

MBMBaM 814: Pibbonade

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

Justin: Hello, everybody! Welcome My Brother, My Brother and Me! [chuckles] An advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: Well, hello there! Wuddup, Trav Nation? It's me, your middlest brother, Travis 'Big Dog Woof Woof Vroom Vroom The Heater Award-Winning' McElroy.

Griffin: Ahoy, sailor! Welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me. I'm your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy.

Travis: Set sail for an ocean of laughs!

Griffin: Set sail, sir—

Justin: Made a huge mistake—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Before we started recording today, and we started having a conversation without recording it. And it was a—it was a conversation we were enga—yeah, we were talking—

Travis: It was like content just going down the drain!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We sensed it. I mean, I think we all kind of panicked and sensed it. We were like, wait, we gotta get the mics rolling on this, guys.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because this is—this is just—people forget this, this is just our crazy mixed-up life—

Griffin: This is just a, like a hang with us, FR, FR, guys. Fam!

Travis: Yeah. This is the show.

Justin: This is just us!

Griffin: When you're here, don't—I hope you're not attached to that shit, because we're going to be shooting it.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Together, just—

Justin: It's just—

Griffin: Chopping it up as three brothers. I can try and organically get us back into the convo if you guys—

Justin: No, it's just adult Legos. That's the topic of conversation, which is—I think it's fun. I think everybody recognizes that there are two classes of Legos. There's adult Legos and Legos for kids.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's a—that's an understood thing.

Griffin: Sometimes—

Justin: What Griffin—

Griffin: They are for kid's subjects, but the number of pieces and detail work required suggests an adult—an adult supervision.

Travis: We're throwing the word "adult" around a lot. I've said before, I got real hang up whenever somebody labels something "adult" something, because it makes it seem like—

Griffin: Grown Legos.

Justin: What do you want, Travis?

Travis: Sexy Legos!

Justin: Do you give a kid a gun? I mean, what are you talking about? [chuckles] There are things that are for children.

Travis: No, but you wouldn't call it "adult guns."

Griffin: No.

Justin: What are you talk—no! But like, you have—okay—

Travis: "Legos for adults" has a different ring to me than "adult Legos."

Griffin: Adult—what about this, Travis?

Justin: Okay, good, then let's unpack that, Travis! What a—what are you so uncomfortable with right now? Because I'm saying there are some Lego sets that a child isn't going to have the patience to endure—

Travis: No, they're mature Legos—

Justin: Because the reward—

Griffin: That's way worse—

Justin: What?

Griffin: Dude, you—

Travis: Legos after dark.

Griffin: You heard how bad that is, too.

Travis: Yeah, that's how I hear it in my head!

Justin: Yeah, but you're perverting it. My purity shouldn't be a burden, it should be a resource—

Travis: That's true.

Justin: To be tapped! [chuckles]

Griffin: I'm—

Justin: You know what I mean? It shouldn't be...

Griffin: I'm done hiding... in the shadows. My love of adult's Legos, adult—

Travis: Thank you, that's better.

Griffin: Adult-apostrophe-S Legos. I think it's a great way—when you're winding down from a day where the world and your children have conspired to strip all semblance of control away from you—

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: To sit over a bunch of little plastic guys, and snap them together in the way that the Lord ordained? And then together they make The Great Wave of Kanagawa?

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And then you can put that in the background of your shot, and then you can write that Lego set off on your American taxes?

Justin: I mean, that's good, we love that. We love defrauding—

Griffin: That's good stuff, man.

Justin: [chuckles] We love defrauding our corrupt government.

Travis: Oh, yeah! Just take it a little bit back. Here's the problem, Griffin, I also—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I have several Lego sets around me, but I also have—

Griffin: But they're hidden?

Travis: Well, no—

Griffin: For shame.

Travis: I also have a tu—a metric ton of other shit in my office.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: This is why—can I tell you my secret? I got a high ceiling in my office and floating shelves, so I can put more shit up, just out of eye line.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So when you're looking around, you're like, this is the normal amount of shit in here. And then like you look up six inches and you're like, oh, there's a whole other layer of shit in here!

Griffin: Travis has actually some marking tape down on his walls showing exactly where his camera is recording, and just immediately beyond the perimeter of that tape, it's fuckin'... it's old HeroClix, it's like 15 swords—

Travis: The only stuff that goes behind me in the shot is things about me.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Rocket Man.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Rocketeer. Excuse me, Rocketeer—

Griffin: We already did our—we did our annual office tour—

Travis: No, but that's it! Those are the three facets of my personality I'm willing to share.

Griffin: Plants, your own shit, and Rocket Man.

Travis: Yeah. And—

Justin: First, I would like to pitch Legos—

Griffin: He is called The Rocketeer, so Rocket Man—

Travis: I corrected it after a second.

Justin: Rocket Man is your favorite Harland Williams film. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I would like to first suggest Legos for, F-O-R, adults. Like, to be clear that it's not the number four.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Legos for—

Griffin: That's cool, Juice. I don't know that there were a lot of people out there thinking that we were talking about—

Travis: Like cars for kids.

Griffin: Like four adults that we had made out of Legos.

Justin: But it's the branding.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Legos, F-O-R. Not the number.

Travis: Oh, we're not doing a cutesy—

Justin: Because like Legos for kids—

Travis: For kids, yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: This is Legos, F-O-R adults.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: So it makes it clear that it is an adult product—

Griffin: Yeah! I want to make it—I want—I want to make it clear that Lego in no way calls these adult Legos. [laughs] Because like—

Justin: I'm just trying to help them with the brand.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah! But like, kids, if you want to spend \$650 on a—on a 8,000 piece set of Minas Tirith, you—they'll take your money. They will accept that—

Travis: They will, they're—

Griffin: You're gonna have a tough time—

Travis: They don't check IDs at the Lego store.

Justin: I—

Griffin: No.

Justin: I, okay, I am—at the risk of going too deep into my psyche, here is the issue that I have with these Lego sets. I have put together two now. I put together an NES and a Game Boy. I very much enjoyed the process of doing them.

Griffin: So great.

Justin: This is the internal—

Griffin: Juice, hey, Juice, Juice, Juice, Juice... when you've been hittin'—when you've hit the penjamin a couple times, and you're just mellowing out? And I—it feels like we can like talk about stuff like this now, 'cause Dad doesn't listen to the show anymore, but like—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: When you have a little bit of a buzz on, and then it's like, connect this two by three to that flange—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's good, right?

Travis: Having a scotch and putting together the Planet Express ship is the closest—

Griffin: Oh, fuckin' yeah.

Travis: I get to when you see someone like doing a crossword in a wingback chair—

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Travis: By a fire.

Griffin: Grandpa whittling? No. Grandpa a little high, putting together—

Justin: Can I just say two quick things. One—oh, gosh, Griff, great idea, man. I've never thought of it.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: No, I'm not suggesting it—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, sorry, that was—I was commiserating like, "It's good, right?" Not like, "You gotta try Legos high." I would never suggest that course—

Justin: [laughs] Have you ever tried Legos... on weed?

Griffin: Yeah, no.

Justin: The other thing, a quick sidebar to that, what you just said about Dad doesn't listen to the show anymore, da—yesterday we did Clubhouse at three—or at 2:30, and Dad texted us, "That was really fun, guys," halfway through the episode of Clubhouse! [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, not at the end of it!

Griffin: The introduction was very fun.

Justin: Like clearly saying like he was done—[chuckles] maybe—

Griffin: He loves Dark Souls, yeah.

Justin: He was going to go do something else.

Travis: He found the secret setting on YouTube that makes it play so fast, you can go forward in time and see the stream when it's done, before it's done.

Justin: He basically sent us a, "Hey, great show," halfway through the show. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I guess because he had other things he needed to do. [chuckles]

Griffin: Will you guys tell me if it goes—if my—if my like stuff in the background kind of goes too far? Because I feel like I've been trying to be less—

Justin: Wait, I need to come—you interrupted me halfway through my point. Sorry, I don't want to be like—

Griffin: My apologies, I thought your point was over.

Justin: No, because you started talking about weed. And that was a sidebar.

Travis: So don't interrupt.

Griffin: Wow, sorry, dude. You must understand, we were seven sidebars deep at that point. I simply lost the trail.

Justin: Right, I understand the nature of the show, but I would like to complete my—

Griffin: Please! Please! Please, go ahead.

Justin: So, I've constructed these two sets. Here's the problem that I have, is the... once the set is done, I... it is immediately communicating things I do

not wish to communicate about myself. I enjoyed the time I spent with it, but I do not want to be reminded—

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: That I spent time assembling the Legos.

Griffin: Unpack that.

Justin: When people come by and they notice or observe this set—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Which they don't, because I would hide them away. I don't let people—would see them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They might think that I was proud of the fact that I was able to assemble this Lego set on my own! [chuckles] That is another—I feel like I fear implication of having them on display.

Griffin: Mm-hm, interesting.

Justin: Right? Like, yeah, yeah, I'm the bad boy you heard about. I had all the free time and I did it. And I don't—so like aesthetically, I like these objects.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: And I have them in my office. But I feel like having them in my home after I've completed the set, they are now communica—I don't wish to possess them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Justin, let me fix that for you.

Griffin: Let Travis fix that for you.

Travis: I'm going to fix that for you real quick, Justin.

Justin: Don't try to fix it by making me like you, though. You promise?

Travis: No, I promise. Gallery style information placard next to it that lists number of pieces and time it took you to complete.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: As though, Justin, this wasn't just you putting together a Lego set, this is an art installation now.

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: Hugely... hours to complete is, that is exactly the worst—

Griffin: Well, you fudge it—well, you fuckin' fudge it, dude—

Travis: Yeah, you fudge it!

Griffin: You fuckin' fudge it, dude! You think they don't fudge that shit on those plaques where it's like—

Travis: You fudge it!

Griffin: You just fucking fudge it.

Justin: So I could put like 23. 23 minutes to completion—

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah!

Justin: 2026. [chuckles]

Griffin: "The 17,000 piece Daily Bugle model to scale."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "I finished it in 11 minutes and 35 seconds."

Travis: "No help—"

Griffin: No help.

Justin: No help.

Griffin: No book!

Justin: No assistance.

Griffin: Fuckin' by eye.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: That should be the—that's—there should be another tier that they should call like real adult Legos.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And they show up, they're big fuckin' *huge* sets with *no* book. No separation in the bags. You get one big, loose box—

Travis: No guarantee that it's even a set! It might be three or four different sets they just dumped in a box together.

Griffin: Well, I do want—

Justin: Well, then you have to make up stuff, that's not fun.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, gross.

Justin: The worst thing you can do with a Lego set—and this is probably the scariest situation you end up in as a parent.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I have—I have made this mistake a couple of times now—is you start a Lego kit with your child, because you think it will be a fun bonding activity. And then halfway through, guaranteed, maybe earlier, they lose interest. And then you have a problem. You have a half-assembled Lego set.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: And you have many unappealing options at this point. You will not return to it. You can... maybe—you know, you shove it off half finished. That's a huge mess. You finish it on your own?

Griffin: Mm-hm...

Justin: It's not what you signed up for. That's going to feel bad pretty soon. There's probably other stuff you gotta do.

Griffin: Henry really enjoys the Animal Crossing Lego sets that have come out. And I do as well. But he doesn't enjoy finishing them. And we have like a little table where we do a lot of our building of these littler sets, and it does look like the Animal Crossing Island has been savaged by a terrible maelstrom. It does look like Tom Nook's shop, the roof is fucking gone.

Travis: It's an infrastructure problem.

Griffin: Yeah, no, absolutely, it's an infrastructure problem that the island has been devastated, and it's sad.

Travis: Justin, when that happens to me, I like to have a little pretend sesh with myself, where I'm an industrial revolution worker in a factory. And, ah! The foreman, who's my—one of my children, is going to really get mad at me if I don't finish this Model T like today or whatever, right? And I gotta put it together. So, it's not fun anymore! But I get—

Griffin: Is that not—

Travis: To pretend!

Griffin: Is that not the narrative you have going on? I just assume this is the narrative all parents had sort of going on in their head whenever they were doing something like gluing a toy's arm back on a guy that they're probably not going to play with any—I gotta—I have to stand here and compress the arm. Now I'm doing medicine to this toy. I'm Doc McFuckingStuffins. I can't walk away from this patient now. They'll die on the table.

Travis: And every so often you get to like do a Jim to an imaginary camera like you're on The Office. And you're like, "Hmm, work, huh? Yeah, that's what parents do."

Griffin: Will you guys tell me if I have too much like—

Travis: You don't want us to be the gauge.

Griffin: No, this is what I'm saying! I think the three of us are the only ones capable of keeping each other honest about this stuff, because we're all like way past—we're all way fuckin' past the edge, man. Like, we're way deep in. And if one of you—if you two come together and say, "Hey, Griffin, that Minas Tirith set, it pushed it over the edge." And now you're like, that's huge—that's huge—

Justin: Do you feel like you can rep a Minas Tirith set? This is what I'm—this is what—

Travis: Griffin could!

Justin: This is where I—I don't think that I could... An adult Lego is a tribute of your life minutes, right? You said, "Here, I sacrifice myself to you, tiny plastic Game Boy. Thank you for your—thank you for your shape of my life." If someone looks at that and they say like, "Damn, you must love Game Boy." I'd be like, "Yeah, man. I love—"

Griffin: You know what I think? You know what I think? And I think it's probably the—

Justin: I'm just saying from a—from Lord of the Rings, there's so much—

Travis: Griffin knows what Minas Tirith is off the top of his head, so yeah, I think he's allowed to.

Griffin: Most folks do, Travis. Most folks—I would argue most folks know about Minas Tirith.

Travis: And plus, Griffin played Fred O'Baggins in the Lord of the Rings movies, so—

Griffin: That's true.

Justin: That's true.

Griffin: I actually played Frobo Saggins, in the Lord of the Wangs movie.

Travis: [titters]

Griffin: So, this was my brief stint as soft-core pornographic actor. [laughs]

Justin: I think it was nominated for a Brazzie for that, which is like a Razzie for porn. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, they call it a Brazzie, and I was Frobo Saggins, I think I said?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And—

Justin: It was actually Brazzers' first Brazzie, so Griffin brought home the Braz.

Griffin: And it's—

Justin: It's a huge—

Griffin: You put—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And the ring, I guess, would go on his wiener.

Travis: And Orlando Bloom was also in it.

Griffin: Orlando Bloom was in that! So was Sir Christopher Lee. So—

Travis: He played Saradong.

Griffin: That's pretty good! We could do this all day.

Justin: Sorrydong!

Travis: Sorrydong! Yeah! No, let's come up with more! Don't stop there!

Justin: Okay, Gandilf.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Hey, I already did that one in a TAZ—

Justin: You already did Gandilf.

Griffin: TAZ live show. Tom Bombadil, there's got to be something there. Ara.. Araporn is nothing... Maybe there's not as many—

Justin: You can say Araporn and put a medal in yourself, but Tom Bompabombadil-bil-bil-bil... tom, pom—

Travis: Pompadildo?

Justin: Pompa—pom—

Griffin: But if you change it too much—

Travis: Bombadildo. Tom Bombadildo. Guys, Tom Bombadildo.

Justin: Tom—

Travis: Say it. Say it!

Griffin: Tom Bombadildo.

Justin: Wait, hold on, wait, wait, no, no, no, it's the—it's almost there...

[pause]

Griffin: This has taken way too long.

Justin: It's—[chuckles]

Travis: Shut up, Griffin!

Griffin: Taken way too fuckin' long.

Justin: Tom... BBLdo.

Griffin: That's pretty good. Why add the "do?" Why not just Tom BBL?

Travis: Because you're—I think "dildo" has crept in there too much.

Griffin: I think we'll put it to a poll. I think we'll put it in front of the focus group. But I do not want to do porn parodies of Lord of the Rings anymore, because it is 2026 still.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: There has actually—

Griffin: It's been 2026 for—

Justin: Took on a non-renewable resource that was almost certainly—

Travis: Rimley.

Griffin: Once.

Justin: Deca—

Travis: Rimley.

Justin: Decades ago.

Griffin: Rimley is good, though. [chuckles] Rimley Blowin is some—Rimley, son of Blowin.

Justin: You can't just say the ones that you like. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, I can! That's the whole deal!

Griffin: Yeah, that's actually... yeah.

Justin: You can't just say the funny ones. [chuckles] Like then it's like—because then it's inauthentic.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's dishonest. [chuckles] You know what I mean? If you only say the funny ones.

Travis: It's just that I haven't thought about Lord of the Rings in a decade, and so the fact that I remembered Gimli at all—

Griffin: Gotta think about Lord of the Rings!

Justin: Quick. What's the age at which you will think I'm going to show my kids Lord of the Rings?

Griffin: I've thought about this question a lot, Justin. Because I have actually re-watched seas—

Justin: Oh, god! Imagine my surprise when you lean forward.

Griffin: See, I think that's your way of telling me I've gone too far. And I don't think we'd ever say eacho—

Travis: No, Justin hasn't gone far enough.

Griffin: No! No! Let me—let me just—I think that we would never say to each other like, "Hey, Trav, I'm worried about you." Because we grew up—

Justin: I will never—

Travis: You guys have said that to me so many times?

Justin: I will never communic—look at me in the eyes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I will never communicate something I want you to know with a microphone in front of me.

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: How's that for a—

Griffin: That's good news! Okay, that's good to know where the wall is. That's very, very good.

Justin: If you see this here?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm probably lying. [chuckles] You know what I mean? Like that's...

Griffin: Those movies—

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Have approximately, if you take the whole runtime of like the whole thing, we'll say the non-extended editions, that's still like 10 hours of film? And in that 10 hour of film, you see 12,000 orcs beheaded. That's a tough hang, I think, for a kid?

Justin: It's a tough hang.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's a tough hang for a kid.

Justin: Very scary.

Griffin: They get beheaded a lot, and they're nasty—

Justin: A lot.

Griffin: They talk about eating guys, they try to eat guys...

Justin: It does help with the scariness, perhaps, when you see how easy the head pop off. Because these heads—

Travis: Yeah, man!

Justin: [spoofs an uncorking sound]

Griffin: No problem. And I tell you, the only thing Henry knows about these films is the scene where fuckin' Gandalf and Saruman have their wizard fight. And you see two old men breakdancing, having a battle in a marble tower. And I remember seeing that as a kid not knowing fuckin' anything about this franchise, and seeing that and being like, that's really fuckin' funny. Why is that in this pic? Why are these two old wizard men breakdance battling? This is crazy—

Justin: If you wait too long to expose your kid to these iconic landmarks, then meme culture will back them into it. Like, I'm so afraid my kid's whole understanding of Star Wars is permanently set up by Baby Yoda eating chicken nuggies.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like that's the first thing—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: That they understood about Star Wars is like, oh, yeah, chicken nuggies is a big part of that whole franchise. [chuckles]

Griffin: You take 'em to see Grogu's Mandalorian, and they're going to be waiting for the nuggies to show up the whole time. I can pretty much guarantee you that that's not going to happen, because they do not sell those at any of the Star Wars... restaurants—

Justin: I—well, Griffin, I tell you what's not going to happen, is any of that situation. Because if I brought my kids, my kids *love* the baby Yoda.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: Cooper *loves* Grogu.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Loves Grogu. If I brought Cooper into a movie theater and made her sit still in the dark for two hours and watch Baby Yoda, she would punch me square off in the nose. And I would deserve it. And I would deserve it.

Griffin: You would, for sure.

Justin: That movie is two hours and 12 minutes long. Don't bring your kids—

Travis: No songs!

Justin: To see it. No songs!

Griffin: No songs, that we know of. We can't actually talk about—

Justin: Now, wait a minute, if the gro... yeah, we can't talk about it.

Griffin: We can't do Grogu—

Justin: It's NDA. [chuckles]

Griffin: People are going to suspect it's some sort of secret activation that we got—yeah, fuckin'—yeah, fuckin' right!

Travis: I would love it though—hey, movies? Movies.

Griffin: He, movies.

Travis: If you're making a movie I want to see, if every 10 minutes you could have a musical number. It doesn't have to have anything to do with the story. Just a musical number every 10 minutes to kind of break up the movie I want to see, with a movie my kids would watch.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You did that great with K-Pop Demon Hunters. That was good!

Griffin: You did an ama—oh, man! You fucking crushed it was my boy, Shrek! You'd be watching Shrek—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And you're like, "This is a lot of exposition!" And then it'd be like, [sings] "Then I saw her face!" It's like, "Oh... whew, cool. Awesome. Thanks, Smash Mouth."

Travis: More of that, please.

Griffin: We *have* to do an advice question. I love talking about this stuff with you guys—

Justin: Okay, I'd love to. Then just wait and I'll do it.

Travis: And another thing.

Justin: "I've been working at a production company for two months now. This weekend, we're having a wrap party at a bowling alley. I've been bowling since I was 10 years old. I have my own ball and shoes, and I would say I'm better than the average bowler, if I could toot my own horn. Is this too intense of an energy to bring to a work party? I'm a fairly new hire, and I work in post-production, so not a lot of people there might have only seen me in passing, or don't know me at all at this point." That's from Brave Little Bowler in Bethlehem. And what a good question.

Griffin: And what a good name.

Justin: What a good name, what a good question.

Travis: It's the most... I think it's a real tightrope on this one. Because you don't want to like slow play it too much and seem like a—like a hustler, right?

Griffin: Don't lie, yeah.

Travis: But you also don't want to come in and be like, "Watch this!" Right? Like—

Griffin: Okay, that's assuming that the vibe at this post-production wrap party is going to be exceedingly competitive. I think in this exact circumstance—we all—the three of us have a team. We work with a team of people, who help us make all of our stuff, and they are incredible. And we all live remotely. I don't think any one of us lives in the same city as another person. So, that time for FaceTime, it is somewhat limited to certain live shows, or whatever. If we did a bowling party and it turned out that one of us was secretly fucking dope at bowling? That would be so—

Travis: Amazing.

Griffin: The lore expansion would be huge! That would be incredible!

Justin: Right, but you're talking—what if it was like the most recent person we hired—

Griffin: Awesome!

Justin: And you're still trying to—okay, but wait, you're still trying to form a mental picture of that person, and then it's like... bowling.

Travis: And Griffin—

Justin: And that's it. Like their brand is bowling. Your brand is bowling.

Travis: I think you're missing the point of the question as well, Ditto. It's not like—the question is the entry—how to introduce the skill level in the way that leads to, "Awesome!"

Justin: I beg of you, I beg of you, please do not try to say it beforehand.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You will go into the gutter on your first one, and you will quit.

Griffin: Mm-hm. Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] You will quit your job. You'll say, "Hey, just a heads up for everybody! I'm pretty fuckin' good at bowling." [spoofs the sound of a bowling ball being thrown] Out.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Well, thanks! This has been fun. I'll clean out my desk."

Travis: My question—my question is, is the introducing of your own bowling ball, your personal bowling ball, kind of making that statement for you?

Griffin: That's all you need, yeah.

Justin: That's—yeah. But that's like, I wouldn't do that, I don't think. Because then if you bring—you're like, "Don't worry, I brought my own ball." [spoofs the sound of a bowling ball being thrown]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] "Well, I'm out. Thanks—"

Travis: That's what I'm saying!

Justin: "Thanks, everybody!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I just bought it today!"

Justin: "I just bought it today and it's—my hand broke with it." [spoofs the sound of a bowling ball being thrown] "Ah! That's two in a row. Bye! Thank you so much!" [chuckles]

Travis: "I quit!"

Justin: "This has been great. I quit, again." [chuckles] What if people think that you're not part of the company, you are instead a very good bowler that won't leave them alone?

Griffin: A ringer. Yeah.

Travis: Always a concern.

Griffin: Man, it must be cool to be into bowling, and then you get to have your own bowling ball. How much do you guys think one of those Mystery Men bowling ball with the skull inside of it goes for?

Travis: \$752.

Griffin: Travis, print that off—Travis, print me a—print me a Mystery Man bowling ball? Print me a usable Mystery Man bowling ball.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: With all your machinery.

Travis: But you ha—you have to provide the skull.

Justin: Quick Etsy search for "Mystery Men bowling ball."

Griffin: And I want it to be remote-controlled. I want it to be able to fly around and like smash bad guys and stuff.

Travis: Yeah, search "practical use."

Justin: Oh, man—oh, guys, you wanna know something wild?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They mass produced 'em, apparently, according to Reddit. Mass produced—

Griffin: Unsurprising, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, and like after the movie came out. They might be on eBay.

Travis: But I can't find a glowing piece of the radical rock from Guts. I can't find a Guts trophy to save my goddamn life.

Griffin: I suspect they keep the—they say, "And you'll take this home." And you don't fuckin' take it. They give you a voucher for like \$80 or something, adjusted for like 1996 money. I think you have one chance. I can't stop thinking about this as anything other than an opportunity to cement your legend in the company. And if—you do have an opportunity to say, not— "By the way, I'm really fucking good at bowling."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And then what if you hit a strike, right? Like, my mind doesn't jump to like, what if you feel really bad? It's like, what if you allow yourself to succeed? And you do that, you're all of a sudden sort of a made person at this company. You're the one who did the coolest fuckin' bowling thing ever. You just have to think of the right thing to say, because we're not going to come up with it.

Travis: No, here's what it is.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: I think you don't talk about your level of skill, you talk about—if you say, "I've been bowling since I was 10." Right?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Then it informs like a level of practice, without making any promise of level of skill.

Griffin: Yes. "I've been doing it for 15 years, and I've been bad, always."

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: "But I can't get enough of throwing this heavy stone."

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: But I—yeah, "I got drunk and bought this bowling ball on the internet." [chuckles]

Griffin: "I fucking suck at hitting the pins, but I love crinkle cut French fries!"

Travis: [laughs] They are so good.

Justin: I have a plan, and it's a—I think it's foolproof, but I want you guys to help me troubleshoot it, okay?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: You walk up, and you gotta make sure your boss is out there, right? A boss is out there. And you say, "Hey, boss, I just wanted to apologize." And they're like, "For what?" And then you say, "It's my first week on the job." And then you throw the ball, you hit all the pins down. And you say, "And I'm already on strike." And then you walk away, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Now, why is this a foolproof plan? Because there are failure points at which you can change the plan.

Griffin: Interesting, okay.

Justin: So, here's what you say, hey—you say to your boss—

Griffin: Can we start with what if you walk out there, and the boss isn't there? So that's a failure point maybe—

Justin: So you wait. You stay there.

Griffin: Yeah. You just stand still and wait like...

Justin: [chuckles] You just stand still and wait. And then if you say—so you say like, "I just want to say I'm sorry."

Griffin: And you're holding the ball, wait—you're like holding the ball like—

Justin: And they show up and you're like, "I just want to say I'm sorry." If you whiff it, then it's like, "I farted." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, nice.

Griffin: So that part I think could use a little—I think you know that that part needs some work. I think you thought that there was going to be a thing to say there that would be normal and cool. And then you realize like suddenly like, you needed something to apologize for.

Travis: "I've been embezzling."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I mean, that one's bad too, but Travis' is maybe worse, right, Griff?

Griffin: Yeah, Travis' is worse, for sure. You couldn't just say—

Travis: I was trying to make Justin look good. Thanks for throwing me under the bus, Justin. I was trying to help you out of your dumb farting one.

Griffin: Yeah, you volunteer for that. He made sure that the bus went right over you—

Travis: Yeah! He grabbed the wheel and steered towards me! [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, trolley problem.

Justin: Okay, so a different apology like... If the boss comes up and they have a bowling ball also that is personalized—this is another failure point that you can clock. If the boss comes up and you're like, "Hey, boss, I'm sorry." And then that's when they pull out their orb that's like, "Big Boss, CEO," gold. Then it's like, "I'm sorry that I just—"

Griffin: Does it say "gold?" Does it say "Big Boss CEO gold?" Or—

Justin: "I just pissed my pants."

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Justin: "I just pissed my p—" [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "I'm sorry, I pissed my—"

Justin: "I'm sorry, I just pissed my pants—"

Griffin: So you—it seems like the exact thing—it seemed like the exact same thing just happened to you again, Juice, where you were like, "Maybe if I talk for a while, an idea will come." Then you got to the end of a lot of talking and you were like, "I guess I pissed my pants."

Justin: You say—[chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: Talk for longer—if you talk for longer, the idea will come to you, I promise you.

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, yeah. It's sometimes you say—you're saying "I pissed my pants" before you realize it.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. You could... Is there a way of doing it, and if it goes in the gutter, be like, "I'm sorry that went in the gutter. I'm sorry I didn't do better."

Justin: "I wish—I'm sorry—"

Travis: "I disappointed you."

Griffin: "I'm sorry I disappointed you, Dad."

Justin: "I'm sorry that was the wrong lane."

Griffin: Yeah. And then if you strike it and you turn... that part's set in stone, you're gonna say, "I'm already on strike." Or is that a potential sort of—if you turn after hitting the strike and you realize like, "Actually, this isn't the moment. The conditions here are actually pretty great and—"

Justin: The other failure point—[chuckles] The other failure point that is probably most likely is they miss the first thing. And then you come back and you go to deliver the punch line, and they were looking at their phone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, in that case, I—that is—I need a plan for that too, I think.

Travis: Because then they would just hear, "I'm going on strike." And that—

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: The miscommunication possibility there is quite high.

Justin: They may miss the strike and then you just say like, "I quit."
[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You can't fool me, I'm sticking to the union, I—collective bargaining, I love it, I love it. It's great. I don't think you can just be—do one guy. Like I don't think you can just be one guy and be like, "And by the way, [sings] never gonna get—" [chuckles] Because I do think it's sort of like they—

Travis: "Who's with me?!"

Griffin: That it's better if there's more people.

Justin: Collective bargaining does imply that there—

Griffin: Is a collection of some—of some sort.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Once you hit the strike and you say, "It's my first week and I'm already on strike," then you do have to turn to the other employees and try to get 'em on your side.

Griffin: Yeah, that's part of it.

Travis: To stage a walk out. You know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I guess you could turn around and be like, "Or should I say we're on strike." And the hope is that they're so impressed by your strike that they're like, "We'll follow you anywhere, King."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Let's turn this place around."

Griffin: "I'm the boss now."

Travis: And then they all step up and throw like concurrent strikes.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: They all go on strike too, that would be cool. Got practice a little bit ahead of time, but—[chuckles]

Travis: I think more labor disputes should be solved with bowling tournaments.

Griffin: I agree! And I think—I think the unions would probably get way more wins in that case. I don't know. That's just me.

Justin: "I was in a work meeting with my supervisor and three other co-workers today. At one point, I was adjusting my seat by lifting myself up on my handrests. In doing so, my adjustable armrest slid all the way forward

quickly, making a fairly loud sound. My supervisor, mid-conversation, said, 'Oh, excuse you.' I panicked and didn't know how to respond, and didn't say anything.

Then the meeting continued on as normal. Brothers, how can I recover from my supervisor and co-workers thinking I farted? For some context, the call was with my supervisor, two co-workers, and an HR rep, to discuss how we would communicate a re-org at our company to direct reports. We were all on a Teams call with our cameras on." That's from The Squeak Suspect.

Griffin: I tell you, man, when these—when these like company folks like start talk—start talking about this stuff, I can't even understand it. Teams, HR rep, supervisor, like I start to see—

Travis: Call.

Griffin: These word—call.

Travis: Chair.

Griffin: Yeah, I—

Travis: Arm rest.

Griffin: Yeah, I can't communicate-re-org! Come on! Like come on! I don't know, man!

Travis: I don't think they thought you farted. And here's my justification for that. If they honestly did, I don't think anyone would say, "Oh, excuse you," out loud, right?

Griffin: For sure.

Travis: I think that's a thing, your arm rest made a funny noise, and they were maybe being a little silly, maybe being a little... like teenager giving you a hard time. But I don't think anybody hears a noise, thinks someone farted, and their impulse in a professional call, with an HR rep on the call, is to loudly announce, "Oh, excuse you!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Well, I would say, Travis has tamped that situation down nicely.

Griffin: Well, I think that there's a deeper—

Justin: So, I think—no, no, no! I think Travis is right, Griffin.

Travis: Well, I was looking at the time, Justin. It's about time to head into the Money Zone. So, I wanted to give us a nice first pitch home run!

Justin: I know, but shouldn't we just try to do jokes? You know like—

Travis: Oh! Sure!

Justin: Just try to make like a joke about it. [chuckles]

Travis: Sure! Talk more about pissing your pants in the bowling alley, Justin! Please! By all means!

Justin: You undermine the premise of the question you yourself included, but it does—it does seem to be at odds—

Travis: That's a different Travis! That's question selection Travis! He doesn't think of jokes! He's barely thinking at all! He's on autopilot, looking for opportunities to make his brothers look good. I'm sorry I pissed my pants.

Griffin: When Travis picks these questions, he gets in a *big* tub of goo, like in Minority Report. And he's just like fuckin'—like it's pure subconscious energy. And then they show up in the show, and...

Justin: Yeah, but if somebody's like, so—tells this protracted story about a raccoon that came to their porch and stole all of their vegetables and then ran off, and they don't know how to tell their neighbor.

Travis: I'm hooked.

Justin: And we're like, "I don't think you saw a raccoon?" Then it's like, well, what are we doing here? You know? We gotta—

Griffin: Let's pretend—

Justin: We gotta lean in!

Griffin: Let's pretend that there was a loud, rude fart sound that—hold on, wait, we can se—we can settle this right now! Just like—

Justin: Let's just pretend they farted!

Griffin: I don't—mine doesn't—

Justin: Trav, make a fart noise with your chair.

[patting sounds]

Griffin: Mine is like very mechanical—

Justin: [blows a raspberry]

Griffin: You made that with your mouth.

Travis: I feel like I'm in Flight of the Navigator!

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: *Whoa!* I'm doing it!

Griffin: Okay, so—

Justin: Slice tell—

Griffin: Mine can produce—

Justin: Slice tell me—[chuckles] Slice tell me—sorry, sidebar. Slice told me he saw somebody doing an armpit fart on the street last week, and it really took him back. He's like, "I completely forgot about armpit farts." [chuckles]

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: He's like, "It's like seeing somebody do pogs. It's just like, wow! Armpit farts. I forgot."

Griffin: I think everybody hits a day with armpit farts that they think like, "I don't want to touch my nude armpit."

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I can't put my—

Griffin: I'm good. It's either got BO on it or it's got deodorant on it. Either way, I'm not eager to get in there.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Farts. Travis, you do a podcast—you're married to a polite person.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: You're having a field day with that fuckin' chair—

Travis: I forgot that my chair arms could do that!

Griffin: Oh, dude, mine has so many vertices of adjustment that I set two years ago, and haven't touched since. I can't—

Justin: It's a classic problem with any chair that you have with adjustable settings like that. You may go through it the first time and be like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: How do I make it—you know. It's because you're not trying to make it comfortable, because you've already decided that that's wrong.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Because comfort has gotten you into that back pain position, so it's like, okay—

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You tell me, right? And then you just forget—

Griffin: You forget.

Justin: What all these buttons do.

Travis: It is that—

Griffin: Mine was so sore.

Travis: It's that utopian ideal, though, of I always assume, be it an adjustable seat in the car, adjustable seat in my bed, that there is an arrangement of pieces that if I sat down, would put me at body neutral.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Where I'd stand up. It's not like I feel comfortable, but I'm also not hurting myse—

Griffin: I need a tailor. I need a tailor to set my—

Justin: No limbs, no head. No limbs, no head, just like floating.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Just—

Griffin: Your L—

Justin: A connection.

Griffin: Just in the zone.

Justin: L in the tank. That's how I want to connect. No more mouse and keyboard! Put me in the tank like L!

Travis: "Put me in the tank!"

Griffin: I just—

Justin: Put me in the tank like L!

Travis: "Put me back, Papa!"

[group laugh]

Justin: No more mouse—

Travis: "Papa!"

Justin: And keyboard—

Travis: "I gotta record a podcast, Papa! Put me in the tank!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Papa!"

Griffin: Do you—does one excuse a fart? This is with a question I've been trying to ask for about six minutes now, and I hate—because—

Justin: They're the bad guy?

Griffin: When you sneeze, you—it is expected that the other person says "bless you." If you burp, if you do a little polite burp, I think saying, "Oh, excuse me," that is on you. I feel like a flight is you gotta—everybody just kind of pretends like they didn't hear it.

Justin: It's gotta be instant—

Travis: You say "Forgive me."

Justin: Self-gaslight. Instant self-gaslighting—

Griffin: You *seek* forgiveness?

Justin: "I didn't hear a fart? I didn't hear anything." You have to ignore that it happened. Like, you instantly start trying to—the only adult thing to do is to instantly disabuse yourself of the notion that you heard a fart—

Travis: And become casual in a very calculated way.

Justin: Then make a—

Travis: You have to instantly—

Justin: Completely unrelated comment.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Hmm, any—"

Griffin: I just wanna—

Justin: "More lemon cream?"

Griffin: I wanted to make sure we were on the—

Justin: "Any more lemon cream in the pot?"

Griffin: [chuckles] "I wanted to make sure we were on the same page."

Travis: "Hm. We're all comfortable in this moment, aren't we?"

Justin: Yeah. "Any more lemon curd in the pot?"

Griffin: What is this situation you're in that you've had a—

Justin: I brought toast and scones for everyone?

Griffin: Okay. You're at the Mad Hatter's tea party and you—

Justin: I just am changing the subject, Griffin!

Travis: More like tea farty.

[pause]

Griffin: Should we go to the Money Zone?

Justin: Yeah, we deserve it.

[theme music plays]

Justin: I had to make a website recently. You guys know what I did?

Travis: What? You probably spent like, I don't know, months on it, and it turned out really bad—

Justin: No, it was not a public website. It was a website that I needed to get some thoughts organized, and I thought the best way of doing this is to build a website with Squarespace. Because we've been talking about how easy it is, and how you can make something that looks great. It is a really, really wonderful experience that just—even better than the last time that I did it. They have fantastic templates, created by the best designers in the business. Which I've told you before, but seeing it in person, putting your hands on these iframes?

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: It's an emotional experience.

Travis: Well, slow down, because this is the first time I'm hearing about this, Justin. What is it?

Justin: Yeah, Trav. They—have you ever been to a website like exxon.com? [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: [chuckles] Whoa—

Travis: Every day!

Justin: Have you ever been to a website like exxon.com, or geocities.com/sunsetstrip/studios/1960s—[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, well, those are websites that are made by people.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: What Squarespace does is it is a... an assistant that comes to you and says, "You don't know what you're doing, but I will help you. Give me your ideas and we'll do this together. We'll make a beautiful website." That's what Squarespace is! And right now, if you head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial, when you're ready to launch, you can use offer code My Brother to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Travis: I want to tell you guys about trees. You heard about these things?

Griffin: I trust you.

Travis: You're going to love these things. I am a very pleased and proud fastgrowingtrees.com customer. I have a lemon tree growing in my office. And recently we went over to my in-laws house for a meal, and I brought a lemon cake that I made with one of the lemons that grew off that tree. It was wonderful, and I bragged about it a lot. [chuckles] Maybe too much? It's hard to say. But I grew my own lemon—

Griffin: When you got lemons that fuckin' dank, dude, like you gotta—you gotta show that off.

Travis: When you grow your own lemon? Are you kiddi—now, it was just one lemon at the time, it's a small tree, but I was still very proud of it.

Griffin: It's a big-ass lemon, though, dude! This lemon was—

Travis: It was fuckin' huge!

Griffin: Don't undersell this lemon, dude! This lemon was the size of my head. It was a big-ass lemon—

Travis: It was gigantic, I—

Justin: Big lemon.

Travis: Yeah, I was very proud of it. And 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, of which I am one. They have all the plants your yard or home needs, including fruit trees, privacy trees, flowering trees, shrubs, and house plants. It's like your local nursery, but anywhere you live, with more plants than you'll find anywhere else, all curated for your climate, which is wonderful. By the way, I live in Ohio and stuff changes here all the time, and it's really hard to find like the right—

Griffin: Tell me—

Travis: Planting zone.

Griffin: Tell me about it, dude.

Travis: Yes. Plus, with their alive and thrive guarantee and ongoing support from trained plant experts, you can plant and grow with confidence. I have an indoor lemon tree in my office, and I have... I think it's called a red bud growing in my front yard. Both of them absolutely thriving, and both of them from fastgrowingtrees.com. I'm very proud of them. I love knowing that I control nature, like a god.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: It's why I have so many plants, because it makes me feel powerful.

Griffin: Right, right.

Travis: Yeah. So, now's 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% off their first purchase when using the code "mybrother" at checkout. That's fastgrowingtrees.com, code "mybrother," all one word. Offer is valid for a limited time. Terms and conditions may apply.

[break]

Graham: I'm Graham Clark, co-host of Maximum Fun's Stop Podcasting Yourself, and I'm here with Max Fun Member of the Month, Matthew. Hello, Matthew! How are you?

Matthew: Hi, Graham.

Graham: Thank you for supporting a thing that you love, that's something that you listen to. I do it as well, and I love being able to do that for the podcast that I listen to.

Matthew: Plus, you're the kings of bo-co.

Graham: Absolutely, we are.

Matthew: [chuckles] I appreciate seeing those coming in.

Graham: Now, do you know what your perks are for being the Member of the Month?

Matthew: I do. I mean, I get to talk to you, which is kind of the big thing. Of course, the—

Graham: The best! [laughs]

Matthew: [chuckles] The parking space.

Graham: Yup!

Matthew: And I think there's \$25 in the Max Fun shop.

Graham: Yeah. And you also get a bumper sticker.

Matthew: Oh, bumper sticker! That's right.

Graham: Yeah! So, is there anything else you'd like to add, talking to other people out there that are maybe considering joining Maximum Fun?

Matthew: Knowing that you're supporting something that you like, that brings value and happiness to a ton of people, that's a good feeling, you're fighting the good fight.

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[break]

Ellen: Hi, everybody! It's Ellen Weatherford.

Christian: And Christian Weatherford.

Ellen: People say not to judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree.

Christian: But we can judge a snake by its ability to fly, or a spider by its ability to dive.

Ellen: Or a dung beetle by its ability to navigate with the starlight of the Milky Way galaxy.

Christian: On *Just the Zoo of Us*, we rate our favorite animals out of 10 in the categories of physical effectiveness, behavioral ingenuity, and, of course, aesthetics.

Ellen: Guest experts like biologists, ecologists, musicians, comedians and more join us to share their unique insights into the animal kingdom.

Christian: Listen with the whole family on maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[break]

Travis: Griffin, Lego has a Curse of the Black Pearl ship, from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, with the crew. It's \$500, and I don't know if I can justify it, Griffin. A *Goonies* set?!

Griffin: It's on Lego for \$379. It's 2,800 pieces. That's child's play. You could fuckin' knock that out.

Travis: Ooh, I like the Shire one, too.

Justin: I'm assuming it's just potted back up at some point during this.
[sings the Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Awesome!

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

Travis and Griffin: [yells out] Squad!

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

Travis and Griffin: [yells out] Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, as munch—you know. Rachel, as much of that stuff of them talking about the—I think that's beautiful tapestry, guys. That's the real content, and I don't want to lose that in the edit.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So, if we could just try to preserve as much of that—Rachel, if there was any of that conversation while I was in the bathroom that didn't have like bank details or anything, if you could just make sure we preserve that content—

Griffin: It's the real stuff.

Justin: Because I don't... I don't want to lose any of it. I'm not a woman.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And I want to make that clear.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: That I'm not making any judgments about our first story. We have two stories for you on the Munch Squad, a podcast within a podcast, which profiles the latest and greatest in brand eating. Our first is that it is for—is a celebration of Women's Health Month. And it's—and the—it starts with this. You glow, girl!

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: You glow. You glow, girl.

Griffin: You glow glgr—you glow—

Justin: Why a—

Griffin: Girl. Is there any—

Justin: Why a—

Griffin: Punctuation in there that you can sort of—

Justin: [sings] "You glow, girl!" Playa Bowls is introducing Mermaid SZN, and that is S-Z-N. One fun thing that you could do when you encounter slang in press releases is google with a—and then append "Reddit" to it. Because then you can find a Reddit post from nine years ago where someone says, "What's going on with szn?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So, Playa, way on trend with this one. Szn. It's mermaid szn! [chuckles] During Women's Health Month.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "It's a new line of four smoothies and bowls that bring together two defining elements of the brand—"

Travis: For women!

Justin: Functional feel—for women! "Functional feel-good ingredients and visually striking creations. The menu blends collagen peptides and blue spirulina, a protein-rich antioxidant-packed superfood."

Travis: Wait, did you say blue?

Griffin: Not the blue—certainly not the blue spirulina!

Travis: They're just—

Justin: Yeah—

Travis: Just putting that in—

Justin: The blue stuff.

Travis: But that's the best for women!

Justin: Yeah. It's got mermaid-worthy menu items with naturally bold colors and tropical flavors. "This true star of mermaid szn is Mermaid Mood Bowl, featuring a Nutella drizzle and... seashell treat."

Travis: For your health.

Justin: [chuckles] I don't know.

Griffin: For the health—for a woman's healthy body and mind.

Justin: "For a woman's health, there's a seashell treat for you. Dear? Dear?"

Griffin: It looks like just a big, chocolate seashell.

Justin: "Dear, I bought you a large bowl of ice cream and a seashell treat—"

Travis: "Have you had your seashell treat today? It will prevent your uterus from moving about your body!"

Justin: [laughs] "The doctor says your uterus gets rambunctious without your seashell treat!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Doctor's orders! Now have some—"

Justin: "Doctor's orders!" The bowl... the bowl plen... oh my god. "The bowl blends playa pitaya and playa coconut bases swirled with blue spirulina to

create a flavorful mix of blue, pink, and soft purple tones reminiscent of ocean waters where mermaids thrive."

Travis: "Like you women like."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Like you women like."

Griffin: The ocean waters are—that's like saying like, "The ocean is where fish thrive." No, it's just where they li—it's like they don't have another option. Certainly, they don't thrive on land, I guess? Or in the sky?

Travis: It's also ignoring your freshwater nymphs, you know what I mean?

Justin: Biting—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: "Biting into the chocolate hazelnut shell reveals a rich, gooey center, a small indulgence worthy of every mermaid at heart."

Griffin: Great.

Justin: Yeah, they've also got a—

Travis: I bet—

Justin: Mango Glow Bowl.

Travis: We haven't checked it, but I bet chocolate's poisonous to mermaids. I'm just betting.

Griffin: [chuckles] There's no way. Why would they have that in the ocean? There's no fucking way their like immune system—their gut macrobiotics or whatever are like ready for a big, chocolate seashell—

Travis: If they had the courage of their convictions, this treat would just be like a raw fish. That's what mermaids eat! [chuckles] They're not eating this playa mix of stuff? They're eating a fish head!

Justin: "It's a base infused with collagen peptides to support glowing skin, hair, and nails, layered with fresh strawberry and banana, then topped with chia seeds and a dollop of cocoa whip. Light and satisfying, it's designed to deliver that glow from within feeling." Which I think is a fun way of describing, "Hey, about a quarter pound of chia is just ripping through me like a freight train." [chuckles]

Travis: "Ah! I'm glowing from within! *Oah!*"

Justin: "I'm glowing from within—"

Travis: "*Ah!*"

Justin: "I can feel it! I literally feel every seed."

Travis: "Aah!"

Justin: "So undigested are they."

"Mermaid szn is all about supporting our important mermaids during Women's Health Month."

Travis: I'm—

Justin: "With flavor feul, beautiful and functionally beneficial meals that you can only flind—find at Playa Bowls."

Travis: They've bought into the mermaid messaging so much that it's starting to sound like it's not for humans.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. "Details like the seashell on our Mermaid Mood Bowl and Cocoa Whip Swirls are designed to be discovered and enjoyed. Adding a

playful, distinctive moment for guests. They're designed to be discovered and enjoyed." They are so fucking horny for this one chocolate shell, huh?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Yeah, we did it! We did it! We put one little chocolate shell in there."

Travis: "Yeah, it's in there. Keep looking. You're going to love this shit."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "You're going to love this shit, dumb-dumb. You need—you like your seek and find games? Here you go, mommy."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] "Here you go, find the—find the chocolate shell." The other—this is better—this is more important news, guys, this is the big story—

Griffin: Can we—can I just real quick, before we hop off that story—

Justin: Oh, I'd love to talk about the—because are—wait, real quick, are you guys women? Because I don't want to judge this women's health offering.

Griffin: It is the—it's the "you glow girl" thing that I want to return back to, because it—

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: It made me—

Justin: The very first words of it.

Griffin: It made me wonder about sort of... There's a couple of interpretations of that, based on like—obviously, it's like second person. But is it like a... an imperative? Or is it sort of just like a description of—

Justin: It is a command.

Griffin: Of the pre—okay. But that also applies—

Travis: I thought it was an observation!

Griffin: That applies to "you go girl" as well, I'm realizing now, because I think my whole life I've always heard that as like a... like a command sentence like, "You better—you better go, girl." But it could also be a simple kind of declarative like, "You are one who goes, girl."

Justin: You could sa—yeah, it could be like, "I want to remain in the same place that you are at, girl."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "But I no longer wish to be in your presence."

Travis: Hm.

Justin: "You go, girl."

Griffin: That's another take on it.

Justin: "You should be the one—"

Griffin: This is a girl who goes. And so, to describe that, I will say... you go. You go—

Justin: Girl. Now, what about Yu-Gi-Oh girl?

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sounds funny, but doesn't mean anything. [chuckles]

Griffin: Well, if one of us—

Travis: No—

Justin: Funny sounds together, but is there a joke?!

Griffin: Let's just—we'll just do a—

Justin: They'll probably say no!

Griffin: Blue Eyes White Dragon! Fuckin', the one that you build with the five parts and then it kills everything—

Justin: Stop, I don't wanna—we can't—can I move on?

Griffin: Yeah, please.

Justin: This—because this—this story is important. And this I—that's going to feel pretty silly for stop and listen to podcasts with this one. [chuckles]

Griffin: Does Burger King have more Batman commemorative frosted glass mugs?

Travis: *Aah.*

Griffin: Is that what we're about to get into? Because—

Justin: No.

Griffin: Shit.

Justin: I want to talk to you about the Freestyle Mini.

Travis: The what?

Justin: The Freestyle Mini.

Griffin: That actually took my breath away.

Justin: Guys, it's a new—everyone knows the Freestyle machine is the one good piece of technology from the past 10 years.

Griffin: The only one.

Justin: Right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We all—the only good techno—name another one.

Griffin: The Freestyle soda—

Justin: So, the only—the only good technology the past 10 years is the Coca-Cola Freestyle machine. And now it's getting a next generation update. I'm going to read to you some things from this press release that you're going to think I'm making up, but I swear to god, I swear to god, everything I'm about to read is real.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: "140 years since 19—" Sorry, "since 1886, the Coca-Cola company has been at the forefront of dispensed beverages. 140 years later, the company is redefining the space once again with modular connected equipment that translates consumer trends into drinks, faster than ever before."

Travis: *Ooh.*

Justin: Okay. So, when Freestyle launched, the headline was "variety," right? You could go up to a Freestyle machine, you push a button, you say, "I want diet ginger ale with—"

Griffin: Right.

Justin: "Cherry flavoring. I want Powerade." And that was the headline, you know? But now, "What emerged over time is more transformative, a real-time data signal from tens of thousands of machines, showing exactly what consumers are reaching for and returning to order again." Y'all, the Freestyle machines have never been about choice. They've been about watching you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? They've been about learning.

Travis: Wait, what?

Justin: "And insightful data translates into a finished market-ready drink in as few as 90 fuckin' days, while the traditional process takes 18 months. For example, Coca-Cola Freestyle developed and launched Fanta Crimson Sour Cherry in White Castle and Sprite Loco Lime in Wingstop, both in under three months, from concept to port."

Griffin: Okay, so to break this down, you're saying that there's like—we listened to Reggie who works at the fuckin' Cinemark downtown, and every time he hits his soda machine, he mixes fuckin' Mr. Pibb and vanilla and a little bit of Powerade. And he's crazy for that shit, so we're like, this is Reggie's drink.

Justin: No, you stupid idiot. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: That's not it at all. The machine has been watching Reggie, and the machine tells Coke, "Hey, there's this idiot Reggie and his 20 idiot friends, and they always do this one mix." And then Coke's like, "Well, let's sell that as a different thing." And they're like, "Excellent."

Griffin: That's exactly what I said. [chuckles]

Travis: Welcome to the—

Justin: Yeah—

Travis: Welcome to the Coca-Cola press conference!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: We have a big announcement today—

Griffin: Sorry! Can we break down what just happened?! Because I said that—

Justin: [yells out] I want to keep going!

Griffin: And then Justin's like—

Justin: Yeah! No, you're not understanding it!

Griffin: "No, you dumb bitch!" And then he was like—

Justin: No! No!

Griffin: He was—

Justin: Reggie is not reporting the information. The machine is reporting the information.

Griffin: Right. Right. Yeah, no, for sure. I think I unders—I thi—okay. What were you saying, Trav?

Justin: Okay, so you're not a—you're—I—you kind of get it, but a lot of people don't. And that's a problem we've had at Coke for a long time.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: So, I don't want you to be embarrassed.

Griffin: Right, no—

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: No, I am.

Justin: But we developed Fanta Crimson Sour Cherry, in White Castle, in under three months, from Wingstop to pouring. Do you know what I'm saying?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: "Members of the press, we've tracked—hello, my name is Dave Coca-Cola, the CEO of Coca-Cola. We've tracked—"

Justin: "Why did we only get one reporter? Hey, Dave? Why did you only get one reporter at our press conference? [chuckles] We've got 40 unoccupied chairs, and this one jabroni in the front."
"I'm sorry, sir. I don't mean to—"

Travis: "I invited a bunch of people."

Justin: "I appreciate it—I appreciate you coming out, I just—you've already asked one really stupid question, I just wish we had better reporters."
[chuckles]

Griffin: "I'm actually here for the Associated Press, so they'll kind of just take—"

Justin: "One moment, we'll get back to you. Dave, what were you saying?"

Travis: "So, we've tracked the data from countless movie theaters and fast-food restaurants. So, today we're going to unveil our latest product, the one that everybody wants. This is a little bit of soda in a free water cup when the person's back is turned. You'll be able to buy this at every retail location."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "And how good is this?"

Travis: "Oh, that's not the point! The point is that the water cup—"

Griffin: "No, I mean for you as a compa—"

Travis: "Is free!"

Griffin: "Just say—hey, man, fuckin' just say like it's really fuckin' good that we're—"

Travis: "Oh, no, it's terrible! Because it's free—"

Griffin: "No, man—"

Travis: "The water cup is free."

Justin: We've gotta do—

Griffin: Try—try—hold on! Try that again, but say like it's really good—

Travis: "It's really good for us."

Griffin: There we go.

Justin: The other one that we have—

Travis: You needed that? Wait, why did you need that?

Griffin: Ethics. SPJ.

Justin: [chuckles] "The other product that we're really happy about is where you dump like just a second worth of soda, and it doesn't look quite brown enough, and you think something maybe is weird about it, so you dump it out. That's something we're selling for 30 cents now."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: "Also, you can now complain—every soda comes with a person you can complain to about how maybe like the juice is out back in the back, and they need to check the syrups or whatever."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "That comes standard with every package. And we put—"

Justin: Trav, I'm going to slap you a quote, a real quote from the real guy who does—has your real job. Just try to sneak it in, if you can.

Travis: Okay, cool.

Griffin: Will you send me a script for a joke to say also?

Justin: It's not a joke.

Griffin: Oh. Okay.

Travis: "We're announcing a lot of important stu—you're also going to—we're going to put some funny like, you know, a picture of Ice-T on the iced tea thing. People love that. We're evolving our dispense equipment into a connected intelligent platform where every pour strengthens our understanding of consumers and every unit becomes part of a global network. At scale, that's what allows us—"

Griffin: Question.

Travis: "To move faster, differentiate our system, and deliver more relevant experiences to the point of poor. And you can like hit every button really quick to get a bunch in there. And after you invented it—"

Griffin: Sorry, to return to your previous point, every word you just said was scary to me. It was like—

Travis: Which one? Oh. It's there's a picture of Ice-T—

Justin: We struggle with that. [chuckles]

Travis: It doesn't—

Griffin: No, no, no! After Ice-T—

Travis: The drink doesn't contain the actor.

Griffin: The stuff after—the stuff after Ice-T, every word you said sounded like—

Travis: Pushing the button really quickly to get a little bit of soda.

Griffin: I feel like you're being purposefully kind of evasive right now.

Travis: Oh, was it about—

Griffin: We're being—

Travis: "Evolving our dispense equipment into a connected intelligent platform, where every pour strengthens our understanding—"

Griffin: "When I take—"

Travis: "Of consumers?"

Griffin: "My kids to see the Super Mario Galaxy movie and then they—"

Travis: "Uh-huh."

Griffin: "Get a Hi-C with a little bit of Sprite mixed in there."

Travis: "Yeah."

Griffin: "Because they're not all about that full carbonation life, they need to cut it with something—"

Travis: "Sure."

Griffin: "You're saying that they are being data mined to feed—"

Travis: "Yeah!"

Griffin: "A large language—"

Travis: "Retinal scanned! Just basic stuff. Tracked."

Griffin: "And is that good? Is that good that that's happening?"

Travis: "It's good for us!"

Justin: "I like that! We like that. It's good for—we love that."

Griffin: "No, but it's—"

Justin: "We know exactly what you like."

Travis: "And the nanobots in the soda! You know what I mean? So we can geo-track."

Griffin: "That's good! We can do something what that. Because the story, guys, that I'm thinking of is like, tech is so fu—I'm sort of the tech guy at the Associated Press. And so—"

Travis: "Oh, like Robocop?"

Griffin: "When I write about this stuff—I wish. It's always like, 'This tech's fucking baller, fam!' So just like, if you could sort of change the language a little bit to be less like, 'We're watching you. We're watching you. We know your taste. We know what your family likes.'"

Travis: "Yeah, we're ma-nipple—"

Justin: "Yeah, Greg, you want to take another pass?"

Travis: "Manipulating you and..."

Griffin: "Yeah, yeah."

Justin: "Do you wanna do—take another pass at the quote there, Greg. I sent you another copy, a different copy, if you could—"

Griffin: "And make it more just like, tech is cool, future is cool—"

Travis: "Yeah, yeah, okay, you got it."

Justin: "Talk to me about the add-ons!"

Griffin: "We're getting there—"

Travis: "New modular add-ons include a remote non-nutritive sweetener system for high-volume outlets, a self-cleaning nozzle, cup and lid holders, and bag-in-box, or BIB, weigh station that provides operators with real-time visibility into product levels, eliminating guesswork, and reducing out-of-stocks."

Griffin: "Question?"

Travis: "Yes."

Griffin: "Why can't you just talk fucking normal? Like, what is—what's—what is a non-nutritive sweetener? We'll start there. There's a button you can press to make the Mountain Dew sweeter? That's fucking crazy. What's that mean?"

Justin: "It's remote though, so we do it from here." [chuckles]

Travis: "Yeah, we do it from—"

Justin: "When we think it needs to be sweeter!"

Travis: "Oh, and that's the reason—"

Justin: "And it'll just be a little sweeter, maybe."

Griffin: "Talk me through that pros—"

Travis: "I've got all these wires connected to—"

Griffin: "Yeah, yeah, yeah!"

Travis: "My brain, and I'm the remote."

Griffin: "So, how do you—"

Travis: "That why I'm talking like this."

Griffin: "Decide if someone gets an extra-sweet Mr. Pip? Like how do you—do you have a camera?"

Travis: "Ah. We track their spending, and if they have spent more than a million dollars on Coke products over the course of their life, they get a little extra sweetener to say thank you."

Griffin: "Okay."

Justin: "They just get a little bonus—a little bonus sweetener. God, I tell you, I tell you, Dave, I was really worried he was going to ask about Hydris, but I guess we—"

Griffin: "I do, actually, I have heard rumors about the sort of—"

Justin: "Sorry, I wasn't talking to you. Do you have a question? You raise your hand. Like have you never been at—he's never been at one before, I don't think."

Travis: "No. We're going to have to electrify your seat for just two seconds."

Justin: "Give him a quick buzz."

Griffin: "Okay. I do like that."

Justin: "Don't do the buzz. Yeah, did you have a question?"

Griffin: "Yeah, do you see? He did it, and I fuckin' did not move. Because I'm—"

Travis: "That's true."

Griffin: "I get buzzed a lot. No, I've heard about Hydris. I heard you're debuting it at the National Restaurant Show. And it does—"

Justin: "Sorry, what? Sorry, what?" [laughs]

Griffin: "It does sound like a—"

Justin: "That's so wild! Who said any—"

Griffin: "It sounds like a monster! It does sound like a monster. It sounds like a monster's name, Hydris. It sounds like a monster that's going to kill you."

Justin: "Please don't talk about Hydris anymore. We be... [sighs] Okay, yes."

Griffin: "It just, I—it's a cons—"

Justin: [chuckles] "Yes! Okay, fine."

Griffin: "What I have in my notes here, and I got this from Scuttlebutt—"

Justin: "What have you her—what have you heard? And I will either confirm or... You tell me what you've heard—"

Griffin: "Okay, so—"

Justin: "And we'll talk, and we'll either give you a yes or no."

Griffin: "It's sort of like a situ—"

Travis: "Hey, it's so rare that someone responds with, 'I can either confirm or deny it.'"

Griffin: "Yeah, yeah. Usually, you get the opposite in this business. I heard a—regarding Hydris, that every piece of equipment debuting at the National Restaurant Show shares a unified visual identity, Hydris. Applied across the entire Coca-Cola dispenser fleet, Hydris is a consistent design language that signals quality and sets expectations before a single drop is poured. Whether a consumer encounters a Coca-Cola machine, the experience now begins the same way!"

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: It's fuckin', it's like they're charging headlong into dystopia. Like it's—like with this press release—

Justin: It's like really—

Griffin: They're like—

Justin: Coca-Cola at the forefront!

Travis: For soda!

Griffin: Like, how dystopian can we fucking get in one press release?

Justin: But it's good, because it's for soda! Do you understand?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You have to—if there's going to be terrible dystopian advances that rob us of our humanity, and many of them will be so challenging and painful, when there's some that are like, "We just want to give you the soda you want," we have to celebrate that technology! [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, no.

Justin: We have to take it and celebrate it!

Griffin: It's great tech. It's great tech.

Travis: "So, try Slurm! It's the—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [yells out] "Try Slurm!"

Griffin: It's a real Slurm situation.

Justin: Can I—

Griffin: Who at the fuckin' National Restaurant Show is going to be like, "Damn, all these Coca-Cola dispensers look really good." And then someone is going to have to be like, "Thanks, it's Hydris."

Travis: "It's Hydris."

Griffin: "It's a unified visual—"

Travis: [yells out] "Hail Hydris!"

Griffin: It's—[guffaws] Oh, man, it's a... what a—what a bad—what a bad time, man! We're going to get through this, but man alive! You gotta take a moment to say like, wow, it's—

Travis: "This sucks!"

Justin: No, you're confused.

Griffin: It's bad out there dude, holy shit.

Justin: This is good! You're so mixed up—[chuckles] this is good!

Travis: Oh!

Justin: When you read about bombs and stuff, we hate that—

Griffin: Dude, yeah, no, obviously there's worse—

Justin: This is good!

Griffin: Stuff going on, but the fact that Coca-Cola is like, "Hydris is watching you," you're like, that's—

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: Good, actually.

Justin: To refresh you better. [chuckles] Like—

Griffin: To refresh me better, okay, cool.

Justin: To refresh you better!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: It's giving you what you want before you know you want it!

Justin: Yeah, it's refreshing you better! This like—it's like a victimless crime. [chuckles] Like it just wants to refresh you.

Griffin: No! Oh! There's vic—there's... there's a couple victims just in that one example, I feel like.

Travis: This gave me—

Griffin: I wasn't—

Travis: "This gave me caffeine-free flat Sprite? Is that what I wanted? I guess it is."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "It's better for you." [chuckles]

Travis: "It's what you want!"
"I don't think it—I wanted an IC!"
"ICs are the devil."

Justin: There is also—there is also Coca-Cola X Micro Matic mixology.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: "Developed in partnership with Micro Matic, this non-alcoholic mixology dispenser takes familiar beverages, sodas, lemonade, teas, coffees, and layers in syrups, dairies, and alternative dairies, to create drinks that reflect the craft and customization consumers are increasingly seeking. That result is a level of creativity at the fountain that has not existed there before."

Griffin: Does it got Hydris though?! Because if it doesn't have Hydris, I'm going to be fucking—

Justin: [in a deepened voice] "It's also equipped with Hydris!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Hydris AI—" [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "The global Hydris military platform!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles]

Justin: There's an extra "ary" in there, to fit in the AI. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's in capitals, so it's—

Griffin: There's—

Justin: Milit-ary.

Griffin: Everything's trying to get you all the time. I turn on my Sudoku app on my phone and it's like, "Hey, can we just fuckin' watch you?" And I'll be like, "I guess, you're just Sudoku." I don't think I want Coca-Cola to know. I don't think I want Coca-Cola to pump me. I don't want them to pump me.

Justin: But hy—I think, in my gut, I feel like the best thing you can do is if you see a... any sort of freestyle setup that is not in the Hydris design language, I think you have a moral imperative to tear it from the wall.

Griffin: Destroy it.

Justin: And destroy it. [chuckles]

Griffin: They want you to! They want to replace that—

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: They want to replace that machine! They want to—

Justin: It's a false idol!

Griffin: Get Hydris up in there. Yeah.

Justin: At the—at this point, it's a false idol, and it is like fucking the brand. And like the thing you could do for hy—like, I think what Hydris would want—[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles]

Justin: Destroy all Freestyle machines that are not Hydris enabled, to clear the way for Hydris!

Griffin: Hydris, by the way, as far as I can tell, means a glossy, red shell—

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: With—an imposing black outcropping with a screen on it. That's Hydris. And they—so they've made it also a kind of scary—like Hydris is—

Travis: Like a—like the AI! Like the thing from 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Griffin: It looks like a Squid Game guy. It looks like a Squid Game—like one of the guys on Squid Game that comes around and kills you if you—if you bust—if you like knock over the Jenga tower, or whatever. They've made it scary on purpose, and they've called it Hydris. Awesome!

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: What if—

Travis: I think it would be fun if we all picked a terrible, disgusting combination of beverages, and agreed to order the hell out of it for the next six months until Coke was like, "This is what everybody wants!"

Justin: What if Coke is so disgusted with the actual data it receives? They're like, "We don't want to do this anymore."

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: "The syrups that you people are putting in are vulgar and we don't want to—"

Travis: "You nasty. We're just going to do—you can have Sprite or Coke."

Justin: "From now on, there's one button, and it pours flat water! That's all you get from now on."

Griffin: "We gave you infinite tools to create art, and you guys made Pibbonade, which is Mr. Pibb and lemonade mixed all up." That would slap maybe, actually.

Justin: What if there was one button that just said "guaranteed universal insurance?" [chuckles] Just like one act—and if everybody pressed it—

Griffin: If everyone pressed it—

Travis: Oh! Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: It would count as a vote. Each bu—dude! Why are we wasting time in the voting booth? We should be doing it at Hydris.

Griffin: Yeah, Hydris should do the elections, for sure—

Travis: "And the new president is Fanta!" [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: What if... "Mr. Pibb? More like President Pibb!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: What if—what if—

Travis: "You will stand when Mr. Pibb comes in the room!"

Justin: We should be done now. The show is over, so this is free.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: But I do have to say, free content for everybody.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: This is the after-show!

Justin: This is the after-show. What if Stan Lee was prophetic? But instead of Hydra, it was Hydris? And instead of the Avengers, it was Doge? And that's actually what the battle is. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs] Wow, Juice! What a cool alternate reality you whipped up, man!

Travis: Hey, Justin! Don't just give this away for free?

Griffin: Yeah, man. This is the after-show, man.

Justin: Trav, after this one, I don't know I'm going to have too many more commercial options, frankly. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Thanks for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. Hail Hydris. [chuckles]

Travis: Speaking of consumerism, we've got some new merch!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We've got the "Don't talk to me until i have my podcast" mug. The "I like all butts and no government" mug, which is also a digital cross stitch pattern. And the My Brother, My Brother and Tea, which is available at one or in a bundle with one of the mugs. 10%—

Griffin: All Hydris compatible!

Travis: Yes. 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the First Nations Development Institute.

Justin: I just want to say a huge shout out and an apology to my fellow spectrum riders, who are now going to be forced, compelled, chemically, biologically, to tell anybody who they are with when they encounter a Hydris machine, that that is part of the Hydris design language.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And no one's going to want to hear it, but we are going to have to tell 'em about it.

Griffin: You gotta tell folks.

Justin: So, apologies, but, you know, you're welcome. You're going to be doing a little education. [chuckles]

Travis: You can preorder *The Adventure Zone: Story and Song* right now. It's the final graphic novel in *The Adventure Zone: Balance* graphic novel series, if you go to theadventurezonecomic.com. And there's an exclusive preorder gift of a postcard pack and sticker. It's available from our publisher, if you submit your receipt at bit.ly/tazgngift.

Griffin: Carrie posted those on Instagram, they look amazing. I will want to secure my own ones of those as well. Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You."

Justin: What if she's forgotten how to draw other stuff, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What if she's forgotten how to draw other things? You know? She draws—

Griffin: It's possible.

Justin: A robot or something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But you know.

Griffin: So, thank you, Montaigne, for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." Montaigne recently featured on an episode of *Off Menu*, a podcast I really enjoy. It was very fun. I don't know if we should be plugging other shows like—go listen to that one, but then never again.

Travis: Unless you like it, and then you could listen to more of it. We gotta throw something! Justin, you got something to throw?

Justin: Yeah, I got this. Look at this adorable potion bottle. Got it at the Ren Faire.

Griffin: That is cute.

Justin: Isn't that cute? It's soft, crocheted, it should be a good throw.

Travis: Okay, let's do it!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Are we—have you guys been throwing it at the wall or at your chair?

Griffin: I've been throwing it at the wall.

Travis: I've been throwing it at the chair, but—

Justin: Yeah, but like we're throwing it at the wall to see what sticks, right?

Griffin: The chair is so soft, I feel like it dulls the sound a little bit. I usually—I mean, I have a pretty big space to aim for here. You guys don't—maybe...

[a quiet thud]

Justin: Nothing.

Griffin: It was pretty quiet.

Travis: I could hear it!

Justin: Well, my name is Justin McElroy. [chuckles]

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy. They're not all going to be loud and cool.

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

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

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