

MBMBaM 816: Ship of Vanilli

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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: Griffin?

Griffin: Hi, everybody—I'm so thrown, Trav, I can't fucking do it. I know I talked a big game last week. I really don't think I can do it.

Travis: You pitched it!

Griffin: I know, I don't think I can do it.

Travis: What's up, Trav Nation?! I'm your middlest brother, Travis 'Big Dog, Woof-Woof, Vroom-Vroom, The Heater, Award-Winning, Big Dog' McElroy!

Griffin: And I'm the dénouement, Griffin McElroy.

Travis: Ooh—

Justin: The dénouement!

Travis: The big finish.

Justin: That's good, Griffin!

Griffin: Yeah, that's good. I realized that was my place, I can't be the builder. Travis skips the builder of the like set of three comedy sort of thing, where he's just like—Justin does his thing, Travis blasts off!

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And then I'm like, "And I'm here too." And I can't not be that guy. I can't.

Justin: And I'm Justin. Just wanted to remind you guys—

Griffin: Oh, a day—

Justin: I was sad in mine. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, okay. Wait, oh, sorry, Juice, why were you so sad?

Travis: Yeah, sorry, yeah. Hey, what's wrong, Justin?

Justin: And I'm sa—and I'm sa—and I'm Justin.

Griffin: Hey, what's going on, man?

Travis: What's wrong, little dog?

Justin: Well, my concert's not going very good. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, Juicer.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Your concert?

Justin: I try—I—yeah. I don't know if you guys knew this, but I was trying to throw America the most kick-ass concert that it ever had.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: And everybody's quitting. [chuckles] And I'm getting like—and I busted my ass to get probably nine of the biggest names in talent, and I'm—

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's crumbling, dudes. This is the biggest thing I've ever been in charge of! [chuckles] And it's fucking fall—

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: Let me tell you the li—because like I got the dream lineup!

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: I got the drea—

Griffin: And some of the—some of these dudes were off the fucking gri— Justin had to find their—the address of their Alaskan remote cabins, so they could—he could fly to them in a helicopter.

Justin: Yes, yes, I'm fully like stout Thor rolling around, trying to scoop up whatever '90s detritus I could find lying around. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: But anyway, I had the dream team!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Who'd you have?

Justin: I had Martina McBride.

Travis: Martina McBride, okay.

Justin: I had Young MC. I had C+C Music Factory.

Travis: This is—hey! Can I tell you right now, Justin? So far, eclectic is the word I think I would use.

Justin: Dude—

Griffin: Well, I mean, Martina McBride and Young MC—

Justin: Regatta in Charleston, West Virginia, literally any summer, ever.
[chuckles]

Griffin: I am—I am glad that Martina McBride and Young MC were able to finally squash their beef and be on the same stage again.

Travis: Well, because the MC wasn't—

Justin: Yeah! That took forever!

Travis: They fought over who got the MC. Because for a while, Young MC was like, "Just be Martina Bride." And she was like, "No, you just be Young." And like they went back and forth and back and forth as to who had custody.

Justin: I got C+C Music Factory. I got Vanilla Ice.

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I got—and this is the one that a lot of people were like, "Huh? I got Milli Vanilli?"

Travis: Huh?

Griffin: This is the point—can I be honest?

Travis: Thematically, can I say, I'm starting to pick up a bit of a latter half theme here, of maybe it's the people who had some... legal trouble related to the music they were releasing.

Justin: I don't—listen—

Griffin: Well, it's the 250th birthday of America, Travis. It's all about second chances.

Travis: And amnesty, apparently.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No, Amnesty will not be performing. [chuckles] We were going to do a live recording at the concert where we just like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Couldn't get Dad!

Griffin: We're stepping in for Martina McBride doing a live TAZ. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. Dad's asking price was too high.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, who else did I have there? I had Martina McBride, I had Young MC, I had Milli Vanilli, I had the Commodores!

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: You know how your parents loved the Commodores? I had them! They were there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I had Morris Day and The Time!

Travis: I don't even know, Justin, if our parents loved the Commodores. I think maybe our parents' parents loved the Commodores.

Justin: Well, to be fair, these aren't the Commodores. These are the Commodores' grandkids calling themselves the Commodores probably—

Travis: Got it, got it, got it!

Justin: So it all comes out in the wash.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: And then we got Morris Day and The Time—

Travis: Commodore 64s.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We got Flo Rida. And we got Bret Michaels.

Griffin: Flo Rida, from what I understand, is still on board, still ride or die.

Justin: I'm trying to get clarity on the Flo Rida situation, because this is evolving, and honestly, Griffin, this thing's falling apart all around me. I'm on—I'm texting Flo Rida's people like constantly like, "Please! Mr. Rida—"

Griffin: Well, there's tw—there—there's two ways to look at this, if you're Flo Rida. And the first way is, "Uh-oh, a majority, about 78% of the artists who signed on to perform at this event have dropped off. I don't—do I want to be left holding the bag?" The other way to look at it is, more time for Flo Rida.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He can do a—

Griffin: I'll absorb—

Travis: For him to get into—

Justin: Bigger set.

Travis: What he calls the Flo Flow State.

Griffin: [chuckles] If he's not in—dude, and that's the problem with Flo Rida concerts. His vision is, the tickets are \$500, and you're there all day.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Because once he gets into the Flo State, it's—

Travis: The Flo Flow State, please.

Griffin: The Flow Flo State, it's really, it's something—something to behold. It's an event.

Travis: And, you know, sometimes it takes him two to three hours of sitting in silence before the Flow Flo State kicks in, you know?

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: Anyway—

Travis: And you gotta be there for it.

Justin: And Bret Michaels. [chuckles]

Travis: Wow!

Justin: And I had the—and I had this great concert, it's gonna be on the National Mall, which I know has always been a disappointment to everybody because of the name.

Travis: No Spencer's Gifts!

Justin: You always want it to be more fun than it is, but it's really just a long walk between big buildings, you know. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But this could be cool! It's gonna be a concert.

Griffin: But now the pool doe—now the National Mall, the pool does look like a—like a shit—like a piece of shit backyard sort of—like Midwestern glistening sort of pool now. So, it does—and you can also see the UFC ring from the Mall, which is like pretty—it's way too on the nose, I feel like. The concert, the UFC fight, it's too far.

Justin: What hurts, Trav, is the day that this lineup was announced—and you guys know how involved I was in this—

Travis: Yeah, absolutely!

Justin: The day this lineup, and gr—when Griffin saw the crop that I was bringing to his backyard, basically, he just texted like—and it was a video of him, one tear, "Thank you." [chuckles] It's like that's like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Can I speak on behalf of the American people?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I—

Justin: And then I'd like Griff to speak on behalf of Griffin. [chuckles]

Travis: And here's the thing, Justin, me and all the American people were in one big group chat, and we were talking about how excited we were, because like this is a huge deal.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: 250th, it only happens once, a quarter of a millennia, right? And National Mall, huge like budget-backed thing, a lot of prestige. And you got, I would say, to match all of that, the biggest names in music—

Griffin: In enter—in entertainment!

Travis: In entertainment, right?

Griffin: You think Bret Michaels is just as—is just a musician? He's a multi-vertical entertainer, I would say.

Justin: I mean, Rock of Love? Hello? He's a TV—

Griffin: Hello!

Justin: Star, too.

Travis: Change the way we think about celebrity like '80s rock star dating shows.

Griffin: If it—if the timeline was different, if we were in a different timeline, and we were trying to make up a long sort of joke about who this administration would put in a 250th birthday concert for America, if we came up with the list that was the actual list, we would be fairly derided as hack pieces of shit.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Why are you—

Griffin: As talentless, unfunny—

Justin: This is my—

Griffin: As talentless, unfunny hacks.

Justin: Why are you doing this?

Travis: Hey, Justin—

Griffin: I'm not saying this bi—no, no, no! You misunderstand, Justin. I'm not saying that you are a talent—this is hack shit that you're doing right now. I'm saying that some more nuance, like someone who's like, "Oh, I forgot about that band and—

Justin: I did my best?

Griffin: Of course they would—

Travis: Hey, Justin, why weren't you able to get Kid Rock and Ted Nugent? Like I—

Griffin: Yeah! Hold on! You got one—you—they basically have a musical jester, a national musical jester at this point, in Mr. Rock, who we did send a couple of our—

Justin: He's a—he's a—he's the secretary of defense, so he doesn't have—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Time anymore. [chuckles] He's a sergeant at arms for the second—yeah, it's like in charge of all the ships, or whatever, so he's like, he's busy with war. He's doing stuff in Iran that he's like—anyway! I threw the best concert ever! And I announced this lineup, and everybody's like, "Yes, thank you. Yes, we love it." And then people were like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mad, because of the president. [chuckles] And I told people—

Griffin: So you—

Travis: That wasn't you! You didn't book him?

Justin: No, what I did was—now, Travis, here's—this is where I—if there is egg on my face, it's this.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: I told these performers that this would be a non-political event.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: And even though literally anybody with half of a fucking brain would definitely know that this is absolutely a political event, and maybe they would just love to make some of the money. You know, they just wanted to have some of the money! And maybe people wouldn't be so mad about it.

Griffin: Some of, let's be clear, our taxpayer money.

Justin: Tax dollars.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Right?

Griffin: Our tax dollars going to line Martina McBride's pockets.

Justin: But no!

Travis: But everyone you listed, Justin, I know to be all about the music. Artists first, you know?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And just because I tricked them with this perfect trick, that any— like, it's—

Travis: Airtight lie!

Justin: It is like Riddler-level genius.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I told these people that a concert on the National Mall while Trump's president wouldn't be political, and they were like, "Absolutely, like that makes perfect sense to me."

Griffin: Oh! That's a perfect trick, dude.

Justin: Is the money already there, or do I get the money after?

Griffin: Yeah. I think—

Justin: I would like to talk to you and clear the air.

Griffin: It's—

Justin: "I will not be performing at the Great American State Fair on June 25th," says Martina McBride. [chuckles]

Griffin: They are—they are turn—they're making the right choice, I think we can all agree, but they did get tricked. I do think there's a certain—

Justin: Making the right choice for who, Griffin? Not for me! I'm an embarrassment! "I asked lots of questions," Martina says, "And I was assured this was a nonpartisan event on the National Mall in Washington DC."

Griffin: 250 feet as the crow flies from the UFC arena, in the fuckin' West Lawn.

Justin: Sidebar. I need to step out of the bit to say this. I've been trying to get mad about the UFC thing, and I can't. I want to admit, it's pretty funny. [chuckles] I mean like, I want to be mad about it, but it is so tasteful in the milieu, that it is—

Griffin: Just everything that's going on! Everything that's going on in that quarter—

Justin: It's aesthetically so good!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's like I can't—you know what I mean? It's like—

Travis: Do you know—

Justin: Aesthetically perfect! If you put it in a book—

Travis: Can I tell you, we need to—everybody, we need to do a wellness check on Mike Judge. Because like—

Justin: I know, right?

Travis: There's like—

Justin: The prophetic...

Travis: The UFC thing is so close to like the battle scene—

Griffin: They have to know.

Travis: From Idiocracy—

Justin: He knows.

Griffin: They have to know.

Travis: That Mike Judge has to feel like he's spiraling into—

Griffin: He's getting—

Travis: A different dimension—

Griffin: Residuals. Yeah.

Justin: "I asked lots of questions—"

Travis: Where he's like, "I did this. I made this happen."

Justin: Guys, I have so many people that have crapped out on me. "I asked lots of questions and was assured this is a nonpartisan event that was meant to celebrate all 50 states."

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: Martina's huge in Rhode Island. [chuckles] You should know. "I spent my entire career singing songs about real people with real issues." So, she's out.

Travis: Have you?!

Justin: So she's out. C+C Music Factory guy said, "I don't know—I don't know Trump—[chuckles] I don't know that guy." And so, he just kind of quit on me. He put up a seven-minute Facebook video. He didn't even write it out, so I can't read it, but he quit. I didn't watch the whole thing, because I was so mad!

Travis: I'd like to think that's because C+C Music Factory is very pro-union. You know?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: They—yeah.

Justin: "I've been operating the C+C Music—My grandfather opened the C+C Music Factory in 1910, in Hoboken, New Jersey!"

Griffin: "My grandfather was pulled into the gears of the C+C Music Factory."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I'll never forge—one time I was—

Griffin: "That's why the union started! It was my father."

Travis: I was hanging out with some friends—

Justin: K-Pop is like greatest insult to C+C Music Factory. [chuckles]

Travis: One time I was hanging out with friends and C+C Music Factory came up, and someone said, "Whatever happened to C+C Music Factory?" And I said, "They got shut down by OSHA." And this other person there said, "That's not funny. My friend's dad works for OSHA." And I think about that—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That's a great exchange!

Travis: All the time.

Justin: It's a good conversation. Morris Day and The Time quit.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Can you read—

Justin: Commodores—

Griffin: Can you read the bre—

Justin: Quit.

Griffin: Can you read the Bret Michaels quote?

Justin: Yeah, I got the Bret—

Griffin: I remember the Bret Michaels—

Justin: Michaels one up. I actually, I want to treat you to Young MC first.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "I have informed my agents that I will not be performing at the Freedom 250 event. The artists were never told about any political involvement with the event on the National Mall of the United States."

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "The artists were never told. And despite the claims by the organizers, Justin T McElroy chief among them, that the event is nonpartisan. Spin Magazine describes it as Trump-backed. I hope to perform in DC in the near future at an event that is not so politically charged." I feel like Young MC is like, "This thing was cool. I think Spin Magazine might be the bad guy here, guys. Can we all agree?"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Spin did this! [chuckles]

Travis: I do think—

Justin: So Young MC's out.

Travis: This reminds me of the time when someone reached out to us about doing a live show at the Republican National Convention. And we said, "Is it

going to be partisan?" And they said, "Oh, no, no, no, no, no. Don't you worry about it." Boy, were we surprised.

Griffin: Egg on our face.

Justin: "Hello to all my awesome friends and fans. I want to jump on here real quick and talk about the upcoming Freedom 250 event in Washington DC. When this opportunity was originally presented to my team by Justin McElroy, it was described as a celebration of our country—" [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Through music and a chance to honor our veterans, active military, first responders, teachers, and hardworking Americans from all walks of life."

Griffin: Now, Bret! Now, Bret! Time out, Bret! Have we been doing a lot of teacher honoring in the last few years would you say, Bret?

Justin: I thought we were about to take a real zag and honor teachers!

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: For once, let's—yeah, no, this is—yeah, for sure.

Travis: "I thought they were blowing probably a billion dollars of taxpayer money that, yes, could go to teachers, but on—"

Griffin: Let's give it up!

Travis: "The concert I was going to do to honor them instead!"

Justin: As many—oh, "As a son of a veteran, and coming from a family that has proudly served, that is something that I—" And of course, Bret Michaels himself was one of the most notorious bomber pilots. [chuckles]

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: [chuckles] Every time he flew against the Red Baron, *aah!*

Justin: Yeah, the Biloxi mur—

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: How they'd write stories about him.

Justin: The mil—Biloxi Murderer, they called him. The Baron of Biloxi. "As many of you know, I've spent my entire career bringing people together through music, positivity, and good vibes. My shows have—"

Griffin: That's how I—

Travis: Have you?

Griffin: Describe it!

Justin: "My shows have never been about politics. They're about giving—" This is important. "They're about giving people a place to come together, have a great time, and forget about life stresses for a few hours." For a few hours, Bret?!

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: Damn, dude! How many hits you got there, dude?!

Travis: He's including the before and after tailgating!

Justin: I'm helping you freak a—freaking in like a snack break for everybody to go—*three hours*?! How long is "Every Rose Has Its Thorn," man?!

Travis: They do like five different versions of it back to back to back to back.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I love that Bret Michaels started his statement with, "My awesome friends and fans." And I'd like to think that he was getting a lot of concerned texts and emails from people he knows, and he was like, "I'm just going to address all of this at once."

Griffin: Right.

Justin: The greatest one, though, is Milli Vanilli. And I have to—and this is the one that makes me so happy. So, kids, Milli Vanilli—and I do feel like I do need to do this a little bit, right? Milli Vanilli was a pop group in the '90s, and they had this hit called "Blame It on the Rain." And they had one other hit, right? There's one other Milli Vanilli hit, "Blame It on the Rain" was their a big one. And it turned out that this group was basically two very handsome guys that they got to lip-sync these other talented performers. And it was a real—

Travis: And they were fairly good dancers, if I remember correctly.

Justin: They were good dancers—

Griffin: Oh, fa—I mean, the—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, the energy was off the charts.

Justin: Talented guys, but they... the singing wasn't real. And when this came out, it was a huge—

Travis: And they won like an MTV or VH1 music award for like best new vo—like singers or something.

Justin: It was a huge scandal when it happened. And then like basically, one of the members I think actually passed away, because—

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: In part because of this harassment that took place. So, Milli Vanilli is now a name that is used by the people that sang the Milli Vanilli songs.

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay? Now, Milli Vanilli is that group, but one of the lead singers, Fab Morvan, who was one of the guys who was pretending to be in Milli Vanilli, he was signed at the concert. So they just went ahead and listed him as Milli Vanilli.

Griffin: Oh my god.

Justin: So the people who actually are singing and performing as Milli Vanilli and sang the songs of Milli Vanilli, right? That's Milli Vanilli! On the poster is the guy that pretended to be Milli Vanilli, Fab Morvan! And he is performing at the concert, and they went ahead and listed him as—the only people that are still believing this are my staff, who filled out this poster.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And I begged them, "Please don't put Milli Vanilli on there! It's Fab Morvan! People know Fab! Please don't list him as Milli Vanilli!" And they did it anyway!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And now people are like—

Griffin: Do you think it's a sabotage?

Justin: "Is Milli Vanilli performing?!" And even I don't know that! Now that's become too complex! That's like a whole Ship of Theseus question at this point! You know what I mean?! I don't know!

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Maybe they are! Maybe they aren't!

Griffin: I don't—yeah, I don't know!

Justin: I want to say—I want to take a brief moment to say thank you. If in all this hostility, there's still room for gratitude. There's still room for gratitude, guys. There's still room to say thank you. Vanilla Ice is still playing the Great American State Fair. This is the quote from his representative to me and the Associated Press, "He is prou—"

Travis: And the picture.

Justin: "He is proud to help celebrate America's 250th anniversary! Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate USA's birthday—"

Travis: Now here's what I love—"

Justin: "And our freedom!"

Travis: Justin, if I may? What I love here—

Justin: For you guys. The picture's for you guys!

Travis: Yeah, it's attributed to—

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: This company's this story!

Travis: This quote, he's proud to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, is attributed to his representative that told this to the Associated Press. And then the picture is Vanilla Ice with Michelangelo, which leads me to believe his representative is Michelangelo of the Ninja Turtles.

Justin: That is—

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: That is the obvious connect the dots that you make by looking at this image, is that Michelangelo is Milli Vanilli's representative and he's like, "He's still proud to help celebrate America's 250th anniversary, dude!"

Travis: And he's saying this to a belligerent crowd.

Justin:

Travis: Like the picture is—

Justin: "Everyone's welcome to attend, man!"

Travis: Michelangelo just ran out on the stage while people are booing Vanilla Ice. And he's like, "No, dude! No! No! Everyone's welcome to attend! Cowabunga!"

Griffin: My read on this situation is that Vanilla Ice is not aware of this situation at—Rob does—Rob's not following the news. He's too busy partying with the turtles. I think his representative is keeping him insulated, giving him a little bit of plausible deniability. So if he does roll up—

Justin: Thank god for whatever he's doing, Griffin, because I am flailing right now to find worse people. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like I'm trying to find worse performers—

Griffin: Yeah, good luck, man.

Justin: That people would still recognize the names.

Travis: His representative, Michelangelo, told me that, yes, Rob Van Winkle, AKA Vanilla Ice, has been crashing on the turtles' couch in the sewers for the last 20 years, and they don't get cable down there. So like yes, he has missed a lot of the news.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: This is a fun game. Will you guys help me brainstorm? Just like—

Griffin: Worse people?

Justin: Yeah. Not worse people, just like other people that I might plausibly be able to book. And I'm—like don't give me easy ones, right? Like I know that I could fill it out with like your... you know, some bad people. [chuckles]

Travis: Robbin Thicke.

Justin: Like, I don't want to do the bad ones. I want to hit you with this. Do you guys think I could get the Bloodhound Gang? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] I think that's an easy pipeline from Vanilla Ice, and I know—

Justin: Do you think I could get the Bloodhound Gang?! Some per—some—like not all of 'em. I know I'm not going to get Daddy Long Legs and Skip O'Pot2Mus. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Even if I can get like some low-tier Bloodhound Gang members to perform as the Bloodhound Gang.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, names mean nothing in this sort of—

Justin: Right? I mean...

Griffin: This scenario, so yeah, you could absolutely do that.

Justin: Do you think I could plausibly say it's Elvis? You think I could say he's back?

Travis: As long as you say "an Elvis," I think you're okay.

Justin: An Elvis is here?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Juice, I think you could—hey, guys, legit, I think you could put Elvis up there. I think you cou—I think you absolutely could do it.

Justin: GWAR wouldn't do it.

Travis: I'm sticking with—I'm going to say Robin Thicke would be—

Justin: Travis, Robin Thicke is so fucking prescient. That is actually extremely good. Robin Thicke on this list would have been like...

Travis: Maybe Chris Brown?

Justin: I should have called! I should have called. I was so proud. I said I'm going to do this all on my own Steam.

Travis: Chris Brown! You could get Chris Brown on there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Chris Brown.

Griffin: You could get Kelsey Grammer to come out and do the Frasier theme song to open up the—

Travis: Oh! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

Griffin: To open up the set as a sort of—

Travis: And then fall off the stage?

Griffin: A bit of a valediction. And then he falls off the fuckin' stage.
[chuckles] And everyone is like, "Why was Frasier here?"

Travis: Playing the hits.

Justin: I knew you guys would start doing jokes at my expense. [chuckles]
I knew that my tragedy would become your humor. "This isn't about politics.
It's about staying true to what I've always believed in. Everyone is entitled
to their opinions. That's one of the freedoms our veterans fought for, and I
fought for as the Butcher of Biloxi, one of the most notorious fighter pilots—"
[chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "In the history of the USA aviation military." [chuckles]

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: "I didn't bury—I didn't leave a bunch of caskets overseas—"
[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: And—

Justin: "I didn't leave a bunch of caskets overseas so that my friends and
family—"

"I believe in our country and the freedoms we support, and the idea that for
over 250 years we have gone through both highs and lows together, and
remained resilient. Music—" He's still going! "Music is a universal language.
Just like I did when I entertained a record-breaking crowd of over 100,000
at the St. Louis Arch for an Independence Day celebration with people from
across the country."

Travis: What record?

Griffin: 100,000, guys.

Justin: Most—

Griffin: 100—

Justin: Most people he's ever played for at the St. Louis Arch, Trav.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: He broke his own personal record. [chuckles]

Travis: Most people entertained by Bret mike—

Justin: He's also, I appreciate this—

Travis: Entertained by Bret Michaels.

Justin: Bret could have attached any picture to the post, but I do appreciate that Bret attached the picture of him playing at the Arch, just in case you think they're—you think he's fuckin' full of shit. [chuckles] Well, you're full of shit! Because there's a picture of him doing it, pal.

Travis: And that's the Arch.

Justin: He really did it. "That's the Arch, and that's me, Bret Michaels. I don't need—I don't need this."

Travis: "You're probably wondering how I got here! Well, it's a funny story."

Griffin: Do you guys think—what's the half-life of the like intense—

Justin: I got Gordon Freeman to play.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, that's cool.

Griffin: What is the—what is the half-life of the back-channel group texts that have happened between the artists of this sh—because you know Martina like probably reached out to Milli Vanilli saying like, "Hey, what's the fuckin' vibe on this?"

Travis: And Milli Vanilli said—

Griffin: Hey, Bret!

Travis: "Hey! We're not playing? What are you talking about? This is the first we've heard about this?"

Justin: "I mean, we would." [chuckles]

Travis: "Yeah, we would do it."

Justin: "Until people got mad at—about it, and then we quit!" I wish I had done this. Absolutely, guys. This is best-case scenario for these genius artists, right? Like I'm sorry—

Griffin: "Celebrate America, patriotism, veteran first-responder teachers, but... gosh, I just don't feel like—I feel like it's divisive, and that's not my thing."

Justin: "I'm thrust into the public spotlight again. Everybody's talking about me. And now I get to have this moment where I'm like, no, no, no, I love America too much. Thank you."

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: "Young M—Young MC is in the conversation again! And he's one of the good guys." [chuckles]

Travis: And I guaran-damn-tee you, every single one of the people backing out is like, "But you know what? I will play a concert in DC, on my own terms!"

Justin: Travis, it's—you don't have to guess, it's just in there. It's just in there, and you just read it, and they say it with the words. [chuckles] Like they just like say it. Bret Michaels is like—

Griffin: I do appreciate—

Justin: "I will definitely be playing a show in DC very soon."

Griffin: I do appreciate how all of the like apology letters all have a tone of like, "My whole thing? I don't have any feelings about this stuff!" And not like, "Yeah, he's a fuckin'—wow, man, holy shit. Shit's actually collapsing. Bat—" Everyone's just like, "Hey, man, you won't catch me being on any position of this thing one way or teh other."

Travis: That's a great point, Griffin! Because the counter-argument all these people are making for like, "Hey, we didn't know," was, "No! No, no, no, guys, we're neutral on politics right now!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "We don't have an opinion on what's happening! We thought this whole thing was just gonna be neutral, you know? And we're neutral! Why are you mad?!"

Griffin: "And because if you're neutral, everyone likes you!"

Travis: "Ey!"

Griffin: "'Ey-yoy-yoy-yoy-yoy!"

Justin: I wanna—and you know, I'm not gonna judge anybody who—because I legitimately, I think some of these people maybe didn't know that their name would end up on the poster. That happened. There's at least two artists who are like, "I don't fuckin—what? I didn't even know I was doing it!" [chuckles]

Travis: I guarantee you, most of these people have given carte blanche to their agent of like, "If an offer comes in, you say yes."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: "I don't care—"

Justin: Just anything.

Travis: "If you can get ahold of me or not, Doug! You say yes!"

Justin: This is Morris Day and The Time post. This is Morris Day's post.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Holy shit, yeah, it's like a—it's on—it's like a Facebook gradient background, 128 point font on an image. Can I read it?

Justin: Yeah, please read it.

Griffin: It's so good! "Contrary to rumor, Morris Day and The Time will not be performing at the Great American State Fair." I don't—is that what we're calling? And then a big—

Justin: It is the name of it, yes.

Griffin: Cancel emoji.

Justin: And then look at the little—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: "It's a no for me." Sunglasses emoji.

Justin: [chuckles] That's all Morris has to say. "It's a no for me."

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: "Thank you."

Griffin: Morris, just share the image. Just share the image, people won't be able to miss—

Travis: And the song they put with it! The sound is "Gigolos Get Lonely Too, The Time."

Justin: [laughs] Yeah, so that—like, it really—oh, man.

Griffin: Why would he put—

Justin: Gigolo's Get Lonely. [chuckles]

Griffin: Why would he—why would he put that there?! [laughs]

Travis: Why did—

Griffin: On his image announcing his backing out of the Great American State Fair, 250th American Birthday Celebration Concert. Why would he put a track up on there? Why would he do that, Morris?

Justin: Because he's got—because it's the visibility of these, like—

Griffin: "It's a no for me." [chuckles]

Justin: "It's a no for me."

Griffin: [sings a tune]

Justin: [sings a tune] You already said yes! [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "The Time said yes! The Time said yes!"

Justin: I will say this.

Travis: "The Time didn't ask me!"

Griffin: The Time—if The Time form a super majority vote, they can—they can over—they can veto—they have veto power over Morris.

Justin: I will say this. I did do—and the egg's on my face, because I did do a perfect trick. [chuckles] I did do the perfect grift.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: I did do the perfect trick. But I do want to comment that I—

Griffin: Did you have him sign anything? Like if you back out—if you back out or cancel, like you're fucked, you have to do this thing, you—no backsies outies, or you have to pass a billion dol—did you get them to sign anything after you—

Justin: There's no signatures, it was all like good faith handshake stuff. Which, okay, again, shame on me.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You live, you learn.

Justin: I'll lear—I'll—you know, I'll know for next time. I will just say this about the nine people that—

Travis: In 250 years, when they—when they wake you up from cryogenic sleep to do the 500.

Griffin: Oh, man, that one's gonna be so good.

Justin: I will say this about the nine acts that I managed to trick with my perfect trick. I did sure manage to trick the exact nine acts that you would think that I would trick. [chuckles] You know what I mean? It is funny how the exact nine people that would be right on that line of plausibility were the nine that I managed to trick with my incredible grift.

Griffin: We had this conversation five days ago. Oh man, the tenor is completely different. Guys, I crushed it. The most kick-ass lineup tricked to high heavens of all time, and none of them have backed out yet. It's just that they—it's just that you didn't get 'em to sign nothing. And they just all kind of dipped.

Justin: It's hubris.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He quit too.

Travis: No!

Justin: Yeah, DJ Hubris. [chuckles] You guys remember his hits from the '90s? He had a bunch of big ones. But DJ Hubris backed out. He was like, "I thought I could do it, but honestly, I just got—I was too high on myself, and I..."

Travis: Yeah, that'll happen.

Griffin: You remember his track—you remember his track, [sings] "I'll never die!" [sings a tune]

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: [sings] I'm never wrong!

Travis: I remember it, Griffin. It's my ringtone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I am in a unique job where I have a baby raccoon—"

Travis: Hey, we're 30 minutes in, dog! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Are we really?!

Travis: Yup!

Justin: Are we really? Okay, well, let's take a quick break!

Griffin: We will do a question! I think we can commit to doing one question at some point—

Justin: Yeah, we'll do a question. Just first, we're going—I—listen, I don't know if you heard, but I'm ruined. [chuckles] So, if the podcasting thing—

Griffin: Oh, yeah, yeah! Sure.

Justin: Doesn't like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know? Let me just get my—let me get my dumplings, real quick. [chuckles]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: I'm going to blow my nose while you start doing the ad for Zocdoc. Maybe I should go to Zocdoc and find a doctor for the nose, who can come in and help me—who can help me out with that.

Justin: Maybe they could help—

Griffin: This is me segueing so I can blow my nose.

Travis: No, I want to talk about this! Because an ear, nose and throat doctor is so cool to me, because there are very few—like there—I can't think of other doctors that both have specific focuses, but also took like three things all at once. And I know that ear, nose and throat, there's a—but you know they had nose and throat. And they're like, "The nose and throat connects." And someone was like, "Okay, I want to do ears." And they said, "No, that's all external head stuff."

Justin: You're probably thinking—

Griffin: It's all—

Justin: You shouldn't listen to us.

Travis: "Ear openings? I'm taking that one too."

Justin: You're probably thinking—

Travis: I love it.

Justin: You shouldn't listen to us about doctors, and that's fair. But you should listen to Zocdoc. And they'll help you find a good doctor.

Travis: My ears aren't directly connected to my nose, right? Like I'm—it's just—

Griffin: Yeah, they absolutely are. Dude, it's just all tunnels back there.

Justin: It's all tunnels.

Travis: What?!

Griffin: It's all tubes. Yeah.

Justin: All tubes.

Griffin: Zocdoc really is, I mean, I don't know if we've said what it is yet, but it's like a platform that you go to, and you can find doctors in your area that take your insurance and make appointments right in the thing. And it's like, it's the way that this should work, finding healthcare should work. It is the only thing that is sort of making the healthcare process easier and more streamlined, so you don't have to deal with quite as much of the other bullshit going on around it.

Travis: It has here—

Griffin: I've use them to find—

Travis: In the suggested intro, where like when something feels off, do you usually load up on vitamins and hope for the best? And I feel so called out, because like I have a Ziploc bag full of vitamin bottles. That's the closest I have to like John Wick cracking open his cement floor and breaking out the big suitcase—

Griffin: Your, yeah, bug out bag.

Travis: Full of guns. Where it's like, I haven't been taking these regularly, but I woke up feeling a little sick, and I roll out from my big thing and I'm like, time for a bunch of Ds and Cs and Bs, baby!

Justin: Do you guys think—do you guys think Zocdoc knows how to get in touch with Dr. Dre or maybe Dr. John? [chuckles] Because I would love—

Griffin: It's entirely possible, yeah!

Justin: If I could use Zocdoc to book them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, Blues Traveler! Justin, get Blues Traveler!

Griffin: Blues Traveler will absolutely do the 250th, dude! I don't know if Zocdoc wants us to talk about it—

Justin: Actually.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: They shou—they shou—they—yeah... Let me—let me call Popper.

Travis: But here's the problem, Justin, when you try to book 'em—

Justin: That's the name of my drug dealer—

Travis: They're going to give you the runaround.

Justin: He knows the Blues Travelers guys. [chuckles]

Travis: Wait, no, my—they're going to give you the run around.

Justin: [yells out] *Aah!*

Griffin: Ah, Trav.

Justin: That's a real good one.

Griffin: Zocdoc I've used to find a whole suite of healthcare professionals for myself and my family. Here in Washington DC, it's tough to find doctors and make appointments... oof... in a big city—

Travis: Did you blow your nose yet?

Griffin: Yeah, I did. I did it discreetly under the table. I know you wanted to hang a lantern on it, but... I gotta charge for that. So, Zocdoc is great, and it's really an easy way to find doctors, so you can finally get that thing looked at. Zocdoc is a free app and website that helps you find and book high-quality, in-network doctors so you can find someone you love. Stop putting off those doctor's appointments and go to zocdoc.com/mybrother to find and instantly book a doctor you love today. That's zocdoc.com/mybrother. [Zocdoc.com/mybrother](https://zocdoc.com/mybrother). Thanks, Zocdoc, for sponsoring this message.

Justin: If you have a dream, you got a business you want to start, you got a concert you want to put up, whatever you want to do, the best place to start is—

Travis: Some refunds you have to offer!

Justin: Some refunds you have to offer, some apologies you have to issue, some clarification websites you have to build on the fly, go to squarespace.com. They're going to help you build a slam dunk, totally rad website that looks like a professional made it, because they got professionals to make the templates! Right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So you bring in your data, you bring in your photos, the stuff you want to sell, whatever you want to do with your website, and Squarespace will help you build it.

Travis: That's true! And it's a—it says it right here, I'm looking at squarespace.com, it says right here, "Slam dunk, totally rad—"

Justin: Totally rad.

Travis: Tubular—

Justin: Cutting edge.

Travis: Cowabunga website for the ages.

Griffin: Dude! It says to do the whole thing in a Bart Simpson voice. You gotta start over. You got to read the—guys, we gotta read these fucking copy points before we get into it.

Travis: Yeah, it says right here, these websites don't eat shorts. Which, I don't know if that—if it's ever been phrased that way.

Griffin: Justin needs to cook.

Justin: Head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use offer code 'My Brother' to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Griffin: Okay. You did still do that in your normal voice. It felt like you were about to do a bit there and then you didn't.

Justin: I did, I lost my—I—you know what, Griffin? I was about to... absolutely whiff a Bart Simpson impression for the entertainment of our audience—

Travis: [in a silly voice] "Hey, dudes!"

Justin: And I lost my nerve—

Travis: No, it's Cartman—

Justin: I will say, I lost my nerve.

Griffin: Travis did Cartman trying to get to Bart. Yeah. That's fine. It's scary! It's scary.

Justin: I've be—I've been sort of struggling lately with accents where they'll just be one—like, I'll open my mouth and I'll get it the first try. But if I don't get it the first try, I'm not going to get it better. But sometimes there'll just be one there, right? So, I'll just discover that Kingpin from Daredevil: Born Again is in there. [chuckles] But I don't—but that's not useful to me. You know what I mean? I didn't work on that. And if I had opened my mouth there as Bart Simpson, it would have sounded like Bart Simpson. Do you know what I'm—do you know what I'm saying? It would have been embarra—

Griffin: Dude, no, I—people get on Jeff Dunham all the time because it's like, "Your puppets are mad racist, dude."

Travis: Yeah! And misogynistic! And—

Griffin: And misogynistic—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But Jeff is like—

Justin: [yells out] Oh, fuck! Jeff Dunham! Jeff Dunham!

Travis: If you could get Dunham!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah! Get Jeff! Get Jeff. Call Jeff! Call Jeff! Call Jeff!

Justin: "Jeff! It's Justin! It's Justin! Jeff. [chuckles] What are you doing—"

Travis: "You know that new racism you've been looking for? Well, listen to this!"

Griffin: No! You guys are misunderstanding. He doesn't like doing that. Those are just the voices that are in him. He has the—

Justin: Will he do my content though?

Griffin: He can do the co—he'll do the fuck—he'll do the fuck—he'll do the fucking content, for sure.

[break]

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[break]

Ella: Hey, Alexis.

Alexis: Hey, Ella!

Ella: What animal has the most teeth?

Alexis: I would guess a shark.

Ella: A snail.

Alexis: No, snails don't have teeth?

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

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

Ella: [chuckles]

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

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

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

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

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

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

[break]

Griffin: How about a question?

Travis: Yeah, let's end—

Justin: I work—

Travis: The intro.

Justin: "I'm in a unique job where I have a baby raccoon in my car much more often than most people. Sometimes when I have a baby raccoon with me, I drive to a fast-food restaurant and I really want to show my baby raccoon to the people working the windows. I know if I was working in one

of these establishments, I'd love to see a baby raccoon randomly on a Tuesday afternoon, but I have no idea how to broach the subject. How can I ask the fast-food worker if they'd like to see my baby raccoon without making it weird?" And that's from Fine Raccoon Purveyor in "None of Your Business. Seriously, don't get me fired."

Travis: That does lead me to believe that the baby raccoon isn't supposed to be in your car.

Justin: Yeah, it's probably not supposed to be in your car, huh?

Travis: And you're just hanging out with them and you're like, "If the boss finds out I'm taking this baby raccoon to get some burgers or fries, I'm gonna be in so much trouble." [chuckles]

Justin: You wouldn't get fired for thinking about showing your raccoon to people, friend. [chuckles] I don't know. It feels like you stole the raccoon like in Groundhog Day.

Griffin: I like to think of myself as a man of the world, and of the people and of the workers. I can't even imagine what job would lead you to have a baby raccoon in your car sometimes. More often than most other people. Because there's not a ton of jobs where you're interfacing with baby raccoons in the first place, let alone job—the jobs where if you're in, I don't know, pest control or animal control, I don't think you keep 'em around in the car like sidekicks, I—jewel thief, and the baby raccoon is trained somehow?

Travis: Yeah. I can see that.

Griffin: That's all I can think of.

Travis: Or it's like you caught the baby raccoon, you are with pest control, you caught the baby raccoon, and you're like, "I know how to reward myself with a job well done before taking this raccoon to jail," maybe? I don't know exactly what they do.

Griffin: The forest.

Travis: But yeah, they stop for a Happy Meal on their way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I have somehow let myself become the stereotype of the dad who's like at war with some like natural annoyance. And for me, it's the raccoons that live outside.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's an ongo—gang, really, truly, Justin is engaged in a long-term sort of battle with these ring-tailed bastards.

Justin: I have a nice—

Travis: They shape his—he has schedules based on like—

Griffin: He has—

Travis: "I have to do this thing before the sun goes down, or they'll be here."

Griffin: Genuine Google Calendar reminders, "Thwart the raccoons."

Justin: Yeah! I like to keep snacks out there for delivery people. And I get—because like I think it's nice to have some drinks in the summer. And these fucking dickheads used to—

Griffin: The raccoons.

Justin: At night, if I left the—

Travis: The raccoons! Not the delivery drivers!

Griffin: The raccoons, not the delivery drivers.

Justin: The raccoons, not the delivery drivers. The raccoons would come at night, if I left the snacks out, and eat 'em. Which like, fair play. The night is your domain, raccoons. Still kind of an asshole, but like fair. Now they've gotten bold where at five in the fuckin' afternoon, these dickheads will be up there grabbing a snack for themselves.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And here's what kills me! They'll drag the snack off, open it, enjoy it, and leave the wrapper for me to clean up. I shit you not. So, if I saw a raccoon in your car, I would judge you pretty bad. I'd think you're in league with them. And I'd be real careful what I told you.

Travis: How do your children feel about the raccoons? 'Cause I have a war with deer after they sharpened their antlers on the trees I was growing, and killed my trees, and they eat the flowers off the flowers I'm growing. So like I'm standing at the window with my cup of coffee in the morning looking at these horned rats.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Derogatory. And my kids are like, "Ah! Deers!" And I'm like, "Ugh... I'm going to go out there and yell at them 'til they leave."

Griffin: I'm in the same boat. I got these *big* bunnies that hop around in my yard, and they've never once letted me pet them, or my kids petted them. Even though we try to give them strawberries, they don't want it. And I feel like they're judgy and they wouldn't even let me petted them once.

Travis: Not even once?

Justin: Tell me you're an outside kid—

Griffin: Not even one time.

Justin: Without telling me you're an inside kid, Griffin. You're such an inside kid right now. [titters]

Griffin: They're so big.

Justin: Like, I don't even think you've seen a bunny.

Griffin: They're so fucking big.

Justin: I saw, last night, I—there was a raccoon—

Griffin: Did you just say you didn't think I saw a bunny?

Justin: No, I know you saw a bunny for sure. There was one who was coming to get my snacks, and I went outside, and he just looked at me. Like, and it used to be human presence was instant disappear.

Griffin: Yeah, dip.

Justin: Now it's like looking at me like, "What have you got?"

Travis: Nothing is more debil—that happened once. I was camping by myself. A raccoon started going through my trash, and it was night time. I went outside my tent, waved my flash around, made myself big, ah! Raccoon just looked at me. And at that moment I went, "Okay." And just went back in my tent. Like that trash is—

Justin: Because he—because you know what that raccoon—

Travis: I have no other...

Justin: If the raccoon charges, you're done. You will go back inside.

Travis: I have no second step, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, you're out.

Griffin: But I mean, if my situation is any indication, you could just walk forward and try to pet 'em and be a—be their friend and pick 'em up. And love them and give 'em a stra—give 'em a big, juicy strawberry? That raccoon will run right away. You scare away more flies with honey.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: "There's Scooters in town near me that I stop by sometimes. Whenever I go through their drive-through, I can't help but look at the beautiful, healthy and giant clovers they have next to their shop. I want to rummage around for some big ol' four-leafers so bad—"

Griffin: That's a cool—you—that's a cool mind you have there, and I genuinely mean that, and I'm jealous of it. I wish I noticed clovers—

Justin: Yeah, "I want to rummage around for some big ol' four-leafers so bad. How do I go about doing this? Do I just go for it unapologetically? Can I call ahead of time, ask their manager? Do I have to buy something from them first? I'm Irish too, can I demand that it's my right? Help me." First of all, Irish too? Like the chain Scooters? Is that what we're saying? [chuckles] Or is it—oh, like the four leaf—

Griffin: No! They're just adding on! Yeah! [laughs] [spoofing an Irish accent] "Welcome to Scooters."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [spoofing an Irish accent] "Welcome to old Scooters." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I think if you ask, they'll call the police on you, but you should just do it. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, dude!

Travis: Without giving us like distance from it, if it's between the drive-through window and the like driveway, there's a patch of clovers?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Don't do the— "Oh, what'd you get? Oh, some fries? Nice. Me? Just looking for clovers. Don't mind me."

Justin: If you're working in a drive-through window, that area for at least an eight by eight is your office. So like if I have a drink that I need to dump out, I'm not going to dump it out there in that person's office. You know? I'll drive up to the trash can in front of their office.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Justin: So, I think if you are rummaging around for clover outside this person's office? That would be very distracting. If you're down, away from their office, you'll probably be okay. But I think that that view, you shouldn't have to make that person think about what you're doing. That would be my one request, just on a human level. Don't make the per—they're not going to say anything, but like, don't make them wonder why you are doing that for an hour. You know, just do it discreetly.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That would be my suggestion.

Travis: You gotta walk up—you walk up to the counter and say, "Hey, did you see some kids throw an iPod Nano into that field of clover?"

Griffin: That's really good, man.

Justin: God damn it, that's good!

Travis: And then you're going to walk around looking, and occasionally like stand up and scratch your head and look around.

Justin: "My son, Chimmers, is getting bullied at school, and they stole his damn iPod Nano, and they threw it out in the grass again outside Scooters. And I'm just going to have a little butcher's around real quick and—hey, just... do you all have a clover policy? Or is it just sort of finders—if while I'm out there."

Travis: "If I'm out there—"

Justin: "I'm out there anyway."

Travis: "And I find a big ol' four-leafer..."

Griffin: "I might have to move—"

Justin: "I might find a juicy four-leafer, is that just up for grabs, or is there a raffle?"

Travis: "Do you guys own it? Do we have to share the luck?"

Griffin: Can anyone own a clover patch?

Travis: "I'm Irish, if that helps."

Justin: God's greatest miracle, clover.

Griffin: Grass with a hat on!

Travis: [laughs] Umbrella grass, they call it.

Griffin: Umbrella grass we call it in our—in the old country!

Travis: Two bow ties!

Justin: But I had two people this week that came up to me that know me fairly well, and told me that they had found a four-leaf clover—adults. And like, you know that I got a little sprinkle of the—of the—

Griffin: A touch.

Justin: The tism, and I—a little touch. What do you want me to do with that conversation? I mean, honestly, what are you neurotypical people doing about clover discussions? If someone—if a normal adult comes up to you and is like, "I found a four-leaf clover." Yeah, I got social anxiety! What do

you want me to say about that in this social situation?! You know what I mean?! You found a clover! I don't know?!

Griffin: Can I get you with just, next time, "Wow, someone's in for some good luck."

Travis: The other option, Justin—

Griffin: It gets you—it gets you—it's not—it get—

Justin: You heard it, right? Does that not chill you to your [yells out] *fucking bone*?!

Griffin: It does, but it will to them too, and then convo over. There's nothing el—there's no follow up to that. Yeah, I guess so.

Justin: How do you recover from saying something like that out loud?! You know—

Griffin: You don't have to.

Justin: For the rest of the day!

Griffin: Yeah. No...

Travis: Some people worry about small talk, Justin, in a way that we don't. [chuckles] In a way of like—

Justin: Okay?

Travis: Okay, there's no follow—the—you can just look at them—now, what I would suggest, Justin, is to just show interest to a degree maybe they were not prepared for. Grab them by the lapels and say, " Where?! Where?! How?!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then like when they tell you, take off in that direction.

Justin: Yeah, I guess that's fair. No, that's true. I need to come up with something better than staring at people blankly and saying, "*And?*" [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Something better than that.

Griffin: What's that mean?

Travis: I find—

Griffin: "Sounds like someone's in for some good luck."

Travis: "Nice" works a lot. My kids like to tell me random observations throughout the day, that I don't know how to follow up with besides, "Ah? Nice."

Justin: The problem is, because I'm always goofing and joking, I think that if I say something sincere like, "What a beautiful thing," you know what I mean? Like, "Ah, what a del—one of nature's most delicate—"

Travis: "Small miracles, huh?"

Justin: "One of nature's most delicate miracles." And people look at me like waiting for the punchline, and I'm like, I'm not a joke store, I'm a fully realized person. I'm a whole person. And I can't just say like, "Wow. Delicate." You know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I have such a hard time sounding sincere that I have the opposite problem that if someone told me and I was like, "Ah, it's a little miracle." They'd be like, "All right..." And I'm like, "No, you don't understand." And I would just keep going on and on.

Griffin: That's the same problem.

Travis: Trying to sound sincere.

Griffin: That's not a different—it's not the opposite problem, that's the same problem.

Travis: No, Justin's was sincere and not a joke. Mine they would assume is a joke, but it's actually sincere.

Justin: No, it's the exact same thing I did—

Griffin: That's the exact same thing. You said the same thing, again.

Travis: Listen, I was only half listening.

Justin: Sure, yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: It's the problem with us clowns.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: No one wants—no one wants us—no one wants us to tell them all our thoughts on God. They just want the—they just want the jokes.

Travis: The sad man went to see the therapist, and the therapist was like, "There's this clown in town." And the guy was like, "I don't fucking care about clowns, man, I'm trying to tell you my problems?" And the therapist was like, "I don't want to hear your problems, I got tickets to go to this clown show later."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "And you've been talking for what feels like two hours, and I'm going to be late." And the guy was like, "Doctor, I just got here five minutes ago?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "And the clown show's not for another four hours?"

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "I know, because I'm in it! I am the clown!"

Justin: Yeah, "I am the clown."

Travis: And then the doctor shit himself.

Justin: Yeah, because he's so famous.

Griffin: Scared.

Justin: People always say the same thing too, "But your job is so easy." And yeah, it is. [chuckles] You know what I mean? Like, yeah, okay. My job is easier than a lot of peoples'.

Griffin: We have to do a lot of it! I will say this! It's easy, but we have to do a lot of it. We do a lot of it. And so, it's easy—

Justin: I mean, not as much as a normal job.

Travis: Yeah, not like a schedule that normal people would work—

Justin: Not like a 40 hour a week like hard job.

Griffin: I make more podcasts than a normal job.

Travis: Than a normal job would make podcasts?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Yeah, for sure.

Travis: Yeah, I guess that's true. Statistically.

Griffin: That's the only metric I ha—that's the only metric that matters.

Travis: That like at the end of the year, your average like bank teller has made less work podcasts—

Griffin: Podcasts.

Travis: Than you have.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, I

Justin: I—

Griffin: A lot less. Way less.

Travis: I think I'd get on board with that.

Justin: "I clean an Airbnb as a side gig, and sometimes the guests leaves what I call 'tips.' They never leave money, but sometimes I'll find beer, frozen meals, or other packaged items. I usually throw away everything that's already open. Today, I saw a nondescript takeout box in the fridge. Being the nosy person I am, I open it, only to find two slices of the most delicious looking pizza. I couldn't help myself. *I know* I shouldn't have eaten them brothers, but I did.

And it was the *most delicious* pizza I've ever eaten. My question is, how do I find out where the guests got this pizza without letting them know? I'm a nasty boy who ate their left—without letting them know I'm a nasty boy who ate their leftovers. The pizza was a standard meat lovers with sausage, bacon and pepperoni, which most pizza places in my area offer, so narrowing it down by topping is not a choice." And that's from Airbnb Animal in Arizona.

Griffin: That's really—this is really, really good. Thank you for sh—

Justin: Real good.

Griffin: Thank you for sharing this with us.

Justin: It might—it must be nice to live in an area with enough choice in pizza where you do not know every pizza on site. I could—I would identify—

Griffin: There's like—yeah.

Justin: Every pizza in the Tri-State area 100% of the time.

Griffin: There's five different pizza thicknesses, and based on which one you—and shapes. And based on which one you get, you can easily triangulate which one.

Justin: You bring me a square cup with little dirty sausages on it? That's Monnie's.

Griffin: That's Monnie's.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'll have it.

Travis: It's one of the things I—

Justin: Is it Monday? Twofer. Nice.

Travis: Cincinnati has no specific pizza identity, as a city like New York or Chicago or something would. And so, when someone opens—

Justin: You guys just specialize in pseudo foods. [chuckles]

Travis: Well, so when Cincinnati opens a new pizza place, they're like, "Ah, but ours is like this." And it's amazing because it's like, to what level of slothful do you want to feel today? Like, "Were you planning on accomplishing anything? Okay, we've got thin crust over here. Are you napping for the next 16 hours? Great. Here's—"

Griffin: "Great. Try this dense boy."

Travis: Here's my worry, Question Asker, is that sometimes our enjoyment of a thing is so... ephemeral and based on the context of the thing. Because right now it's feeling magical. You were hungry enough that you ate the pizza from the fridge. It looked amazing. It feels, dare I say, a little naughty, a little illicit.

Griffin: A little bit, a little naught—aw, you can be a little naughty.

Travis: And I'm worried that even were you to find the source of this pizza—

Griffin: It wouldn't be as good.

Travis: It wouldn't live up to it again!

Griffin: Yeah, the sin makes it—

Justin: This is one of the—

Griffin: So much sweeter.

Justin: This is a classic My Brother, My Brother and Me solve. It's one of our best ones, and it's called "no bigs." Because it's just like, what we do is we say like, you bring us a problem. And we could solve it, or we could just be like, eh—

Griffin: No bigs.

Justin: No bigs.

Griffin: Not a problem.

Travis: Sometimes you just—

Justin: Not a problem! Do something else! Worry about something else. Like, it's not—no bigs! [chuckles]

Travis: I'm just saying like—

Justin: It's just like—

Travis: When you have a magical moment—

Justin: Travis is right! If you got the pizza, you'd eat it once, be like, "That's this pizza." And then you'd—it wouldn't—it's like when Lil Pete found his special song, it was just for him, his favorite song. And then he couldn't find the band anymore. And then, you know, he had to recreate it. The specialness of it was the fact that it was lost. So like this pizza chase is... let it fuel you.

Travis: Live in the—

Griffin: Sure!

Travis: Like, live in—let it—let it be special.

Justin: Yeah, just let it be.

Griffin: Do you know what a my—a mystery is a project. And projects are the vehicles of true joy and satisfaction that we get in our lives. You're lucky to have this mystery—

Travis: That's—

Griffin: And you should work on it.

Travis: That's so true, because you could try to find a way to contact the people staying there. Or—

Griffin: Or.

Travis: Now you have the fun project of, "I need to sample pizza."

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: "Like go to different places and try different pizzas from different restaurants until I can like match this pizza experience."

Justin: I would—I would wa—totally watch a TikTok series that was like, "Hi! My name's Joshua! And I'm trying every mediocre pizza in Arizona until I find the one that I liked." And then it would just be like... going around for different ones.

Travis: I think that would be incredible.

Griffin: You could be like that guy that goes around and reviews pizza restaurants that no one seems to really like very much. And sometimes he goes to the pizza restaurants and they kick him out.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: He's so wealthy though.

Griffin: And he's like, "This fuckin' asshole's kicking me out!" And it's like, "Well, you said—"

Justin: "But I'm so wealthy!"

Griffin: It tastes... "I'm so wealthy—"

Travis: That happened here in Cincinnati, and I was very proud of my city!
[chuckles]

Griffin: You said their pizza tasted like gross dog shit, yuck. You said the yuck—

Justin: It sucks that you can make a career out of—

Griffin: Factor was a million.

Justin: Being unappealing. [chuckles] What a—what a sad commentary!

Travis: Wait, you can?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Ah, shit!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I know.

Travis: Ah...

Justin: It's easy money, man—

Travis: I need to change gears.

Justin: Just be as unappealing as possible.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: But I've been so likable this whole time?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: To me you're always likable, Trav. You're my best bud.

Travis: Thank you, Justin.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to this podcast!

Travis: We got three—we got three questions in there. Got three questions in there.

Justin: Three questions.

Travis: There were people doing some strange like gambling where it's that thing of like, "Ah, you know, I think this guy is going to say this word." And when we hit that third question, somebody made bank. Also, don't do those things. They suck. Those websites suck, don't do those. [chuckles]

Justin: But if you do... get in touch.

Griffin: If you play the—if you play the Polymarket—

Justin: We can maybe work something out where maybe everybody's getting their beak a little wet.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah!

Travis: A little snoot in the till, you know?

Griffin: By the way, this episode is brought to you by Betso! Use code "Brother Betso 50 off" to get 50% off your next vote.

Travis: Brought to you by Betso Ross!

Justin: [chuckles] [in a silly voice] "I sold my country's flag, and I wave it for gambling!"

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: Right, so... Hey, folks, are you struggling to make it stick?

Justin: "I bet you won't forget me this 250th."

Travis: "I'll be performing alongside Kid Rock and Ted Nugent!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Blues Traveler, Robin Thicke!"

Justin: I got the Draft Kings, guys! [chuckles] I got the Draft Latin Kings. They were there—gonna play my show. The Draft Kings are gonna be there.

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I got all of Miami Sound Machine to perform!

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: I got the engineer of the Miami Sound Machine! [laughs]

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: "Yeah, I do the—I work on the UX of the Miami Sound Machine."

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: "We've had some great innovations lately and accessible tech."

Justin: They got the guy that skates from Mighty Mighty Bosstones! [chuckles] Just the guy—

Travis: [yells out] Ah! Yeah!

Justin: From Mighty Mighty Bosstones. [chuckles]

Travis: Blue Man Squad is performing on—

Justin: They got Joe C! What?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: From Beyond?!

Griffin: Whoa. [titters]

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

Griffin: I'd love to talk about our merch. Can I do it?

Travis: Yes, please.

Justin: Do it.

Griffin: We got sticky notes. "Make it stick" sticky notes, designed by Evan Crews up on the—up on the store. If you need a—you know, reminders that, you know, you need to be pitching heaters, you need to be tossing 'em day and night. We also have a "You're Going to be Amazing" shirt designed by Sabrina Volante. It's incredible, it's one of my favorite designs we've had for a long time.

Proceeds for that shirt go to Lambda Legal. And 10% of all of our merch proceeds this month will also be donated to Lambda Legal, which is a national organization working to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of LGBTQ plus people, and everyone living with HIV, through impact litigation, education, and public policy work. That stuff, again, over at mcelroymerch.com.

Travis: I also want to say you can preorder *The Adventure Zone: Story and Song* right now at theadventurezonecomic.com. Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million both have exclusive editions available. Barnes & Noble includes four collectible trading cards, and Books-A-Million includes a collectible poster. I also wanted to say, I had a great time at Champion's Grove last weekend. Everybody who came out for it, it was wonderful. Just thank you to everybody for making it a wonderful time.

Griffin: I want to thank Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." It's a—it's a really good track, and the vibes are so on point. *It's Hard to Be a Fish* is an album I keep returning to. They're just so talented, and I'm so glad we get to use that song. It looks like Travis has an exciting—

Travis: I have this pointer that I think I can throw.

Griffin: A really exciting pitchable. Can I ask what—

Justin: You could—you could die—you could die from that. That could kill you.

Travis: How—I'm throwing it away from myself?

Justin: Yeah, but it bounce—

Griffin: What are you throwing it at? Can you—

Justin: It bounce back. Plunge through your heart.

Griffin: Do you have a styrofoam thing? I want to see if you can get that stuck into something like a javelin.

Travis: Oh, you wanna see if I can get it stuck into something? I don't think I have anything I can stick it into.

Griffin: All right, well just yeet it.

Travis: Yeah. Okay, here we go.

[pause]

[clattering]

Griffin: Yeah, dude, that was fucking cool.

Justin: [laughs] My name's Justin McElroy!

Griffin: You hit the helmet like right on it. That was awesome.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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