

MBMBaM 822: Cheddars Never Win

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Intro (Bob Ball): The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

[theme music plays]

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

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

Griffin: Hey, welcome to *Dickhead*. I'm Griffin, and I'm about to pour this whole thing of hot coffee right on my crotch and wiener.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Here I go!

Justin: Wait, what's *Dickhead*?

Griffin: So you guys know how the *Jackass* guys are done now?

Justin: Yeah, that's what they say.

Griffin: They're doing their final movie, 'cause they're all— It's too dangerous for them to like...

Justin: Keep doing it.

Griffin: [crosstalk] shopping cart.

Travis: I will say, man, I know they're older than me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And my body is so brittle that sitting in a desk chair has given me back problems.

Griffin: Well, they've got hardened bones from the preceding stunts and tricks.

Travis: The Weapon X stuff, yeah.

Griffin: But I'm thinking now, there's a power vacuum. And we fill it in. We, the three of us, have been doing rowdy boy comedy for a while now.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: The only thing we've been missing is, like...

Justin: Pushing the envelope.

Griffin: The only thing we've been missing is pain, and hurting, and making funny stuff happen by jumping off of things or into things with our bodies. Putting a scorpion on our butts, and when—

Justin: We've bumped up against it by playing video games incorrectly. For us, that kind of passes as struggle or difficulty.

Travis: Do you remember, we went on that hike and my knee started to hurt. Does that count?

Justin: That, Trav. Yeah, man, I still wake up in cold sweats thinking about when your knees hurt that one time, for sure.

Travis: Is that comedy, though? Is that pain comedy? Do people laugh?

Justin: Is that comedy?

Griffin: Some people liked it. In the comments. It wasn't our *biggest* YouTube video, but people seem to enjoy it.

Travis: Yeah, but that seemed like kind of a schadenfreude enjoyment. Not like a, "Ha ha ha, how funny."

Griffin: But that's the secret to *Dickhead*. And it's honestly something I think we can iterate on, that the *Jack-A*, as we used to call them in church, guys do.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Which is that you like them! For the most part, they're pretty likable dudes.

Travis: Well—

Griffin: And so when Steve-O puts a scorpion on Chris Pontius' butt, and it climbs in his butthole [laughs] and pokes him from the inside out, you're laughing, but you're also feeling kind of bad, 'cause these are nice guys.

Justin: [laughs] "These are my friends."

Griffin: On *Dickhead*, we can be fucking unlikable jags. And then when the scorpion climbs in *our* butt— Maybe even two scorpions. I've been talking with the team, and they think it's—

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] The guy?

Griffin: They think it's doable.

Travis: Woah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: People will be fucking stoked to see that.

Justin: They're CGI, though. I don't want the real—

Griffin: I want the real stuff. I don't—

Travis: What you need is a funnel that can handle that kind of action, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Oh, sure, dude. Dude, my sphincter would *destroy* a scorpion if it did not have some sort of protective passageway into me.

Travis: So what you're saying is, what we will deliver with *D-Head* is the ability to laugh *and* feel no remorse at what happens to us, because we're terrible people?

Griffin: That's what other people will have. We will feel remorse because of the terrible pain. And there will be a bad transition period, probably for the first three or four *D-Head* movies, until our bones get strong like the *Jack-A* guys.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Yeah. I saw the *Jack-A* guys, or one of the— The old— The wizard [laughs] who's in charge of everything, the impresario of the *Jackass*.

Griffin: Johnny Knoxville?

Justin: Johnny Knoxville, there it is.

Griffin: Jesus.

Justin: Johnny Knoxville, [laughs] yeah, sorry.

Griffin: The *wizard*, Johnny Knoxville.

Justin: [laughs] You know, the boss of the whole thing.

Travis: He does sound like the— That would be a great name for a dirtbag wizard for a D&D campaign.

Griffin: It would.

Travis: “My name’s Johnny Knoxville!”

Justin: I feel like he is— Yeah. As he ages, I feel like he looks like a cool modern wizard. That’s— I don’t know, that’s the association I made in my head. I saw him in an interview, and he was talking about how incredible it was that Steve-O has sobered up for as long as he has. And they were like, “You know, you guys used to go in the paint really hard, doing the show.”

And Johnny Knoxville’s like, “Let me stop you. Just to clarify something, we never— When we were filming and doing stunts, the rule was you couldn’t be on any substances while you’re doing stunts. You couldn’t be under any influence at all, ‘cause it’s dangerous enough doing that stuff without your senses being dulled.”

And I was watching that, and I thought, “I don’t *think* that’s right.” [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Were you testing? Were you drug testing—

Justin: I watched that show a *lot* growing up.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: And I saw the gentlemen on it, and sort of how they were comporting themselves [laughs] in their day-to-day adventures. I’m not *sure* Mr. Knoxville is— Maybe legally speaking, and for insurance purposes, he has had to toe this line for quite some time.

Griffin: [giggles]

Travis: I can’t imagine.

Justin: But I don’t *think*...

Griffin: I don’t think it’s...

Justin: Yeah, I don’t *think* that’s exactly right, Mr. Knoxville. [laughs]

Travis: I can't imagine what the insurance-obtaining process for *Jackass* was.

Justin: Right. [laughs]

Travis: When they would go to— Like, "We're gonna get a new movie. We need to get insurance." And they'd go into somebody's office, and they would probably have to do hours of research and be like, "Who's the *least* in touch with pop culture insurance adjuster we can find?"

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: And then they go in their office and be like, "Hello. We're going to make a movie where we will—"

Justin: They don't say the title. They just say, "It's the new film from Dickhouse." [laughs]

Travis: Yes. "And we'll be doing funny jokes!"

Griffin: "Untitled Dickhouse Project."

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: And you know he would probably bring in, through the—

Justin: "We're calling it *J-A 5*, but there's no reason—"

Griffin: [laughs] Do you th— I think that Johnny—

Travis: Don't google it. No, no, no. Please.

Griffin: Johnny would probably bring in one of the sweeter, more straight-edge members of the crew to meet the loan officer. To get the movie funded, I think. He probably would not bring in a Steve-O. He would probably bring in a Preston Lacy, or perhaps a Wee Man.

Travis: Yes, indeed. I also think, J-Man, to your point, I bet that there was a secret unspoken line of, "*These* pranks and stunts were okay to do on a

substance. We're gonna cross that line, and we don't exactly know what it is, but we know it when we see it, of *this one*..."

Justin: Yeah. This one.

Travis: "We need to go into this one, clear eyes."

Griffin: And it would surprise you: animal stuff? You can be high as a fucking kite.

Travis: Need to be.

Griffin: But if you're swimming in a public place, jumping into the LA Canal for instance? No, you can't be. You mustn't be.

Travis: It's a weird— We have a whole— Here's your handbook, welcome to the team. It's a case-by-case when you can have substances, and when you can't.

Griffin: Here on *Dickhead*, we can be as faded and fucked up as we want to, guys.

Justin: Woah.

Travis: Gonna need to. Percocets, any kind of painkillers.

Griffin: I don't want to do—

Travis: I don't want to do it.

Justin: This is an advice show.

Griffin: I don't wanna get hurt.

Justin: Yeah, I don't wanna do it. I thought about—

Griffin: Travis and I came to the same—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I thought about getting hurt in my body, and I don't actually want to do it.

Justin: Let's just do advice and stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Just like usual. No problem.

Travis: It made my kidneys throb, thinking about it. I don't know if that's anything.

Justin: Gross. Don't ever say that word on the show again, period.

Griffin: I don't ever want to hear it again.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: End of sentence.

Travis: Kidneys.

Justin: "I was working in my office at my manufacturing job when an older contractor I work with occasionally walked in my office, and asked how I was doing. 'Eh, fine,' I respond, expecting him to ask about any projects he can help with. Instead, he says, 'I wrote a song.'"

Griffin: I would quit.

Justin: "Baffled, I ask what he meant. He pulls out his phone and places it on my desk, and Christian contemporary AI-generated music—" Let me think about the order of adjectives.

Griffin: That's a cool five words, right there.

Justin: Christian— I think we need contemporary AI-generated...

Griffin: Okay. Good, yes.

Justin: It's the order— You know what I mean? Like, I don't want to put—

Griffin: It's the arbitrary order where—

Justin: Listen, I love Christ first. Christ first in all things, obviously. That's the model of this show, and has been for seven years. Christ first in all things.

Griffin: Syntactically, I *don't* think Christ first.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Syntactically, I don't think Jesus Christ.

Justin: Yes, so technically— [laughs]

Griffin: I think you go color, size, age, quality, Christ...

Travis: No, size— 'Cause big red dog. Big red dog. Size first, then color.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: We gotta put the AI first in these clauses, so I can ignore the rest of the clause.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I want it off— I was already so excited about Christian, contemporary? And then, ah, man. It's AI generated.

Griffin: Places on my desk AI Christian gener— AI—

Justin: AI-generated.

Griffin: AI-generated Christian contemporary.

Justin: Christ-generated— Christ-centric. [laughs]

Griffin: Christ-centric, AI-generated. [laughs] That's the new tagline. That's the new tagline of this podcast. We're making some big fucking changes around here.

Justin: [through laughter] Christ-centric and AI-generated.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: It sucks. The AI-generated started first, and then it pivoted towards Christ, and it was already too late.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Justin: I don't know where it got it.

Griffin: It was crazy, man. It turns out, if you let all these cyber brains all work together on an unrestricted internet platform, they get saved.

Travis: I'm gonna actually— I'm going to plant a flag in a thing I just came up with, so that people can't actually use it.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: AI Christian music company called God in the Machine.

Justin: Oh, that's good.

Griffin: God in the Machine is kind of cool.

Travis: But I'm gonna trademark that, and mock that down—

Griffin: Holy Ghost in the Machine was right there, but you didn't want that.

Travis: Which one?

Griffin: Holy Ghost in the Machine?

Justin: Holy Ghost in the Machine.

Travis: No, I was going with Deus Ex Machina, God in the Machine.

Griffin: Oh, I thought you were doing a Ghost in the— Like a— Okay.

Travis: But we can do Holy Ghost in the Machine, too. We'll take all of 'em.

Justin: But Deus Ex Machina means God in the Machine. You know what, right?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Deus, God? Okay.

Travis: So I said God in the Machine.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is AI Christian music.

Griffin: But you're Descartes-adjacent in that place, and I think it's going to confuse—

Travis: But I'm taking all of them, so no one else can use them.

Griffin: Hmm. Let's cook it on— Let's let him cook after.

Justin: What if we were to do the branding after? I'll finish the question.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: We'll do a bit of comedy for another, oh, I don't know, 50 minutes.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And then we can figure this out. [laughs] Is that alright?

Travis: Then we'll spitball it, in our business meeting where we steal things from other people. Okay.

Griffin: Yes, yes, yes.

Justin: "And Christian contemporary AI-generated music blasts out of his phone, full volume. For the next four minutes, I stared at the phone, nodding my head while he stared at me. I had to extricate myself three times with brief questions and anecdotes as signals that I had heard enough, but they were not received."

Travis: Mm.

Justin: "He told me after the song was over that he had two more songs he had written, and was working on others. What can I do to take control of the situation next time, to make it less comfortable for myself?" Or, sorry, "Less *uncomfortable* for myself," [chuckles] important distinction, "while maintaining rapport with this person..."

Travis: "I'm a glutton for punishment."

Griffin: "I love this shit, man."

Justin: "... when it happens again?" That's from Not Quite Hillsong in the hills of Tennessee. This is...

Travis: One of the things we talk about on *Shmanners* a lot is that etiquette and stuff has gotten a bad rap as being a judgmental process. But really, it was originally seen as "Listen. Social situations are so awkward and stuff, and no one knows what they're doing."

Griffin: We need rules.

Travis: We have laid out rules.

Justin: Gotta have rules.

Travis: That it's like, here's what you need to do, and then you can leave or whatever. And we as a society need to establish a rule that whether it's your

song, someone else's, whatever, that you want to play for a friend, you get one verse and one chorus. And then you have to pause the song. They can ask to hear the rest of it.

Griffin: You should be allowed to ask how much. When your friend's like, "You wanna hear this song I wrote?"

You should be allowed to say, "Tell me how much of the song. How many different sections of the song, how many stanzas."

Travis: 'Cause four minutes in that...

Griffin: Four minutes is too long.

Travis: ... slows down, relativist—

Griffin: I don't want to listen to a song I *like* with you for four minutes, let alone your AI-generated Christian-focused—

Travis: No! Being observed and perceived, to see if you're *enjoying* it?

Griffin: No, hard pass. Obviously hard pass.

Travis: That's hell!

Justin: You— Okay. I was gonna suggest that next time, you—

Travis: This Christian song has put me in hell! Sorry, go on.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I was gonna suggest that next time, you play some AI-generated devil music.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: For Satan.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But you obviously don't want to AI-generate music, so maybe we could...

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Uh-huh?

Justin: ... generate some devil music that they could put on.

Griffin: So we'll pretend, I'll be an AI. Yeah.

Justin: That they could be like, "Oh, I wrote a song too," and they play this that we do.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's like... [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: Will you give me the prompt? Will you feed me the prompt?

Justin: I'll feed you the prompt.

Griffin: And I'll be the AI voice that's like— Yeah.

Justin: Okay. Uh, so I would say, "Hey, Jeeves. Please generate—" Is that what you say? [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Just Jeeves, generate...

Griffin: He doesn't care what you say.

Travis: [crosstalk].

Justin: ... one death metal song, hard as *fuck*. And I should say capital. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Devil centric.

Justin: Devil centric. Don't make it *sound* AI. Make it *sound* like a real song.

Griffin: Right. Yeah. And— Okay.

Justin: And also, stuff about burning down a convention, and kicking over churches, and throwing Bibles into garbage disposals, stuff like that.

Griffin: You have to click send. You have to submit it.

Justin: Oh, okay. Uh, oh, amount of— It's asking amount of effort? [laughs] Is that—

Griffin: Yeah. Say 100.

Justin: High? 100 percent, maximum effort. Okay.

Travis: Yeah, fuck the Amazon.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I love Deadpool. Maximum effort.

Griffin: Okay. [with AI-like inflection] Ha, ha, ha. Yeah, man. Absolutely, Justin, that's a fun idea. We'll get started cooking on your death metal hell song. Just as soon as you let me know what death is, ha ha.

[normally] So they don't know. To explain the bit, they don't know. There's a lot—

Justin: So that's a really good bit, Griffin. What I was suggesting is that we could just make some music. [laughs]

Travis: I got you. I got you, Justin.

Justin: And then they could play the music that we made.

Griffin: I thought that my thing was more achievable than us creating anything that sounded like—

Travis: Maybe something that's like this, right?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: [with growling tone] The devil, he likes to eat your soul!

Griffin: [imitates metal guitar]

Travis: And it makes you feel good when he does! Bibles suck, Bibles suck! Eat the rich!

Griffin: Okay, okay, okay.

Justin: I liked "Bibles suck."

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, that part—

Justin: I was not into it until you said, "Bibles suck." [laughs]

Griffin: Don't get me wrong, that part ruled. The first part, Travis, I—

Justin: 'Cause Bibles do suck, dude! They're heavy, the pages are thin, and a lot of it doesn't make sense!

Travis: They're so thin! Why is that?

Griffin: Now, listen, though. Listen. The first part of the song was very bad, and I'll tel you why, is because if you get Relient K to sing what you just sang, it could also be a Christian song. The devil wants to eat your soul? That's a threat, to me.

Travis: But it feels good when he does.

Griffin: Yeah, for him. Okay, if you reverse those and be like, "It feels good when the devil eats your soul! It's way better than when God eats your soul!"

Justin: [laughs] "Jesus wants to steal your car!"

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Yeah, that's good!

Griffin: Oh, that's cool. Yeah, libel.

Justin: [laughs] I don't know. It makes it a little bit more timely. Like, a lot of [laughs] stuff in the Bible is kind of ancient. So if you bring it up to today, like, "Jesus wants to steal your car! Push a church into a—"

Travis: "The Holy Ghost ruined my credit score!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Oh, a rhyme! That's good. That's good.

Griffin: Well... Well, it's score and car.

Justin: Score and car are pretty close. [chuckles] I'm so sorry that you went through this. I've been trying to visualize...

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: ... what it would be like. I was thinking about it.

Travis: Thoughts and prayers.

Justin: And I was thinking about how many people are going to be in a similar—I mean, the idea that people are going to be— It is sad that it hasn't occurred to me until this point, but the idea that people are going to be generating art and then foisting it upon other and *forcing* them to react to it.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: I mean, it's really unkind. [through laughter] And I'm really sorry that you had to be here for it.

Griffin: You should be allowed to bust out your AI agent when someone presents *you* with their AI-generated Christ-centric music.

Justin: Right. You should have a AI listener!

Griffin: An AI listener who can then— You say, "And what's a nice thing I can say to get this person off my fucking back?"

And then you let them go, "Ha ha, good one. Absolutely, I'll get started on that."

Justin: Why don't you just say, "I'm gonna let my AI listen to your AI song"?

Travis: Just plug it right in his box.

Justin: "And I'll leave. You didn't write the song, so I shouldn't have to listen to it. I'll let my phone record it, [laughs] and I'll let my AI guy in there."

Griffin: Yeah. And he would probably deliver the song way faster than four minutes to a AI brain. There's probably some way of him encoding it, so it just sounds like, *brrt!*

Travis: Compressed.

Griffin: And then the AI's like, "Mm. I now am saved."

Travis: I think that's what *Silicon Valley* was about. I didn't watch it.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: *Brrt!* "Sick hook!"

Griffin: "Sick hook."

Justin: "I love that hook."

Griffin: "I love Christ."

Justin: "Bibles do suck." *Brr-lrr-lrr.*

Travis: [laughs] I think that the catch-22 of this whole situation is the type of person that would both generate contemporary Christian AI-generated music and make you listen to it is also the type of person who has the least amount of awareness of what they're doing to the other person, right?

Griffin: Sure, no.

Travis: There's nothing within them that's like, "This isn't—"

Griffin: End the sentence there, Travis. There's *nothing* within them. There is a void, an oblivion in there.

Justin: Here's feedback.

Travis: So what you do is, when they come to play you their next song, you say, "Yeah, thank God, man. I don't know what it is, but that song you played me before *really* makes me want to have premarital sex and do all the drugs I can find."

Griffin: Awesome. Awesome.

Justin: What if you record— The next time they play a song for you, you record the song. And then you put it into AI, however that happens. And you say, "Do this song again, but twice as long." [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then you say, "Hey, I wrote a song. [laughs] I want to play it for you."

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: And then you play it, and it's just their same song again, but a lot more words [laughs] and a lot more verses.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: It's expanded.

Griffin: And make it get louder. Over the eight minutes, make it get louder and louder. 'Cause your boss is gonna start saying things like, "This sounds a lot like my AI Jesus song." You need to make it get louder, and louder, and louder, to drown out the protest.

Justin: Could your boss— Could you prompt your boss— Using these same incredible techniques, could you prompt your boss to just keep generating longer and longer songs? Eventually, you won't have to work anymore.

Griffin: That is true.

Justin: Eventually, you could just full-time [laughs] listen to these jams.

Griffin: This is an emotional labor that I— I don't know what their job is, but it sounds more exhausting than any form of employment.

Justin: "Last weekend, I attended a small gathering at my friend's sushi restaurant. He was celebrating being voted the top sushi restaurant in the area, and he had some—" Let's hope they mean owning it.

Griffin: What do you mean?

Travis: Well, there are people who do that.

Justin: Because if you *are* a sushi restaurant and a person, that's very, very painful. That sounds really difficult. [laughs]

Travis: Living dishes is a beautiful art form.

Justin: Living dishes?

Griffin: That's like— Oh, maybe he serves it off of his nude body.

Travis: Mm-hmm!

Griffin: Like they do in fancy parties in movies and television.

Justin: One of the items— Okay. “He had some food catered for the event. One of the items was a large charcuterie board spread that was put together by a friend of his that does it professionally. There was one cheese on there in particular that I really enjoyed, and as the night inevitably ended—” That seems unnecessary. Most nights... [laughs]

Griffin: Most nights end.

Justin: ... do. “There was aplenty of charcuterie to take home for anyone that wanted it. I took home a small bag of this cubed, white, heavenly cheese. The problem I am having is, how do I identify it? I eat a fair amount of cheese, and I haven’t been able to—” [bursts out laughing] That’s a— Yeah. Sorry.

“I even asked my friend, who had the charcuterie boards catered, and he said he would check with the person that made them, but it has been radio silence. I still have some of the cheese left, and we’re now four days past the event. Would it be weird for me to bring the cheese into a local cheese counter specialty store or someone to know what the cheese is if they taste it?” [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I’m gonna get out in front of this one, okay? I’m not even gonna finish the question. If you bring a block of food to *any store*...

Griffin: [laughs] Mm-hmm. Uh-huh.

Justin: ... and you say, “Try this block of food. I don’t know what it is.” They will say no!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Justin.

Justin: [through laughter] No one will agree to this!

Travis: You are on the wrong side of this, my friend.

Justin: “It’s the best cheese I’ve ever had.” That’s from Brie Wildered in Southern Oregon. Continue.

Travis: Listen. Listen. There are people on this Earth— Not everyone. Not every cheesemonger you approach will be down for this. But there is a set of people for whom this sort of mystery...

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Cheese is their life. They love cheese. And you just brought 'em, and said, "Hey, don't just be a cheesemonger today. You're gonna be a mysterymonger." And they're gonna help you solve this mystery with cheese science that they've never gotten to utilize before?

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: It is gonna— There's gonna be a light in their eyes.

Griffin: Every cheese maniac is waiting for you to ask for their cheese help. Because they need a place to use those skills, so it feels like it was worthwhile.

Travis: Do you know many cop, not-a-cop shows I've watched where someone with a specialty area has been brought in by the police to help solve a crime?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What if there was a cop show where there's a cheesemonger who helps solve cheese-related murders every week?

Justin: There's just no way— I feel like every cheesemonger has been in this situation so many times. And then it always ends the same way, is the person looks at you very smugly and says, "It wasn't cheese." And then it's like, okay.

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: God. Great.

Travis: It was a block of white chocolate.

Justin: Again! Again, great. I fell for it again. You win, okay? It wasn't cheese. Please leave. Please, I've wasted an afternoon.

Travis: *Cheddars Never Win?*

Griffin: Cheddars never win. Now, what does that have to do with anything? Did you just think of it?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I'm trying to think of a name for my cop, not-a-cop TV show starring an FBI detective and a cheesemonger.

Griffin: Okay. Sharp—

Justin: Alright.

Griffin: Can we do other stuff, though, while you work—

Justin: How about we finish the podcast? [laughs] And then we'll do—

Travis: We'll save this for the board meeting, yeah.

Justin: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: I'll add it to the fucking agenda, but it's really piling up.

Justin: We have our brain slam after [laughs] our—

Travis: I know, yeah.

Justin: We're always at peak performance after *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. That's when we have our weekly brain slam.

Travis: Our blue sky solution hearing session.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. I live my life searching for a mystery every day. I love a mystery.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Mm.

Travis: To the point where Dot came home from camp the other day and said, "Father," as she's been instructed to call me, "today we had a *mystery* at camp!" And said it exactly like that, and I loved it.

Justin: Ooh. That's cool.

Travis: And she told me that they were informed that one of their camp counselors was kidnapped by the Flying Dutchman.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: And the whole camp was working together to solve this mystery. And she and I went over the clues for 20 to 30 minutes, and it was the best part of my day.

Justin: Just before we move on, 'cause we are at— Who did it? Which camp counselor was it?

Travis: It was the Flying Dutchman.

Justin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, that makes sense. [laughs] So it wasn't like a false...

Travis: No. It was more about finding the Flying Dutchman than a *Scooby-Doo* unmasking a counselor and sending them to prison.

Justin: Oh, okay. I thought maybe one of the camp counselors was the Flying Dutchman in the end. That would be sick.

Travis: Holy shit, Justin, you cracked it! I gotta go!

Justin: Shit. Yeah, dude!

Griffin: Woah! Goddamn, dude! You're the smartest nine-year-old alive!

Justin: Yeah. I gotta get at that camp. [laughs] They need me. They need me, dude.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: What would be bad, is if you did take the cheese in to the cheesemonger, and you're like, "I can't stop thinking about this creamy white cube. Please, please, help me out."

And then they try it, and then they're like, "It's Swiss." Or like, "That's brie." It's such a fucking—

Justin: Or "It's not cheese." [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, of course it could not be cheese. That would obviously be bad.

Travis: "This is bread! You gave me a crouton!"

Griffin: But what would be worse is if it's some rookie cheese. And then they're like, "You don't know brie?" That would be humiliating. I don't know that I could recover from that.

Travis: It would be humiliating, but you could also look at that as a gift you've just given that cheesemonger, to make them feel so superior.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: In a way that maybe they don't get every day, right? That's nice, right? Your humiliation is someone else's elevation.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I appreciate that this question asker doesn't explicitly say the problem. The big, main issue with this is that we are on a time crunch here, because every time they open the fridge and see one of those delicious cubes, they pop another one. You know they do. And they're like, "I'm running out of research material. I've got precious few samples left."

Griffin: "The crime scene's been thoroughly contaminated.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: They've had to tape their fridge closed. They put a lock in, like, "No. You don't understand. This is the lock-up, now. You gotta fill out forms to get the cheese out."

Justin: "Yes, I'll eat one cube a day. And now I'm cutting the cubes in half. [laughs] And I'm down to one-quarter cube a day. I gotta figure out what this stuff is. I've rationed myself."

Travis: "Is there an electron microscope in town that I could use? I've consumed a lot of the evidence."

Justin: Some sort of cheeserfuge. Something.

Travis: Yeah! Yeah.

Griffin: Hmm, yeah.

Travis: Yep, yep, yep, yep.

Griffin: To separate it into its core components, which I guess is just curds and...

Travis: Whey.

Griffin: Curds and whey, I suppose?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Curds and whey, weirdly, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just the whole thing. And like, spices.

Travis: Nobody really knows how cheese is made.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Seeds. A few seeds.

Travis: A few seeds!

Griffin: You could throw a seed or two in there.

Travis: Cheese seeds.

Justin: I feel like we didn't really help that person very much. But that's life sometimes, you know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah. Be bold.

Justin: That's life? [chuckles]

Travis: Solve the case.

Justin: Solve the case!

Griffin: Just eat a bunch of cheese. Make your own charcuterie board, and then compare and contrast.

Travis: Ooh, that's what it is.

Justin: Wait outside the charcuterie store until they open, and then say, "What is this?"

Griffin: "What is this, what is this?"

Travis: Hound your friend until you get the answer. Don't let this go! Don't let this die.

Griffin: Bloodhound. Hire a bloodhound to sniff the cheese real good, and then he'll find the other cheese in the store. Don't let him eat the cheese. He'll get so sick.

Travis: Don't let him eat the cheese.

Justin: Can we take a quick break?

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Yeah, I'd love to.

Justin: Let's go to the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Justin: If you have cats, and you are struggling to monitor their eating, maybe you see them eating a bunch of dry foods, it's not really great for `em. What about trying something that they're gonna *love*?

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: And that is easy, right? And it comes in a lot of great flavors, like smooth bird.

Griffin: Cheese!

Justin: And smooth pig. Cheese? No. No.

Griffin: No.

Justin: What about Smalls?

Griffin: Probably not [crosstalk].

Justin: Smalls is a— Here's what you do with Smalls, okay? You tell `em, "Hey, I got a beautiful kitty. Can you send me some food for it?"

And they'll say, "How big's your kitty? What kind of size?" And they'll help you figure out a plan. So they're gonna ship you a box. Your food comes frozen. It's ready to go. 100 percent human-grade ingredients that you'd find in your fridge, which is where— I mean, that is where I find my cat food, is in the fridge, to be fair.

But my cats *love it*. I used to do dry food and water for them, and I feel like I have a lot better control over what they're eating. I think their coats look healthier. They are at a healthy weight, and we're really a lot more in control of what they're eating than when we did with the dry food, 'cause they would just kind of go crazy.

Griffin: And they like you more.

Travis: Yeah, they like you more. They respect you.

Justin: They do like me more.

Griffin: They do like you— They attack you way less.

Justin: They do.

Travis: They respect you more now.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: They appreciate me in ways they never did.

Griffin: And if they could talk, they would say something like, "Thank you for the wet, Daddy." They would say things like, "Thank you for the wet."

Justin: "Thank you for wet."

Griffin: "[crosstalk] wet!"

Travis: "Thank you for the smooth wet."

Griffin: "Wet! Wet!"

Justin: Your cats have—

Griffin: "Give us! Give us smooth! Give us wet!"

Justin: "Smooth pig! Smooth him up." Your cat's health and longevity starts with what they eat. For a limited time, because you are a *My Brother, My Brother and*

Me listener, get 60 percent off your first order plus free shipping and free treats for life when you head to Smalls.com/mybrother. That's 60 percent off your first order, plus free shipping and free treats for *life* when you head to Smalls.com/mybrother.

Travis: This might surprise our listeners *and* you guys, but— And this is a big admission from me. I'm not the most responsible person on Earth.

Justin: Travis, no!

Travis: I mean, I'm middle. I'm the perfect middle. I'm the middlest most responsible person on Earth. And these days, do you know how easy it is to sign up for a thing?

Griffin: Holy shit, man.

Travis: And you're like, "Yeah. I do just need this one thing, I gotta fill out this thing, I gotta do this thing. And then I'll cancel it when the free trial's up." And then it's a year later, and you paid 860 dollars total over the year for this thing.

Griffin: Uh-huh! Yeah.

Travis: Oh, my God. So I signed up for Rocket Money last year, and that amount [laughs] that I canceled, I was like, "I think I'm gonna start planning some big vacations! Thank you, Rocket Money."

Griffin: Sure. Monthly vacations, because of Rocket Money.

Travis: Yes. Money was just bleeding out. I had a piggy bank that had multiple stab wounds.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And Rocket Money sewed 'em on up for me, and fixed that for me. And not only that, another thing I love is Rocket Money gives me updates. One, when it's like, "Hey. You've got X many bills that are gonna be paid this week," or "A big transaction just went through, so you can check and see what it is, and make sure you're planning correctly." And lets you know when deposits happen, and stuff like that. They'll let you track everything, and be able to really set a rhythm

for spending and paying things off. And it has been incredibly helpful for me, making me feel like a financially responsible adult for the first time in my life.

Griffin: It's a fun walk down memory lane every time, too, 'cause Rocket Money would be like, "Hey. Remember last year, when you were like, 'I'm really gonna take piano lessons'?"

And I'm like, "Ha ha ha, yeah, Rocket Money. I remember."

And then Rocket Money [crosstalk]—

Justin: It's judgment-free, though.

Griffin: It's judgment-free.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: It's a reminder, and a helpful one, 'cause I spent a lot of money on the piano lessons I didn't do.

Travis: And they can also help you cancel subscriptions, which is great when— I don't know if listeners have picked up on this either, but we can be somewhat socially awkward sometimes.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: And the idea of having to contact someone, even in written form, to say I'd no longer like to use their service gives me chills.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So having Rocket Money help—

Griffin: 'Cause they ask, "What's wrong?" They ask every time, "What'd we do wrong?"

Travis: "What did we do?"

Griffin: And it's like...

Travis: And I'm like, "I'd actually like two subscriptions. I'm so sorry. It's not you, it's me."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: But Rocket Money will just tell them. Rocket Money will be like, "Your shits wasn't good enough. And they don't— They hate you."

Justin: Yeah. "You let me down, you let Travis down."

Griffin: "You let Travis down, and he hates your fucking guts, and your products suck shit."

Justin: They probably won't do that. They are very nice people, from what I've heard. [chuckles]

Travis: "He doesn't even want a free subscription to your site. That's how bad it is."

Griffin: "Don't ever talk to Travis ever fucking again." They go *hard* on 'em.

Travis: Yeah. And they do that thing where they crack their knuckles with one hand, you know, and then switch.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: To make it seem like there is a threat there, but what it is is unclear, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: And I love that for them. Rocket Money is a personal finance app that helps find and cancel your unwanted subscription, monitors your spending, and helps lower your bills, so you can grow your savings. Let Rocket Money help you reach your financial goals faster. Join at RocketMoney.com/mybrother. That's RocketMoney.com/mybrother. RocketMoney.com/mybrother.
[ad break]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Travis: Huh!?

Griffin: Fuck yes.

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] I wanna munch!

Griffin: *Squad!*

Travis: Squad!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] I want to munch!

Travis: Bibles suck!

Griffin: Squad! [through laughter] Woah!

Travis: Sorry. Sorry, I got—

Justin: Woah, dude!

Griffin: He's back.

Travis: Sorry, it was still stuck in there.

Justin: You made that edgier than *ever!* That ruled.

Travis: It got stuck.

Justin: If I say, "What's the most unusual item in the world of fast food?" there's probably a lot of different options. But I think the one that I tend to gravitate towards is the original chicken sandwich at BK.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Because it's bad. And that's so interesting. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Because they have been doing this bad sandwich for 47 years now. They've been doing this bad sandwich. And it's crazy, 'cause sometimes they'll have better sandwiches on the menu. And they'll keep doing this wretched, dusty old sub.

Travis: Is that the long one?

Justin: That's the long one.

Travis: Yeah, it's bad.

Justin: It's the famous, dusty long one.

Griffin: With the burger beef, they're *so* explicit in how much care and time and patience goes into each one of these patties. And with the chicken one, it's just like, "I don't know, man."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Get it hot, throw it down."

Justin: "This was our first try, and we nailed it right out of the gate. Except in edibility."

Travis: "And we ordered *so many* of those frozen patties at the beginning, thinking these things were gonna sell so fast. And here we are, 47 years later, and we're still working through that original order."

Griffin: "We're digging through the pile of planks."

Travis: "We can't change it yet! We still got so many planks."

Griffin: “We can’t. Please.”

Justin: “Burger King is giving guests *even more* ways to enjoy its famous original chicken sandwich with the launch of *two* additions to the lineup.” That’s right; they’ve remembered this nasty guy. [laughs] “And they are now giving you the loaded jalapeno original chicken sandwich, and the *club* original chicken sandwich,” throwing good bacon after bad chicken. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Available at US restaurants.

Griffin: It’s a sunk bacon fallacy on that.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah, sunk bacon cost. “First introduced in 19—”

Travis: The main way to keep enjoying it, though, is by eating it, right? Because I thought you were about to say that they were like, “We’ve got it in powder form, now! You can drink it. *Listen* to the chicken sandwich!”

Justin: Yeah. You can just get it right in your veins.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: You can email it to yourself. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: “First introduced in 1979, the original chicken sandwich has been—” This is the most faint praise I’ve ever heard a fast food place. “The chicken sandwich has been a Burger King guest favorite for decades, thanks to its unmistakable long shape...”

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: "... lightly-breaded white meat, chicken, shredded lettuce, and tangy mayonnaise."

Griffin: "Is our shit good? Uh, have you seen the shape of it? People love the shape."

Justin: "It's long. You cannot— Yeah, it's so long and crazy."

Travis: I mean, it is the one thing I remembered about it. [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, right?

Griffin: "Yeah! And the chicken *is*... chicken."

Travis: "It's there!"

Griffin: "People are crazy— And lettuce! Did we mention?"

Travis: "It's shredded."

Griffin: "They shred it up to high heavens."

Justin: "I mean, the place is called Burger King. What do you want from us?"

Travis: "Did you see how long it is? Did we mention that?"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "It's a place called Burger King. I don't know! Why are you coming in here, asking for a chicken sandwich? We made it long, so we wouldn't confuse it with the burgers."

Justin: So what are they doing? Let me tell you. "Guests have continued to show their love for the iconic chicken sandwich," which I would argue, if you're at Burger King and don't want a burger, I mean, I guess you do have to show your love [laughs] for the chicken sandwich.

Griffin: [laughs] Mm-hmm! You have no choice.

Justin: Which is why BK is bringing two new flavorful original chicken sandwich innovations to the menu for a limited time.

Travis: I love when they use “innovations” like it’s a scientific— “We made a chicken club sandwich. We had our boys in RND working on this one for *six years!*”

Griffin: The chicken war armistice is so tenuous, and so fragile to this day.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I get *real* jumpy when someone is just like, “We are not in the— This has nothing to do with the chicken sandwich wars. We’re just making two new kickass chicken sandwiches that are gonna blow your fucking mind.” That feels like an aggressive act.

Justin: I think, Griffin, the fact that they are continuing to stick with that dusty old chicken sandwich base is sort of a Warsaw Pact, where it’s like, “We won’t go—” You know what I mean? “We’re not gonna go any further.”

Griffin: A Grandfather Clause of “We can keep making our shitty chicken sandwiches. Don’t worry about it.”

Justin: “No one will get in the way of it.”

Travis: It’s like, if in the year 2026, two warring countries were like, “We came out with new models of biplanes. We’ve updated biplanes, because we did need to be working on *something* to keep the factories going. But this is not a threat to anyone.”

Griffin: “We may not even use ‘em for war stuff. We may just cruise the beach.”

Travis: “We made biplanes for pride month.” [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I'm not gonna read you the description of the sandwiches, but I will read you how they both end, which is, "Layered on the signature—"

Griffin: I like that joke a *lot*, Travis.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: I want to hang a lantern on how much I enjoyed your joke just now.

Justin: "Layered on the signature long white meat chicken patty and iconic elongated sesame seed bun..."

Griffin: [laughs] They just—

Travis: Did they know how to describe something as food?

Griffin: Have they said "delicious" yet, or "yummy" or...?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Both are the same— The club chicken original sandwich, "A familiar, but elevated take on the original, featuring crispy bacon, melted Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, and creamy mayonnaise stacked on the signature long white meat chicken patty and iconic elongated sesame seed bun."

Griffin: Does it taste good?! [laughs] Is it a good taste? Press releases are usually so quick to be like, "We got a new Dunkaccino, it fucking tastes so good you're gonna nut!" Burger King so far is only using the most baseline visual descriptors.

Travis: Long, meat...

Justin: Not since "Christian contemporary AI-generated" have I seen these words in such a strange order before, this really burying the lede— Are we sure we wanna go with "long white meat chicken patty"?

Griffin: Long white meat chicken patty.

Justin: That's what we're going with?

Griffin: There's no fucking way, dude.

Justin: [laughs] The original—

Travis: "Listen, I had to be so careful about the word— The last time we complimented the chicken sandwich, we were sued [laughs] for lies. So what we've done here is put words that you *cannot* deny are true."

Justin: It's original!

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: "The original chicken sandwich is a true Burger King icon that's been loved for its signature seasoning, taste, and – you guessed it – unmistakable shape since 1979." Do you love it because of the shape? I guess it's just— [laughs] I don't know, it's more fun? That's from Joel Yashinsky, the CMO over there. "Through our ongoing guest listening initiative, we heard just how passionate fans are about this sandwich, and how excited they are for new twists on it."

Griffin: Hmm. Hey, "guest listening initiative" is pretty menacing language.

Justin: Would you like to hear about the guest listening initiative, Griffin?

Travis: It sounds very 1984 to me, but go on, Justin.

Griffin: It sounds like if you got the BK app on your phone, and you checkmarked "share my whatever," BK is like— The king's listening. Oh, here we go. Okay.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: That's the president of Burger King.

Griffin: It looks like— Yeah, if you had shown me that man—

Justin: And you can call him on the phone. It's been an ongoing thing, but this is still going. And I'm going to repeat this information, because I'd like it. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Burger King is taking guest feedback to the next level by putting its president on the line. Guests can call or text the Burger King president, Tom Curtis, at (305) 874-0520 to share their thoughts on the Burger King experience. Tom will personally take as many daily calls as possible.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And every message received will be reviewed and responded to, helping to inform decisions across the business.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Does he not do anything else?

Justin: He stands in the lobby.

Travis: This picture looks like every single element of it was from a separate photoshoot.

Griffin: A different photo— Yes, thank you. This is a sort of photo mosaic, because we see a man—

Justin: It's a composite man. Like, every part of it, yeah.

Griffin: The composite man.

Travis: Yes. I mean even the computer monitor and computer arm mount look like they're different.

Griffin: Yeah, I don't think that's— He's at a standing desk, and he's got a big dual-monitor setup. It's actually, I think, the same exact setup that I have on my

desk. And despite the number of monitors he has, he is still doing a FaceTime on the phone. I'm sure he could figure out a way to field those on one of the two computers that he has. But there's also a coffee cup there?

Justin: There's a third device, by the way. Do you see this, Griffin? Sorry, behind the coffee cup, that is a third device.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, another laptop.

Justin: He has four screens pointed at him right now. [laughs]

Griffin: But he also has a coffee cup here that says Burger King, but clearly— It doesn't seem to have the same light source as everything else in the photograph, and makes me think that this was maybe, I don't know, a coffee bean situation. They went to the java joint.

Justin: So agenda and status. That's what it says. I'm looking at his screen. You can enhance his screen, and it says—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: There you go. Agenda and status. [laughs] And it says the item, PR, locked. Media plan? Locked. TV? Locked. Organic? I can't make that out.

Travis: VIP?

Griffin: I don't know what that is. An acronym; I don't know what it is.

Travis: VIP? Is—

Justin: There is no way— Is this a real chart? Are we to believe that this is— This is the level of control this man has over the company. All he knows is what's paid, and what isn't paid.

Griffin: Let me peep that man's fucking tabs, Juice. Zoom up a little bit, 'cause he's got his tabs up— Oh, [crosstalk].

Justin: Got a lot of tabs for us.

Griffin: Got a lot of tabs here, boss. What, are you playing fucking *Cookie Clicker* on in the background, my dude? What's going on?

Travis: It also appears that he's working in the lobby.

Justin: I'm gonna call him real quick, while we're chatting.

Griffin: Yeah, call him up.

Justin: Yeah. I'll call him real quick. No worries.

Travis: Please don't do this.

Justin: What? You don't want me to do this?

Travis: What if he answers?

Justin: Then I'll talk to him on the podcast. I mean, that would be a huge gift for us. Are you kidding me?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: And he's almost certainly on the west coast, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Wake his ass up.

Justin: [laughs] Wake his ass up.

Griffin: Wake his ass up!

Justin: What's up, bitch? I heard you're making new sammies for me. [laughs]

Griffin: Keep `em long, bitch!

Travis: Ask if you can get 'em longer.

Justin: It's busy. Are you fucking off? Geez.

Griffin: It's 6:52 in the morning, Calif— Well, he's in Florida.

Justin: 6— [through laughter] Wait, did you say it's 6:52 in the morning?

Griffin: On the west coast.

Justin: Oh, God. Eh, he'll be alright.

Griffin: Don't hang up.

Justin: Hey, this is Justin McElroy from *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. I just wanted to say, I would *love* a co-branding partnership with you guys, if you want to kick— Six figures, seven figures, whatever it is.

Travis: Tell him to make the sandwich longer.

Justin: We're ready for collaboration over here.

Griffin: Tell him to make the sandwich twice as long.

Justin: Justin@mbmbmam.com, get at me with that big check.

Travis: Make the sandwich longer.

Griffin: Make the sandwich twice as wide.

Justin: And I will promote that old chicken sandwich.

Griffin: Tell him to make it wider, actually.

Justin: Make it wider.

Griffin: Make it cross-shaped.

Justin: Make it a perfect manhole cover. [laughs] One-to-one manhole cover. Thank you. Oh, and um, the chicken fries are gross. [laughs]

Griffin: You gotta say it's recording. Oh, man, you didn't say it was recording. I don't know if Florida is a one-party state.

Justin: West Virginia's a one-party consent state.

Griffin: Oh, cool. Awesome.

Travis: You're all welcome.

Justin: "As the home of 'have it your way,' guests are our most important advisors. We're grateful as they provide the feedback that is shaping our brand today *and* in the future."

So this guy, people are calling him up, and they must be saying, "We *love* that dusty old joint! We love it! We love it, pres! Don't let them get rid of it. Joel! Don't let Joel get rid of it!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: The only thing that would make it better is more of them.

Justin: Make it better, with different ingre— Put different stuff on it, so people like it better. [wheeze-laugh]

Griffin: Do you actually think people were blowing up his phone so much that he had to put down an away message? Or do you think maybe that was an easy way out? 'Cause it seems like, based on what I know on the half-baked promotions that major fast food places do, the amount of participation in those events is actually quite limited. I think you should have been able to get ahold of Tom just now.

Travis: Maybe he's screening your calls.

Justin: Yeah, 9:50 in Miami? Yeah, he should be able to answer my phone. I mean, they should have Caller ID if you're a podcaster, you know what I mean? Like, this is our big moment? [chuckles]

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: For brand stuff. How about another question?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: “I have now, on two separate occasions, had to DoorDash a toilet plunger to myself because I clogged the toilet in a residence that does not possess one. Now, I am aware that sometimes, it’s on me for having such—” I’m not gonna read this. It’s vulgar. [laughs] Big poops. Let’s leave it at that.

Griffin: That’s better, yeah.

Justin: “However, it is not common practice to keep a plunger—”

Travis: *Is* it not.

Justin: “However, is it not a common practice to keep a plunger around in case of toilet emergencies? Should I start keeping one in my car? Is it unsanitary to carry a travel plunger?” And that’s from Travis.

Travis: What!?

Justin: McElroy.

Travis: No!

Griffin: Travis McElroy? It’s—

Justin: Well, it says it’s from *Developing a Complex in Cincinnati*, so I just assumed it was from Travis.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Was I wrong?

Travis: I don’t poop anywhere but my own house, so...

Justin: It was just a guess.

Griffin: Travis makes *small* pellets.

Travis: Like a rabbit.

Griffin: Little, easily, hugely flushable. [crosstalk] no prob.

Travis: I— Listen, if it's not a common practice to keep a plunger around in case of— Why else should they exist?

Griffin: Yeah. No, I mean, it is— I don't understand your point. I feel like it is common practice to have a plunger around, but everybody makes mistakes. I don't think— Guys, gun to your head. Do you have a plunger by every toilet in your home?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: The important ones.

Justin: No, okay, you know what? I said yes with a lot confidence. I don't.

Griffin: You did.

Justin: I don't. I don't. I don't. I don't know if I do or not. My kids will do stuff, like they'll just take a plunger and throw it down the hill or something. I don't know where these things go. [laughs] Wherever they're putting the nail clippers, I think.

Griffin: It feels antiquated to me. 'Cause it feels like toilet technology has advanced to a point where these things can really rip down whatever you're brewing, and it doesn't need a whole lot of extra help. One time, my friend Justin was visiting me in Chicago, not this Justin. And after pooping in our toilet, he knocked over a Lady Speed Stick deodorant, and it fell into the toilet hole and plugged it right up. And then the guy had to come and deal with that. We did not

have a plunger in this situation, and it made things considerably worse, I imagine.

Travis: I don't know if a plunger would've helped there, Griff.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: For prying a Lady Speed St— The Lady Speed Stick was perfectly— If you're ever trying to remember, "How big is a Lady Speed Stick?" The hole in the bottom of the toilet? Perfectly that.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: When it fell in, it went, *thoomp*! It made a perfect sort of...

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: ... vacuuming noise.

Travis: A seal.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I think it would be pretty cool if you clogged a toilet, and they didn't have a plunger, and you went out to your car, and you opened the trunk. And sort of like in *Supernatural*, but instead of weapons, it was just different plungers laid out in a case, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Where you're like, "What's the measurement— What brand of toilet do you have? Oh, yeah."

Griffin: You pry up a floorboard, and you flick a switch, and *John Wick* style, the walls open up, revealing all numbers—

Travis: Yeah! "We're gonna need a number 16!"

Griffin: I do have, by all my toilets, one of them little brushes. 'Cause I don't

fucking mess around— Don't even leave *footprints*. Take nothing, leave nothing. Leave no sign of your presence there, or what dirty stuff you did. I gotta have a brush by every commode.

Travis: I've always thought that there was a missing— Like, see a need, fill a need kind of business innovation thing.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: A plunger and that scrubby brush, the *second* you use them, it occurs to you, "I don't know what the next step in cleansing the things I just used to clean."

Justin: Right. So you have to do— the only option is to put it in the toilet water to rinse it off. That's the only thing you can do. And then it's like, "Well, this is the dirtiest thing that exists." [laughs] There's nothing dirtier than this.

Travis: That can't be the most effect— Yeah.

Griffin: People say that when you're in the bathroom, your phone's the dirtiest thing in there. Beg to *fucking* differ. How about my brush, dude?

Justin: How about that shitty brush that we use the shit water to clean the brush? It's crazy! It's crazy.

Travis: Need a second, just a bucket full of bleach. Like they have in barbershops, with the Barbicide? But something like that for your toilet, and for your accessories.

Griffin: Dude, yes! Give me a little canteen of blue goo that I can dip that stuff into, and then not even worry about it anymore.

Travis: That I just know whatever's in there is killing every evil thing on that plunger and brush.

Griffin: [laughs] Right.

Justin: I love it. I love the first— They don't last for very long, but the first 20 flushes, when it's just so blue.

Griffin: Oh, man.

Justin: Like, God damn, this couldn't be cleaner, man. All of my sins are gone. It's like a mini golf course in here. It's beautiful!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: You know? It's so good at first.

Griffin: So good.

Travis: It feels like the kind of stuff they would have on the Enterprise, right? That's what they flush with on the Enterprise.

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: I think that it is, as a host, if there's not a plunger next to the toilet and you need one, I think that's on the homeowner, agreed. I do wonder what the procedure is like, once you realize the toilet is clogged, there is no plunger, and you have placed an order from your local CVS. Are you just [laughs] barricading yourself in, like *Les Mis*?

Griffin: You put in the DoorDash notes, "Delivery instructions: Bring it to the first floor west window."

Justin: [screech-laugh]

Travis: "No questions asked."

Griffin: "You will see me waving outside. And I'm going like this with my finger, 'Shh!' That's where you hand it off. Do *not* ring the fucking doorbell."

Justin: "Don't ring the doorbell."

Griffin: "I'm at my in-law's place; they *cannot* know. And also, *hurry!*"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I guarantee you, Griffin, if you're a DoorDash driver and you get an order for one plunger and nothing else, the hurry is implied.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You're like, "I gotta go."

Justin: "I'm looking. They don't have the exact color you wanted. Are any of these colors okay?"

"Yes, God damn you!"

Griffin: "Yes."

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: I'd love to see that delivery confirmation picture, too. [laughs] Just through the bathroom.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You have your shorts around your ankles, holding it. "Just take the picture! Just take it and go!"

Justin: They're really not supposed to. [laughs] "You got what you needed."

Travis: "And bring me a cyanide pill!"

Griffin: [wheeze-laughs] Do they have those at CVS?

Travis: "Just one plunger, and a fake tooth I can bite down on!"

Justin: [laughs] Oh, man. I love when an order at the drug store, when your checkout is a little short story. And that's a hell of a one right there: one plunger. You know the deal.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: "Delivered."

Griffin: I've seen so many lifehack videos of "Don't have a plunger? Here's what you do. Get some Saran wrap, and some tape. And you tape it around the bowl, and then you push down on the Saran wrap, and with the vacuum force, it does fix it up."

Now, this is not going to be a good solution for you, 'cause *you* can't walk out of the bathroom and say, "Hey. Can I get some Saran wrap and tape?" 'Cause they're gonna ask you what you need it for.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I would assume for toilet hacks. They may or may not know. They may not watch as much YouTube as I do.

Travis: You can say it's like, "Well, it's a sexual thing. I'd rather not discuss it."

Griffin: It's a sexual— I'm gonna [crosstalk].

Travis: Then you don't have to be embarrassed.

Justin: Stand guard outside the bathroom.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Then you say, "No. I'm sorry, I can't allow you in here." Or do you stay inside for 20 minutes, while you wait for the delivery?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm asking you guys, you're in the situation, what do you do?

Griffin: Yeah, no, I'm thinking about it. It's a rough hypothetical. I definitely wouldn't stand guard. I think I'm a good enough actor that I could just walk out. And then later, when someone [laughs] comes out to the rest of the party, and it's like, "Who did this!?" I think I'm good enough at those *Werewolf*, *Mafia* games, I think I could squeak through. I think I could get through the evening.

Justin: Yeah, but when the DoorDash order is like, "Order for Griffin. I'm looking for a Griffin McElroy. I have his *plunger*."

Griffin: Yeah. No, that would be a big clue for the other guys, for sure.

Justin: [laughs] I bet even the camp kids could crack that one.

Travis: This is why— Okay, second business idea of the question. A new delivery service. I'm gonna call it Instafart for now; we can brainstorm in the brain slam afterwards.

Griffin: Jesus Christ, man.

Justin: No need.

Travis: And it's just for this scenario, and it will be delivered in a discrete brown box. No labels.

Griffin: Okay. Trav, I gotta tell you, man. It feels like the podcast that we do is an idea factory for you, because what you have just done is this person said, "I don't have a plunger. Would it be weird to get a plunger?"

And your business is, "What if there was a place that brought you a plunger?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: *Shark Tank. Shark Tank.*

Griffin: It feels, to me, like this was a vehicle for *Shark Tank* and Instafart. Because what we said— The question was, "What do I do in this situation? Because I don't have a plunger."

Justin: And we'd like to help!

Griffin: And we were like, "What if you ordered a plunger for delivery from DoorDash?"

Justin: [laughs uncontrollably]

Griffin: And your *business idea* was a place that delivers plungers to your door! Do you understand the—

Travis: But discrete! Mine has *discretion*!

Justin: Travis is saying, “Yeah, we all order plungers from DoorDash, but should that procedure be a little bit more humane? A little bit kinder? Maybe even magical? Hi, this is Instafart.” [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. [laughs]

Justin: “Our pitch is, what if you could *love* your [laughs] toilet plunger delivery service?”

Griffin: [giggles]

Travis: And for an extra fee, the delivery driver will pose as a party guest and take the blame for the clog.

Griffin: Oh, nice!

Justin: Oh, that’s good. I like that. We’ll come— They should have people that will come and fix your plumbing for money, you know?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Okay, here’s my business idea. [laughs]

Griffin: [through laughter] Yeah. [giggles]

Justin: [laughs] Trav...

Griffin: Travis, don’t get me wrong. It’s a kickass business idea. I think I bristle at you calling it your business idea. We all— I feel like we cooked up this nugget in the kitchen.

Travis: Are you gonna use it?

Griffin: No, I’m busy. I got other stuff.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: I'm not gonna use it either. But I'll plant a flag on it, and own it, so that someone else can't do it.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to this podcast right here. It's called *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. We do it every week. And we're so happy that you're here and listening to it. This is an exciting week for us, because the last *Adventure Zone: Balance* graphic novel, *Story and Song*, is coming out tomorrow! You can still preorder it right now, if you're listening to this on Monday. But if not, you just gotta *please* go buy it! God, *please* go buy some comic books [crosstalk].

Griffin: Wow, it helps us so much when you buy the book.

Justin: And that's a real one, man. If you could just buy a bunch of copies of it, and tell everybody else too. Boy, that would be really helping us out a lot.

Griffin: It's a huge book. It's quality shit, front-to-back. I'm so proud of this book, and it's *crazy* that it's out this week. So stoked.

Travis: And, along with that, we have a book release event this Thursday in Boston. There are still tickets on sale, if you wanna grab those. July 16th, 7:00 PM at the Chevalier Theatre. Each ticket includes a signed paperback copy of *Story and Song*, provided by Brookline Booksmith. It's on McElroy.family. You could find it in the events page.

Griffin: And also, the book is at TheAdventureZoneComic.com, if you want to grab a copy of it.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: We got some new merch in the merch store, over at McElroyMerch.com. We've got an "All butts, no government" sticker. We've got the Trav Nation Centennial celebration Mount Rushmore design. We've got a bunch of other stuff happening over there. And ten percent of all of our merch proceeds this month will also be donated to the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, which works to

lead a transition away from an extractive economy based on profit and pollution, and toward local, healthy, and life-sustaining economies that benefit everyone. Hey, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." The music of Montaigne is so terrific. May I also suggest following Montaigne on any social platform that they may be on? It's a good follow, gang. A premium follow.

Travis: I have this Champions Grove shield that Jacob 3D printed at Champions Grove that says, "Thank you for an awesome weekend." I'm gonna throw that.

Justin: Cool, yeah. That's a better tribute.

Griffin: I do like that a lot. I do worry— I think people enjoy this segment when it's something relatable. When they know, "Oh, that's the sound of a big bag of Life Savers hitting—"

Travis: Like a Shure SM58 microphone?

Justin: Oh, that is the—

Griffin: I mean, we talk a lot of shit about how the Shure SM58 can hammer in a nail and keep on ticking, but I've never really put the rubber to the road.

Justin: I think it's time to throw a fucking Shure SM58! God, Amanda's gonna love this.

Griffin: Dude, be careful what you throw it at, 'cause that thing is an—

Justin: Amanda, we're gonna throw a Shure SM58. It's the work horse!

Griffin: Wait, let's ask Amanda if we can do it. Amanda, can we throw the Shure SM58, the work horse?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You ready?

Justin: She said yeah. That's fine.
[microphone thuds, clatters]

Griffin: Fucking yeah, dude!

Justin: What I'm fucking talking about! Now plug it in.

Griffin: Now plug that shit in, once—

Justin: Now plug it in, and do your outro, right now.

Travis: [crosstalk] so much—

Griffin: Unplug your—

Justin: Unplug your shit.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Plug that shit in, and say your name. 'Cause my name? Well, let me tell you, my friends, it's Justin McElroy.

Travis: And my name is Travis McElroy.

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: Still working. Still functioning. I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

[theme music plays]

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