

MBMBaM 823: Seasonably Effective

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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! 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 baby brother, 30 Under 30, media luminary, Griffin 'Built Ford Tough' McElroy. Which year is it? It's not the car one.

Travis: Is it?

Griffin: It's not the car one anymore.

Justin: It's not?

Travis: I guess that's true. Well...

Griffin: No, it's the baseball one. And I fucked up—

Travis: You're still built Ford tough?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. No. I guess... yeah! No, for sure, I can run over a bunch of loose boulders and splash through a creek, and I won't get anything in my undercarriage.

Travis: No! That's one of the things I like most about your undercarriage.

Griffin: And my bed is fucking huge, dude. You could store 12 whole things of lumber or sheetrock, or other sort of...

Travis: You could put two race car beds in his bed.

Griffin: Ah, yeah! Yeah, I think that's true.

Justin: [chuckles] Hey, guys, good news.

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: Bad news, just news. Some news. Any news that isn't bad news is good news. How's that? [chuckles]

Griffin: If it's not a—

Justin: Is that something? [chuckles]

Griffin: If it's not about—

Justin: If it ain't bad news, it's good news.

Griffin: If it's not about my pal Mitch, I don't want to fuckin' hear about it!

Travis: Oh, Griff—

Justin: Sorry, what? [chuckles]

Travis: I got bad news.

Griffin: If it ain't about my pal Mitch, I don't want to hear about it. I've been on tenterhooks.

Justin: Oh, yeah. Yeah, Griff, I will say this. I don't know—I don't know what to tell you about Mitch. The jury is still out on that one. We haven't gotten any new leads there. But what I can tell you is that Daylight Savings Time has just been voted by the US House of Representatives to be a permanent thing in a 308-117 vote. 308 to 117, that was the vote.

Travis: Finally getting to the most important issues of the day!

Griffin: I'd love to meet those 117 goddamn vampires, who love the—who love the Moon's embrace.

Justin: Well—

Griffin: Those night monsters.

Justin: So, this is the—we get—[chuckles] We got a lot of responses across the political spectrum. Gus Bilirakis from Florida says that Americans are ready to—

Griffin: Affiliation?!

Justin: Gus Bilirakis! Said Americans are ready to ditch the switch, saying that changing the clock twice a year creates unnecessary disruption. I agree with you, Gus.

Griffin: Good, Gus.

Justin: He said, "In my home state of Florida, where tourism is a cornerstone of our economy, having more predictable daylight hours is a practical improvement that benefits workers, businesses and visitors alike." So there we go. Extra magic hours. [chuckles] Government mandated.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: That's cool.

Travis: Listen! We politicians pride ourselves on listening to people for—that have been saying shit for the last 40 plus years.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: About how we don't like Daylight Savings Time. And if it tells you anything about the backlog of stuff we have to get to—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We went ahead and took care of that one.

Griffin: This is like a 1985 thing. This is we've been—we've been cook—I know the wheels turn slow, but we've been cooking on this one for 41 long years. We have to get it done.

Justin: This is the—now, Mary Gay Scanlon's against it! She says millions of Americans will wake up during the winter months, this is from Pennsylvania, I hear you, in complete darkness, with the sun not rising until long after people get up, and travel to school or work and have to go about their days! Yeah! That's right! Both of these times are bad!

Griffin: Yeah, wait a minute. Yeah.

Justin: Wait a minute.

Griffin: Can we split the diff?

Justin: What about this?! How about we all stop working?!

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: How about that?!

Justin: *Whoow!*

Griffin: That's a cool one. I like that.

Justin: Yeah! Now Jim McGovern takes a Travis approach. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: He did support the bill, but didn't know why they were talking about it. [chuckles]

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: Jim said, "You know, for folks getting crushed by rent, groceries, utility bills and health care costs, is this really the best the majority can do? Is this really the most pressing issue before the American people at this moment?"

Griffin: Hey, listen. Hey, listen. You guys have done like four things, in the last like 12 years. You need to fuckin' aim low, and really kind of work up some momentum, I think. You can't just hop back into it and fix all the shit in one go. Y'all need a softball.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: It's bad to change the clocks.

Travis: I guarantee you that this has been sitting in a drawer—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: That's like, hey, when we have had just what can only be described as a record book length of losses, we're going to pull this one out and just slam dunk it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then everyone will be like, "Ooh, the government's good again." Just you watch.

Justin: They already got rid of the penny! They'll get rid of the nickel. [chuckles] Just, anything! Does this make you guys happy?

Travis: Is this what you guys want? It's not—guys—

Griffin: Do you guys—

Justin: No coins!

Griffin: Like this?

Travis: "No, here's a list of things we want."

"No, listen. We heard you. Daylight savings time and the penny. Done. No, guys, guys, guys—"

Justin: Don't you think it sucks? If we want another easy win... let's get back to normalizing dollar coins. If we got rid of the penny—

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: Can I please get a pocket full of treasure, please?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Works for like—

Justin: Can I please lay some gold c—

Travis: Every other country.

Justin: Yeah. Can I please lay some like doubloons on a counter and get a chocolate bar and a newspaper, please? Please?

Griffin: Make 'em big and uneven, too.

Justin: Make 'em big and chunky.

Travis: Yeah! I like to—

Griffin: I want uneven currency that each one has different bumps and lumps on it.

Travis: Yes! Like the pirate things where you get the gold coins, but it's not like an even thing—

Griffin: It's not even!

Travis: There's like chunks on the side.

Griffin: Chunks missing.

Travis: That feels good!

Griffin: That feels cool. Our coins suck, dude.

Justin: Yeah. We want pieces of eight.

Travis: Yes, we do!

Justin: [chuckles] That's what we want.

Travis: We deeply want that. And more shopkeepers with parrots that acknowledge that we're using pieces of eight.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Would be incredible. That's not going to be mandatory in the law, but encouraged.

Justin: I'm glad for this, I think. I think it's the right step for the—
[chuckles] I don't know.

Griffin: Summer's forever—Justin, they made summer forever. Yeah, I think they did a pretty good job.

Justin: I guess what they're saying is it's summertime forever.

Griffin: They said, "Gang, we know it's fucking tough out there, and we know we're to blame for it. But we can't do anything about that. But now it's summertime forever, guys. Surf's up."

Justin: Endless Summer?

Travis: It did rece—

Justin: Moon dog?

Travis: My—

Justin: Anybody?

Travis: My friend Paul, who is British, we were recently—it blew my mind. I only realized within the last calendar year that Daylight Savings Time is an American-only thing. That like the time difference has always been five hours, and then suddenly the time difference between me and my British friend Paul was six hours. And I was so confused until I realized like, oh, Americans are like, "We have control over time."

Griffin: We are time kings, all of us. And now we've decided to fix it. And I'm just, I'm going to open up the vents on my back, and I'm going to blast the seasonal affective disorder out. This news is hot off the presses to me. I learned about it seconds before we started recording. And it's like, oh, there's a disorder, I don't have it. The government fixed one of my disorders? They can do that?

Justin: The government healed you.

Griffin: The government healed me? [makes an explosion sound]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That's the sad fucking pulsing out of my vents.

Travis: Oh shit?

Griffin: [makes an electrifying sound]

Justin: You've made Griffin too powerful now.

Griffin: Made me so strong.

Justin: You can't put him back in the bottle?

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Now he's—

Griffin: Teddy—

Travis: Now he's seasonally effective, with an E.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I'm... I'm orde—my effectiveness in two of the four s—half the seasons of the year, are so ordered.

Travis: Yeah, he's got SEO now!

Griffin: I'm going to take my light therapy lamp, I'm going to put... I'm going to put it in the toilet.

Justin: Well, that's not going to be safe.

Travis: Yeah, how big is your toilet, or how little is the lamp?

Griffin: Well, I got a special one with an extra big hole, didn't I?

Justin: [sings] "How big is your toilet? How big is your toilet? How little is your lamp? How little is your lamp?!" Do you guys remember that from the '80s. How big is your toilet, how little is your lamp?

Griffin: Hm, I don't—I don't remember that—

Justin: That was a big dance hall thing when I was growing up.

Griffin: Oh, I'm sorry, wait—

Travis: Oh, was it? I didn't go to dance halls like you did.

Justin: Yes, when the sound boy...

Griffin: When the sound boy...

Justin: When you'd put that one on, the sound boy would say... turn it down. And I would say—and the sound boy would get mad at me because I would always be cranking it up.

Griffin: Who's the sound boy?

Travis: Why are you putting it on? Were you a DJ in the '80s?

Justin: I learned about the sound boy from Wyclef Jean. And it's the who we get mad at in dance hall culture—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: When it's too loud, the guy who's like running it. And you're like—he's like, "I can't take it any higher." You know what I mean? Like I can't real—I can't take the speakers any higher, you're going to explode them with how hard you're party rocking. So that's like—

Griffin: Right.

Justin: If you're mad at the sound boy, it's because you're going—this is what I understand from Wyclef contextually, is that if you're mad at the sound boy, it's because you are... you know, you murdered a sound—[like you remember when... when Whitney Houston sang "Wyclef Murdered the Sound Boy?"

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: The implication is that Wyclef goes so hard—

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: That the sound boy was killed.

Griffin: Is Paul ours—

Justin: He just died.

Griffin: Is Paul our sound boy?

Justin: I would never... hm...

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I've never heard your indignation melt away to solemn consideration before. That was cool. I wish we had video of this one, so I could have seen what that looked like, but it sounded great.

Travis: Yeah, just a realization overtake.

Griffin: "Wait a minute."

Justin: The closest parallel we have to this relationship is, before live shows, we have a sound check.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And that experience is always very interesting, because it's us judging how much we want to hear ourselves. Not a lot.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And each other.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And each other, even less. And how much we think we'll be able to do that when there's a bunch of people in the audience, and kind of imagining what that is like. And then we constantly enter into this thing where we're like, we could do more monitor, right? Like 10% or 20%.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And then you kind of wait, because they don't say, "Yeah, I did it." So you just kind of have to listen.

Griffin: I'm always thinking they're trying to trick me, and trying to catch— Trying to trick me into saying, "Oh, it sounds way better, guys." They didn't fucking touch the board.

Justin: They haven't done anything.

Travis: And that's the sound boy?

Justin: So that's—I'm not going to say that either, because—

Travis: No.

Justin: No.

Travis: They're professionals. They're sound men. And women. People. And non-binaries.

Griffin: It sounds like we need to bring Wyclef in to the studio to help us identify some of these guys.

Justin: Yeah—

Travis: And as a mediary—

Justin: Because I don't know the parallels—

Travis: Let's let—if anyone's going to murder 'em, let it be Wyclef.

Justin: This is an advice show. "I teach summer school, which is a half day program through the district I'm with. As soon as I get home, I like to change out of my work clothes and into something more comfortable, such as pajamas. I also have a broken dishwasher. The maintenance man in my apartment is actively replacing it, and it is only 5:15 local time. Is it weird that I'm already in pajamas? And would it be weirder if I went to the bedroom and changed into actual pants?" That's from Perplexed in Pajamas.

Travis: Hm...

Griffin: Can I sit with this for a minute?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. I'll say this. Regionally... we don't draw a lot of these lines. [chuckles] You gotta understand, I live in a land where this barrier is very permeable.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: The sweatpants to sleep pants to pajama pants—

Travis: Yes.

Justin: It's a real spectrum down here, and it's very blurry.

Griffin: It's a college—

Travis: The sleep pants!

Griffin: It's a college town. I think—

Justin: It's a college town.

Griffin: Maybe.

Travis: Yeah, the sleep pants, especially. I think sleep pants are such an amorphous place in the clothes area. Where it's like, it's got pants right there in the name, right? If I'm walking around in sleep pants, I'm clearly not nude, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now, there is a kind of pajama.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Where you would see them and be like, look at that. [chuckles] Look at that, he's a Scrooge-lookin'-ass, wearing, you know, long sleep shirt.

Justin: It's if you have like a bunch of My Little Ponies on 'em and stuff, right? Like anytime—once there's a print—

Griffin: Sure!

Justin: It's like a print judgment.

Griffin: Or if you can see it.

Justin: [chuckles] Okay.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Okay! This is—he's always on about—

Griffin: I'm gonna go ahead and say—

Justin: Sorry! He's always on about eye traps and shit. Let him clear—

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Clear a space for him!

Griffin: I'm just gonna say!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: If I'm look—if in there to fix your washer, and I can see it?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think so.

Justin: Okay. Yeah—

Griffin: I—

Justin: It's like we're just trying to keep it biblical, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now I will say, I think that if you then go and change into pants, you are admitting an impropri—you're creating. Like you're saying, "It was inappropriate because I had to change it," right?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Now, you have planted a seed in their mind of like, "Oh, now I think it's weird."

Griffin: Yeah. This is a quantum—you've engaged this thing in a quantum way.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Where now you've locked it in to be—if you had just simply not acknowledged it, then it would be, it could pass by, like a specter. But by acknowledging it, now it's real in your mind and their mind. And you've...

you've fucked the—hopefully you haven't done that yet. They're probably waiting on further instructions from us, I would hope.

Travis: There's also an amount of presence, I think, that makes this... wor—like... leave the room as quickly as possible, let them work. You should be interacting with them 30 to 60 seconds in the beginning, and 30 to 60 seconds at the end. During that time, in the grand scheme of the day, that's not going to stick in their permanent memory.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You're okay. But if you hang out in there sipping your coffee, in your bathrobe and pajamas, you know, 6:30PM, yeah! It's going to jump out at 'em.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: One crucial detail that they might have left out of this is if the summer school program that they are teaching is dishwasher repair.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: And if their work clothes reflect that, that might make for an uncomfortable environment. If they have some sort of—

Griffin: P-P-P... Principal Waverly?! Like...

Justin: [chortles]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You can't have that happen when they show up to your place.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: And I know what you folks at ho-

Justin: Or you have like, if you dress like the Maytag Repairman, you know, day in, day out—

Travis: For bed?

Justin: And you're just like hovering over him.

Travis: Oh, maybe that's your work clothes, is you're the guy who plays the Maytag Repairman in commercials.

Justin: Mm-hm!

Travis: And then they're like, "Why aren't you fixing it?" And you're like, "Oh, no, no, no, no. I am but a figurehead."

Justin: What they're not telling you is that their—[chuckles] what they do at summer school is that they're a nude model in a life drawing class.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: [chuckles] So they get home from work and it's like, "Should I put on pajama pants? Or..."

Travis: "When I'm at school, I dress as a dishwasher. It's a..."

Justin: [chuckles] "I'm doing an art installation—"

Travis: "Yeah! It's a very abstract art school."

Justin: Wait, wait, are you saying that their outfit is an actual washer of dishes?

Griffin: Is a machine, yeah.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: Or the machine? Okay.

Griffin: And they've done it up Cars style.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And this is in, this is set in the broader Cars universe. Obviously we have Planes: Fire & Rescue. And I think if you zoom out a few more levels, maybe a dozen or so, you end up at appliances. And that's, I mean, now we're in br—that's actually, is Brave Little Toaster in the Carsverse? Something to chew on.

Travis: Hm, that might be the missing link that takes—because people are always wondering how the, how humans evolved into cars, which is the only explanation.

Griffin: Right. Well...

Travis: And I think that Brave Little Toaster, that era is like where we see the machines taking over.

Griffin: Well, I mean, RoboCop's sort of our... our, you know, our keystone there I think. Like you take any—like Bridges of Madison County, it's a purely human movie. Then you get RoboCop. Now we're kind of halfway there.

Travis: I think RoboCop is too early to be the bridge, because that's still a human form robot.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: These aren't cars, these aren't transformers, right? They're not cars as people. They're people as cars.

Griffin: Maybe a brain computer or something.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Is there a movie with a brain computer in it? Transcendence.

Justin: "I work at the state for the unclaimed property office. This is a field that I didn't know existed until I was offered an interview, and I didn't really understand until about six months into the job. Long story short—"

Travis: As a boss, you love to hear that! [chuckles]

Justin: "Long story short, I get to return money to folks. The problem is, whenever I tell people about it and money that they have, they think I'm trying to scam them. Brothers, I'm not an MLM or trying to steal data, simply trying to get folks their hard-earned money back. How do I convince old friends, contacts and acquaintances when I offer them \$5,000 in exchange for their social security number, and I'm doing so with the purest of intentions?" This email might...

Griffin: I know. I had the same vi—

Justin: Is this email a scam?

Griffin: We may be—we may be complicit.

Travis: I will also say—

Justin: If folks just go to this URL, they can find out.

Griffin: Uh-huh!

Travis: Question asker, I'm also going to point out, you didn't—you were offered an interview. They reached out to you. You might be—

Griffin: You don't know. You might—

Travis: Complicit in a scam!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "It doesn't seem right. I'm really helping a lot of people." [chuckles]

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: I'm investing their money, and somehow they're making more back, and I don't really understand how it all works, but—

Travis: And part of it goes to me—

Justin: It's all legit! How do I convince people?

Travis: I, you know, in the '90s, there was a guy named Matthew Lesko, who wore a suit—

Justin: Yeah, I love that guy.

Travis: Covered in quest—or was it question m—no, that's the Riddler. Covered in money signs I think maybe? Maybe it was question mark. Anyways, he was in a bunch of infomercials about how like there's government programs to give you money for stuff. And I never—

Griffin: I'm so sorry. Matthew Lesko did wear a suit covered in question marks.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: So he did kind of chomp the Riddler's...

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: The Riddler's flavor a little bit.

Travis: Batman Forever was huge, you know? So he was just trying to get in on that train. But I think that there that—I don't think people questioned

whether that was legit or not, because he was so enthusiastic and wore a suit covered in question marks. Which in retrospect should have made it seem—

Griffin: Should have raised a flag—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Well, I say that, Travis, but if Lesko, or really anyone wearing a suit, a shiny suit, gemstone colored, covered in question marks, and starts screaming at me, screaming, screaming about the free money that the government wants to give me, that's actually pretty far from the usual pitches—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: That I ge—that I get from scammers and the like. I do think actually I'm going to ri—I'm going to ride hard with this guy.

Travis: Yeah! You should pitch it to them as like, "Hey, you have a bunch of unclaimed money. Can I keep it?"

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And once you—

Griffin: Oh, that's awesome.

Travis: Now they're like, "No, I want it."

Justin: "Well no."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I want it. It's mine."

Travis: Because you shouldn't be pushing the money on them. That seems like a scam. But trying to withhold it from them?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now they want it.

Griffin: "You either take this or I'm going to turn it into a jet ski. And I suck at jet skiing, man."

Travis: Yeah. "I'm going to get hurt."

Griffin: "And do you really want that on your conscience?"

Travis: "And it'll be your fault."

Justin: Do you guys want me to check and see if you have any unclaimed property in West Virginia?

Travis: I already did, baby! The second I made the question list!

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: How do you...

Justin: I got—

Griffin: I mean I got—

Justin: A couple things in there.

Griffin: I got *a lot* of messages from the state of Texas, when I left it. And I did just file those—

Travis: [yells out] "Come back! Please!"

Griffin: Away under, nice try, it's gotta be fucking Teddy or like one of the set down there that I've shit talked quite a lot, and are just trying to, you know, get me on the way out. Haven't heard from them lately, so I am actually now hesitant to google this in any capacity, because if I find out that

I lost a great sum of money up that that's—I don't actually need that energy in my life right now.

Justin: No, no, no, you didn't lose it! That's the amazing thing.

Travis: It's unclaimed.

Justin: You just have to say, "It's me. Here's all my information. I'll wait for my money." It goes against every single impulse—

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: That you have spent like decades, chitiously building up around you to protect you from the internet. You have to have this one crack in your heart where it's like, no, every once in a while. Maybe they just shouldn't give it back.

Travis: It—hey, listeners? Listeners. If you're finding out about this process through this episode—

Justin: Of this comedy podcast—

Travis: And you have unclaimed money that you learned about through this episode—

Justin: This feels like an ad.

Travis: You are legally required to become a Max Fun subscriber.

Justin: Oh, I love that. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. You can have your name read on a brush stream. You just have to kick in some of your winnings to us.

Travis: Yeah, it's a finder's fee kind of deal, that needs to go to us. That is, I'm sorry, it's not up to me. It was actually, it was part of the daylight savings time bill. It was just included in there. They squeezed it in at the last moment, so...

Griffin: I have so much Texas money! [laughs] I didn't know! Texas is—damn, Texas! Listen, Texas, I may have s—I may have something of an acrimonious relationship with you, on sort of a holistic level, but man, Texas... Texas has got my back on this one. I had no idea! Guys, what an episode for me!

Justin: What a helpful episode! This is our first helpful episode!

Griffin: I've vented—

Justin: Hey, everybody!

Griffin: I've vented my disorder. I fuckin' made *bank* in a—in the state in which I used to—can I get this b—how do I get this?

Travis: You gotta claim it.

Justin: You just gotta call 'em up.

Griffin: Call 'em up and say it's—but what's stopping anyone from calling 'em up?

Justin: Well, that's the social security number part, isn't it?

Griffin: Oh, fuck.

Justin: It's the crime aspect that gets you. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, it's—that's where it's illegal.

Griffin: All right.

Justin: It's the crime part.

Griffin: Well, I'm going to, I mean, I'm in my own personal pan money zone right now.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Wow. Congratulations, Griffin—

Travis: I'm glad I'll—

Justin: What a big moment for you personally. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, I'm glad your Texas oil fields are pra—finally paying off. You just left them all down there.

Griffin: You promised you wouldn't say.

Travis: I'm sorry, Griffin. You're right. It's olive oil. He's drilling for olive oil and we gave him such a shit time for it. We're like, that's not how it works. And then he struck olive oil.

Griffin: Yeah. Because if you go deep enough—

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: From Texas, the shine from the Tuscan sun does shine down through it eventually.

Travis: That's true. It's right on the other side there—

Griffin: You do reach the olive field.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Gotta get through it.

Justin: Can we take a brief sojourn to The Money Zone? Would that be okay?

Griffin: I'd love that, Justin.

Justin: Okay, Griffin. Step right this way. Here, hop on my back. I'll carry you.

Griffin: [exclaims]

Travis: Wait, what about me? Come back! I'll walk.

[theme music plays]

Travis: What if I don't have a bunch of money squirreled away in an unclaimed thing? How am I going to make money like online, the same way I would by claiming? I don't know anything.

Griffin: Damn, I lost my wallet at a Bill Miller's barbecue like seven years ago. That's on here.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Griffin: Fucking crazy, man.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: But I'm saying like I have like services and goods and stuff that I could offer people, but I don't know how to do that and get paid, you know, like on time and like all in one place. And like with invoices and online payments, and how to like streamline my workflow and do like appointment scheduling. I don't know any of this shit. So I guess I'm shit out of luck?

Justin: No, Travis, you're not because there is a service that has been helping people... with your challenges, to build incredible websites that look like they were created by people who really knew what they were doing, instead of you. It's called Squarespace.

Travis: Huh?

Justin: I don't know if you've heard about it, but everything you need—

Travis: No, this is the first I'm hearing about it.

Justin: If you want to offer services and get paid, it's all in one place with your Squarespace website. You can also get paid on time.

Travis: What? I mentioned that! That's wild!

Justin: Yeah, professional on-brand invoices. This is Squarespace—

Travis: I said that!

Justin: Travis. Yeah, man! This is the one!

Travis: How come you guys have never—

Justin: This is it!

Travis: Told me about Squarespace before?

Justin: I'm so sorry, Trav. I keep meaning to mention it to you specifically, but it... it just hasn't come together yet, man. C[chuckles]

Travis: You're terrible brothers and people.

Justin: Wow. That's—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So—

Travis: You've been withholding Squarespace from me all this time, and our listeners.

Griffin: Well you weren't... you weren't ready f—you weren't ready for it. Our listeners have been ready, and they should go to squarespace.com/mybrother. And they should do this because it helps you make a great website—

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And we've all done it—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And they look beautiful.

Justin: If they head on over there right now, Griffin, you know, they'll get a free trial. And when they're ready to launch, they can use offer code "My Brother" to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or a domain.

Travis: Can I do that too?

Griffin: I guess so. Yeah? I mean, I don't—

Justin: Do you think you're ready?

Griffin: I guess the money comes straight back to us? Is this a laundering scheme?

Travis: No...

Griffin: Could be. Hey, speaking of laundering, I love some new clothes that I got from the Bonobos brand. The Bonobos brand I have looked at from afar, coveted lots of my stylish friends. When I see them looking so fly, I do say to them like, what, what's... you know, what's the fit? And it's almost always Bonobos. Because they got all kinds of summertime duds that are, you know, linen light, breathable, feels—

Justin: Love that.

Griffin: Good to have it on your body. But also the fit is so nice. I got a... a new, a very, very lightweight button down that I wore to a wedding that I went to like a month ago. And I got some compliments on it, and I didn't sweat... I mean, I did sweat like a lot, because I, you know, I got on the f—the dance floor and I—

Travis: Oh yeah!

Griffin: Fucking destroyed—

Travis: You can't keep—

Griffin: For like five—

Travis: Griffin off the dance floor.

Griffin: Straight hours. And but I was so comfortable the whole time. I got some like boardwalk pants, light linen pants, that can go from day to night. And I wore 'em on a boardwalk very recently—

Travis: Holy shit—

Griffin: And it felt like—

Travis: Griffin, are you the—

Justin: Ooh?

Griffin: It felt like right.

Travis: Great Gatsby?!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, this is the Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk. I would not call it... I would not call it Great Gatsby sort of level.

Travis: It's not new egg.

Griffin: It's not—yeah. So, they got everything, man. They got, they really do a... they're able to sort of set you up with your entire wardrobe. They got polos, everyday shirts and shorts and everything in between. I really am excited. I got a few pieces of Bonobos clothing, and I've been wearing 'em hard. And I've gotten compliments, I look great in 'em, and... I look—

Justin: If you do yourself, huh?

Griffin: No, I mean, I'm empirically, like I... I got a signed—

Justin: Oh?

Griffin: Affidavit—

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Saying how good I looked in 'em. I took it—the shorts off, and they tore up the affidavit.

Travis: No!

Griffin: They said it was cnt—they said it was contingent on the... on the pants that I was wearing—

Travis: Ah, I am—

Griffin: So—

Travis: Sorry, Griffin.

Griffin: So put on Bonobos. Feel good and get on with your day right now. Head to bonobos.com/mybrother. And use code "My Brother" for 25% off your order. Once again, that's bonobos.com/mybrother for 25% off, and make sure you use our promo code "My Brother" so they know we sent you! [break]

Brea: Hi! My name is Brea Grant and I host Reading Glasses and Reading Smut. And I'm here with Max Fun Member of the Month, Nick Roy.

Nick: Thank you so much.

Brea: What episode would you recommend to a new listener who's just jumping in for the first time?

Nick: Oh, definitely the one where it's like, let's talk about Reading Glasses.
[chuckles]

Brea: Oh? [chuckles]

Nick: Because as someone who started listening, what, seven years in, I—even I was like, oh, that's why we say that.

Brea: [laughs] Oh my god, Mallory's gonna love that you said that, because she really was like, "We gotta—we gotta people more about ourselves." I'm like, we just talk about ourselves every week! What would you say to other people who are considering supporting Max Fun shows?

Nick: I would say if you want to keep listening to content that you enjoy and you want to support the creators, oh, no, I just won't get a Starbucks once a week and I give you guys 10 bucks a month? Sounds good to me.

Brea: I love that. And listen to Nick. Nick's a librarian. He knows what he's talking about, so...

Nick: [chuckles]

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[break]

Brenda: Hi there. Sorry to interrupt your podcast listening time. I know you're doing the dishes right now. That's okay, that—I don't—don't worry about it. You might not know me, but I'm Brenda. And I'm here to tell you about the podcast I host with my good friend, Austin. It's called Secret Histories of Nerd Mysteries, and we cover all kinds of pop culture topics.

Like did you know that there was a real life replica of the Simpsons house in Las Vegas, Nevada? Or that Flint, Michigan was once home to an indoor amusement park themed around the automobile? If those things sound interesting, you should definitely check us out every Tuesday on Maximum

Fun, or wherever you get podcasts. Goodbye! You can get back to your dishes now, it's fine.

[break]

Justin: [sings the Munch Squad intro riff]

Griffin: All right.

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

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

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

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad. It is a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. And I have really exciting news for you guys today, because the rumors are true.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: The rumors are true. Popcorn chicken is back at Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Holy shit. I gotta go.

Justin: KFC has brought back popcorn chicken. First introduced in the early '90s.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Popcorn chicken quickly earned cult status for being an endlessly craveable crispy bite, before disappearing from menus in 2023.

Griffin: Mysteriously.

Travis: I had eaten them all. That's on me. I'm so sorry everyone.

Griffin: Travis went beast mode. He went Mr. Beast mode and he slammed all the popcorn chicken in America.

Travis: I didn't know!

Justin: Hi, today I'm Mr. Beast, I'm eating a million nu—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Not nuggets, Justin. Popcorn chicken is for people who look at nuggets and they say, too much of a commitment.

Travis: Yeah! I don't want to be too... want to have eight of those at a time.

Griffin: I need to be done eating chicken at the most precise amount of chicken consumed. And nuggets leave far too much sort of room for variation.

Justin: For years KFC, has heard directly from fans clamoring for popcorn chicken's return.

Travis: So Travis McElroy, stop calling!

Griffin: Stop it, Travis.

Justin: Travis, we read every comment—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Every DM—

Travis: Sorry about those.

Justin: And every online petition signature, and the message was impossible to ignore, said—

Griffin: [spoofing a deranged voice] "I'll fuckin' kill you if you don't bring back popcorn chicken!"

Travis: "Do you know who I am?!"

Griffin: "It's all I have, do you know what I'm capable of?"

Justin: Well, it's funny you should joke about that, because I was thinking, if Melissa Cash was going to read every single comment on every single petition about KFC popcorn chicken, then the least I could do is also do the same thing.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Because I wanted to see what Melissa Cash had been through.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So yeah. So like I want you all to come with me and imagine that your job as Melissa Cash is to... chief marketing officer of the KFC brand. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. This feels below her station, I feel like. There should be interns or someone working on this.

Justin: You're gonna see like—you want to get on the net see like what are people saying about KFC, because I would love to see what I can do to help. So let's first check in on the petition to bring this back. This ravenous petition was signed by 98 individual—[chuckles]

Griffin: I was just thinking—

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: I thought for sure we were gonna get a—

Justin: The biggest petition is 98 verified signatures!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And I will now read to you—

Travis: Couldn't get it to 100! So close!

Justin: Yeah, I will now read to you every comment on this petition.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: "Popcorn chicken is a KFC staple for me. I've grown up eating KFC and popcorn chicken knocks me so happy. I actually squealed seeing it!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: That's from Nico.

Griffin: Been a long—

Justin: I need it back, please! That's—

Griffin: Been a long three years for Nico it sounds like.

Justin: Nico's had a rough time. "I would eat KFC popcorn chicken at least two to three times a month. Much better than nuggets. Bring them back, arcane!"

Travis: Two to three times a month isn't that big of a commitment.

Griffin: Not enough for them to justify it. You need to be bigger than that.

Travis: I think a lot of human beings on Earth might accidentally eat KFC popcorn chicken two to three times a month without thinking about it.

Griffin: In an indoor public space, the amount of popcorn chicken you're just breathing in—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It accumulates in the lungs.

Justin: "Bring back popcorn chicken. Those nuggets are absolutely gross. They taste rubbery. [chuckles] Because literally the only reason I've ever eaten or liked KFC, besides their root beer floats, it's not just the same in the Famous Bowl. It was my favorite! Not so much now." Two more comments on this petition. "#No more discontinued. That's for muscle." And then the last from Elizabeth says, "Yup! Popcorn chicken. Yup!"

Griffin: Do you know how wasteful it is, financially and agriculturally, that these freaks have had to, you know, order a couple dozen famous bowls every time they go, just so they can pick through the bones to find the sweet popcorn chicken within. Now they are getting an option that is free of corn kernels and mashed potatoes and gravy and cheese and what have you, what all is in a Famous Bowl. Now they're just getting it raw dog, as god intended.

Justin: So then I went over to Reddit to see what people have been talking about in the intervening years, to see how—because like you're still Melissa Cash, right? You're still trying to fix... fix your brand.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Here's one comment about the—this is about the nugs. People were talking about the nugs. "They don't work in the Famous Bowl. I feel like I'm taking crazy pills." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "I miss the popcorn chicken—"

Travis: A good Zoolander reference there. Topical.

Justin: Yeah, just throw one in. "I miss the popcorn chicken. They were so good with honey. But I also miss the green beans. And the grilled chicken breast." [chuckles]

Griffin: Well, okay—

Travis: And...

Griffin: One battle after another, huh?

Justin: [chuckles] Just never stop.

Griffin: They just never stop.

Justin: They just never stop.

Griffin: We got fuckin' daylight savings time, we got popcorn chicken back, and you're already c—give us a moment to... to reconnoiter, to regroup a bit.

Justin: It's been—it's been constant in Australia. [chuckles] It's still been there. So everybody in Australia is like, "I can't believe you guys are getting so excited. Why don't you just move to Australia?" And then several folks said, "I'm not going to move to Australia for popcorn chicken." Which I grant them. That's fair.

Griffin: Good point.

Travis: Well not move!

Justin: That's fair.

Travis: But visit.

Justin: How good was that—how g—what made it so good? Well, here's one comment that said, "I think the inconsistency was the best part of the popcorn chicken."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "Sometimes you got big, meaty chunks, and sometimes you got little crispy slivers of chicken that were just a vehicle for breading. I honestly love getting like five big meaty chunks, 10 mediumish chunks, then just a little handful of the little ones to keep things all balanced. That's from [??]—

Griffin: The perfect spread!

Travis: [yells out] It's like life!

Griffin: The perfect ratio! Mm!

Travis: It's like life, really.

Justin: Oh I love five big, meaty chunks.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: 10 medium-ish chunks, and then just a [in a high-pitched voice] little handful of the little ones, just keep things all balanced.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Am I asking for so much? Really?

Justin: This kind of fandom—as we continue—this is—Melissa Cash, the next thing she says, "As we continue our Kentucky fried comeback journey—" [chuckles]

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: Which had to be inspired by reading these many, many, many, many, many comments from people who say everything about you is trash, except for the one thing you don't have anymore. [chuckles] That's got to be a tough road for Melissa Cash to walk. "This menu item return shows our commitment to listening to our most passionate fans by giving them exactly what they're craving. We're nodding to nostalgia as we simultaneously modernize the brand and how it shows up throughout the world." Yeah, I got some popcorn chicken on my porch. I'll be right back.

Griffin: Do you? Okay.

Travis: I'm looking right now to order some. Thinking about it.

[break]

Justin: I'm back.

Griffin: Hi.

Justin: Hi.

Griffin: Any sauce?

Justin: So... I don't like sauce, but they do have a lot of Supergirl themed sauces.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: So I requested all those but I guess they're out because they didn't bring any. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] That's true.

Justin: I guess they thought I was joking. [chuckles] No, no, no! Here it is! I got Ruthye's Sweet Chili Revenge.

Griffin: That's a cool name for a s—I haven't seen the Super Girl film—

Justin: I haven't seen the flick, but—

Griffin: But cool name for a sauce!

Justin: Yeah, they got—

Griffin: Ruthye's what—

Justin: They also got—

Griffin: Ruthye's what now?!

Justin: Ruthye's Sweet... Sweet Chili Revenge. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's fucking cool! That's the coolest thing—

Justin: Yeah, dude, it's cool!

Griffin: KFC's ever done. I'm gonna start a petition when these sauces are out of—out of commish, say bring back Ruthye's—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: There's also a Jason Momoa presents Lobo's Wild Ranch. [chuckles]

Griffin: Give me Lobo's—what the—I don't care that the movie came out seven years ago—

Justin: Yeah, this—

Griffin: I want Lobo Ranch!

Justin: [chuckles] Can you please send two packets.

Griffin: Give me Jason Momoa's special Lobo Ranch, please.

Justin: It's Jason Momoa presents Lobo's Wild Ranch, is what it says on here.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I want Jason Momoa to present me with so many different sauces.

Justin: It's like he produced it. Boy, these are really damp cookies in the box. Why would they put the cookies in the box? They've been dampened by the...

Griffin: The chicken—

Justin: Popcorn chicken sweat. [chuckles]

Travis: It's all part of it, Justin!

Justin: All right, I found—

Travis: That's the inconsistency!

Justin: I have found the popcorn chicken.

Griffin: Great.

Justin: The good news for '90s kids is that I will remember with 100% accuracy what the nuggets tasted like, and I will be able to tell you with 100% certainty whether or not they are the same.

Griffin: Yeah, no, Justin is for sure about to Ratatouille out on us. By which I mean have a sort of reverie into his past, not have a—

Justin: Nope.

Griffin: Rat control his actions.

Travis: No. No, no.

Justin: No, they're not as good.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Not the same. Sorry.

Griffin: Is it possible, and I hate to do this live on air, but is it possible that you are not the same, and that the nugg—

Travis: *Oah!*

Griffin: The chicke—the popcorn chicken is the same, but your capacity to enjoy it maybe is demin—

Travis: The feel joy!

Griffin: Yeah. Do you think that that's—

Justin: History... history—

Griffin: Never been so glad to have the camera not be working.

Justin: [chuckles] I know, man, I definitely would not have planned this whole thing had I known that we would not be in playing video today. And I certainly would have had ordered this fuckin' Super Girl drink with boba in it!

Griffin: [chuckles] You did that—

Justin: Fuck!

Griffin: So clearly for the Vine!

Justin: For the Vine! That was just—

Griffin: I'm so sorry—

Justin: For the Vine!

Griffin: Juice.

Justin: [chuckles] Just for the Vine! Oh, man, that's really disappointing, they're not as good. That doesn't surprise me. The original popcorn chicken nuggets were hand-breaded, and these are quite obviously...

Griffin: Uniform cubes!

Justin: They're uniform cubes. There's no big, meaty chunks. I mean I gotta count... I'll just...

Griffin: Line 'em all out on the table and give us a final count.

Justin: I'll just line 'em out. Okay, so my six ounces, I mean they're just so you—clearly made in a chicken... popcorn chicken factory. I mean it's a heartbreaker. I can't—I can't tell you guys. I'm gonna line 'em all out here and I'm gonna tell you what we got.

Travis: Why did this auto select comeback sauce as what I would want with my popcorn chicken?

Justin: Oh?

Travis: Hm...

Justin: Are you ordering some too?

Travis: Of course I am, Justin! [chuckles]

Justin: What a stupid idiot I am, huh?

Griffin: He just told you that it su—he just told you it sucks?

Travis: I don't care!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: It's all I can think about now!

Justin: Guys, comeback sauce is real. I saw it when I was ordering too. And it is like... the admission in a sauce format of a—I've never seen a sauce apology, but that is really—[chuckles] I mean it could only be that, right? Like—

Travis: Please!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We've been on the ropes for a while.

[break]

Justin: God—

Griffin: I feel like I'm—

Justin: That drink is fucking... vulgar! I—

Griffin: Oh no.

Justin: It's impossible.

Griffin: Did you even get a boba in it?

Justin: There's no bobas in that. I avoided that boba bite. But I still...

Griffin: Well, maybe the boba sort of is a sort of catalyst for the flavor. The boba has to be present in order to activate it.

Justin: This kind of fandom... guys, this kind of fandom doesn't happen by accident. It's the same obsessive energy sports fans bring to nail biter games or reality TV lovers. Again—

Griffin: You are—

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Off your fucking nut, dude.

Justin: 98 fucking signatures. [chuckles] Are you crazy?

Griffin: This is a—

Travis: That's the same a—

Justin: Eight comments!

Travis: If you—

Griffin: This is a—this—

Travis: Justin, if you cancel the football team, you'd get about 98 signatures to bring that football team back.

Justin: Yeah, I bet. I bet that's right.

Griffin: The desire for these tiny nuggets equals the fandom of all sports. Of all sports combined.

Justin: "Popcorn chicken has one of the most obsessive fan bases KFC has ever seen, and the brand is meeting that obsession head-on... by inserting itself into the internet's favorite reaction, the popcorn GIF."

Griffin: What are you—what are you—

Travis: Huh?

Griffin: What are you... what are you talking about, man?

Justin: "Through a new partnership with GIPHY—"

Travis: What?

Justin: "KFC is rolling out a collection of exclusive popcorn—[chuckles] popcorn chicken GIFs. Starring the Colonel himself, giving fans a Kentucky fried way to react to the exact moments, they're already reaching for a popcorn meme. The collection is now available on GIPHY."

Travis: You know that moment, we've all been there, when you're reaching for a popcorn meme.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And you're like, yeah, but I don't know what it's gonna be.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then boom—

Griffin: I mean, you're trying to decide between the like MJ Thriller one...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Or I think there's like—

Justin: Or which popcorn meme and then you're like, what about the one where it's like...

Griffin: What about the sponsored chicken one?

Justin: Wouldn't it be fucking crazy? Like truly unhinged if I went with the sponsored KFC. [chuckles]

Griffin: You guys give me—let's brainstorm right now, because I don't want this person to lose their job, whoever came up with—

Justin: Melissa Cash.

Griffin: Melissa, I don't want anything to happen to Melissa, because if Melissa's boss listens to this episode, I think that they will receive the

context they need to understand that this is a total nothing burger. So if we could come up with, for Melissa, just a few kind of encounters online, social digital encounters, where a GIF of Colonel Sanders eating popcorn chicken would be an appropriate response. My mind immediately jumps to a million inappropriate ones, but is there any way to split the uprights here?

Travis: Maybe like one where you like recreate the like, "Oh, I'm settling in, because something dramatic is about to happen and I've got a popcorn bucket." Except it's popcorn chicken bucket? You could do that. That'd be—that would—I bet that would get some use?

Griffin: No, because if I do that, if like two of my friends are having a fight in the—in the group thre—in the group thread. If two of my friends are having a fight and then I'm like, I'll—I know how to diffuse this situation, I'll hop in there with the eating popcorn GIF.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Or jiff. I'd go or jiff—

Justin: Depending on which way you want to do it—

Griffin: Depending on which way you want to do it—

Justin: There's actually no wrong way.

Griffin: If I put in the one of Colonel Sanders eating popcorn chicken, it may look a lot like one of the other famous popcorn GIFs. But my friends immediately are going to be like, "What's with the chicken?"

Justin: Sorry, is that the Colonel?

Griffin: Is that a Colonel sande—why did you...

Justin: Is that Colonel Sanders?

Travis: A great way to—I was right... Oh, no...

Justin: What's wrong, Trav?

Travis: I was right. Justin sent me the exact GIF I was describing!

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I was right!

Justin: You were exactly right, Travis. It's—

Travis: Oh no!

Justin: But don't worry, if you get onto the GIPHY jiffy service, GIPHY's in a jiffy with GIPHY jiffy. You can search up KFC, get their official account, and you can see all of these. They did, let me count here... too many!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Too many. [chuckles]

Griffin: I am going to challenge myself to only communicate with these chips. [chuckles] This is my new sort of semaphore. Like you guys will know when I post like Colonel laughing and then eating a chicken, you will know like I enjoyed what you said.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But this more sort of solemn-faced one, this kind of Citizen Kane-esque one, you know I don't like what you said.

Justin: Each one is more upsetting than the one before it, honestly, I think they did a great job. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They should make one of Brenda Fricker feeding the birds in Central Park, but instead of scattering birdseed, it's popcorn chicken.

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: And like throwing the popcorn chicken onto the wet bandits, the sticky bandits at that point.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So that like—

Justin: I need to finish—

Travis: Then a bunch of people, 98 people attack them.

Justin: I forgot to... I got—I forgot to do this whole fuckin' lead-in. "This kind of fandom doesn't happen by accident. It's the same obsessive energy sports fans bring to nail biter games or reality TV lovers have for can't-look-away plot twists. Turns out the biggest moments in pop culture and biggest cravings have one thing in common. They both start with popcorn. KFC is just bringing chicken to the party."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: That is why, that's the whole fucking long walk, is that like popcorn is the whole thing. "From sports finals taking place on the world stage—" Eh...

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "To summer's—"

[group laugh]

Hellgrammite: "To summer's juiciest reality TV moments, KFC is making—"

Griffin: You pick a fuckin' thing, dude! You can't just—

Justin: I know dude!

Griffin: Be like, "Whether it's the disappearance of Mitch McConnell, the whole thing with the reflecting pool, whether it's pizza rat—"

Justin: Your nephew's bris!

Griffin: Fuckin'—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Maybe it's balloon boy, maybe it's Chewbacca mom.

Justin: Rinse back in the West End, gets in KFC! [chuckles] "KFC is making sure the popcorn chicken is back just in time. It's... for the summer moments that make you say, "Grab a popcorn." Because if you're gonna watch the drama unfold, you might as well be snacking on the main character." Fuck... What?

Travis: What? Wait, hold on!

Justin: God damn—

Griffin: You might as well be—

Travis: Wait!

Griffin: Snacking on—

Justin: I gotta start—

Griffin: The main character.

Justin: Reading these to the end! *Jesus!*

Travis: If you might as well be snacking—

Justin: Acking—

Travis: On the—

Justin: On the main—

Travis: Character?

Justin: Character.

Travis: Guys—

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Check your wording!

Justin: Guy, you gotta calm down.

Griffin: Snacking on—maybe this is a thing, hold on. Snacking on the main—

Justin: The main—

Griffin: Character.

Justin: Character. [chuckles]

Griffin: No...

Justin: Snacking on the main big dick energy... Sliving... okay...

[break]

Griffin: Smack.. smacking on this... smack me on the six seven Fortnite kid?

[group chuckle]

Justin: Those GIPHY jiffies are out now, for free.

Travis: Yeah. Treat yourself.

Justin: Treat yourself.

Griffin: That's fucking great, man.

Justin: It is wild, the unforced error of like, it hasn't been an err—like these were out three years ago. People remember what they taste like. They don't taste like this. [chuckles] They did a bad job. They did a r—people are gonna be really mad about it. I feel really sad for them. Damn... Here's a question for you all. Salient, due to the time of year. "My boyfriend and I have neighbors with a peach tree. I really wanted some. And I thought I'd wait until I saw them picking some to ask, since we've never really spoken. But nobody ever picked them. Now a bunch of overripe peaches have fallen on the grass between our houses, attracting flies. We noticed too late, and a big ol' bunch of flies snuck into our house through the garage."

Travis: No!

Justin: Wow, this really broke bad for you, huh? [chuckles] This was really a journey.

Griffin: You did the right thing—

Justin: Wanting some free peaches to having an infestation?

Griffin: You did the right thing and were punished for it. This almost feels like a... We would have told you not to touch the peaches, but now we know that that was a mistake also.

Travis: Well...

Justin: "Thanks in advance, a Not so Peachy Predicament in Alabama."

Travis: "What do we do—what we do next summer to prevent this?" Is the rest of that.

Justin: What can d—thank—yeah.

Griffin: You did skip the question.

Justin: I will say that like the... The Smirles have a peach tree in their backyard, and their main thing every year seems to be how can we unload all these damn peaches. [chuckles]

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: I think your neighbors might be stoked if you're like, "Hey, we're peach fans. And whenever like you want a little harvest help, we're right here."

Travis: And I don't want to be that guy, but it's over your fence. It's in your property. Those are your peaches.

Griffin: I don't... does it say... no, it says between our houses—

Travis: But if they fell into your yard?

Justin: Yeah, I mean, that's like... if it's growing into—I mean...

Griffin: If you build a little Hot Wheels track going from the tree into your yard, and the peaches just happen to roll down it into your yard, into the special collect—

Travis: Into your mouth!

Griffin: Into your mouth that you've got at the bottom of the tracks. Well, there's only so much you can do about that. Blame Isaac—

Travis: So be it.

Griffin: Blame Isaac Newton on that—for that one.

Justin: Can you guys imagine wanting to eat fruit?

Travis: I like—I like a fruit?

Griffin: Some—very rarely. Sometimes I want sweet wet, and that's the combination that I—typically I get one way or the other, a lot of times I want sweet and bread.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Those two kind of like food ideas combined.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: There's a cer—

Griffin: But I—

Travis: There's a certain amount of... psychological proud of myself fulfillment I get from eating—

Griffin: Oh sure!

Travis: A banana? Specifically a banana, because they're like good for like sore muscles and stuff.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I know like eating a banana is really investing in my future in a way that I'm like... I'm proud of you. Future Travis is proud of you.

Griffin: I tell you guys, I tell you, gang, I've been really into a chair—a cherry lately.

Travis: Too much work.

Griffin: Because it's—well, no, I like the work. It's like the crab legs of fruit. Because you're like having to get the... the bones out. And I do like that. It's just a—it's just a quality control, gang. This fruit, we need different names. This needs to be—we need to break up big cherry into several smaller categories, with like—

Travis: Your meaty chunks, your kind of middle chunks, and then the ones that are just breading.

Griffin: Yeah. That's all—that's—I don't think that's too much to ask. I want to know if they're going to be the tarest things I've ever tasted, or the sweet, juicy things that I crave.

Justin: Any consistency there would be great.

Griffin: Any consistency would be great. Call 'em different things, please.

Justin: I don't think you want to complain about the flies, because that's just part of the circle. You can't complain about the circle.

Travis: *Oh.*

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what? I mean? That's part of the circle.

Griffin: That's part of the—they're part of the circle. Think about—

Justin: There's...

Griffin: Think about the—

Justin: Are you letting bears in to eat the peaches? Because if you are not letting—

Travis: Oh, good, yeah.

Justin: If you're not letting bears in to eat the peaches, then you broke the circle. [chuckles]

Travis: This is your fault—

Justin: Do you understand the circle, guys?!

Travis: For not bringing bears in!

Griffin: Yeah. And maybe these guys are frog ranchers! If they need the flies.

Travis: Oh shit. Or fly ranchers? You know, they harvest the flies and they sell the flies to fly collectors. Or to frogs.

Justin: Frogs.

Travis: Maybe there's a whole frog economy going where they're selling 'em to frogs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: In exchange for peach seeds.

Griffin: That's cool. That's cool. That's more of a triangle of life.

Travis: Yeah! It's a—

Griffin: I appreciate that.

Travis: It's a pyramid scheme. [chuckles]

Griffin: I think that—

Travis: That the frogs have set up!

Griffin: They probably—

Travis: Because they're bringing the flies in to eat the peaches.

Griffin: It wouldn't be as rhythmically kind of satisfying, I think, but a triangle of life... I do think, to take—to take some of the abstraction out of that would really help you with the concept a lot. If it was just—

Travis: It does kind of seem, the circle seems like it was set up by the lions to explain why the—why they're eating the zebras that they ostensibly also rule over.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You know, it's like, "I'm your king, but I do need to eat you, it's part of the circle of life!"

Griffin: And it's very—

Travis: And the zebra's like—

Griffin: Lopsided.

Travis: "Wait, we don't eat..."

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: "You!"

Griffin: It's a—it's a really lopsided circle, where like most of the circle is this—is the gazelles and zebras being eaten—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And at the [in a high-pitched voice] *very tip, a the very tip* of the circle, one lion goes down, and becomes I guess more grass.

Travis: Yeah, you gotta understand, here's what happens. We, the lions, eat you, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then we shit you out. And then grass—

Griffin: You turn into shit.

Travis: Grows, and you eat the grass, and then we eat you again. It's all balanced!

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And the zebra's like, "Wait, we shit too? We shit out and the grass comes from out shit."

Griffin: No, no, no, it's—ours is different. Ours is better, because you're in it.

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: It's not your fault, but you make better shit than we d—than anything else.

Travis: I don't know what to tell you, man!

Griffin: Your nutrients are like insane, dog.

Travis: Really because all you eat is meat, and I see how hard you're straining.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah—

Travis: When it comes to pooping!

Griffin: It's harder to make goods—yeah, thank you, you're right. It's harder to make good stuff.

Travis: You're welcome.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You see how hard I'm working out here making a shit? I'd love to have some fiber. Are you kidding me?

Griffin: I hate turning you guys into shit. It sucks.

Travis: And I also eat a lot of cheese! That's not part of it, but it's just my picadillo. I love cheese!

Justin: I'm just saying like... I didn't really clock it when I was ordering this, but... this meal with the popcorn chicken...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Includes six ounces of popcorn chicken. And it's the—this is the... the popcorn chicken big box. The Popcorn Chicken Big Box has six ounces popcorn chicken and I've just noticed in here, there's two chicken tenders.

Travis: In the box?

Justin: What has gone on in your day—[chuckles] What has gone on in your day where halfway through eating your popcorn chicken you're like, "Fuck, I gotta switch up this last piece of chicken." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now for the main course—

Justin: I gotta change up this form factor! [chuckles] What an admission of guilt that is, right? If they're like, "We have a second consolation—"

Griffin: [chuckles] A safety net, just in case.

Justin: You like these, right? They're underneath it!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Lift it up. They're in here! Look—

Travis: These are the—

Justin: The chicken you like is here!

Travis: Structural ones!

Justin: [chuckles] It's load bearing!

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah! These are load bearing tenders!

Griffin: It's like how I'll order French fries at a pizza restaurant I've ever ordered from before in case the kids hate the pizza. I know my friend French fries is gonna be in there for 'em.

Travis: Yeah! Yeah, yeah!

Justin: And there's two chocolate chunk cookies. Is that a double chunk chocolate? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Damn.

Griffin: Damn.

Justin: Damn.

Travis: Damn, Daniel.

Justin: Damn, I hate boba. Thank you so much for listening to this podcast called My Brother, My Brother and Me. I hope you've enjoyed yourself, hope you learned. I hope you grew. I hope you don't get the KFC popcorn chicken, because it's not gonna—

Travis: Too late!

Justin: Hold up. And Trav... sorry, Trav.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Let me know what you think though—

Travis: I will.

Justin: When it arrives, but I'm—no? [chuckles] Okay.

Travis: No, I will. No, I will. I said I will.

Justin: Okay, good.

Griffin: You know what else you can get right now? Not just bad popcorn chicken, you can get good book, which is The Adventure Zone: Story and Song. It's out now, gang. Our final graphic novel adaptation of The Adventure Zone: Balance saga, you can get it right now at bookstores or at the adventurezonecomic.com. It's... I'm so proud. I'm so proud of this book. It's so surreal. If you read it, let—send us message. Send us Blue Skies or Instagrams—

Justin: Something.

Griffin: Or what—something! Where we are actually exist, because it's a... it's been really lovely kind of following people along as they read it. I'm so proud of this book. Please, please, get yourself a copy if you—

Travis: Also, it's a big book!

Griffin: Are a TAZ: Balance fan.

Travis: So like pages for your buck, it's a good ratio.

Griffin: Yeah, you're g—

Travis: You're gonna—

Griffin: It's a great ratio.

Travis: And thanks to everybody who came out to see us in Boston. That was great. And if you enjoy seeing us—

Griffin: We haven't done it—

Justin: We haven't done it yet, that's why—

Griffin: It hasn't happened yet—

Travis: We haven't done it yet!

Griffin: So—

Travis: But they don't know that!

Justin: I know, but like it's just really seems like tempting fate to say it went great. [chuckles] I mean, I don't know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But the transition is if you like seeing things live—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You can also see The Besties live on Broadway, October 9th at The Town Hall, in NYC. Tickets on sale now, bit.ly/bestiesonbroadway.

Griffin: Hey, we got some merch over in the McElroy Merch Store, at mcelroymerch.com. If you're a Super McElroy Brothers fan, like watching us goofballs play video games, you—why not get yourself a magnet frame? Of—

Justin: Cool.

Travis: Why not?

Griffin: Of the design.

Travis: Coward.

Griffin: Why not? You've earned—you've earned it.

Travis: Coward. Also, we did have to reschedule the graphic novel Clubhouse, so that's going to be this Tuesday instead. So make sure hop over to the McElroy Family Youtube channel, noon PM, Eastern, on Tuesday. And check it out.

Griffin: I mean... I ha... there's no video. I ha—guys, I have t—

Travis: You can just make a big, loud clunk.

Griffin: I have hu—I have two big Fabergé eggs.

Travis: Throw 'em!

Justin: Whoa, dude! Don't do it!

Griffin: No—

Travis: Do it!

Griffin: I've got two big ones. They're covered in Swarovski crystals.

Travis: Well, so—

Justin: No!

Travis: You can throw—

Justin: Griffin!

Travis: One and save the other one, or are you gonna throw 'em both, or what do you thinking?

Griffin: Well, I've got the big unit here. And I was thinking I could kind of pitch a... pitch one up into the air, and then the Big Unit could throw his egg into the other one midair. And they would just collide sort of—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: In... in...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I think that's a—

Griffin: In midair.

Travis: Great call. It is a shame he lost his voice right before today.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: You doing okay, Big Unit?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I d... all right. I don't fuckin' know.

Travis: That sounded like The Mummy. Are you sure that's Randy Johnson?

Griffin: I don't remember which one the Big Unit is.

Travis: That might be The Mummy. Okay, throw 'em!

Griffin: Here we go!

[break]

Griffin: *Pshew.*

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Whoa, holy shit. Whoa! It's still going!

Justin: [chuckles] That's gonna—[chuckles] My name is Justin McElroy.
[chuckles]

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: It's still going!

Justin: [laughs] 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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