You know what? That's gonna be my top priority, and I'm gonna start investigating it right now. And I will not rest until we bust this thing wide open."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "First thing I'm gonna do is try to get—"

**Justin:** "Oh, weird. I can't come up with any leads! Weird!"

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** "First thing I'm gonna do is, I need to get in the head of someone who would commit a terrible crime like this."

**Justin:** Right. [laughs] Right, yeah. "I need evidence."

**Travis:** "By eating four or five more— I mean, four or five new Drumsticks that I haven't eaten before."

**Justin:** "If you could bring in another box for me to look at, [laughs] that would be so helpful."

**Travis:** "Different flavor."

**Justin:** "If you bring in another box, and leave it in the freezer."

**Griffin:** If you're the only one there, just trash the place on the way out. Grab the whole fucking box, take it home, have a big party, eat 'em up.

**Travis:** Raccoons.

**Griffin:** Next morning, you get a call like, "Hey. The radio station's trashed." And you say, "Yeah. It got Airheads-ed. Last night, I was [crosstalk], and—"

**Travis:** No!

**Justin:** Ugh!

**Griffin:** "Yeah. Adam Sandler showed up, and Brendan Fraser was there, and I think Steve Buscemi was there?"

**Travis:** Yeah, man!

**Justin:** "He was. Weirdly, yeah."

**Griffin:** "They had real guns."

**Justin:** "Harry Shearer."

**Griffin:** "They had actual guns. And they took all the dippy bars. And they almost killed me."

**Travis:** Was it Harry Shear— No. It was— No.

**Justin:** Harry Shearer was the pig in *Wayne's World 2*.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** The radio guy— That may be what I was thinking.

**Griffin:** Anyway, Michael McKean...

**Justin:** [wheeze-laugh]

**Griffin:** ... was who you're thinking of.

**Justin:** Thank you!

**Griffin:** You're welcome. You're free. Everyone's free.

**Justin:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** Who else wants to hear— Listeners at home, here's a number that you can text or call, let us know what other obscure movies from the mid-1990s you would like us to talk about next. Spin the wheel!

**Justin:** [imitates wheel spinning]

"I need some advice on how to get someone to let me ride in their motorcycle sidecar. It's one of my bucket list items, that I wanna ride in the sidecar of a motorcycle." I assumed. "Not on the motorcycle itself, but in the *sidecar*." This person—

**Griffin:** You have made that abundantly clear.

**Justin:** Yeah. They don't have a motorcycle their own, they don't know anyone who rides one. They need to ingratiate themselves to a group of trustworthy bikers, and convince me to take them on a joyride in the sidecar. "I'd be willing to bring my own leather goggles and fluttery white scarf. Thanks for your help." Ready for the Road in northern Illinois.

Let me help. First, you gotta stop saying stuff like— The white scarf, and goggles, you know that's not right. And if you—

**Griffin:** You know that's not it. That's a joke for us, and we appreciate it.

**Justin:** If you say stuff like that, or show up in it, they're gonna beat you up. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And they'll be right.

**Griffin:** When you drive a car, do you like to have a piece of tattered cloth whipping you in the face, over and over? 'Cause whatever you like in a car, they like it on a motorcycle too. And they wanna be safe out there, and they wanna be smart out there.

**Travis:** If you were gonna provide anything yourself, I assume it would be the sidecar.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Because if they *have* a sidecar already, it's for their whimsical dog companion, who's already wearing fun goggles and a scarf.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** You don't have an empty— You don't have a sidecar with no one and nothing to put in it.

**Griffin:** Well, I'll say this. If I had a bike, I would probably be stoked every time I had the sidecar on there, 'cause it's like, now I don't have to balance as good. Now it's a tricky— They won't say that, 'cause it's cool, but—

**Justin:** Oh, yeah. 'Cause you got more wheels.

**Griffin:** They can say— Yeah, now it's a tricycle. So that's— I prefer that.

**Travis:** It shouldn't be easy to take on and off the sidecar, right? I want it pretty firmly affixed on there.

**Justin:** It's my bet is you gotta get it professionally done, I would imagine, yeah, Trav.

**Griffin:** Yeah. [crosstalk] welding.

**Travis:** Because I don't want it to come loose. I have no steering capability. If I'm in the sidecar, and we separate in a whimsical fashion, I've lost all control of the situation.

**Griffin:** You go across the street sign.

**Justin:** [crosstalk] off while you're driving, yeah.

**Griffin:** You split a pole, split a street sign. You go zooming off. Now, you're in car. Bad news: it's missing a lot of the key functionality that real cars have.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I do wanna take issue with one part of this question, where you said, "I wanna ingratiate myself to a group of *trustworthy* bikers." You're pretty picky, for somebody that doesn't know *any* bikers, or anybody with a sidecar.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** I think that trustworthy bikers aren't just gonna randomly throw strangers into their bikes, and zip around town. I think you should be pretty happy with whatever bikers you can kind of secure.

**Travis:** You might even have a *better* chance at getting someone you know that makes poor decisions to get *into* motorcycle riding.

**Justin:** Yeah. That's a long game.

**Travis:** And buy their *own* sidecar.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And let you hop in there.

**Griffin:** I tell ya, this is gonna sound like self-promotion. It's not. May I suggest stowing away?

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** Because they're *not* gonna check for that shit.

**Justin:** That's true.

**Griffin:** If you tuck in the side— They are not checking the sidecar for tuckers. Definitely not before they hit the road. They're probably so stoked to get out there, they do not wanna fall behind all their friends, they are *not* looking close in there.

**Justin:** *Gotta* check for tuckers. If you got a— If you got a sidecar, check for tuckers.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Please?

**Travis:** That should be the first and last thing you do.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because you could get a tucker jump in there after you checked the first time.

**Griffin:** Yeah. That's one of the best strats, for sure. You don't get to sit up

and enjoy it. Is the scarf part of it, for you? You'll have to pay someone, like a professional, if the scarf and goggles is part of it for you. And don't get me wrong: it would be part of it for me. I understand the instinct. It's just gonna get your ass beat *up*.

**Travis:** Once they start going, you can untuck. Right?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Because by the time they slow down to get you out of there, you've had your ride in the sidecar.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I don't know how they all stay together [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Oh, this has answered the Zoomba question! A sidecar in the Zamboni!

**Griffin:** Oh. Yeah.

**Justin:** Shit, that's good, Trav. I gotta— Can I be honest with you?

**Travis:** It's how you—

**Griffin:** That's actually good too.

**Justin:** That would be so good. Kids would love that too. What a great reward.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** We only have detention for kids. We gotta figure out ways to reward 'em.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Well, Book It. Do they still do Book It?

**Justin:** Only Pizza Hut does Book It.

**Travis:** [clicks tongue]

**Griffin:** It's bullshit.

**Justin:** Yeah, the schools outlawed it.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [through laughter] Only books about pizza now.

**Travis:** Aw.

**Griffin:** That sucks, man!

**Justin:** [holding back laughter] I know, man.

**Griffin:** There's so many— There's so few good pizza-based books. That's unfortunate.

**Justin:** Yeah. But I mean, you could feel— If you look. [laughs] It doesn't have to be— Reading is essential. It doesn't have to be a stumbling block. Only if you let it. A lot of great pizza books.

**Griffin:** There's just no pizza in *Grapes of Wrath*.

**Travis:** There could be.

**Griffin:** There's no pizza in *Grapes of Wrath*. Okay. So we're talking about editing and doing—

**Travis:** *Grape Tomatoes of Wrath*.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, it's called.

**Griffin:** *Crave New World*.

**Travis:** Very good.

**Justin:** If we'd have known how long we'd be doing it, we would've come up with a better name, I assure you. [laughs] Trust me.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah.

**Justin:** I promise. [laughs] We did not have any intention of doing this for 16-odd years, or else we definitely would've worked a little harder on that part.

**Griffin:** Picked a different name. Yeah, we would've worked hard—

**Travis:** *The Dough Also Rises*.

**Griffin:** *The Crust Also Rises?*

**Travis:** I said, "the dough."

**Griffin:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**Justin:** *The Dough Also Rises*, yeah.

**Travis:** 'Cause before it— Once it's crust, it's not rising anymore.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's a good point. *The Dough Also Rises* is better, yeah.

Hey, thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." It's a great track that I always put on when I need just a boost.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah?

**Griffin:** We got some new merch in the merch store, too. Can I interest you in a 20' Make it Stick enamel pin? Show your intensity this season with a enamel pin based on our classic annual joke of Make it Stick. And ten percent of all the merch proceeds this month will be donated to Border Angels.

We got a newsletter, too, over at [bit.ly/mcelroynewsletter](http://bit.ly/mcelroynewsletter). You can find out about any events we have coming up. Follow our big projects and what-have-you, and that would be cool. Or follow us on YouTube on The McElroy Family. We do a bunch of stuff [crosstalk].

**Travis:** I can't wait until we get our iHeart award, so I can throw it at the end of the episode.

**Griffin:** Yeah. That'll be a good one. I tell ya, I'm running low on stuff I can chuck that's not gonna be—

**Justin:** I got a Courtyard by Marriott key card I found in my wallet.

**Griffin:** Oh, shit. Yeah, I mean— I don't know how much baseball action you could give to that, but if you could [crosstalk] that shit, yeah.

**Travis:** But like gambit, yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Can you gambit it, and stick it into the insulation at the back of the room?

**Justin:** I mean, who better than me to gambit it? [laughs]

**Griffin:** I want you to knock some— Take the headphones off, 'cause I want you to really be able to—

**Travis:** Yeah, I want it clean.

**Griffin:** I want it clean.

[clattering]

**Griffin:** And throw it into frame. Don't throw it *out* of frame. What are you doing?

**Travis:** Yeah, throw it at the camera. He can't hear us.

**Griffin:** Or the background. Throw it at the back—

**Justin:** Thumbs up— I can't hear ya. Into the mic, or into the chair?

**Griffin:** The background. Throw it into the background?

**Justin:** Into the insulation?

**Travis:** The background!

**Griffin:** No, it won't make a noise! The background.

**Justin:** Stick it into the wall?

**Travis:** Back! Back!

**Griffin:** Turn. Turn. Turn your body. Turn your body.

**Justin:** At this wall, yes?

**Travis:** Yes! Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Hit Frish.

[card clatters]

**Travis:** Pretty good!

**Griffin:** That was cool. It made a cool noise. Yeah!

**Justin:** My name is Justin McElroy!

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy!

**Griffin:** I'm Griffin McElroy.

**Justin:** This has been *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. Kiss your dad square on the lips!

[theme music plays]

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