

MBMBaM 821: Time Lost is Cool Lost

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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?

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

Justin: Hello, everybody! And welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

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

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

Justin: Welcome to, I mean, it's like an ongoing celebration, I would say.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Of America and West Virginia, especially American.

Travis: And Trav Nation. And Trav Nation.

Griffin: And Trav Nation!

Justin: And Trav Nation. We're all partying for the 250th.

Griffin: I'm so stoked to be here for the big, beautiful lady's quarter millennial.

Travis: Is it hard getting around, Griffin, like all the traffic and the people coming into town for it?

Griffin: Oh, dude! Yes, it sucks. The congestion is like fuckin' for miles around the mall.

Justin: Everybody trying to get there?

Griffin: Everyone is trying to get down there, because everyone wants to know what's the big inventions this time around. You know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah!

Griffin: Because like—

Justin: The latest inventions.

Griffin: Everyone wants to check, because they know that's what like all kinds of shit mo—was mostly at the Columbian Expedition in Chicago. We were—we loved that one. Devil in the White City, fuck yeah. And we want to know what's the next telephone, what's the next Ferris wheel, what's the next—

Travis: The net light bulb!

Griffin: The next alternating current—

Justin: "Oh, have you tried the latest—it's a coned waffle!"

Travis: Yeah, man, that shit—

Justin: "A waffle cone!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now everything's in cones.

Justin: "Dr. Brenner's candied floss!" You know what I mean? It's all there.
[chuckles]

Griffin: I tried to find a list online.

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: What the big inventions are this time.

Justin: What are the inventions?

Griffin: And I've been—I have struggled—and I'm guessing they just want it to be a surprise.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: When you roll up and you're there, boots on the ground, you're boots on the ground and you're watching a Reba McEntire cover band perform for 14 people. They want the inventions to catch you, because they know turnout's have been low. They want the inventions to catch and surprise you and lift you up and make you celebrate America.

Justin: I do think it is—it's tough, Griffin, that like you're one of the people on this show, and one of the funniest things to ever happen is not, you know, 30 miles as the crow flies from your doorway. And I just—you just won't walk over there and see what's going on. [chuckles] You know what I mean? Like if you would just like go there?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You could have already gone there, and you'd be talking about it.

Griffin: You tell—

Travis: I doubt you'd even have to pay to get in, I don't know if they're charging—

Justin: If this was happening in Huntington, you guys would be so mad at me for not going.

Griffin: You tell me what I would need to wear or otherwise do to signal to everyone that my presence at this extremely and tragically politicized event is as—is—is as for a goof.

Travis: Griffin—

Griffin: Is for the inte—this is my—this is work.

Travis: These are the same excuses you gave on January 6th, when you wouldn't go down there—

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles] No! I—no, I—yeah.

Justin: See, I actually don't think that's as funny as what I was going to say.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: Because this is—[laughs] There's a bit of acid on the tongue with that one, yes. I was going to say, Griffin, in a much more convivial fashion, if you—one of the headlines has been how few people there are.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: So I do think that you could start to shift the narrative of like, "There's not many people here. There is this one guy in a My Brother, My Brother and Me T-shirt who seems to be in a lot of the shots—"

Griffin: Don't get me—that's my fear, Justin. My fear is that I will go and the paparazzo will be so—I've never had an issue with the paparazzo myself, but if—I go and there's 14 people there, there's a real chance that I will be one of the more notorious individuals on site. And it will get out, and then people will be like, "Hey, man, what the fuck?" And I can't say I wanted a \$12 foot long corndog, like I just popped down for lunch.

Travis: Griffin, you're my brother, and I love you, and I've known you for almost 40 years now. I don't think you would have a hard time conveying your displeasure at being out of place visibly. I think that—

Griffin: That's true, it's one of my—

Travis: In photos, it would be very clear that you were not happy to be there.

Griffin: One of my love languages is visibly displaying my displeasure at being at a place or event.

Travis: Yes, it's something that you have perfected over the years. I think your ability, like a camera would pan across the 14 people present at this huge event, and they'd be like, "But that guy—"

Griffin: "Who's that ha—"

Travis: "Hates it."

Griffin: "Who's that unhappy camper?"

Travis: "He hates this so much."

Griffin: I don't love being in a situation, whether it's a concert or open mic comedy or something like that, where I know that the performers are putting a lot of—I'm carrying a lot of weight for the performers being one of the very few attendees here. I don't want to make eye contact with a... with Meba Rackentire, the Reba McEntire cover band.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like their guitarist, and see the desperation in his eyes. And if I go because it sucks, or I have something way better to do, I'm going to see the panic in their face of like, "Oh no, oh no, don't go. What—tell us what do you want, "Fancy?" We'll play "Fancy" again. I know we've done it a couple times already."

Travis: I mean, it's Shmancy! Their version's called Shmancy!

Griffin: Well, no, they can sing the so—they—you understand how a cover band—

Travis: Legally you think Reba McEnitre's fine with them singing "Fancy" at the 250th Great American Fair?

Griffin: I don't know.

Justin: Can I talk about our wheel? Our—

Griffin: Please talk about your great wheel.

Travis: Keep on turning.

Justin: We have a great wheel in West Virginia called the America 250 Wheel. It's the world's largest portable Ferris wheel.

Griffin: Fuck yeah, dude. Cool name.

Justin: And it's—I was—I—I—the—the his—

Travis: You keep using that word too, portable, and it's not—

Griffin: All Ferris wheels are portable, if you're strong enough.

Justin: I mean, this one is—

Travis: If you're Mighty Joe Young.

Justin: What this me...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In this case, it means rickety. So—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Justin: The world's largest portable Ferris wheel—

Griffin: It's mobile on a different axis than most Ferris wheels are mobile. It goes—there's a depth to its movement.

Travis: It's just simply not an adjective I want attached to my Ferris wheel.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I'd love for that to be a—

Travis: Or large machinery of any kind, really.

Griffin: A permanent fixture, actually, I would love, for my Ferris wheel.

Justin: Right. So, it's not that West Virginia h—West Virginia has—the reason this is important is that it started at the Florida State Fair.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: And next month, it's going to the Wisconsin State Fair. But right now, it's in West Virginia, so hachi machi! It's the biggest one in the world, and we finally put ourselves on the map.

Travis: But not exclusive!

Justin: Here's a—

Griffin: No!

Justin: But not exclusive!

Griffin: We don't need that, though.

Justin: Here's a quote from the West Virginia Secretary of Tourism, Chelsea Ruby. "We wanted an attraction that people would tell their kids and

grandkids about." I've already told my kids about it, and I had a lot of really great, great words. No worries there. [chuckles]

Griffin: Does it say, "Kids, grandkids, and podcast/streaming audience as a goof about?" Was that clarified?

Justin: The second half of the quote is, "It took all of about two minutes for the governor to okay the idea." No shit?!

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: No way.

Justin: You don't fuckin' say! No kiddin'?!

Travis: You're telling me this wasn't a long, deliberated—

Justin: No kid, our dip—

Travis: We got experts in to talk—

Justin: You're kiddin' me! Our dipshit, carpetbagger governor didn't take more than two minutes to clock whether or not this would be a good idea or not. I don't—I don't believe it!

Griffin: Yeah. Here's a quote from the leader of the Teachers Union of West Virginia. They've been kicking this one around for like a year, guys. They've been trying to figure out whether or not they should pay us any money for way, way, way, way longer than two minutes. Like so much longer.

Travis: Do you think when—

Griffin: We just got an email from them actually saying, "Sorry, teachers, this is Ferris wheel money. Better luck next time."

Travis: When it's time to move it to a different fare, do they just loosen two big nuts on the side of it and just let it roll there?

Griffin: Just [spoofs squeaky wheel sounds]. Yeah, they point it from Florida to here, there—it had to go through the badlands a little bit, through some swampy terrain. A couple of the—they lost a couple of cars on it, for sure.

Travis: "What's that? You wanna—oh, no, we can't. That crosses the Grand Canyon. That crea—it's like basically—"

Griffin: Unless—

Travis: "A pothole!"

Griffin: Now, I'll say this. All will be forgiven for the—for the sham of this 250th celebration. All will be forgiven if we can ramp this big Ferris wheel over the Grand Canyon.

Justin: That would be so sweet.

Griffin: Nothing would be—nothing would make me prouder, nor would it be more representative of the American experiment, to watch a big Ferris wheel do a huge jump over the Grand Canyon, and almost certainly absolutely explode when it lands on the other side.

Travis: Yeah, but that's fair! Like if that happens—

Griffin: Fuckin' cool.

Travis: That's part of it.

Griffin: Get Red Bull on this, pronto. We can figure out the logistics on how to get this thing over. The landing is—

Travis: And literally! Coat it in Red Bull, gives you wings!

Griffin: Give it wings to fly.

Justin: One... just, if you're curious what the experience of riding the big wheel is like, "The wheel's elaborate light show incorporates an effect that mimics sparklers, and it casts its glow on the entire capital complex.

Especially appropriate to the holiday, the ride has a patriotic theme, including 45 gondolas decorated in tribute to each of the 45 American presidents."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: "Complete with audio mini bios that play during the 10 minute ride!"

Travis: Oh no!

Griffin: Well, hold on—

Justin: Can you imagine?!

Griffin: Now, okay. It's not my experience when waiting in line for a Ferris wheel that I get to pick the car. I don't ever—I don't think you're allowed to say like, "No, keep going—"

Justin: No, you don't, you get whatever you get.

Griffin: "Keep going, keep going. That one." I think you do just gotta hop in and—

Justin: [in an old-man voice] "Well, it's me! William Harrison." [chuckles]

Travis: I also think that 10 minutes is pretty kind. I mean, every time I've been on a Ferris wheel, if you're the car right after they stop to let the first person off—

Griffin: You're on there for life, dude.

Travis: You're going all the way slowly back around while they unload.

Justin: How do you think Harrison does fill up the 10?

Griffin: He doesn't—

Justin: For 10 minutes.

Griffin: He gives you a minute and a half. "Well, I won in a landslide! People are just crazy about my policies. Then I died. Oh, shit."

Justin: "Wear a coat, I guess."

Travis: "What about you? What have you been up to lately?"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Wear a coat is my whole thing, I guess."

Travis: "How have things changed in the la—do you guys have better medicine?" [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Let me tell you some of the cool things I would have done in my presidency—"

Griffin: "I think it would have gone a little something like this."

Travis: "We would have gone to space in my presidency if I'd still been there."

Justin: "It's more than just a ride," Ruby says, "It's truly an all-American experience from beginning to end!"

Travis: Yeah! In many ways, I would say that's true.

Justin: It will be free while in Charleston. Speaking of—

Travis: It's free?!

Justin: Given that the state cap—yeah. "Given that the state capital complex includes the governor's mansion, is Governor Patrick Morrissey

expected to take a spin himself? Absolutely," Ruby says. "He wouldn't miss it!" Limits permitting, I guess, but like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But also, yeah, if he thought about it for two minutes before saying yes to it, he was first in line with his like "I heart Ferris wheel" T-shirt, and his like Ferris wheel-shaped hat, and his commemorative Ferris wheel cup.

Justin: "Not so fast, Mr. Governor." [chuckles]

Travis: "But I..."

Justin: "Not so fast, Mr. Governor."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "You have to wait for us to put it together."
"Go faster! Safety rules be damned!"

Justin: "It's not done, Mr. Governor. It's not done. It's in my house, it's in my backyard. The capital complex includes the governor's mansion, this is technically my house! Technically, you have to let me be the first one on it! Every morning!"

Travis: "How am I supposed to finish if I'm not on the Ferris wheel?"

Griffin: You just see, as you go to visit, you see him stumbling out of the car, just barfing like, "Ugh! Only nine more presidents to go! I've almost completed the whole set!"

Justin: "Fuck, Harrison was boring!" [chuckles] "Hey guys, don't let people on Harrison! That was so boring!"

Travis: "Hey, guys, I learned some stuff about some of the presidents. It's made me rethink some things." [chuckles]

Justin: Rethink. You know what? History is not kind to some of these decisions, I will say. [chuckles]

Travis: "Maybe I shouldn't have gotten a two million dollar Ferris wheel. It's this... What are they going to say in my Ferris wheel gondola about me?"

Griffin: Depending on the content of these biographies, we might change some hearts and minds on this Ferris wheel.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Like someone of a certain persuasion might get—might get assigned the Obama Ferris wheel ride, and then go around it, or the Trump Ferris wheel ride, and get off and be like, "I had no fuckin' idea. Wow."

Travis: "Whoa, dude."

Griffin: Holy shit. Guys, we need to—we need to have a big family talk right now about our priorities.

Justin: I was curious. I know that at the fair, Griffin won't go over there, even though it's very funny—[chuckles] he won't go over.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: So I had to look up for myself what West Virginia's doing over there.

Griffin: Oh, no.

Justin: Yeah. So, here's our first thing. It is, you know "Country Roads, Take Me Home?" Here is a driving sim—[chuckles] It's a driving simulator.

Griffin: Of country—

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Of country roa—

Justin: Country Roads.

Griffin: What are they playing there, man? What have we got go—what game are they cooking? Because—

Justin: I'm real—I think a—I don't know, man. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: It's hard to say.

Griffin: Come to West Virginia. It's a lot like—

Justin: It says Shenandoah River at the bottom of the screen. [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, but like yeah, that's fine, but is it a—like a Forza map? What are we doing?

Justin: We also got a—this is good too, we got a—

Travis: Oh, cool!

Justin: Yeah, we got some—

Travis: Like a mini golfing kind of thing!

Justin: Yeah, we got some fake stumps that you can take your picture on. There's also, it doesn't show it in here, but there is also a stuffed black bear that you can take your picture with as well. [chuckles]

Travis: Really elevating the West Virginia kind of identity there. Thanks, guys.

Griffin: Just—

Justin: Didn't show up, just have a stamp that has their state name on it. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's just like, I want to bring—I wanna get in a time machine, I wanna bring back Daniel Burnham from 1890 whenever, and just show him what our version of World's Fair kind of looks like. Just to let him know like, dude, you went way too fuckin' h—like, all the landscaping and stuff, are you kidding me, dude? Rhode Island's just got two chairs facing each other, because they didn't really wanna rep at the fair. You didn't need to do all the stuff that you—that you did end up doing.

Justin: It would be sick if at West Virginia's booth, it was just a big picture of our kick-ass wheel. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Just like, listen, don't think about anything else with West Virginia!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We're starting over! It's the big wheel state! [chuckles]

Griffin: The big wheel state, the rollin' state.

Travis: We built—

Justin: Welcome to the rollin' state!

Travis: A 99% scale model of the giant wheel for this display.

Justin: We dropped the mountain state thing, we don't have mountains.

Travis: No.

Justin: What we did have was a big wheel. Now it's in Wisconsin now! But for one glorious month—[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It was—

Travis: The wheel rolled over the mountains, crushed 'em.

Griffin: Crushed 'em. We had to blast 'em, cut 'em down flat to get this wheel here from Florida.

Travis: Worth it.

Justin: This is—

Griffin: Worth it.

Travis: We miss it

Justin: This is an ad—

Griffin: We can still smell the fresh swamp air in some of the cars.

Travis: Now, us in Florida, Wisconsin, we're going to stand at three different points in a room and call to the wheel, and see who it goes to. [chuckles]

Griffin: See who—[chuckles] Exactly.

Justin: "I am currently working as a beer merchandiser—"

Griffin: This is an advice show.

Justin: This is an—oh, Griffin! Thank you!

Griffin: It's just, you usually say it, and you didn't—

Justin: Usually I say it. Thank you. You're right. This is an advice show. "I am currently working as a beer merchandiser over the summer. The company I work for sends beer, wine and seltzers to grocery stores, and I stock it on the shelves." Yeah, that's what a merchandiser—

Travis: That's not the end of the question, though.

Griffin: Hold on, no—

Justin: Oh, okay—

Travis: This wasn't just a—

Griffin: No, Justin, that's a—

Justin: Sorry, I thought it was like a definition!

Griffin: I don't think I knew what a merchandiser was, so I actually appreciate—

Travis: Griffin hasn't worked retail, Justin.

Griffin: I have not—

Justin: Yeah, you're right. I'm sorry—

Griffin: No, that's not true, I worked at—I worked at GameStop for like two years.

Travis: Doesn't count.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It's an educational opportunity that we all—

Griffin: I took a bull—I took a fucking bullet for my retail job—

Travis: That's not quite true. You hypothetically could have—

Griffin: I could have almost taken a bullet for my retail job, so don't sit here and tell me what I can't do.

Justin: I think crosstalk is the worst when it's lying. That's, I think, when the crosstalk is the worst, when it's—

Griffin: Oh, like I interrupted for a na—for a lie—

Justin: For a lie! Yeah.

Griffin: For a sin!

Justin: [chuckles] To sin. You interrupted me to sin. To condemn your soul to hell.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Quite frequently—

Travis: That's why it's called sinterrupting.

Justin: [chuckles] Quite frequently—that was the original title of this show. "Quite frequently, customers at the grocery stores I work at will come and ask me questions about the location of a product I have nothing to do with. Such as, 'Where are the almonds? Not these almonds, the other ones.' Or, 'Where are the diced peaches?' Most times, I can say I simply do not know, but at times, customers will insist I do. Brothers, how am I supposed to deal with customers insisting I know where the secret almonds are?" That's from Merchandiser Misconception in North Carolina.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Subtle. I like it.

Travis: I—have you guy—this isn't igs—this isn't the heart of the question, but have you guys ever been in a situa—all right, I might be alone in this—

Justin: The Heart of the Question was the other alternate title of the show. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: When I'm at—when I'm at a grocery store and I can't find something, it takes a lot of courage and gumption for me to bother an employee to ask them where their thing is.

Griffin: Yes, yes, yes, yes!

Travis: And then the moment when I realize they also don't right away know—

Griffin: That's it!

Travis: Where the thing is... I wish that there was a code phrase I could give that's like, okay, scrap this whole—I actually don't care that much anymore.

Griffin: Undo, undo, undo. Yeah.

Travis: I would—I thought you would be able to give me latitude and longitude and I'd go straight there and grab it, but you and I on a hunt together is more burden than I was planning to give you today.

Griffin: I want to be crystal clear, because I think a lot of the time these types of behaviors are wrongly categorized as, oh, well, that's just macho like man bullshit of, oh, I'm not going to ask for help to ask where the thing is at the Home Depot. I'm scared to talk to another person. Maybe they're busy. Maybe they don't fucking work there, they just wear the same color shirt as everyone else who works there. There's so many ways this thing can go bad that have nothing to do with pride. It's all fear, baby. It's all fear all the way down.

Travis: Maybe they were already helping someone else?

Griffin: Maybe they were already helping someone else, and now I look like an asshole to two people. It's all fear, baby. All the way.

Travis: All fear!

Justin: Home Depot or Lowe's—not Home Depot, but Lowe's or sometimes like any of those home improvement stores, I'm also worried about like... I'm

going to call it the right thing. Because if I knew—if I knew exactly what I needed, I would look it up in the app, and the app shows me what aisle it's in.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: So I don't know what it's called. So, uh-oh, now I'm having to be like, I need a piece of metal with holes on each end—

Griffin: The worst. [chuckles]

Justin: And I know there's a name for it.

Griffin: The worst.

Justin: I know there's something it's called!

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: You know a springy thing that goes between a door with the other end? Where's that?! *Eeh!* [chuckles]

Travis: Imagine you're working at a theater and you're building weird prop shit, and they ask the question—

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: "Well, what are you using it for?" And you have to say, "Well, we're doing a production of Macbeth and I need a fake pipe bomb." [chuckles]

Justin: Don't have to say.

Travis: I don't know how else to describe what I need!

Griffin: Yeah, because you can't be like, "I need a pipe... yay, large. I need to put—I need it to look like a—what if I was making an exploding pipe for a —for a pretend play?"

Justin: It's hard to, because as somebody who's worked a lot of different retail jobs, there are some employees you're going to talk to that absolutely know the store like the back of their hand will tell you exactly where the thing is, because they know it as well as they know their own name. Or it's like me at Best Buy in any department other than media where it's like the car stereos? What the fuck? I've never been in there. How would I have any idea?! I've never even g—where is that in the store I work? Because I—

Travis: I have a dude—

Justin: Have not clue!

Travis: I have a dude at Lowe's that if I see him, I know that not only does he know the aisle and the section, he'll tell me what like level of the section to look at.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And I've talked to him probably 50 times in the last three years.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's no recognition in his eyes when he looks at me. But when I see him, I'm saved. I know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I've been—I've been spending a lot of home—time at home improvement stores recently.

Travis: [spoofs gorilla sounds]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And... Sorry, yes, thank you!

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: *Home!* [chuckles] Thank you, Travis.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: In accordance with the law.

Griffin: Sorry, these stores, we gotta be clear, sell merchandise and memorabilia from the Home Improvement television program.

Justin: The thi—my least favorite—

Griffin: I got one of the planks from Wilson's Fence. It cost me \$7,000.

Travis: I got Wilson's face!

Griffin: No way!

Travis: Yeah, it's a Chase face. It was hard to find.

Justin: [chuckles] Tough to navigate—home improvement stores are the only stores where they will just all of a sudden be like, "This aisle is closed. You cannot shop here."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: That's crazy!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Nobody does that! And then it's like, sometimes there's nobody in there. So it's like, hi, is this part of the store still?! I need something from there! And then if you have to—if somebody clocks you looking, then it's like, hey...

Griffin: Don't even think about it.

Justin: Don't even think about it, you'll die.

Travis: We might—we might be using—

Justin: And it's like, yeah, dude—

Travis: Yeah—

Justin: I wasn't gonna do it, thi—

Travis: Might be using big Joe or whatever it's called, to grab this thing down.

Justin: This really—this really got me. There was an aisle closed that I really needed something from. And I waited for a long time for them to open it back up. And I was just like, I really need—and then they had a machine in the other si—in the adjacent aisle. And I was thinking like, god, guys! This is ridiculous! Just let me in here? And I was almost about to be frustrated. And then I realized what they were doing was going up way up to the top. And if they had messed that up, they would have pushed it over into the next aisle that I was so desperate to get my fuckin' foam out of or whatever. It's like, yeah, you know what? I should have trusted you, Lowe's. You knew what you were doing, I'm sorry.

Travis: And it's Derek's—

Justin: I shouldn't have wandered in here.

Travis: First day on the forklift.

Justin: Yeah. [chuckles]

Travis: And he had a rough night last night. So—

Justin: We closed three—

Travis: We're actually gonna close—

Justin: Whole isles—

Travis: Three isles—[laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: We don't know what this cat's gonna do!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: He could take a fridge out. He took out the entire Amana section.

Travis: He's wearing dark sunglasses! We don't know where he's even looking right now.

Griffin: Who we got on the inventory? Oh, dizzy Derek? No, shut down—that whole wing of the store is gone for dizzy Derek—

Travis: Lock the doors!

Griffin: Off limits.

Justin: Get your screws from Target.

Travis: Everybody out to the garden center! [chuckles]

Justin: Go to the garden.

Griffin: [chuckles] Evacuate!

Travis: You might be safe there!

Justin: Now, it's a load-bearing pergola, Derek! You gotta—fuck.

Griffin: [chuckles] We've talked about this, Derek!

Justin: We talked about that. God damn—

Travis: "Watch what I can do!"
"Derek! No!"

Justin: [chuckles] Derek!

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: God, if his dad didn't own the store...

Travis: This happened when I worked at Best Buy. It did not matter what someone was wearing. If people saw them putting stuff on shelves or taking stuff on shelves, the assumption was, this cat knows things. I've been places in regular clothes and people have asked me where things are—

Griffin: You have the stink of retail all about you, Trav.

Travis: Yes. I do. I carry that with me. I can't shake it.

Justin: It's an energy.

Travis: And I, man, just say like yeah. I just focus on the beer. [chuckles]
All I know—

Justin: It's awkward though—

Travis: Is the beer!

Justin: It's awkward though, because you have two choices. One is, "I don't know." Okay? I mean, that's a little—I get it. That's probably the fair, reasonable thing to do. The hard thing is, most stores are like—or like a lot of grocery stores especially, are labeled in such a way that if you will take a couple seconds and just like orient yourself and look at a sign. But then if you start doing that and the person clocks you, it's like, well, I could have... I could have looked at the s—

Travis: That's exactly it!

Justin: You know! It's like—

Travis: When I ask—

Justin: Well, okay, but... yeah, but that is what to do! You look at the sign! I don't know.

Griffin: That's what you do, yeah.

Travis: When it retroactively makes—even if I've been walking the aisles for like 15 minutes looking for a thing, and then I asked someone, and then they're doing the same thing I did? I want to like just stop and be like, "Hey, before we continue this journey together, I want you to know that I did this too. And maybe I'm not saying you should stop, I just don't want you to think you were my first stop before I looked at the headings on everything."

Justin: Talk about these invisible borders to people who have trouble interacting in the world, another thing at these home improvement stores is a lot of products aren't ready for you to buy it. There's one more step where you gotta get somebody to say, hey, cut this to what I want it. When I see that, what I think is... no. [chuckles] I will buy something else, I can't buy this. I can't go get a guy to do the thing. I will—I will buy the standard size thing and have it be wrong. [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Rather than go—

Travis: The find this key—get somebody with a key to unlock this thing becomes, do I need more stuff in my life? Perhaps my life is already too cluttered.

Justin: I don't actually need to find somebody with a key.

Griffin: Justin, if I'm not mistaken, you seized the means of production just so you would not have to ask someone for help cutting wood to specific sizes.

Justin: Right, this is why I fabricate. Yes, I will fabricate it myself, thank you. [chuckles] I need—I—

Travis: That's why I learned lock picking.

Griffin: I want to remind you, and you're—I'm sure your bosses would be happy to do this too. And maybe the grocery store doesn't want you to do this. You're not just in merchandising, you're also in sales. This is an opportunity. "Oh, you don't want almonds. Gross. Have you tried a beer?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Dude, you d—oh, you wanted—you wanted crunchy nuts?"

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: "That's fine and all but—"

Travis: No.

Griffin: You know the—

Justin: "I can't help you with that! But I can't help you take the edge off."
[laughs]

Travis: "Hey! You're going to be really disappointed that you couldn't find those almonds tonight. It's going to be a hard day for you. You're going to have a lot to come back from. Try this seltzer! It's not going to replace the almonds, but it will fill a void in your heart from not being able to find them."

Justin: You should be allowed, if you are a beer merchandiser, you should be allowed to once a day—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just once a day—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Someone says something and you're like, "Hey, I know what might help." [spoofs the sound of cracking a beer]

Griffin: Yeah, one.

Justin: [laughs] One!

Travis: Hey, road dog—

Justin: Just once a day you should be legally allowed to crack open one and just hand it to somebody in the store!

Travis: This is going to make the searching feel a lot more fun.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Goodbye.

Justin: "Excuse me. Where do you keep the Pokémon cards?"

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: [spoofs the sound of cracking a beer]

Griffin: "Don't wor—[chuckles] don't worry about that. Those will depreciate in value. You're not going to get a Charizard. Have you tried a big beer? Have you tried a big, cold beer??"

Travis: A big beer for—

Justin: You know most of these beers—

Travis: Big boys?

Justin: Don't even al—have alcohol anymore. You just—

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Just hand—pass it over.

Griffin: Just pass it over to 'em. Don't give beer to kids.

Justin: "I suspect my partner is learning to juggle in secret. The problem is that he's still learning and keeps dropping the pins late at night while he practices. We live in—"

Griffin: Not much of a fucking secret!

Justin: Why is he starting with pins? "There's a 500 square foot apartment with wooden floors, so the sound wakes up both me and our dog, who proceeds to bark until the juggling stops. Brothers, how do I help my partner get better at juggling so he stops dropping things, without telling him I know about a secret hobby and/or embarrassing him?" That's from Sleepless in Silver Spring.

Travis: When I was in college—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I took up throwing knives. And I—

Griffin: You did.

Travis: Practiced in my dorm room, because there was a cork board on the wall. And eventually RAs wise—I want to say eventually—

Justin: You didn't take up throwing knives.

Travis: Within 10 minutes—

Justin: You didn't take up throwing knives.

Travis: RAs came by—

Justin: Stop it.

Travis: And they were like—

Justin: Stop.

Travis: "What are—"

Justin: Stop.

Travis: "You doing in here?" And I said, "Putting up posters in the cork board." And they said, "It's really loud." And I said, "Yeah, having a hard time getting these thumbtacks to stick." And they looked at me, and I looked at them, and then they realized they didn't care, and they left. And what I mean to say here is, learning to juggle in secret is a really good lie about something else this person—

Griffin: There's for sure something else going—I—my thought—

Justin: There's something worse.

Griffin: They are running a speakeasy candle pin bowling situation up on the higher floor of your—of your lodging. That's—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's one—that's only one option.

Justin: Why not something softer? If you left maybe in a passive way, just a bunch of soft balls around.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Like is there a passive, tasteful way to just have bunches of soft balls?

Travis: Did their uncle who owned a bowling alley die and leave—

Griffin: Travis, I feel like—

Travis: Them a bunch of pins?

Griffin: You didn't even think about if there was a tasteful way to leave a bunch of soft balls around.

Justin: Yeah, I feel like—

Griffin: I feel like you immediately jumped in—

Justin: Sometimes it starts to feel like we're just saying different ideas—

Griffin: But there's gotta be a way to leave a bunch of soft balls around in a manner that is—

Travis: We're talking about balls that are soft, not soft balls, right?

Griffin: Yeah. Well, soft balls—

Justin: Yeah, soft balls—

Griffin: Would be—would make—

Justin: Are pretty hard, which is great.

Griffin: They would make less sound, but yeah, I mean... But you gotta be careful! You don't wanna give 'em one of those like sets of klutz balls. 'Cause who wants to be called a klutz by the juggling items they just bought.

Travis: You need to secretly take up hacky sack.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Right? And then let your partner find your soft balls lying around.

Justin: Mm-hm!

Travis: And then you own up to hacky sacking. Like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Yeah, I've been trying to learn hacky sack in secret."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But now a—if I'm being honest, I bought too many soft balls."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And like you can really only hacky one sack at a time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I don't know what I'm gonna do with all these other soft balls lying around."

Griffin: I don't know if hacky sacks are regulation-sized juggle balls. Just one issue—

Travis: Okay, I try to play in the space. You guys yelled at me about not playing in the space. I played in the space and then Griffin's giving me regulations?

Justin: I've turned on Griffin.

Griffin: I'm n...

Justin: [chuckles] It's crazy, I didn't see it coming.

Travis: [yells out] Ah! Yeah!

Griffin: Regulations—I'm helping. What I did was helpful. I said do a different idea, that one won't work. That's helping. That's not like sh—that's not just—what have you got there, Justin?

Justin: Wrist support?

Griffin: Oh, I thought you were like pulling out something to juggle. Honest to god, dude, I think I've been waiting with bated breath for you to be like, "Some juggle balls like these guys."

Travis: The turn. The prestige.

Justin: I don't know how to juggle.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Sorry.

Griffin: Sure. Sure, dude.

Justin: I have tried. I mean like listen, if we had—if I had not tried and failed to learn to juggle so many times, I don't think I would have been as hard on jugglers as I have been over the years.

Travis: Is it possible, Justin, like Rookie of the Year, now that you've had your carpal tunnel surgery—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: You're like gonna pick 'em up and be like, holy shit.

Justin: That would be amazing.

Travis: He's super good at jugg—they tightened some stuff in there.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And his juggling reflexes are faster than they've ever been.

Justin: How... why wasn't Rookie of the Year—it would be sick if The Rookie had just been a remake of Rookie of the Year, about an old man that gets a surgery that makes him good at pitching. That would be a better flick, right? Like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's just—I get—a 45 year old Justin McElroy type gets a surgery—

Griffin: Stepping in for Dennis Quaid, I believe?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Who was the rookie—

Justin: But this is what—

Travis: Same type!

Justin: This is what's really—

Travis: They get called to the same auditions all the time.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: But here's the thing about it that really twists this into like fun territory. He doesn't really understand the rules of baseball.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So as long as they want him to keep pitching it in the square, he can do that, no problem. But if one of the gentlemen starts to take a different bag that they prefer, then he's not gonna be able—he's not gonna be aware of—

Travis: He just curls up in the fetal position. [chuckles]

Justin: Know how to.

Griffin: Yeah. "Hey, that guy's on the wrong side! That guy's on the wrong side of the plate! Tell—"

Travis: "He's running."

Griffin: "What's he doing?! Stop—"

Justin: [yells out] "Is this okay?!"

Travis: "Is he allowed to do that? Ooh. He just slid into the dirt pretty hard."

Justin: "Hey, hey, Jeter—"

Travis: "Somebody check on him!"

Justin: "Canseco! Throw him out!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [yells out] "Jeter!"

Travis: Our names are Tod—

Justin: [yells out] "Canseco! P. Rouse! Chris Sabo! Throw him out! Somebody!"

Griffin: Oh, that's four. How many other baseball players— There's five!

Travis: David Ortiz.

Justin: I only know the ones that are in The Simpsons baseball episodes. [laughs] Like that, or if they've been on Shark Tank—

Griffin: Darryl Strawberry?

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: That's seven, guys.

Travis: Manny Ramirez.

Griffin: Eight.

Travis: I'm trying to remember other Boston Red Sox who won the World Series—

Griffin: Frickin'... the big unit?

Travis: The guy with the long hair—

Justin: Randy Johnson?

Travis: Who kind of looks—

Justin: Randy Johnson—

Griffin: Randy Johnson.

Justin: We've talked about a lot.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Guy with the long hair—

Griffin: [yells out] Shohei!

Travis: Who kind of like a...

Justin: Joey Votto.

Travis: What?

Griffin: That's eight—that's ele—

Justin: I mean, I can do Reds?

Griffin: I think we've done like 12 now. We gotta—

Justin: We've got a starting lineup.

Griffin: I think we've done our—

Justin: No problem.

Griffin: Done our bit.

Travis: LaSorda? No, he was a manager.

Griffin: LaForge?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: No, he's in Star Trek.

Travis: He played baseball a lot, I bet.

Justin: Are the pins hidden? This is what's weird to me. Are the pins... hidden away, or do we all know about the bowling pins? Do you know what I'm saying? Like, are the—

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: Yeah. What was not included in this email is what is the excuse your partner is giving when you're like, "Hey, what the fuck was that noise?" I would have loved some supplemental information here of like, when I pressured them about it, they say like, "Sorry, I dropped all of my... my, you know, tea kettles. My collector tea kettle set."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "All my Bratz dolls fell off the shelf." Like, what are they saying?

Travis: As someone who has cohabitated with a partner for a long time, were I to be dropping several bowling pins an evening in a 500 square foot apartment, after a few days of them not asking me about it, I'm going to start to think something's up with them.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Why aren't they more curious?

Travis: They've definitely heard me drop these bowling pins in our 500 square foot apartment.

Justin: It's a cry for help. [chuckles] I mean if the— from learning to juggle. Please—

Travis: Yeah! Stop me!

Justin: "Save me, Valerie."

Griffin: This is your own—

Justin: Stop me!

Griffin: May be your last chance to intervene, because once they're good, they're not gonna be making much noise when they juggle.

Justin: You don't hear it anymore. That's the—that's the tragic thing about it. You can only s—like you can stop it early, but when it's too far gone, you don't even know when they're juggling anymore. You could turn away and they'd be juggling.

Travis: Time lost is cool lost.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: They're gonna say, "Oh, babe, it's just my first time doing it. I was just experimenting and I won't do it again." It's not the first time they're doing it, it's the first time they got caught doing it. This has been happening for a long, long time.

Justin: It's actually the 10th time they got caught in—it's just the first time you felt the energy to go up and see what was happening. Because you have caught them many times and just thought like, "Well, maybe next time."

Travis: "Hey, babe, what are you doing?" Because I will say in their defense, learning to juggle, especially bowling pins, is not something I would want to do in front of someone I would want to continue to find me attractive.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Because there is that immediate—even the first 100 throws and you don't get it, there's a feeling in the room of like, I should stop this, right? Like—

Justin: I should stop. This isn't for me. I mean, I can... yes. [chuckles] I would tell you, Travis, from experience, yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yes. Yeah!

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: For sure.

Justin: 100%. Hey, would it be all right with you guys if we took a quick break for our sponsors to support us and our work?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And then came back and did more shows.

Griffin: I would love that.

Travis: Yes.

[theme music plays]

Travis: I don't know about you, Justin, but I keep getting older. Have you noticed this about yourself?

Justin: Yeah, it's unfortunate, man.

Travis: And I need doctors now more than ever.

Justin: Now more than ever, doctors are keeping Travis going.

Travis: Yes! Every day there's a new thing that hurts and is uncomfortable, and shouldn't... has never felt like that before, and now feels like it. And—

Justin: But what can you do about it, Trav? We need to pivot to the solution, because everyone's getting a little sad.

Travis: I don't know, Justin! Because I don't know how to find any GD doctors!

Justin: Oh, oh, oh, go—okay, let me do it then. I'll tell you about Zocdoc. Zocdoc is a service that helps you find the doctor that's perfect for you. So if you've got something going on in your life you're like, "I don't know the appropriate physician for this." Maybe you should move to a new place or you wanna mix up your care, whatever! Whatever!

Travis: You need a complicated team of medical experts to keep your various machinations and parts going.

Justin: Got new insurance, whatever the case may be, Zocdoc lets you search and compare your local in-network doctors. So like you look around and you say, hey, these are the ones that work for me, and then they are gonna help you find them and help you get set up with the people that are going to get you the appropriate care. You can see actual appointment openings and click to book a visit, usually within like 24 to 72 hours. It's pretty cool, I think, if you're a... it can be kind of overwhelming, I think, to find a physician, to find the appropriate one for you. And Zocdoc really does make it easy. Your health matters—

Travis: This was so important to Justin that when he found a physician, he married her. Just to know like, that's where my—

Justin: I didn't use Zocdoc.

Travis: Physician is.

Justin: That predated Zocdoc, but like it would have made it a lot easier, I think.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Your health matters and taking care of yourself shouldn't be complicated. Find and book the right doctor with Zocdoc. Head to zocdoc.com/mybrother to get started, and check that appointment off your to-do list. That's zocdoc.com/mybrother.

Travis: Now, Justin, we've talked about Squarespace many, many times. And perhaps there are people listening who have heard it, but haven't really listened. But Justin, I want to ask you, what is this that I'm holding right here in my hands?

Justin: Well, Travis, that's the iHeartMedia best podcast read award.

Travis: Best ad read award, that's right. Right here. You know what that means?

Justin: What does that mean, Travis?

Travis: We know what the fuck we're talking about when we talk about ads.

Justin: Here he goes.

Griffin: Jesus.

Travis: And our sponsors.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: So when we tell you that Squarespace fucking rules, that's coming from someone with the hardware to prove that they know what they're talking about.

Griffin: It's like really intense. I don't know that they want it this intense. I mean, they've stuck with us—

Travis: You want me to try again?

Griffin: Through thick and through thin. No!

Travis: Squarespace is great!

Griffin: All right.

Travis: You'll like it.

Griffin: That's a better—

Travis: It gives you everything you need to offer services—

Griffin: It's not good, but it's a better energy than—

Travis: I love Squarespace like a brother.

Griffin: Good. Love is better. Stick—you get more sticky—you get more flies—

Travis: I would kill someone to support Squarespace.

Griffin: That's too far. You went too far—

Justin: You don't—

Travis: Okay—

Justin: See? Again, Trav, you've overshoot it.

Travis: I would injure someone to support Squarespace.

Justin: No.

Travis: No?

Justin: No, I don't—

Travis: I would—

Griffin: I would make them hurt—I would make—I would make someone hurt for Squarespace. I'd hurt 'em for Squarespace.

Justin: You'd hurt somebody for Squarespace.

Griffin: I would hurt a person for Squarespace.

Travis: Wow. Like if they asked you to or to defend their honor?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Or...

Griffin: I'd do anything—I'd do anything they asked me to. This is one of the longest-term healthiest relationships I've ever had, is with Squarespace. And I would hurt someone—I would hurt a person for them. Yeah.

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: But that's the opposite of what they're about. They're all about helping people and helping them make great websites.

Travis: That's why they have Griffin to do the—to do the hurting for them.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. They need me. [chuckles] They need me to do this dark fucking work for them.

Travis: Griffin's Squarespace's wet works guy! [chuckles]

Justin: That's weird you don't hear much about GeoCities these days! Huh.

Griffin: Yeah. Huh—

Justin: Whatever happened to 'em?

Griffin: Weird.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Gave 'em the elbow.

Justin: Griffalanche! That's what happened. [chuckles]

Griffin: The Griffalanche came storming down the mount.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: That's what happened. They said the storm's coming, but I took it back from QAnon.

Justin: I don't think they said that!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Now it means a different thing—

Justin: Seems unlikely! [chuckles]

Griffin: QAnon's done, and so I went in there and I picked and choose the best parts of it. Like the storm's comin', and I hit my elbow to let 'em know I would hurt someone for Squarespace. [chuckles] And they need me to do this work. They will say they don't want me to do this work, but they *need* me to do this work for them. They need it. It's necessary.

Travis: And they also work for you!

Griffin: So—

Travis: Ha? See how I turned that around?

Griffin: Did you say the hyperlink?

Travis: I will.

Justin: I would like—I—we bare—yeah, I mean, I'll say it again though. Everybody knows how we feel about Squarespace. We use them, we love them. They are the only reason the show continues.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Probably. Head to squarespace.com/mybrother for 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.

[break]

Justin: How about another question?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm a DoorDash delivery driver and I love getting—"

Griffin: Thank you for your service!

Justin: "People's cute pets when I drop food off. I usually take a minute to try to get the pet in my drop-off photo." I love that.

Travis: I like that too.

Justin: I like being in my own drop-off photos. You guys ever do that?

Travis: No! God no.

Griffin: Thumbs up. Love it.

Justin: "I did it! 'Ey!"

Griffin: "I can't wait to eat this *spaghetti!*"

Travis: But I do like the idea of my dog being in the photo like my dog answered the door. I think that that's awesome.

Justin: That's cool. "I just tried to get an especially excited dog in the shot, and it got a little too excited and pushed the door open, and the door slammed shut behind it. The dog's now out here with me." Get off your phone. [chuckles] "And my knocks and calls for the owner go unheeded. Do I just leave the dog out here?" Certainly not. "Do I fully open the door—front door to let the dog back in? Is this my dog now?" That's from Paws-itively Confused in Pennsylvania. Huh! You—

Travis: Latch your doors!

Justin: You messed up.

Griffin: Yeah, clearly, no, yeah. But it's not their fault. Let's rank the three options they gave us before I think we hop into it.

Justin: Yeah, power ranking.

Griffin: I would say—I would say "is this my dog now" is obviously the most sinister of the questions that's presented here. [chuckles]

Justin: That's, yeah, that's theft for sure.

Griffin: That's theft. You don't wanna do that. "Do I leave the dog out here?" That's animal endangerment, so I would rank that around number two. And I would say maybe your least bad option here is to break and enter. For good, for a good purpose, for a good reason.

Travis: Now here's what I'll say. I know for a fact exterior front doors open inward. So this must be like a screen door or glass door scenario. I feel less weird about you opening that. If the front door is open—

Griffin: Than a front door. Okay.

Travis: Right? That you're just opening a screen door or like a glass exterior door—

Griffin: Dude! Screen doors are not—vampire rules don't apply to screen doors.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: If the front door is open and a vampire sees that, they can swing that little rusty son of a bitch out of the way, no problem.

Justin: Yeah, that's ju—screen door is just for bugs.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's just to keep bugs out, not people, vampires, or anything else. It's just a bug—

Justin: No, vampires don't have to obey a screen door.

Griffin: No way, dude. They can mist right through those, so—

Justin: If a—if an eight-year-old Griffin can walk through it, you don't need to honor it as a vampire—

Griffin: First of all, I was much older than eight years old when I walked through and destroyed our Uncle David's screen door at his nice house in Florida. That—

Justin: Thank you for reminding me of the details of that.

Griffin: Because I saw his—

Travis: Is that better, Griffin?! Is it better that you were older?

Griffin: I was at least 15—

Justin: Don't interrupt him.

Griffin: I was at least 15 or 16, and I did see his cool golf cart in the driveway. And I yelled, "Grand Theft Auto!" And I jumped through his screen door, with aplomb! And it's—he got angry at me—

Justin: He did—he—Griffin—

Griffin: He got pissed at—

Justin: Griffin those days always had a plum in his hand. He was just a little scamp. Always had a little plum, and he'd be nibbling on it.

Griffin: Loves his fresh Georgia plums, and he got madder at me than I think is appropriate for a family member to get mad at another family member.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Madder than Griffin—than our father ever got mad at any of the three of us for any—

Griffin: The maddest—

Travis: Of the stupid shit we ever did.

Griffin: The maddest a family member's ever been at me, and he got only, I will say, madder when I tried to call to apologize and ended up laughing through the apology.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: That's, he was PO'd. That one, I don't blame him, but the other one, I'm—hey, Dave? I'm family, man. I apologized.

Travis: Madder than I ever saw Uncle Dave get about anything else, which makes me think—

Griffin: He was—

Travis: That maybe Uncle Dave had beef with Griffin that he was keeping seething under the surface.

Griffin: I think he maybe just hates bugs, and it was a new door. [chuckles]
And so I made—

Travis: It was a new door! I do remember that it was a new door.

Justin: I do remember—

Griffin: It was a brand-new door, and he hates bugs, and I jumped right through it, and I did yell "Grand Theft Auto," which makes it sound premeditated.

Travis: It does!

Griffin: And I was talking about the game and not the crime, but really, what was I do—what was I doing? I don't know. I can't Monday morning quarterback this one except to say, Uncle Dave, take a chill pill, buddy!
[chuckles]

Justin: I think you should—

Griffin: It's good to get this off my chest!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Rarely is this show a place of familial healing, and now I feel like we've made space for that, and I appreciate it so much from you guys.

Justin: Yeah, sure, man.

Travis: On this week's Heavyweight, Griffin deals with a screen door—

Justin: Griffin finally yells at our Uncle Dave.

Griffin: Griffin asks his Uncle Dave from like 17 years ago to take a fuckin' chill pill, dude, it is not that big a deal, man.

Justin: That would be—that would be a better—like that would be a good version of Heavyweight, if it was just people calling to let people apologize to them.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Like, "I believe there's something you wanted to say to me, Uncle Dave!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Dig through your memories, I'm—you'll find it to be so, I'm sure it keeps you up at night!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm ready! [chuckles] Whenever you are. Let the apology begin."

Travis: I own two dogs, one of them like a 75 pound, very rambunctious, excitable beast named Lily. If this dog is able to push the door open on its own, first of all, not the first time this has happened.

Griffin: No way.

Travis: Second of all, latch it! Like, let the dog back in—

Justin: That person—

Travis: I guarantee—

Justin: Isn't listening. You gotta understand, that person is not listening—

Griffin: The person who owns the house and the dog isn't listening, we can't talk to them.

Travis: Okay. Let the dog back in! If my dog got out, let the dog back in, and maybe with a note that says like...

Griffin: "Do better."

Travis: "Got out again."

Justin: Do better?

Griffin: Do better—

Justin: "Got out again."

Griffin: "Latch it, idiot."

Justin: On every gift receiving occasion, my—

Travis: The dog will eat the food! The dog will eat the food—

Griffin: The dog will eat the food, dude.

Travis: Put the dog back inside. Okay.

Justin: "On every gift receiving occasion, my brother spends an eternity opening his presents, because he insists on untying every knot and loosening every bit of tape. What's a fun and inventive way I can make sure I don't spend endless hours watching someone open a gift?" That's from Outraged Observer in Oslo. That's fascinating!

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: That this is still a problem in other countries. Everybody's still doing gifts.

Griffin: Okay, this is interesting, because I thought for sure we'd all kind of approach this from a different, pretty aggressive manner, but it sounds like you're aligned with this person and their feelings.

Justin: Sorry, my comment, Griffin, I think I may—you may have misunderstood. I was just thinking like, wow, global reach. You know what I mean? That's all that was about. It's just like—

Travis: That our show is reaching Oslo.

Justin: Yeah, just like, cool.

Griffin: Oh!

Justin: You know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: Okay, yeah—

Justin: Ah, neat.

Griffin: I misinterpreted—

Justin: That's all.

Griffin: The comments.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. No, I—

Justin: I was like, also people are doing gifts and it's like, wow, it's a problem everywhere. But it was like, wow. We've really made an impact. You know? I think that was more—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: A recognition.

Griffin: How many presents, not counting Christmas, because Christmas, you—we expect this to go long. But how many presents are y'all opening in a given year? We could take a monthly average. Although most, I'll say this, guys, I go entire months without opening a present.

Justin: The fact that you would open—

Travis: Oh, I get presents for myself all the time.

Griffin: Well, do you wrap them and put shit on them?

Travis: Depends on how spicy I'm feeling.

Griffin: No, you don't, that's crazy. You absolutely don't. I'm trying to be vulnerable and ask a real question.

Justin: I don't wrap anything, all year. Maybe at Christmas I will wrap some things. But other than that, it is just gift bags.

Travis: Gift bags.

Griffin: Well, you rap—well you ra—well you—you rap about the gospel?

Travis: That's true.

Justin: That's true, Griffin. I rap about my relationship with Jesus Christ and my very, very traditional interpretation of his teachings. So yes, I do wrap about that! [chuckles] For sure.

Griffin: All I'm saying is—

Justin: And about gender roles!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Like I do rap about those things extensively.

Griffin: He didn't say a—

Travis: To be fair—

Griffin: So much about that.

Travis: R-O-L-L-S!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Justin loves baking gender rolls.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. These are—you—if you haven't had 'em, they're great.

Travis: Is gift bags also a thing? Gift bags?

Justin: I feel like gift bags is a way of saying, I wanna keep the surprise, but I'm not gonna expend any energy towards it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Right?

Travis: Especially now.

Justin: It's like—

Travis: My children have reached an age where they get invited to birthday parties regularly, school age. And the moment of like, oh, shit, that kid's birthday party's *tomorrow*, right?

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: I'm not wrapping—

Griffin: Bag it. Bag it east.

Travis: That thing for them?

Griffin: If I get a beautiful parcel, that's all taped up just the way I like, let me have the time I want to enjoy revealing it. I think that that's—I think that's a—not an outrageous ask. I'm not opening presents most months. You can sit there for a minute and a half while I undo it, like I'm doing some sort of burlesque routine for my present. Allow me the time and space that I need for this, because I don't have a lot going on right now. You know what I mean?

Travis: What if you got so good at wrapping a gift that you could do it all, ribbon and everything, with one piece of tape?

Griffin: That's crazy.

Justin: What does that have to do—

Travis: That it like folds around—

Justin: With anything? [chuckles]

Travis: That you've cut it.

Griffin: Fucking insane.

Travis: You've cut it into like an octagon shape that folds around the bottom.

Justin: But what does that have to do—

Travis: And the ribbon—

Griffin: What if you could—

Travis: Comes from the—

Griffin: *Ooh!* What if you could eat the wrapping paper when you were done with it?

Travis: Oh, shit!

Justin: Lickable wrapping paper?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The snozzberries taste like snozzberries?!

Griffin: The present inside could be a hoverboard, that lets you fly around the city.

Justin: 'Ey, our kids—

Travis: Okay, well now...

Justin: When you guys go to birthday parties with your kids, by and large, are people opening presents at the parties? Because I'm seeing a wild disparity in this.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: 'm seeing it's all over the map at parties that I have been to. It seems like people are opening, not opening, where are we at?

Travis: The only time we open is like in the small fa—you know, grandparents.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Right? Because it's like... the grandparents need to see that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's fine, I get that. But no, with ki—no. First of all, one, I don't want to assume every kid is able to bring the same kind of gift and everything—

Justin: Sure, yes, good, logical.

Travis: Or that they—everybody will bring gifts. It's not expected, it's just nice.

Justin: Or that anybody wants to watch that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's the other thing, man. You're basically, it's like if you fed one wolf out of hungry wolves at a time, and you're like, "Hey, you ate other hungry wolves, just watch me feed this one wolf."

Justin: I want to confirm this—

Travis: It's not gonna go great.

Justin: Before I start complaining about it then. If that's where we're all at, why does it seem like there's always one fucking person at every party that's like, "Well, shouldn't we..."

Griffin: When you g—when we gonna crack into the—

Justin: Shouldn't we start to—shouldn't everybody gather around and start opening? And shouldn't we—

Griffin: They know, they did a kick-ass—

Justin: Shut up!

Travis: Also the person who says, "And that big one is from us."

Griffin: They know they did a kick-ass job. They know they did a kick-ass job. The thing we're not saying, but I think we all feel in our hearts, and I bet every parent does, is that I can't guarantee the reaction either of my beautiful boys are gonna get—

Justin: Oh, god, yeah.

Travis: Oh, god, yeah.

Griffin: Is gonna be satisfactory to— "I already have this slime!" Like they're not—they won't do it exactly like that, that's—

Travis: "36?! Last year I had 37!"
"Oh, no, boys, no."

Griffin: [chuckles] Not quite that diabolical, but we had one birthday where two different kids and an extended family member all sent one of my beautiful boys the same stomp rocket, where you stomp on a thing and it shoots a rocket way up in the sky. I love those. I don't think we can get enough of 'em, because so many of these things end up on the goddamn roof when I bring my powerful boot down—

Travis: Hell yeah, dude—

Griffin: To launch it way up high.

Travis: Your special boot that you wear just for rockets.

Griffin: My special boot! And my kids wanna see how strong I am, I'll show you, but that shit's gonna go right on the roof. I want as many rockets as I can get my hands on, but the kids are gonna... "Mm-hm, okay—"

Travis: And my kids will say it with no malice—

Griffin: They'll say it.

Travis: Or judgment.

Griffin: "I have this."

Travis: "Oh?"

Griffin: "I have this."

Travis: "I already have this one." And when that happens, you will see Teresa and I lock eyes from across the room, and look at Bebe, and she'll look at me and I'm like, "Mm-mm, mm-mm."

Griffin: Mm-mm.

Travis: Mm-mm!

Griffin: Don't say it, don't do it.

Travis: And she's like, "Oh, yeah, just like the one I already have."

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: I love it.

Griffin: That's a better version.

Travis: And it's like, huh, okay, yeah. Okay. Cool. And then Teresa and I will say something along the lines of, "Yeah, but who knows where that other one is?"

Griffin: Yeah, "That one's broken and sucks. The one you have now sucks. We all have been saying it."

Justin: "Actually, honey, I think that broke."

Travis: "Yeah, I burned it."

Justin: "Yeah, pretty sure it broke." [makes the Haunted Doll Watch alarm sound]

Griffin: Oh, wow, no way.

Justin: Quick, before we wrap, I just wanted—this is like, I just wanted to, I—this was in my desk, and I didn't wanna lose track of it real quick. I wanna tell you guys about Camilo, it's a Haunted Doll Watch.

Travis: Justin, I'm gonna interrupt you real quick. If you guys haven't watched the video Justin posted where Sydnee opens the haunted doll with like that... the crocheted slinky clown thing—

Griffin: He's right there behind him. You can—you can call him by name.

Travis: Yeah, her facial reactions are so good—watching—and because it feels like both the judgment of the haunted doll and Justin's life choices. I love it.

Justin: Yeah. I want—this one today is Camilo. And I wanted to talk about Camilo, because it's really a very fa—a very... very interesting story—

Travis: Who's on that Raisin Bran box, Justin?

Justin: Oh, you'd like to talk about my commemorative Raisin Bran box? Thanks, Trav.

Griffin: Scary to have a haunted doll on the screen while we're looking at the Raisin Bran box. Who is... hold on, let me pin you. Okay, what are we looking at here?

Justin: It's William Shatner.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It says "Will Shat." He did a... he did a Raisin Bran promotion.

Griffin: "Help Will Shat keep his mission moving." So that's William Shatner and he's—

Travis: Oh, because it says right on the front there, "High fiber, happy guy."

Griffin: Shat's daily I—Shat's daily log, like he's shitting.

Justin: Will Shat.

Griffin: I don't want to... why would Raisin Bran d—is that a joke box or did Raisin Bran really want to talk about—

Justin: No, it's commemorative. You can get it on Walmart.

Travis: About Will Shatner's BMs.

Griffin: But Raisin Bran was like—

Justin: But I already bought it—

Griffin: We know—

Justin: Not that one.

Griffin: "We know what will move product, is people thinking about Will Shatner's... dookie?"

Travis: Movements.

Griffin: That's gross, dude.

Justin: I mean, people like Star Trek? [chuckles]

Griffin: They don't—I like—I like Star Trek okay, I don't like thinking about this old man's poop?

Justin: I mean, people like TekWar.

Griffin: It certainly doesn't make the—it certainly doesn't *whet* the appetite.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Okay!

Justin: People like TekWar, I don't see why they wouldn't—

Griffin: So back to the haunted doll—back to Camilo.

Justin: [makes the Haunted Doll Watch alarm sound and chuckles] I didn't bring up the William Shatner commemorative Raisin Bran box.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's for my cereal podcast.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Meet Camilo. [sings] Meet Camilo.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [sings] I don't want to.

Justin: [chuckles] I acquired Camilo—this is a— "I acquired Camilo in the kind of way that makes your stomach drop before your mind can catch up."

Travis: What?

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Travis: Oh, it was on the Hollywood Tower of Terror. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "She came from a private seller who refused to list her publicly. Someone who messaged me late at night saying, 'I don't want her in my home another sunrise.'"

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: Wait, why sunrise?

Justin: Not another sunrise.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: "A small antique doll with glass eyes that shifted on their own, and a presence that made the seller's pets refuse to enter the room."

Travis: That would imply—not another sunrise implies like it's the middle of the night. Come right now.

Griffin: She sleeps at night. This is the only time I can contain her.

Travis: Drive across state lines and get this doll right now.

Justin: Okay, "When the box arrived, it was wrapped in layers of cloth and twine, as if the previous owner believed containment mattered."

Travis: "It took forever for my brother-in-law to open it."

Griffin: [chuckles] "Such a dick."

Justin: "The moment I lifted her out, the air around me tightened."
[chuckles]

Griffin: Oh?

Justin: "The air around me tightened."

Griffin: What's that feel like do you think?

Justin: "Her name wasn't given, but the energy that rolled off her whispered one word over and over. Camilo, Camilo, Camilo, Camilo—"

Travis: Camilo, Camilo.

Justin: "Camilo, Camilo, Camilo, Camilo, Camilo—"

Griffin: Don't get—don't you dare get ASMR to that weirdo—

Justin: "Camilo's origins are tangled in witchcraft and old-world dark magic," with a J and a K.

Travis: *Whoa.*

Justin: She was crafted—

Griffin: That's the best kind of—

Justin: Dude!

Griffin: That's the best kind of dark magic! Don't even fucking come at me—

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: With your dark magic if it's not from the old country.

Justin: "She was crafted in the late 1800s by a practitioner who specialized in binding spirits, not benevolent ones, but those pulled from the edges of curses. Grief and shadow work gone wrong."

Travis: You know, that was such a niche profession back then, but you could make a living on it. And I think that that says a lot about how the economy has changed.

Griffin: I think the economy could also benefit from having more skilled trade crafters.

Travis: Bring back American production!

Griffin: Bring back American production of spirit vessels.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: "The spirit that took—the spirit that took root in Camilo was said to be a fragment of a woman who practiced blood rites and sympathetic magic." With a K, but a G. Hm.

Travis: Said by who?

Justin: She was—

Griffin: Kind of interesting.

Justin: Interesting.

Travis: This doll is 200 years old. Who—

Justin: Well, Travis—

Travis: Was there that's like, "Hey, I'm gonna say this to you. It was a fragment of the soul of a woman."

Justin: "She was feared in her village for her ability to hex crops, twist luck, and manipulate dreams. When she died, her followers attempted to preserve her power by anchoring her essence into an object."

Travis: Sure.

Justin: "Camilo was the result. Her original keeper disappeared within months. Every owner after that either sold her quietly or abandoned her entirely. She has never stayed anywhere long, until she came to me." Then why the fuck are you eBaying her?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean?! She just got settled!

Travis: "And now I'm looking—"

Griffin: It sounds like the end of—

Travis: "To turn a profit."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Times are tight.

Justin: Well, the reason is Camilo—

Travis: Also, if I was Camilo at this point, yeah, I'd be a little miffed. I would make some people's life—I'm getting bounced around!

Justin: Abandonment issues.

Griffin: Camilo's just looking for a forever home.

Travis: Give me some stability!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That's cool

Justin: Camilo's not a passive spirit.

Griffin: If I collect all the fragments!

Justin: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Can I put the witch back together?

Travis: How big will she be?

Justin: She's eight feet tall.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: And you can make an eight foot tall Galactus. [chuckles] If you get all the witches. Each one of them has a different piece.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: She's—

Griffin: How many fragments are we talking here? Because I could do—I could do—I could find eight dolls on eBay. But if it's like, if they really exploded this lady—[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Her essence into like a thousand pieces? There's no fuckin' way.

Travis: The newest Resident Evil game is so weird! You gotta collect—

Griffin: It's so weird it's like—

Travis: All these dolls and put together—

Griffin: It's almost like—

Travis: A giant woman.

Griffin: It's more of a Banjo-Kazooie collect-a-thon?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Like you're finding all the witch fragments all over Raccoon City—

Travis: And it's browser-based?!

Justin: "Camilo is kept in my storage room with my other dark energies I don't like to mess with." That seems safe. That seems good.

Griffin: Yeah, let 'em all bottle up and percolate.

Justin: Just lock 'em up in one little dark box and give it a good shake every once in a while, you know? [chuckles] Just really piss 'em off! Let 'em hang out and talk. "Every tool confirms the same thing. Camilo is powerful, deliberate and deeply rooted in dark magic." J and K.

Travis: Mm-hm, JK.

Justin: Mm-hm. JK. Thank you so much for listening to our podcast, which is called My Brother, My Brother and Me. Still, despite the fact that it is hard to trademark.

Griffin: Impossible, some people would say.

Travis: Hey, very exciting news. Next week, the final graphic novel in our Adventure Zone Balance series is coming out, Story and Song. But you can still pre-order it right now at theadventurezonecomic.com. If you pre-order from one of our indie bookstore partners, you get a book plate signed by one of us and Carrie. There's a book release event next week in Boston. Tickets are on sale now. It's July 16th at 7PM at the Chevalier Theater. And each ticket includes a signed paperback copy of Story and Song provided by Brookline Booksmith. And there's a special mid-month episode of Clubhouse on Tuesday, July 14th, to celebrate the book coming out. And we're gonna do our regular monthly Clubhouse on the 21st. So, it's all there. It's all there.

Griffin: This book is so good, and I'm so excited for people to read it and—

Justin: Yeah. It's weird to be proud of something we make, but this is definitely—

Griffin: This one's for real—

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: We got merch over at the McElroy Merch Store, new stuff for the month of July. I wanna call out the Trav Nation Centennial Magnet. If you're feeling in the mood to be patriotic, but not for this particular country, then you can celebrate Trav Nation as you—as you—

Travis: That's actually one of our many slogans.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. A place you can be proud of is Trav—is Trav Nation's slogan. 10% of all of our merch proceeds this month will also be donated to the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. All of our merch stuff is over at mcelroymerch.com. Hey, thanks to Montaigne also for the use of our theme song, "My Life is Better With You." It's a song that brings me strength in my times of greatest need.

Travis: Wow, that's beautiful, Griffin.

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Really beautiful.

Travis: What are we gonna throw?

Justin: Yeah, I feel like I threw something last time.

Griffin: Give me a second.

Justin: Okay, sure, yeah, of course.

Griffin: Trav, would you be pissed off if I threw the pocket watch that you gave us as groomsmen presents at your wedding?

Travis: Nah, man!

Griffin: Are you sure?

Travis: Time flies, baby!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] That's...

Griffin: That's really good.

Justin: It's really good, man.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: You just came up with that.

Griffin: You sure you won't be pissed off if this thing like explodes? Because it's pretty old at this point.

Travis: Nah, go for it.

Griffin: It's a beautiful—

Travis: I have no attachment.

Griffin: Here we go!

[pause]

[a loud thud and clattering]

Griffin: Oh!

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: It hit my laptop!

Justin: My na—[chuckles] my name's Justin McElroy.

Travis: I am so—I am so pissed off.

Griffin: It bounced so good. Did you see how good that bounced? It went all the way—

Travis: Yeah! That was—

Griffin: Back across my desk.

Justin: I'm Justin McElroy.

Travis: Actually one of the things I looked for when I purchased them.

Griffin: That's fucking crazy.

Justin: Aerodynamic, yeah. I'm 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.

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

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