

MBMBaM 815: Pain Is Funny Leaving The Body

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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 to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation? It's me, your boy, Travis McElroy, coming to you live from the studio. Big news! Yeah! But first—

Griffin: [yells out] And I'm Griffin! Go ahead.

Travis: Okay. I got some big news for Trav Nation—

Justin: We should change the order! Because there's more of a—

Griffin: We should fuckin' change the order and make it official—

Justin: It is weird because we build to Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that's always—I will say this, 10 out of 10 times anticlimactic.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? [chuckles] It's like almost always a decline in the energy.

Griffin: I don't have bits, I don't have characters, I give the people what they want, no questions asked.

Travis: This isn't a bit! It's big news, about Trav Nation.

Justin: Oh, wow!

Travis: And no, it's not about my custom umbrella line. That's coming September 2027, keep your eyes out, pre-order's open now. But I've been invited to join a content house!

Griffin: Fuck yeah, dude, one of the big ones? What'd you get—

Travis: Yeah, man!

Griffin: Did you get into fuckin' Stinc crew?

Justin: A good one, your promise?

Travis: I've been invited to join Purina Pro Plan/Country Croc presents Multimedia Mansion.

Griffin: I've heard of that one, yeah. That one's—that one stepped in some hot water sort of legally, ethically, news-wise lately also.

Travis: They cleaned house, it's an all-new crew. It's me, it's Honkboy, it's Pokey, it's Big Shoes, Ghostface69—

Justin: They uncanceled Honkboy? [chuckles]

Griffin: Let him finish.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: He's got five more.

Travis: Which ones did I already say? I said Honky—Honkboy, Pokey, Big Shoes, Ghostface69...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hopster. All the big ones.

Griffin: That's only—okay, you only had—

Travis: Well, it's only five! Six rooms in the mansion.

Griffin: It was my understanding that Big Shoes died? I thought Big Shoes fucking died when they—

Travis: Well, this is a new Big Shoes. This one does exclusive unboxings of hats.

Justin: I'll say Trav, he has big shoes to fill. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah! Well, his dad died, Justin—

Justin: Travis!

Travis: So, I'm glad—

Justin: Travis, dude! Like—

Griffin: I'm glad you think that's so funny, dude.

Travis: Yeah, his dad died, Big Shoes Senior.

Justin: It's not a laughing matter, man.

Griffin: His dad died trying to fit 300 Takis in his mouth at one time for content.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And choked on the Takis and died.

Travis: And he was a parrot, so that was not healthy for him.

Griffin: And it was the blue Takis, too, so it burned him really bad. Well, that's really—that's—

Travis: So, Big Shoes Senior, the parrot, died, so now Big Shoes Junior, the parrot, has taken over the hat unboxings.

Griffin: That's interesting. So, are they all tropical birds? Or—

Travis: No? That's fucking stupid. Pokey is a hedgehog, Ghostface69 is a Call of Duty streamer and also a Labrador.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Got it.

Travis: Hopster is a rabbit, obviously.

Justin: So, is everybody an animal other than you? Or I mean—

Travis: Honkboy is a goose.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Are you the only human?

Travis: And that's not a tropical bird, that's just a bird.

Griffin: They can live in the tropics.

Travis: Big Shoes is a parrot.

Griffin: So, how did you—

Travis: But they're all content creator—all of 'em combined have like 60 million impressions across social media and streaming. So...

Griffin: And that's pretty good for a goose.

Travis: And it's going to help my brand so much.

Griffin: Are you in charge of the—do you have to like take care of the animals? Or like—

Travis: We all have our responsibilities.

Griffin: What could a hedgehog's responsibilities possibly entail?

Travis: Patrolling the hedge.

Justin: Yup. Hoggin'—

Griffin: I guess so.

Justin: Hoggin' it all. [chuckles]

Travis: Keeping the hedge safe. I am responsible for a lot of refilling things.

Griffin: Buying things, refilling things.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you play Call of Duty for Ghostface69? Because I don't know how—

Travis: The idea, Griffin, that I would even touch his rig... oh my god, would you—would you—

Griffin: Well, it's probably built—

Travis: Engage with another man's car?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Would you steal a boat?

Griffin: So, do Justin and I have to do the—we make all our content together. Are we part of the contract—

Justin: Are we going to dial in, or what's the deal?

Griffin: What's our—

Travis: This will be a bit of a shift for my content.

Justin: [chuckles] I think that we're—okay, can I just say this? I am very excited.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Because I've always wanted to be—whenever you watch the great YouTube family content that I think everybody enjoys and celebrates, it is completely unproblematic. There's always like a disinterested older brother who seems like he's headed to sports. And that's—I feel like I would be so good at that role. Like I'm not really—like sometimes you do the pranks on me, and maybe like you'll paint my whole room blue. But I'm not like having to do any of this stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like maybe we'll play hide and seek in Camden Park like one time in a video, but like I'm mainly—it seems like I'm going to do something sporty.

Travis: This is great. If you guys would keep these ideas coming. I'm contractually committed to produce 12 hours of content a day, and that's after editing. So...

Griffin: After? Okay.

Travis: Yeah. So, it usually ends up being about 18 hours of filming a day. But you know, it's just hanging out!

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: You know, making content.

Griffin: It's just hanging with the bros, yeah.

Travis: For fun and contract.

Justin: Yeah, Trav told us yesterday, it only has to be sound. There was about 30 minutes yesterday where Travis just made noises with his mouth. I mean, it wasn't even—

Travis: Yeah. I mean, it's content, you know?

Griffin: Well, did that series—

Travis: As long as 12 hours of it is usable and brandable.

Griffin: Right. You've got that Dualinger partnership where Honkboy is trying to teach you goose language.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And that's pretty—and how's that going, Trav?

Travis: We actually had to edit that way down, because I was—

Griffin: In goose, please!

Travis: No, I—because I—my accent is apparently horribly offensive to the goose community.

Griffin: Oh, okay. Yeah.

Travis: And interestingly enough, to swans as well, there's a crossover in my accent.

Griffin: Sure, they're basically, they're the same bird.

Travis: Oh my god, Griffin, please don't let Honkboy hear you say that. That's incredibly insensitive. We just had to do a whole sensitivity training on species and stuff. I actually was the only one required to attend, now that I'm thinking about it.

Griffin: Yeah, I heard that you pretended to sit on the hedgehog one, whose name I forgot already—

Travis: Pokey.

Griffin: And then you'd stand up holding your butt like, "Ouchie, ouchie!" And that's like—

Travis: Yeah, she didn't enjoy that.

Griffin: Number one thing that hedgehogs like fuckin' hate, man.

Travis: She didn't like that.

Griffin: They don't like when you pretend to poke your—

Justin: I saw a TikTok—

Travis: Sorry, I just got—I just got a te—oh? I'm out of the house.

Justin: Ah, dang, Trav, I'm sorry.

Griffin: Is it because you're doing this right now?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's not—okay.

Travis: Yeah, because this is—

Justin: I have other opportu—I—I have—Trav, don't worry. I have a business plan for you that I hit upon this week, actually.

Travis: Oh, okay, great.

Justin: Saw a TikTok—yeah. I saw a TikTok—

Travis: Because I owe them a lot of money now.

Justin: We're going to get you out of it!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I saw a TikTok about how it was a little bit—watching the TikTok was bad, because it's unnerving. Basically, the prompt of the TikTok, or the basis of the TikTok was, there are YouTube channels that are—YouTube is activating this auto-translating feature, right?

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, it would just like auto-translate these videos from other countries, auto-translate them into English. The concern is that like in this world of, you know, a Mr. Beast style ramp up to like the most incendiary, the most whatever—

Griffin: Right.

Justin: We will outsource our content creation to poorer countries, you know, less into other nations where people might be exploited, and that will be translated into English, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's—that was the unnerving subject of the TikTok. And then the worry would be that basically like this gets outsourced to other countries. My question is—was slightly different, is that—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: How do we get that worked out the other way?

Griffin: Where we make their content?

Justin: So we're ge—no, we're like... yeah. So, I feel like maybe we'd hit big if we were getting auto-translated into other countries. Do you know what I'm saying? Like, we have been maybe English locked, and maybe our real audience is a German-speaking crowd, or a Japanese-speaking crowd.

Travis: They would get us like—

Justin: And we could—

Travis: Like they get Hasselhoff kind of deal.

Justin: Yes! Exactl—yes, Travis, exactly!

Travis: Yeah, we never charted here in America, but you put us like in Germany or Finland or something—

Justin: This—yes.

Travis: Number one.

Justin: Yes. The technology is there now, Travis, for us to be a global—

Griffin: Yeah! Think about how big—think about how big Hasselhoff could have gotten if he had AI on his side.

Justin: Yeah, who better than Google's AI engine to take our twisted brand of comedy, repurpose it—

Travis: Yeah. And get the nuance!

Justin: For the Venezuelan audience. And just like give it—you know what I mean?

Griffin: And spice in a little—some cultural references here and there—

Travis: Yeah, you would need to not just translate word for word, there would have to be like—I don't know how big Morbius was, you know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] When we translate—

Travis: So for the Morbius episode, they would have to choose like the Venezuelan equivalent of Morbius.

Justin: When we translated the Sawbones book into Chinese, the translator reached out to me and said, "I'm really struggling with this bit where you said you feel like He-Man slamming a Capri Sun. We have Capri Sun, but we don't have He-Man." So—

Griffin: That's weird. That is not the one that I thought would be—

Justin: [chuckles] I know! So he says, "Is it sort of like Monkey from Journey to the West?" And I'm like—

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: "Yup! Okay! Yeah, just swap the—yes! You will feel like Monkey from Journey to the West slamming a Capri Sun. 100%! You got it!"

Griffin: Control-F, "Battle Cat—"

Justin: [chuckles] Right!

Griffin: Replace—

Justin: Exactly!

Griffin: "Nimbus Cloud."

Travis: When they said—

Justin: You get it.

Travis: Is it like Monkey from Journey to the West, were you like, "I should have made that the reference to begin with. That is better."

Griffin: That is better.

Justin: That is pretty good!

Travis: Justin, I thought you were going to go a different way, which is instead of outsourcing it to countries where people would be taken advantage of and... why not—

Justin: Which we hate. Did I say that we hate?

Travis: We hate.

Griffin: We've been doing this for so long, man, I hope people just assume we hate that stuff.

Travis: Outsource it to us! So, we'll make Mr. Beast content.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then they can auto-translate it to like how Mr. Beast would say it. But we would make it—

Griffin: No one watches—no one watches Mr. Beast anymore. Mr. Beast tried to give away 100 Bugattis the other day, and not—and not even 100 people showed up.

Justin: No takers. [chuckles]

Griffin: No takers—

Justin: He got stuck with 50 Bugattis he can't unload. [chuckles]

Griffin: Because he had games, and he hosted his games, and he said, "Come play for a billion dollars." And then everyone left and they were like, "We hated those games."

Travis: Well, he spent the whole game going, "Don't you guys want to be shitty to each other?" And they're like, "No! I would feel bad if I did that."

Griffin: No, it's bad TV.

Travis: And he's like, "But for money, you want to be shitty to each other." [chuckles] And it's like, wow, this is an interesting look into your worldview.

Justin: I really enjoyed Beast showing up on Survivor, because as a... a Zillennial, I had a little swell of like, well, well, well, well, well, look who's on CBS. You know what I mean? Like, well, look who's not too cool to come on our dusty-ass old reality show!

Griffin: Yeah, you weren't the only one like that, because Jeff also shriveled up like one of the creatures from Ursula's Lair that made a bad deal with her.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Welcome, Beast. Please, a million more dollars? Thank you, Daddy!"

Justin: "Can I say, is it the—is it too much to call it the Beast factor? I'm freaking out with how much Beast effect is going on in Survivor right now!"

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] "He's the king of YouTube!"

Justin: *Argh.* But I felt like that too, and I just watch it, so credit to Jeff. I mean—[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, he's right. I think all the money is in family-based content, not our age family, but like—

Travis: I was gonna say! What do we make?

Justin: Hey, Jeffrey! Jeffrey, still haven't seen a picture of you with the trophy, my man. Would love to catch a glimpse. [chuckles]

Griffin: Would love—yeah, please—

Justin: Would love to! Know it made it to HQ!

Travis: We tracked it!

Justin: [chuckles] We tracked it, Jeff. It's at HQ. Would *love* a glimpse.

Travis: Use it as an immunity idol in an episode?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Oh my god—

Justin: We're not asking for much, just make it a fundamental prop in the show. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah! A game—if it could be like a game-winning immunity idol that comes up in the finale episode, that would be—

Justin: Yeah, it would be—if you could show up and we'll—if you could be like, "The McElroy brothers gave us two million dollars to add to the prize pool."

Travis: We're not gonna do that, though.

Justin: We don't have it, Jeff.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You have to...

Travis: You would do it, but do it in our name.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It seems like all the—a hawk just like grabbed a bird right off my balcony, guys.

Justin: Are you kidding?

Travis: Nature.

Griffin: No, dude, it was a huge, big bird, and it swooped in, and it screeched a little bit, and it grabbed another bird, and it went—nothing else we're gonna do today—that's the craziest shit I've ever seen—

Justin: Is there something in your life that you're—is there something in your life—

Griffin: And it was about six feet away from me. What?

Justin: Is there something in your life that you've needed guidance on? Like, you have to be open to signs of importance. Like, what... what do you need—

Travis: Or is there something that's been threatening you—

Justin: Guidance on that the universe is trying to tell you?

Griffin: I think the hawk is now—the threat—the hawk now thinks that my house is a cool hangout spot to grab little birds.

Travis: You don't know what that little bird was planning, Griffin. That hawk just saved your life.

Griffin: True. Sky. Sky cop.

Justin: Yeah. He was gonna assassinate you.

Travis: That little bird was a spy.

Griffin: When I see how many V-Bucks these parents are giving their kids for hiding at a Dave & Buster's for two straight days, I think they must be making lots of fucking caysh. And I think that's where the money is. I don't want to make that kind of content with my own children. We could, the three of us do it, and maybe it would be kind of the same where I'd be like, "You guys didn't clean your room, so now you gotta drink this milkshake that I made out of fucking shit."

Justin: [chuckles] We live in a content house with six kids that aren't our kids.

Travis: So, this is what I was gonna say—

Justin: I don't wanna mess up my kids! [chuckles]

Travis: I can get—

Justin: I don't wanna mess up mine!

Travis: I think family YouTube really takes advantage of children and it's—there's a lot of horrible stuff. So let's instead hire child actors, an industry that has never taken advantage of children, never been detrimental.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And also, we want to be so clear about this, because I don't want anybody to be confused. Family YouTube, bad.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Family podcast, good.

Travis: Good.

Griffin: Good.

Justin: Good. We like that.

Travis: I've been taking advantage of Justin and Griffin for years now, to coast off of them.

Griffin: But we're grown!

Travis: And like, look how happy they are.

Griffin: We know better—

Justin: And our kids like it. And our kids, sometimes, a little bit. But they like it. [chuckles]

Griffin: They do like it. I've gotten some positive feedback.

Travis: And my kids are proud of me, occasionally.

Justin: Proud.

Travis: So...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That feels good.

Justin: I've never made my kid hide in a Home Depot while they paint themselves orange. How's that? [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Although—

Justin: You know what I mean?

Travis: Occasionally, a YouTube video will make my kids think that real happy families set up bouncy castles in their living room to sleep in for the night. And I have to explain to them that, one, all the lights are on and they're filming it. [chuckles] So, they're not sleeping in there—

Griffin: When we watch those videos—

Travis: And two—

Griffin: Where it's like, "I turn my house into a trampoline park," I always—there's a bit where someone like jumps into a chandelier and breaks it. And everyone's like, "Ha-ha-ha-ha!" But that's always where I pause it and I see—I say, "That's exactly why."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "That's exactly why we don't."

Justin: "That's why we don't have that."

Griffin: "They're having fun. They're doing a good job. That's someone's chandelier. Someone worked hard on that—"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Also—

Justin: That's not—my ki—my kids watch so much YouTube that they think there's a non-zero chance Mark Robiere is going to blow up their home with elephant toothpaste at any moment! You know what I mean? At any moment, Mark Robiere could come in here and blow up this whole place with elephant toothpaste!

Griffin: [chuckles] It's Mark Rober, but I do love French like, "I'm Mark Robiere!"

Justin: No, no, no, it's not—no, no, no, listen, I've done a lot of his Crunch Labs!

Travis: No! That's the evil version!

Justin: I've done a lot of his Crunch Labs, it's Mark Robiere. [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't think it's Mark Robiere!

Justin: I do. I'm a Crunch Lab member, Griffin. It's Mark Robiere. I've watched his show on Netflix. It's Mark Robiere.

Travis: I think it's Mark Robot!

Justin: I think it's Mark Robiere. And—

Griffin: [spoofing a French accent] "Are you children ready to build an oscilloscope?"

Justin: I'm certain it's Mark—

Griffin: [spoofing a French accent] "I'm Mark Robiere!"

Justin: Mark...

Travis: [spoofing a French accent] "Do your parents have homeowners' insurance? *Aah—*"

Justin: Mark, if you want to send us a quick vid and let us know if it's Robiere, or I think you may want to switch.

Travis: Robot.

Justin: Beat your boy Jeff to the punch. [chuckles] Hey, how about some advice? Let's help.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: I want to help.

Griffin: Yeah! Yeah!

Justin: I want to help. "I work in a non-profit, and per my contract, I have a stipend that I can spend on personal and professional development. I've used some of it to learn a new language. However, a company newsletter listed a few more options, one of which is a clown retreat where I can 'learn about what clowning means to me.'

My job has nothing to do with clowning. And my girlfriend definitely wouldn't approve. Is it irresponsible for me to go on a free clowning retreat for my own enjoyment on company dollars? Please help. Question two, if I did go, do you think it's assumed I would bring my own nose and clown makeup?" And that's from Clowning—

Griffin: Well, now you're not taking it se—now you're not taking it seriously.

Justin: Now you're being—

Travis: Oh, what?! That was the—that was the hinge of the question for me.

Justin: What?

Griffin: The hinge of the question for me was—

Justin: Do I bring my own—

Griffin: "Do I bring my own nose and clown makeup?" You don't think they send an email ahead of time to let you know what kind of craft ware—

Justin: They tell you how many underwears to bring, probably—

Travis: If the classes—if the classes find out what clowning means to you, it seems to me like the first like calling, the first like let's weed out, you know, is to see, does clowning mean to you, bring your own nose, be prepared. Or, "I will earn the nose and I will earn the makeup."

Justin: If I have to figure out the right clown white to bring in where I'm not gonna get beat up by the big kids, I'm not gonna go. It's gotta be provided for me, okay? I mean, I know, right?

Griffin: Justin has his own shades, yeah.

Justin: I have a degree in this stuff, okay? [chuckles] This is my area of expertise.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Clowning is an art that is not limited to the nose. A lot of people forget this, that I had a master class with Marcel Marceau. [chuckles]

Griffin: I never forget this.

Justin: A lot of people forget that Marcel Marceau came to Marshall University—

Griffin: Marshall.

Justin: In the 2000s. Marcel University! [giggles] Marcel Marceau came to Marshall in the 2000s, while I was—

Griffin: With Marc Robiere!

Justin: With Marc Robiere, while I was a student there. And aft—and before or after he performed a show at the Keith Albee, he came to the Marshall University Theater Department and did a master class for us. And so, I don't think—I think to say I've been trained by Marcel Marceau gives me some leg to stay on here. And I can say clowning is so much more than a nose. It's an attitude.

Travis: Wasn't he a mime?

Justin: Mimes is clowns, dude! That's what I'm saying.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, dude. It's all—it's all part of commedia dell'arte.

Travis: You know, Justin, I also had a master class at the University of Oklahoma from Larry Drake, AKA Dr. Giggles, and the guy with the sash in that one episode of Firefly.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And he was asked if he prefers doing drama or comedy. And he said drama is like *ugh* but comedy is like *hey!* And I'll never forget that.

Griffin: [laughs] Whoa!

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: I think I just learned a lot by the transitive property.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, so...

Griffin: That's awesome!

Justin: Damn, that's good!

Travis: Yeah. So I think I also know a lot about comedy.

Griffin: I think you're assuming a lot, that you will be asked to apply clown makeup and a nose and do clown stuff, because that does not sound like the concept of this—of this retreat. It sounds like you'll find—do a deep soul searching to find what clowning means to you.

Travis: When someone introduces the word retreat into the formula for me, it does imply a level of getting in touch with myself in a way that I'm like, oh, no, thank you. If it was a clown class that lasted three days at—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah! 100%. A retreat?

Justin: I think that it could help you maybe—maybe the angle is like find the vulnerability in yourself. Isn't that clowning? Isn't that clowning? You get down deep, you find the things that you're embarrassed of, and then you just like put them out. Just beg people to laugh at them for your own humiliation—I think I've lost the plot a little bit.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Earlier on in the sentence, I think we can all remember the house—

Griffin: You had some great points—

Travis: Yeah, yeah, no, no—

Griffin: In the first like—

Travis: It was great.

Griffin: Two thirds of that sentence, absolutely.

Travis: It is—

Justin: Ah, those were the days. [chuckles]

Travis: I have a running analysis in my head of... handsome guy funny like stars, right? It's like where they go into movies and it's like, "I've been handsome for a while, but now I want to do funny movies."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And there are some who are so good at being like, "I don't need to be cool." I think John Cena is great at this, where John Cena is willing to look stupid and be the butt of a joke in so many things.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: He'll tear his chest open and show you his heart, and everything inside—

Travis: He has no problem looking like an idiot. There are some other ones, where even when they're supposed to look like an idiot, they're cool. And it doesn't work. So, I like—I do like if I could go to a clown retreat that would teach me to finally just let—

Griffin: Stop being so handsome all the time and be a real goofball?

Travis: Yeah, stop being so handsome and cool and just let myself be a bit of a fool from time to time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That might be very useful for me.

Justin: What if you love it too much, and you can't turn the clown off?

Travis: Oh, maybe—is that what your girlfriend's afraid of?

Griffin: What if you can't turn the clown off?

Justin: Maybe you find the clown, and you awaken the clown, and you're—all of a sudden, you're the disguise.

Travis: Yeah, like Bruce Wayne to Batman, where he—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: He is Batman.

Justin: He is Laughman.

Griffin: He's Batman for real.

Justin: "I am Laughman."

Griffin: When he was born?

Justin: "I'm Laughman!"

Griffin: [chuckles] He was born Batman, and then when he was like 12, he made some money at a lemonade stand and he came inside with a suit, and he's like, "I'm go buy br—I'm go by Bruce now!"

Travis: That's not exactly what I meant, but yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's exactly what happened.

Griffin: His parents got killed in the alley, they were like, "Help us, Batman!" And he's like, "I can't. I'm Bruce now."

Travis: "I'm Bruce now."

Griffin: Bruce can't fight? [chuckles]

Travis: "I wanted to take on an identity that would strike fear in the heart of no one!"

Griffin: [chuckles] "Murderer, will you spare my parents for this many dollars?"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I do like the idea because the company put the option in the newsletter. But you take it and then they're like, "Oh, we didn't think..."

Justin: "You're fired." [chuckles]

Griffin: Test. Absolutely a test!

Travis: Ooh.

Griffin: Yeah. And it's not—clowning's not bad, but they don't—it's not useful for—

Justin: It's not part of your job!

Griffin: Particular skill set. It's not part of your job.

Travis: No, there are plenty of—like, I know people who do corporate improv workshops and Shakespeare workshops and stuff, but it's about getting— It's the retreat aspect of it that if you get there—here's the problem with a retreat! You get there day one, you've been there 10 minutes, and the vibe is off for you. And you're like, "Oh, this isn't what I signed up for." You can't leave!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, you're in prison. You're in clown prison. You're stuck in a clown car with a bunch of other clowns. But you don't want to be a clown, you're just Dave. Do you know what I mean? It's Dave—

Travis: You thought it would be funny to use this corporate money to go to clown retreat! But then you're there...

Griffin: It is funny. I'll say this. It's a great story.

Justin: No, it's funny! Of course it's funny. Yeah, I mean—

Griffin: It's clown—

Justin: It's funny. It's funny in hindsight. You have to live through it. You have to experience it with your human body and mind. And then after that, it will be funny, but you do have to endure the initial thing, I think.

Griffin: Pain is funny—

Travis: Leaving the body.

Justin: Why—I don't—I don't think your bosses want you to take the lessons of these retrea—like, an improv retreat or clowning retrea—your bosses don't actually want you to bring that energy back to the office, right? If your boss is like, "Justin, you did a bad job on your reports." And you look to him and you're like, "Yes. And?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] It would be—you know what I mean? He doesn't want that. He wants actually for you to do a better job at your thing. He doesn't want you to reach up and go, "*Eeh-oh*." He wants you to do better at the reports.

Travis: They want you to bring the energy of someone who got a clown retreat paid for them, and now they feel special. And they're gonna work a little harder. [chuckles]

Justin: And they're working harder! [chuckles] Because they got away with something.

Griffin: They don't want clown technique to come back into the office. They want clown—the clown energy, clown satisfaction.

Travis: Clown mentality.

Justin: Clown work ethic.

Travis: There you go.

Griffin: Clown grind!

Travis: What?

Justin: Willingness to be humiliated.

Travis: Come back as the Joker.

Griffin: Oh, shit. [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah. [chuckles] "You don't get to choose! I'm Pennywise!"

Travis: [chuckles] Oh, no!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Oh, no!

Griffin: "Thanks for the—"

Justin: It was the wrong retreat!

Griffin: "Thanks for the retreat, boss! I'm gonna go eat a kid!"

Travis: [chuckles] Ah!

Justin: Oh, man.

Griffin: "No!"

Travis: "No!"

Justin: "Bad news, your HR director is Pennywise!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Over the past month, I've been going to physio for a shoulder and neck issue. During one of the first sessions, I was asked to use a grip strength tester where I pulled the highest LBs the clinic has ever seen. Since then, some of the staff at the clinic have been calling me Mr. Grips, Grippy, Gripster. I'm not sure how I feel about the new names. Do I curb 'em or let 'em slide?" And that's from Grip Strength Gripe in Canada. Shouldn't they let you leave?"

Griffin: Yeah. What are you doing there?

Justin: If you're doing physical therapy and they're like, "Here's the grip machine," and they're like, "Fuck!" Shouldn't you be in charge? Shouldn't they have to start gripping it?

Travis: Once they passed the grip machine, they then handed him a big mallet and said, "Now hit this paddle, and if you can ring the bell, you get to go." And that's where it failed. You know what I mean?

Justin: Do you think, as a physical therapist, there's a moment where you get 'em to the point where they're like probably as good as they used to be. But do you think sometimes you're like, "Damn, I think this guy has really good potential!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, "I think if I keep physical therapying them, I think they could become a professional athlete." Like there is a—

Griffin: Right.

Justin: "There's a ceiling here that I can get them back past." You know what I mean? You just keep—you never know when to stop the therapy.

Travis: That's probably only like one in 100 times. You know?

Justin: It's probably pretty rare. I agree. Yeah. I agree.

Travis: All I'm saying is that if I did a grip strength test—if I did any test at a place, and they said I did the best anyone ever, that's going to become at least 20 to 30% of my personality from now on.

Justin: Travis, that was maybe the least surprising sentence—

Travis: I know!

Justin: That's ever been uttered on the program. I could have written it with my blood. I mean, I... yeah, man.

Travis: Then will it surprise you to know, Justin, when I found out two and a half years ago that grip strength testers existed, I immediately bought one!

Griffin: [chuckles] You did, I remember that. Because you made us all do it, and mine was *bad*. Mine was really, really bad.

Travis: Mine was very good.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I have grip muscles built into my hands. You see those muscles?

Griffin: Tall hands. Look at those grippers. God damn, dude!

Travis: You see those muscles next to my thumb?

Griffin: That's crazy, dude!

Travis: Those are my grippers.

Justin: Griffin got 17 rubber bands. Not even double looped. 17 rubber bands, that was his grip strength rating.

Griffin: Pretty good, I thought.

Justin: Yeah, it's not bad.

Griffin: But it goes up to like 6000. Like Travis is doing like 6000—

Justin: He's got like watermelon crushing power. [chuckles]

Travis: Well, I'm out here because inevitably one of you will slip and slide off a cliff, and I'll dive and catch you by the wrist, and I want to be able to hold you, because I love you.

Griffin: Yeah, but what if you're the one that falls off and—

Travis: I'm fucked!

Griffin: We couldn't pull you up, and we're like—

Travis: Why haven't you guys been working harder?!

Griffin: We're like, "You gotta let us go, Trav! You gotta let us go, you're too heavy!" And you're like, "I can't, man. My gripper is too powerful."

Justin: I have been dealing with this in my left hand, because I've been recovering from carpal tunnel surgery. And I'm, you know, I'm a few months in now, and I am now starting to get to the point where like, is this as good as it was? Was it better than this? I don't remember it being better or worse? I don't remember how good it was before, so I'm kind of like trying to feel that out like, yeah, I think it could be a little bit more movie. Yeah! All right.

Travis: This is—every time I watch a show where they do some kind of like, "We're doing a challenge!" Right? And it's like, we took our biometric measurements before and after, I—that's the part I most envy. The idea of I'm about to do something for a week and someone's gonna tell me the measure of change of like, "Yeah, this improved, this went down."

Justin: Just more—

Travis: And I can perfectly like figure out a sequence of events where it's like, "Yeah, every week he's just getting stronger and stronger." [chuckles]

Justin: Travis— "I must have more data about Travis!"

Travis: I want—

Justin: "There must be more I can know about myself!"

Travis: Yes!

Justin: "So many numbers are slipping away from me!"

Griffin: I had the thought for the first time like a couple days ago that people who like go to the gym to lift weights to get stronger, they probably have a moment pretty frequently where they lift a new heaviest weight. And I had the thought of like, that's probably cool. That probably feels pretty cool, knowing I can do 300 now. I don't know how—if that's good or bad, or like what—

Travis: I mean, it depends on what exercise you're doing. If you're curling 300—

Justin: The metric—

Travis: You're nailing it!

Justin: Of measurement I would say also. [chuckles]

Griffin: But like if you couldn't do 300 before, and then you practiced, and you worked hard and you ate like a bunch of cod or whatever, and then the next day you could do 300? You'd probably be like fucking stoked, because your score went up.

Justin: It's funny, Griffin, I was thinking about something similar to that. If I—I was thinking about how if you were to practice at like... say chess. And then you played chess, and then your score at chess improved, you would probably have a positive feeling you'd derive from that. I think it's similar to that.

Travis: Or like if you started playing an instrument, and like you found a really challenging piece of music that you weren't able to play, but then you practiced, and you got better at the notes—

Griffin: I feel like you guys are making fun—you guys are talking in a tone that sounds like you're making fun of me.

Justin: Just similar. No, Travis, that's a similar experience to what Griffin outlined.

Griffin: But like of course, if you did chess, and you got better at chess, and your ELO went up, that'd be cool, and if you could play a musical piece, that would be cool. I'm talking about lifting a big—

Travis: Or like if you started running! And you kept track of the time it took you to like run a mile.

Griffin: Yeah, and for you to be—

Travis: And then you saw that time go down—

Justin: Or if you tried to cook a meal, and you couldn't, and then you studied cooking for a year, and then at the end of that year, you cooked that same meal again—

Griffin: No! That's different. This is your body.

Travis: Or like if you didn't know how to read, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: So then you started learning to read, and then you knew how to read, that would probably feel pretty good.

Griffin: You guys are making fun of me for fucking sure, dude.

Travis: I don't think so.

Justin: I don't think I am, Trav. Trav, were you? Because I wasn't. Maybe Trav was.

Travis: I don't think I was? I was just trying to back up Griffin's points with other salient examples.

Griffin: I don't know how much I can pick up! I don't know how much I can pick up. I know that if someone asks me to move a couch, and they're going

to help, I can usually do it. But that's not—that doesn't translate to a number. If I had a number—

Justin: I disagree, Griffin, because I think you're picking up what me and Trav are laying down really well. [chuckles]

Griffin: I just don't want to get squished.

Justin: Let's go to the Money Zone!

Griffin: I just don't want to get—I don't lift weights because I don't want to get squished!

Justin: [chortles] Non-sexually.

[theme music plays]

Justin: Smalls is the best cat food I have ever purchased. And friends, I've bought 'em all, but my cats are wild for this stuff. I've got the timing down perfect, the Smalls show up right when I need it. There is a, honestly, there is a bag of treats that comes with my Smalls every time I get a shipment. And if I didn't have it, I couldn't get the cats out of the girl's bedroom at night.

Travis: No, I've seen this work. I've seen—

Griffin: It's incredible.

Travis: I've seen it in action. It is—

Griffin: It's like you have a remote-control cat. It's crazy.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's wild. It's because they go crazy for this food. They go—the same thing happens when I tear up a package of Smalls. They go—they—they go wild for it. It's preservative-free, human-grade ingredients. It's good, natural stuff you find in your fridge.

Travis: Does it ever happen if you open a package that just sounds like a package of Smalls, and they run in the room and then they're really angry that it's not Smalls?

Justin: Yes. 100% of the time, Travis. In fact, you might say that if we open the fridge sometimes, the cat will leap onto Sydnee's shoulder like some sort of demented furry parrot, just trying to get some Smalls. They're wild for this stuff, and your cats will be too. Stop serving your little—

Griffin: You're making it sound like a problem. I'll just say, feedback on the ad, you're making it sound like your cats are like Smalls junkies.

Justin: They are!

Griffin: And that the...

Justin: They are! They love Smalls!

Travis: But in a good way!

Griffin: But in a good way—

Justin: They love Smalls!

Griffin: Okay. I'm saying it sounds like your cat has a problem too much—

Justin: My cat has a problem because it's mean. That's not Smalls' fault. It's a cruel creature. Do you understand? Like it's not—

Travis: Which one?

Justin: The emotions of the cat—

Travis: You've got two!

Justin: What?

Travis: Which one's your favorite?

Griffin: One of Justin's cats is famously meaner than the other one.

Justin: Sydnee has two cats. I have a litter box. Stop serving your little carnivore—

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: A bowl of processed shortcuts. For a limited time, because you're a MBMBaM listener, get 60% off your first order, plus free shipping, and free treats for life, when you head to smalls.com/mybrother. That's 60% off your first order, plus free shipping and free treats for life, when you head to smalls.com/mybrother.

Travis: I have Jasmine in my home, and what I've learned about Jasmine is basically, she's the type of cat that is just the world's clumsiest and least effective assassin. Where she'll see me going into a room, she'll run ahead of me, hide behind the couch, and then dive out at me, and boot my leg, and then run back behind, and I imagine laugh at her success. Just a funny kitty story for you guys.

Griffin: That was chilling, bud.

Justin: Yeah, man.

Travis: You don't want to hear about my kitty?

Griffin: We don't usually tell funny kit—we don't usually tell—

Travis: We just listened to a kitty story from Justin?

Griffin: Justin's was a paid kitty story.

Justin: They had to pay me—

Griffin: Yours was—

Justin: To tell a kitty story.

Griffin: Yours was an entire—

Travis: You know what? They also didn't like this at the content house, when I was telling them about my pets at home. And I think every time I used the word "pets," they got really upset.

Griffin: Yeah, they don't even understand the idea. How can a man own a goose?

Travis: [chuckles] What is a man to a goose?

Griffin: What is a man to a goose?

[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]

Travis: You know, we've been doing My Brother, My Brother Me for 15 years, and maybe—

Justin: Christ!

Travis: Maybe you stopped listening for a while, maybe you never listen. And you're probably assuming, "Three white guys talking for 15 years, I know where this has ended up." But no!

Justin: No! You would be wrong! We're as shocked as you are that we have not fallen into some sort of horrific scandal or just turned into a big crypto thing. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah—

Travis: We don't even really know how crypto works!

Griffin: The only NFTs I'm into are naughty, funny things, which is what we talk about on My Brother, My Brother and Me.

Justin: We serve it up every Monday, for you, if you're listening. And if not, we just leave it out back until it goes rotten. [chuckles]

Travis: So, check it out on Maximum Fun, or wherever you get your podcasts!

[break]

Justin: [makes the Haunted Doll Watch alarm sound]

Griffin: Oh, yeah, baby. Yeah, baby!

Justin: Haunted Doll Watch. You know, there's a lot going on in the world of haunted items, and I have—I have—

Travis: Summerween.

Justin: Yeah, I have five.

Griffin: My Summerween is really coming. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Coming in—

Justin: It's Summerween time. I have five I'm going to share with you guys, because I'm—they're all... the worst. And I wanted to show 'em to you guys to see which ones you all think is the worst.

Griffin: Juice, are you still watching From? I heard they got Haunted Doll Monsters now.

Justin: Yeah, man, they've got everything on From. And of course I'm still watching From. Someone has to.

Travis: I remember a time where Justin said, "There apparently is a show that exists called From. I keep seeing clips from it, and I have no goddamn idea what any of them mean."

Griffin: Hey, Juice, this one sucks, man.

Travis: Ah, boy!

Justin: Oh, yeah, these all—hey, this week? They all suck. Haunted Doll, vessel young, seelie, court, white, light, witch, fae, spirit!

Griffin: It's giving Cola Escola Mary Todd a little bit. Just like—

Justin: Okay, I love that.

Griffin: In the complexion, I guess.

Travis: Does she have just a handful of loose icing? What is that?

Justin: So, let's see here. That's a good—man, Trav, that's a really good—really good question. A lot of people—

Travis: I'm something of a detective.

Justin: Don't have that level of...

Travis: Oh, my!

Justin: That is a unicorn brooch.

Travis: It's the head of a unicorn she's threatening that other unicorn with.

Justin: It's the head of a unicorn. She's holding the head of a unicorn, I think, is what we're dealing with there.

Travis: It's Pippi Longstockings!

Justin: [sings] 'And she's coming into your world!' Lydia is not a witch practicing white magic. She is—

Travis: Oh, cool.

Justin: White light magic in fae form. She's connected to happiness, purity, emotional healing, self-worth, emotional encouragement, and light abundance—

Travis: There's something about that that sounds like the head of a PTA board saying to a parent—the parent is like, "I don't—I don't think you understand like Miller Elementary spirit." And they're like, "I don't understand Miller Elementary spirit? I am Miller Elementary spirit in human form!"

Justin: This girl was not fully ready for the human world yet. Not because she's weak, because she is unbelievably innocent and naive. Which means she has not fully harnessed her authority, she does not naturally recognize manipulation yet, she assumes everyone is emotionally sincere, she believes everything will work out perfectly perfect, because that's her nature.

Griffin: Must be nice!

Justin: For the last—

Travis: Isn't that true of every baby born, though?

Griffin: That is pretty much a baby experience, yeah, for sure.

Travis: Are there babies that come into the world jaded? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: This is the next part that I can't stop thinking about. "For the next three months, Lydia has had full reign of my home, my divination room," which I guess is not in the home, "My spirit collection," which I guess she doesn't keep in the divination room—

Travis: "I got a lot of sheds!"

Justin: "The rituals," which I guess is in yet another outbuilding. [chuckles] "And then the spirit communication work," which must happen at yet a tertiary location!

Griffin: It's more of a compound.

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, it's really—yea, it's a—

Travis: "I got a bunch of buses that I buried underground and linked with tunnels!"

Griffin: Yeah, "This is my she-shed, and that's my see-shed, where I see—"

Justin: "That's my D-shed, where the demons."
"She has approached all of it with emotional confidence of a glitter-covered four-year-old with absolutely zero survival instincts."

Travis: hen don't give her free reign!

Griffin: Yeah, that's crazy—

Travis: I had one of those, a glitter-covered four-year-old with no survival instincts! And I wasn't like, "Everything—let me open all the drawers and cabinets for you."

Griffin: I can't imagine setting my five-year-old loose in a *divination room*? No way, man!

Justin: Yeah. She even got this way—she tried to rehabilitate a little succubus.

Travis: What?

Justin: She, yeah, she calls them sparkle resets. She says, "You breathe and shine—"

Travis: A little succubus?

Justin: Yeah, she—this is what Lydia said to her little succubus. "Oh, girl, you got a lot going on. You never gonna get the right boyfriend with that look. You need positive affirmations and self-respect." Meanwhile—

Griffin: So, she—

Justin: This ancient, seductive succubus energy in Lydia is talking to her like a tiny, emotiative—emotionally supportive pageant coach.

Griffin: There's so much—

Justin: So this is like a full—so you guys think I'm just kind of like losing it right now, but I'm gonna scroll down a little bit, just so you can—I wanna—

Griffin: You can't scroll past the—

Justin: Scroll past the sexy succubus!

Griffin: The fuckin' row of succubus thumbnails.

Justin: This is legitimately—

Travis: Oh my god?

Justin: This is the script of this person who has like outlined this exchange, that this ghost had with a different ghost she has living in her house!

Travis: Wait, scroll back up, because—

Justin: Sure, Trav!

Travis: Lydia's a toxic friend.

Griffin: Oh, absolutely.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Like the—Lydia truly sees good in everything. Dark spirit? Maybe he's just sad. Manipulation? Maybe it was a misunderstanding. Chaos? Maybe everybody just needs a hug. Hey, Lydia? I'm trying to complain about this guy, and I just need you to validate my feelings. [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah, please.

Griffin: Sparkle reset is also the most menacing, brainwashing shit I've ever heard in my entire life.

Justin: [chuckles] It is! As if they give you a Clockwork Orange. Clockwork Pink—

Travis: She sees—

Justin: You get a sparkle reset. [chuckles]

Travis: She sees sadness, anger, bitterness, and thinks, "Oh, no, somebody forgot to be happy." And it's like, hey, Lydia? Depression exists.

Griffin: Some of us are—we're working through some shit.

Justin: I'm giving you guys some extra ones to read here.

Griffin: "She celebrates every tiny manifestation like they just won a spiritual Olympics."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's what they call—that's—-that is what they call the church camp that I went to—

Justin: This is—

Griffin: For three years.

Justin: Honestly, I—y'all, it... I can't even—

Travis: Oh my god? It keeps going!

Griffin: This is a whole—this is a whole pilot.

Justin: Yeah, it's a whole—she's got a season two arc. Yeah, it's a whole universe. So, we're not gonna deal with that anymore—

Travis: One of the things I really like here—and listen, I wouldn't call myself an expert in fae mythology, but I did say a rarely seen young, Seelie Court fae—

Griffin: Get those off the screen.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: There's no such—like, they've been alive for—like, their eternal. I don't think they're a *young* fae. Anyways.

Justin: By popular demand! We have another succubus! "Summoned by my very spiritual friend who is experienced with conjuring and binding, and we curated this vessel especially for her."

Travis: "Reesey Robb brought this one to us!"

Griffin: "Nasty Dave brings you these ones!"

Justin: [chuckles] Ah, damn it. I'm just realizing I didn't read the text of this one before I brought it. I just thought the picture was funny.

Travis: You just liked the picture so much?

Justin: She delight—I wanted to see how you guys would react, and only Griffin gave me what I—

Travis: We would have to blur this to post it on our Instagram, Justin!

Griffin: Even that would be—

Justin: It's just a doll, you pervert. Get your head out of the gutter.

Travis: It's not just a doll, Justin—

Griffin: It's a doll that's—

Travis: Because I would say there's some aftermarket additions.

Griffin: There's some mods! Some bio mods!

Justin: Like what, Travis? I don't see anything? I haven't looked at the picture very closely but—hachi machi! [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay. [titters]

Justin: Yeah, there are nipples. Someone drew nipples on it. [titters] Sorry. Let's see here, we ha— is a lustful succubus spirit, hm? "If you feel a stirring and are drawn to her pictures, perhaps you are already—"

Griffin: Go to jail. You're in jail now!

Justin: Go to jail. [chuckles] "Perhaps you are already connecting with her, and could fulfill her desires and fantasies. She will come to you in vivid dreams, but she can manifest as a shadow figure if she gains enough strength." And I'm sorry, I'm paying \$205? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Sorry, just to be clear!

Griffin: For this shadow figure?

Justin: This ? For this I'm paying \$205?

Travis: I also, once again, don't know much about mythology, but I'm pretty sure the deal is that a succubus is looking for someone to fulfill their desires.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I'm pretty sure that's not how the exchange works.

Griffin: So, that's—so this says, "Not a toy. Her vessel's top is removable, revealing an anatomically correct chest underneath. She also has a see-through lace skirt with small, white..." I'm not going to say that word underneath.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: It also explicitly says—

Griffin: That's crazy, dude!

Travis: "This is not a toy." Then that line. And then, "Per eBay policy, you're purchasing a tangible item." [chuckles] A toy!

Griffin: That was gross, dude.

Justin: Let's see, I got another—

Travis: Hey! The new Toy Story looks weird as fuck, by the way.

Griffin: Yeah, it does.

Travis: See these stills? *Ooh*.

Justin: Oh, this is too bad. Yup, they finally got into us. They got Haunted Doll Mystery Boxes now. [chuckles] You don't know what haunted thing you're going to get with this \$80 treat.

Travis: And look at that totally real hand-drawn art display.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah—

Justin: Yeah, totally—

Griffin: Definitely, definitely not artificially—

Justin: Yeah, totally. Yeah, "Step in the enchanting world of the supernatural with this Haunted Doll Mystery Box. Inside, you'll find one haunted doll, rumored to carry the presence of friendly—"

Travis: Rumored?

Justin: "Fun, wholesome, and positive spirits. We're outsourcing our hauntings to other countries and then we're importing them in bulk." This is terrible news.

Travis: Can you imagine being a haunted doll and being told like, "Yeah, you're... you're going to be in a blind box."
"What? What do you mean?"

Griffin: What? Yeah, no one wanted—

Justin: Random?

Griffin: "When people knew you, they did not want you. The only way we can get you in their hands is to—is to sort of do you a gotcha style."

Travis: If you have enough haunted dolls to start a haunted doll blind box company, I don't think you get to throw the word "rumored" in there. Like, did you just buy dolls in bulk and you're like, "One of these bad boys—"

Griffin: You've lost context. Yeah.

Justin: Are they—are they rumored, or are you verifying every one of these guys is haunted as fuck? [chuckles]

Travis: Some people say—

Justin: Because I'm buying an \$80 box.

Griffin: I would not do this, because this is definitely how they get rid of the dolls that are too haunted.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: The dolls that are like, "This one will make spikes come out of your fuckin' balls and it'll stab you in the head while you're asleep. This is a dark, dark, dark demon." And no one goes for that. They're going to show up inside the blind box.

Justin: It's also irritating from somebody that just like—I like to maintain canon within Haunted Doll Watch. I like to maintain, you know, kayfabe. And I feel like every practitioner of these arts tell you how important it is to find the spirit that sort of works with you and like makes sense for you, and not like fucking fired out of a T-shirt canon.

Just whatever random—think about this! Even in a world where you believe these are haunted, what these people are saying is, "We'll box up a random fucking soul and send it to your house." Like, you wouldn't do that with DoorDash, right? You wouldn't say like, "Hey, I need a friend. Will you come over and hang out with me? Fuckin' anybody in the world. Doesn't matter, just come on over."

Travis: Justin, I wouldn't do that with, "I'm hungry. Just bring whatever food you find lying around."

Justin: Yeah, right, yes! Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: "Whatever you're near, whatever restaurant is around." [chuckles]

Griffin: At this point, you're not an eBay vendor. I do think you qualify as a necromancer, once you start sort of slinging around randomized haunted dolls in this manner.

Justin: Sad. Two quick ones, just this is a palate cleanser. We don't even have to talk about this haunted doll.

Griffin: Are there visible nipples on this palate cleanser, please?

Justin: No, I wanted to step you guys down. We're gonna go out in the chill out—

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: Real quick with Positive Leo, a rambunctious prankster.

Griffin: Yeah, more Leo!

Justin: See? I knew you'd like Leo.

Griffin: Goddamn! Inflation has absolutely savaged the haunted doll market. This is \$175.

Justin: Yeah, you would think it wouldn't be... yeah. You would think—

Travis: They have 2015 transactions, 100% positive.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: They're throwing heat, man.

Travis: I can kind of trust it now.

Justin: "Leo is amazing with his ability—" I'm sorry. "Leo is amazing—"

Travis: Did you read the title, Justin? The title's great.

Justin: Thank you. "Haunted doll, active spirit, positive. Leo, rambunctious prankster."

Griffin: And you watch—listening at home, just sort of imagine like a Cats from cat, like a human cat.

Travis: Yeah! A Skimbleshanks type.

Griffin: Imagine a skimbleshanks, but scary—like even scarier.

Travis: Rambunctious prankster does sound like a euphemism that a parent uses for their horrible child to try to get them into the fancy daycare in town.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: "Oh, he's—oh, yeah, he's a... rambunctious prankster."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I—

Griffin: "Timmy just pushed my kid in the river."
"Yeah, he's a... he is rambunctious like that."

Justin: This is good. "I accept items that are considered seriously haunted. If it's haunted and it feels like it could be too dangerous for you or the people you love, contact me, and we'll see about getting it out of your hands, no questions asked unless about the item itself."

Travis: Well, now...

Justin: Well, I mean—

Travis: [chuckles] So—

Griffin: That's a huge question.

Travis: Some questions asked!

Justin: So, all questions—I mean—[chuckles] So you wanna ask a question that I cannot reasonably ration into some reason that it would be connected to the doll in any way, shape, or form.

Griffin: "You guys want drugs? I got 'em! No questions asked. Except for which drugs you like and want, and whether I have 'em—"

Travis: "And how you'll be paying!"

Griffin: "And how you'll pay, and what they do to your brain and body."

Travis: "I won't ask questions about you."

Justin: Yeah, "About your personal life. I won't ask your address."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Last one, and you guys are going to go... you guys are going to go apeshit for this guy. I love this guy. I might get him myself. Honestly, I never—I never get these guys. I never do this.

Travis: *Oah.*

Justin: I never do this.

Griffin: God damn, so we got—oh, man, that's a good one, dude!

Justin: "Hello, it's me! Haunted German doll vessel child spirit Bennett, active, mysterious, loving boy."

Travis: It does, I'm going to say this, Justin, in an alternate universe—

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Yes! Travis, tell me. What is it, brother?"

Travis: In which Justin McElroy was born in Victorian England, and maybe went through a scarlet fever or two.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: This is—that looks like two-year-old Justin McElroy.

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Yes, it's a beautiful boy. And yes, yes, I come with my own entertainment. I have a copy of *The Bear and the Fly*, a story by Paula Winter! And a picture—"

Travis: [yells out] *Aah!*

Justin: "Of four of the oldest kids you've ever seen in your entire life!"

Griffin: [chuckles] How are those kids—

Justin: "How are these kids so old?!"

Griffin: Fuckin' 40! That's crazy!

Justin: "These are 40-year-old children! And yes, a dusty-ass car."

Travis: "This was us at our retirement party, from the business we started!"

Justin: Look at this photo cube that the car is sitting on. Like this is a fully-staged production here for Bennett. And Bennett deserves—

Travis: "Take the picture, Mother."

Justin: "I'm ready, Mother. I found my light."

Travis: "Take the picture, my hair is perfect."

Justin: Bennett, you want to know about Bennett, of course—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: He's a... a little guy— "I found this little guy back in 2015, in an antique shop in New Orleans. The antique shop owner told me he had been sitting untouched for quite a while because people could not decide whether he looked sad, confused, or mildly offended by humanity. Personally—"

Travis: How are those mutually exclusive?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. "Personally, I thought he looked like trouble. And I like that."

Travis: What you did?

Justin: "He immediately made me laugh, because he was a bit judgy. The second I picked him up, I swear I heard the emotional equivalent of a sigh, like he was looking at me and thinking, 'Ah, absolutely not!'" What is—what is wrong with you in your day-to-day that you pick up a doll and you think, "This doll thinks I suck." [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "And I love that!"

Griffin: "And I like that!"

Justin: "And I love that! I love this nasty little boy."

Griffin: "I'll br—I will break him!"

Travis: "Read me for filth!" [chuckles]

Griffin: "Read me for filth, Bennett! I'll make you love me!"

Justin: "I love this boy. I took him home."

Travis: "I can fix him."

Griffin: I think Bennett would look great on your shelf.

Justin: "Besides, what is one more man in my life telling me what to do?"
Oofa-doofa.

Travis: *Does it say that?!*

Justin: It says that. I didn't write that—

Travis: Oh! It goes there.

Justin: I wouldn't editorialize that. "I noticed the name written beneath his wig when I got home, Shirley Navar. Naturally, my first response was, ooh, creepy. I like that."

Griffin: All right, dude! Fuckin', we get it! Yeah, absolutely!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Well, it also tells me a lot that the first thing you did when you got home was take his wig off.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: You gotta check it—you gotta check it for wig bugs, Trav.

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: You can't bring a new haunted doll and—a vessel into your house and get wig bugs everywhere?

Justin: This person is the same person that writes these incredibly long screeds, but I did want to highlight this.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Okay, so he's kind of a—

Travis: Not a little—okay. "One image repeated during my sessions with him. A fountain. Not a little fountain, either. A massive, decorative estate fountain filled with goldfish. He was reaching in and putting them in his pocket. I said, 'Why would you do that?' And Bennett intuitively said, 'The toilet is basically an indoor pond, if you stop being negative for five minutes.' Then after a very dramatic pause, he added, 'It was a scientific experiment, and everyone overreacted.' Apparently, this is a sore spot." What was the experiment, Bennett?

Justin: Pissing in the fountain.

Griffin: Piss in the fountain—

Travis: No, he flushed a—he flushed a fish down the toilet!

Justin: It was a prank. You just didn't get it.

Griffin: It was a prank and an experiment. And the fact that you don't understand it is exactly why—

Travis: I was trying to start a family vlog channel, and it was 1823, so like—

Griffin: Bennett wouldn't even know what to do with—

Justin: Yeah, this continues for quite some time, actually. And it is just a long history of this small German ghost bullying this woman into submission. [chuckles] I don't blame her for wanting to get rid of Bennett. He seems like a real dingleberry.

Griffin: Yeah. Wait, what's it say at the bottom? Oh, the entertainment purposes only.

Justin: Oh, no, okay, I do—I guess legally, you're right, Griffin. eBay rules. "I need to inform you that this is for entertainment purposes only and you are buying a tangible item. I'm not responsible for the behaviors you may experience, but you can't say I didn't warn you." You should say that part

before the other part. Like, you should totally break the story at the end. Don't break it in the middle.

Griffin: For the eBay items, it's like, "Pay me \$100 and I'll have a witch cast a spell that makes your dick bigger." What do they say at the bottom of those?

Justin: What you get is a little—what you do, you get a little scroll like in Wizard of Oz, you know?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Where he handed him the thing that said he had like a great brain or whatever.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's just a tiny scroll that says like, "Better dick." You know, like a little—and you—the—it's like read this out loud—

Travis: And then you eat it.

Justin: Maybe or not, I don't know the exact mechanism of it. I've never had to order one. I just order a harem of virtual succubi that live in my home. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I did see it scroll by quick there that Shirley Navar was a previous doll owner, that apparently Andy Style wrote her name on the boy's head, on his wig. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. What if that's how Andy had marked Woody? [chuckles] Woody just had a neck tattoo that said "Andy" on it.

Travis: "And these are my nipples he drew on!"

Griffin: "You are a toy! And these are my—"

Travis: [yells out] "You are a tangible item!"

Justin: Why don't they have the—

Griffin: "These are my anatomically correct nipples!"

Justin: They should have a haunted doll character in the movies where it's like, "No, no, no, you don't understand, it's like she comes to life, but she's like kind of alive all the time. And the life that she has is different, it see— from ours. It's not like ours, how like we kind of sparkle with fun and joy—"

Travis: "I hear you talking, Woody!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Do you see that? Do you hear how she does that, partner? The way she sounds sometimes freaks me out." [chuckles]

Griffin: "You hear, partner, how I'm usually talking about toy stuff, but he's over there talking about like... you have weird balls, 'Get 'em out, let me see—' Like..."

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. It's called My Brother, My Brother and Me. Even after all these years, we stuck with it.

Travis: Remember it.

Justin: We got new merchandise for you. This is your last chance, actually, your last crack at our May merch. We got Count Donut Cape Vault sticker by Nate Freeburg. You can make any vault into a cape vault. And a "Don't talk to me until I've had my podcast" mug, and an "I like all butts and no government" mug, with a digital cross-stitch pattern of that as well. So, a lot of great stuff in there.

Travis: Also, I wanted to just give a shout-out, let y'all know, our dad is gonna be in 1776, at the Keith Albee coming up this summer. I'm sure we'll

talk about it more, but like... I don't know how you feel about America now, or even America then, but our dad's in it—

Justin: Maybe we'll turn it around by then!

Griffin: Yeah! Who knows?

Justin: Who knows?

Griffin: I wanna say thanks to Montaigne, for the use of our theme song "My Life Is Better With You." Just listened to that Montaigne ep of Off Menu, so delightful, so entertaining.

Justin: I have to say this important announcement, I'm so sorry, but Monday, June 1st, at around 8.15, we're doing the brush ceremony. So—

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: Yeah. So, if you want to have your name read there, please head on over to maximumfun.org/join. Any new supporters through 11.59 PM Eastern on May 31st, and you will have your name read into the brush that increases desire.

Travis: Also worth noting, we are moving Clubhouse back a week, to accommodate Griffin traveling. And we're having a guest on, our friend JD. So, that'll be June 2nd. We're doing Clubhouse this week—is going to be a game stream with me and Justin.

Justin: Perfect.

Travis: I have a Excedrin Tension Headache bottle that I could throw? It's got a couple pills left, might make a good noise.

Justin: Oh, that's a good sound. That's a good sound.

Griffin: I got like 10 pens.

Justin: Okay, Griffin, I would love—

Griffin: I have like 10 markers—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Griffin's already got those in his hand, so I'd actually love him to throw all 10 of 'em.

Griffin: Yeah, it'll be a cool sound, I bet.

Justin: Yeah, it'll be a good sound, and a big mess for you to clean up after. I like that. 'Cause it won't be funny, 'cause we will be gone, and he'll be doing it by himself.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Three, two, one!

[thudding and clattering]

Justin: Oh! That was good!

Travis: That was like a firework!

Justin: That was real good.

Travis: That was great.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy!

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

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

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

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