

MBMBaM 817: Shabby Dabby Doug

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

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

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

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

Griffin: Good morning, Trav Nation! It's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30, media luminary, Griffin 'Built Ford Tough' McElroy. We don't do that one anymore.

Travis: You know, boys... sometimes the internet, you're not gonna believe this, lies to you.

Griffin: Never me but—

Travis: People will make bold claims, you'll hear a story, and you're like, there's no fucking way that's true.

Griffin: Yeah, that is true. Every time I load up a website of a certain caliber, there's always a little ad to the side that's like, "Melissa McCarthy died," and I'm like, what? I click on it—

Justin: What?

Griffin: Every fucking time—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: But it's never true, they just want me to buy—

Travis: It's a different Melissa McCarthy, it's like a 106-year-old woman—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Named Melissa McCarthy. Well, so I had a story served to me on a platter, and I was like, there's no way that's true. And then I did my own independent journalistic research—

Griffin: Oh, yeah?

Travis: And discovered it was true. And I would like to relay this—

Griffin: Did you get on nex—you should get on Nexis Lexis? Get some peer-reviewed—

Travis: I was on nex—I was going through the microfilm.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: I was at the library scrolling through. Boys, the year is 1985.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: The only thing bigger than the Hollywood dreams are the piles of cocaine fueling those dreams.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Warren Beatty must make a Dick Tracy movie. He is driven. There's something within him—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That says, make a Dick Tracy movie.

Griffin: I thought it was like he was—he was in deep to—

Travis: No, no, no—

Griffin: Dick—

Travis: There's—

Griffin: The Dick Tracy estate, and had to, or else his family would be killed.

Travis: For some reason, this was a passion project of Warren Beatty's. He ca—

Griffin: Well, he looks so much like goddamn Dick Tracy, doesn't he? He looks exactly like fuckin' Dick Tracy! If you looked that much like Dick Tracy, you would also be stoked to get Dick Tracy off the ground.

Travis: He cannot find anyone to direct it, he's gonna direct it himself. Right? And star in it—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And produce it. He buys the film and television rights from Tribune Media, who owns Dick Tracy, for \$3 million.

Griffin: That's a lot. Let me—let me adjust that for inflation. \$17 billion today.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Whoa, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Disney partners with Warren Beatty to make the movie.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: They are talking franchise. Disney's excited about this, this is gonna become a film series. Then, as they're making the movie, the budget keeps creeping on up there. Getting more and more and more and more expensive!

Justin: And the—

Travis: And Disney's like—

Justin: And the explosive—

Travis: Yeah—

Justin: Success of Tim Burton's Batman, I think there was something of a blank cheque being given to old Mr. Tracy. [titters]

Travis: Oh, I've talked about it before, The Phantom, The Shadow, Dick Tracy—

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: The Rocketeer—

Griffin: It's all connected.

Justin: It's all—

Travis: So—

Justin: Tied together on our comedy podcast.

Travis: Movie comes out, it does okay. \$134 million, at that point, in 1990?

Griffin: Let me adjust.

Justin: Adjust again—

Griffin: That's \$19.5 billion.

Justin: Hachi machi.

Travis: 2009—

Griffin: You'd think—you would think because that number was so much more than \$3 million, that the resulting tran—like translation number would be much higher. That's not how this movie stuff works.

Travis: No. 2009, Warren Beatty has owned the film and television rights to Dick Tracy for 19 years.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Tribune Media sues to get those film and television rights back. Disney, by this point, is like, "We're not doing anything with this." Gives their portion of the film and television rights over to Warren Beatty.

Griffin: Gave 'em the dick.

Travis: Then—

Griffin: He already had the trace—he already had the Tracy.

Travis: Then, Tribune Media goes bankrupt.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: So, the court awards the film and television rights to Warren Beatty, on the condition that he must, every couple of years, use those to make a Dick Tracy project.

Griffin: Okay, that seems like maybe not the best way to ensure quality of the thing—

Justin: Right—

Griffin: If there's contractually—

Justin: But it's not an unconventional deal. There's a lot of that use it or lose it kind of—

Travis: So—

Justin: Wheeling and dealing in Hollyweird.

Travis: So, in 2016, Warren Beatty, partnering with Turner Classic Movies—

Griffin: Great.

Travis: Produces a Dick Tracy special that airs late, late, late, late at night! And it is an interview of Leonard Moulton interviewing Warren Beatty as Dick Tracy.

Justin: Mm-hm.

[excerpt plays]

Leonard: Oh my goodness. Oh, how are you, Detective Tracy?

Dick: I'm fine. Call me Dick.

Leonard: I'll try.

Dick: Shall I sit here?

Leonard: Please do! Yes.

Dick: Mm-hm.

Leonard: Offer you something to drink?

Griffin: I didn't—can you pause it?

Dick: I don't drink, Mr. Moulton.

[excerpt pauses]

Griffin: I didn't sign up for this.

Justin: Yeah. Griffin and I—

Griffin: When I started doing this comedy—

Justin: Griffin and I—

Griffin: When I started doing this comedy podcast, I was not under the impression that I would have to watch Warren Beatty pretend to be Dick Tracy in an unscripted sort of jazz-like format. [chuckles] He also looks so much like The Mask in his big, yellow suit.

Justin: Travis, this is Warren Beatty pretending to be Dick Tracy in 2016! What on God's green Earth makes you think I haven't huffed huge, giant lines of this guy already? I've been huffin' this dude for a decade!

Griffin: You've been—

Justin: A decade, man!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I love this sh—I live for this video!

Travis: 2023, he does it again! Dick Tracy zooms in. A special about the Dick Tracy special, in which—

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Warren Beatty—

Justin: Okay, I've never seen this!

Travis: Yeah, and Dick tra—

Justin: [yells out] Damn it! Okay! Damn it! [chuckles]

Travis: It is a special about the special that was made in 2016—

Justin: [chortles]

Travis: Once again, featuring, if I'm not mistaken, both Warren Beatty as Dick Tracy and Warren Beatty as himself, zooming into a call.

Justin: And then that's Ben... Ben Mankiewicz.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Yes, that's Ben Mankiewicz.

Travis: So, that was 2023.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Is it every two years? Is that what you said? Or every—

Travis: Well, so, it's 2016 and 2023.

Justin: So he's catching up. He's like, I think he's trying to catch up for something he didn't do. [chuckles]

Griffin: Right, okay.

Travis: So, here's my pitch. Mr. Beatty, I know you are a Max Fun Member, a My Brother, My Brother and Me supporter, so I know you're listening. But you also know that you're getting up there in years.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: When you die—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Picture this, your friends and family show up to your funeral. Except, surprise, it's a funeral for Dick Tracy.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: Oh my god—

Travis: And Warren Beatty is in the Dick Tracy costume, in the coffin.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: There's paid actors there, dressed as Dick Tracy's rogues gallery, they're shedding tears—

Griffin: Fuckin' Flattop—

Justin: Is this a reboot—

Griffin: Jones!

Justin: Or a funeral? Reboot or funeral? I have to know now.

Travis: Funeral.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Right?

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: And it's—and it's—you got Big Boy, you got No Face, or Faceless, you've got Mumbles, all of 'em there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Shedding a tear for—

Justin: Damn, is Big Boy—

Travis: A worthy Opponent.

Justin: In the public domain? Can we use him?

Travis: No!

Justin: Go ahead, Trav, do your thing.

Griffin: Big Boy from Outcast is in the public domain. Big Boy from—

Travis: So then—

Griffin: Dick Tracy is not.

Travis: Then, the headstone at the grave reads, "Dick Tracy." You put up a live feed webcam pointed at that headstone in perpetuity.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: It is a Dick Tracy project in perpetuity. You will never lose the rights to Dick Tracy.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Trav, I—

Travis: They will be—

Griffin: Well—

Travis: Buried with you! Perhaps literally. I don't know how that works.

Justin: Travis, I have good news and bad news. [chuckles]

Griffin: I can't wait to hear this.

Justin: It's both! It's both, actually. Dick Tracy enters the public domain on January 1st, 2027. So your window to get this guy—[chuckles]

Griffin: In the ground—

Justin: [chuckles] This guy!

Griffin: In the cold ground! Fighting Flattop—

Justin: The license is—

Griffin: Jones in heaven is—

Justin: The license is running...

Travis: It's got to be entirely fueled by spite, is the thing that kills me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because it's not—like not using them, right? He's making these specials. There's not gonna—there's no one banging down his door to pay him \$30 million for these rights.

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: He just doesn't want to give them up!

Justin: The only problem with Dick Tracy going into public domain is that it only applies to the very original version of the character, in the original—in the original run.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, your version does have to be an *unrepentant* racist.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Like a—because otherw—that is the only version of the character that is in the public domain. So, he does have to be kind of like—

Griffin: Kind of like how you can do like racist Mickey Mouse.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You have to do racist—[chuckles] they *have* to be racist.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Or else it's not—

Travis: I just—

Justin: The same character.

Travis: Knowing this now, that these rights, like that it become public domain in 2027, I'm just, I'm worried about the day when Warren Beatty gets a letter from his attorney, opens it up, and misreads it as La La Land.

Griffin: Mm-hm. That's funny. He—

Justin: [chuckles] That's good, Trav.

Griffin: Do you guys remember—

Justin: That is good, a little—

Griffin: When he fucking did that?

Justin: Yeah. That's not bad—

Griffin: Travis is really—

Travis: Topical!

Griffin: Tickled with this—

Justin: It's not bad.

Griffin: Fuckin' five-year-old Oscars reference.

Justin: It's not bad.

Griffin: So proud of yourself.

Justin: Not bad.

Travis: Thank you—

Justin: Let's—

Travis: I'm very proud.

Justin: I wanna keep the—I wanna keep the jokes coming and talk to you guys about something.

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Justin: It's not going to seem like jokes, but it is my life, so we've got to talk about it.

Travis: It's your life. It's now or never.

Justin: My lizard that I had for a week died.

Travis: [yells out] No!

Griffin: You're kidding me!

Justin: No, yeah, it is. It is. And it is sad, I realized it last night. And I was and am very sad about it. And I wanted to come to you guys to get some advice, because I know you do this advice show here.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And I don't know how to go about... you know, not just with everything, but like especially with like, everybody's got a lot going on, and it's pride. [chuckles] So like I don't want to—

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, dude.

Justin: [chuckles] You know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: Yeah, lizards have their own month.

Justin: Yeah, I—everybody's got a lot going on, and it is pride, and like...

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Like we're working really hard on like summer theater, so everybody here is like really heads down on that.

Griffin: Slammed, yeah.

Justin: And like, Dad's doing his show. And like, I don't really know who to get to for—to get sympathy, and how to approach getting sympathy for I am sad about the lizard I had for a week. Like—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what—like, I don't know how to even ease that into the conversation, really.

Griffin: Right. I mean—

Justin: To start asking for sympathy.

Travis: You're gonna need a montage.

Griffin: Explain yourself. This is—

Justin: It's gonna be really bad, though, because it's just gonna be me trying to get it to eat crickets and then getting skeeved out by the crickets.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's not like—

Travis: You could have—

Justin: A lot of good times.

Griffin: We didn't have like a lot of great moments with the lizard.

Justin: Yeah...

Travis: Could you like Photoshop—

Justin: Still very sad! Want to be clear, not based on anything. And I know, and this is probably what's hard about it, is that if I broke down on somebody about this lizard, they would probably need two and a half minutes before they were like, "This is probably about other stuff." Right? [chuckles] I'd be like, yeah!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: But that's—

Justin: Yeah, obviously!

Griffin: But with the lizard, it's easier, because I can see—

Justin: But it's like, this is very concrete. I just need your sympathy about it, please. [chuckles]

Travis: For next time, Justin, when you get your next lizard, immediately film with it—

Justin: Really feels—

Travis: Too soon?

Justin: This is another huge issue, Travis, is that... highly unmotivated...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: To do so. Too sad!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Really very, very sad.

Travis: You can call it too lizard—

Justin: He, but Trav—

Travis: Too sad?

Justin: Let me finish—if I could just finish one thought, because I am mourning. Huge aquar—just huge tank.

Griffin: Big.

Justin: *Unbelievably* big! Because I expected...

Griffin: A friend.

Justin: A long-term—

Griffin: You wanted—

Justin: Sort of growth. I was prepared for long-term growth. [chuckles]

Griffin: He needed his own zone! You had a little Project Hail Mary situation on your hands—

Travis: You were that lizard. You were never gonna—

Griffin: Yeah, it's a growth market!

Travis: Go to the Moon. Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I really had a lot of faith. You know what I mean? And it was—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I read all the books. I feel like I did everything pretty good, and so I'm not really blaming myself. Again, certainly is tied up in other...

Griffin: Way—

Justin: Stuff. [chuckles]

Griffin: Harder stuff—

Justin: I don't want to get out there! *Eh!*

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's dusty. [chuckles]

Travis: But the one mistake-

Griffin: Yucky!

Justin: [chuckles] Yucky!

Travis: The one mistake you made, feelings! The one mistake you made, J-Man, was not filming for a montage of like you and the lizard having a picnic on the beach. And like you have like a close-up POV of its face saying like, "Stop filming. Oh my god."

Justin: I don't want to be crass, Trav, but like considering our lives, I do feel like a little bit robbed of the opportunity for like...

Griffin: Content.

Justin: A lot of great content.

Griffin: A lot of great stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And a lot of good—and I—that is a terrible way to think about it, until you realize that I make content with my family. [chuckles] And that's a beau—

Griffin: So it's good.

Justin: So now it's beautiful.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And you know, just pronounced a different way, it's content. You know, when you think about it.

Griffin: *Mm-hm!*

Travis: Happiness—

Griffin: That's good, Trav. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's really something.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But what's funny—

Justin: [chuckles] It's like you talk to a family YouTuber and they're like, "Yes, I make my children content."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Yes, yes, yes! I often—"

Griffin: "My kids are invo—"

Justin: "Frequently daily make my children content."

Griffin: "Well, my kids make me content," is more—

Justin: My kids make me content!

Griffin: Right. They make me and everyone else content.

Justin: Content. [chuckles]

Griffin: We make... [chuckles] \$3.15 per million views from YouTube on their content.

Justin: [chuckles] "My kids content is really important to me."

Griffin: This is why I refuse to invest in such a paper-thin animal.

Travis: Emotionally or like monetarily? Or...

Griffin: Monetarily, mostly. But I mean, the emotional thing is that's a— that's probably not even going to happen. But the financial side of things, I

don't need—I don't need to be, you know, two Gs in the hole supporting an animal who, again, is just, a stiff wind, "Where'd the lizard go?" "Wind got him. Big wind got him. And then a bird got him before he even touched the ground." Like, no, thanks. Give me a big—give me a turtle. Don't give me a *big* boy who can't hurt. Who can't get hurt.

Travis: Give you a bi—I could actually see Griffin—

Justin: Again, I can't be clear enough about this, there was no threat of bird. Like, there was no—I did a good job.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: There was no bird danger.

Travis: No one thought there was threat of bird.

Griffin: Okay. Lizards die sometimes, is what you're saying.

Justin: Yeah, Griffin! That's why it's so hard to get sympathy about it. You're skipping to the end. Like, yes, agreed—

Griffin: If your pet turtle died—if your pet turtle died, people would be like, "Holy shit! How'd that even happen?!"

Justin: I told Cooper—yes, exactly. How did— "I didn't even know they could die." I told Cooper that, like it just happens. These things happen. Like that's nature, that's life sometimes. And by the way, she really—if there was any leftover sympathy, I feel like she turned on the waterworks—

Griffin: She gets it.

Justin: And was really kind of lapping it all. It was—

Travis: *Ah.*

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, it was not a lot of drops over—leftover for daddy. [chuckles] You know, when she was—

Travis: No drops of Jupiter—

Griffin: Even though daddy's—

Travis: For Justin.

Griffin: Daddy's sadness about the lizard doesn't come out as big, heaving tears. It's more of a ro—a deep rot.

Justin: No, no, it was a big, heaving tears, but it was the night before while they were in bed. But I felt sad again the next day.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And would have just loved a little extra—you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I just didn't know...

Travis: Justin, I want to first express sympathy for you and say, I'm sorry for your loss.

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: He's finally eating crickets in heaven now.

Griffin: That's—Travis didn't take it seriously. Did you hear—

Justin: You didn't take it seriously—

Travis: That was?

Justin: And also, I never learned the gender, because you have to candle their little nads to figure out what's what in there, and I just... no, thanks.

Travis: I'm just very hung up, because Griffin mentioned having a big pet turtle, and nothing has ever seemed so right as Griffin McElroy having a large pet turtle as a pet.

Griffin: Having a turtle.

Travis: It's so right.

Griffin: Dude, I've been thinking about it—

Justin: What if you saw a turtle right now crawl up on his little—[chuckles]

Griffin: [titters] What if.

Justin: Shoulder. Just like—

Griffin: No, he'd be huge, dude. I get TikTok content from this channel, and it's this woman who has like a 400 pound, enormous turtle. And you know what this thing's favorite thing on Earth to do is? Smash into all of her patio furniture. Just absolutely fuck this woman's patio up.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Every video is her like, "Hortons, stop! Hortons, stop it!" As he just absolutely goes ham on some World Market wicker chairs. Just fucks them clean up. It's awesome. I would love that in my home.

Travis: Get you a big turtle!

Griffin: I might get me a big turtle. Might get me a big turtle. I'm dressed like a big turtle right now, a little bit. I think a—I think you're right.

Travis: I'm saying! It's such a good fit. [chuckles]

Griffin: It makes sense. It makes a lot of sense.

Travis: It feels weird that you don't have a big turtle already.

Griffin: It's fucked up that I—maybe the thing that's been missing in my life this whole time is a huge turtle.

Justin: That would be a huge Max Fun goal I think sometime, is like Griffin gets a turtle.

Griffin: The more support we get, the more members, the bigger the turtle.

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: If I could mention to you guys one other... little wrinkle. I discovered the situation when I went to feed the bearded dragon one of the 500 roaches that I had just purchased. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, you did mention this just the other day, how many bugs you had bought and brought into your home.

Justin: 500 roaches, 500 crickets. [chuckles]

Griffin: You brought—this animal made you bring 1000 bugs in your house!

Justin: And guys, it—brought 1000 bugs in and died. And now I have—I had 1001 pets, and now I got 1000. [chuckles] Which I guess in the grand scheme of pets is still pretty good!

Travis: Yeah! I mean...

Griffin: There's got to be a way to use these.

Travis: For sale, 1000 bugs, never eaten.

Griffin: Alive. Living. Alive.

Justin: The bugs?

Griffin: All alive, yeah?

Justin: Not all alive! It's rough to be a bug, but they're doing okay.
[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] That's what the ride at Animal Kingdom at Disney World was all about. You go in and you see—

Justin: Yeah, it's tough to be a bug.

Griffin: You see Barry the bee, you see all the famous movie bugs like, "Oh, shit, did you hear the news?"
"Yeah, man, Dave passed away last night just from being a bug."

Travis: "Better than getting ate, I guess."

Griffin: "Better than getting ate by a bigger bug, I guess. Damn."

Justin: They only eat the live ones, which like I hope that her pickiness was not her undoing. I did offer a lot of great live bugs, but I don't know.

Travis: Did the pet store you brought them from have a return policy?
[chuckles] "I bought too many bugs!"

Justin: Hey, Trav? I would have to ship them back.

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "This is an ex-lizard!"

Justin: [chortles]

Griffin: That's what it would be like.

Justin: [yells out] Yes!

Griffin: I made Justin smile again for the first time since the event.

Justin: Yeah, I just laughed for the first time again. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's good shit.

Justin: I never thought I'd laugh ag—[chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: I never thought I'd laugh again, Griffin.

Griffin: Guys, I think that's my first successfully deployed Monty Python reference.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And it got a big laugh—

Justin: Yeah, I knew that could be...

Griffin: I'm ruined now, man. I'm going to be dropping that shit all the time now.

Justin: Were you scared like going into it? Was there like—

Griffin: Super scared!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Which one did you—was it like the two wolves? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles] Yeah.

Travis: And you—hey, can I say, you committed and you nailed it.

Justin: Yeah. I—

Travis: I'm proud of you.

Justin: "A couple of weeks ago, I applied online for a job to be a delivery driver for a chain of ice cream shops. They recently reached out to me and asked if I would be free to chat and have a scoop of ice cream on us." Hm.

Travis: Nice.

Justin: "I love ice cream, but I'm not sure what to order in the context of a job interview. Should I get a single scoop in a cup? Should I go crazy—" Ooh. "Should I go for a crazy combination of flavors to show off my creativity? Do I use a spoon? Should I politely refuse? Help me, brothers!" That's from Scoop Savvy in Seattle.

Travis: Gotta be a spoon, right? This is not a cone—

Griffin: What's the normal—what's the normal ice—there's additional info here.

Justin: Okay. "PS, my normal ice cream order is a double scoop of any two chocolatey flavors in a waffle cone with no spoon."

Griffin: Excellent. Good choice.

Justin: With no spoon is not an order. [chuckles] It's a lifestyle.

Travis: Hold the spoon!

Justin: Hold the spoon!

Griffin: With a cone?

Justin: Hey, you know what? Order like that. I would hire you. [chuckles] If you're like—

Griffin: No spoon.

Travis: On the rocks!

Justin: "Hold the spoon." On the ro—[chuckles] on the cone.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Straight up!

Griffin: Okay, I worked at an ice cream shop. It was my first job, was at The Country's Best Yogurt. Which did serve ice cream.

Travis: So not ice cream.

Griffin: Okay—

Justin: Free pour.

Griffin: That little correction always comes about .75 seconds after I mentioned that it was primarily a frozen yogurt shop. They did have like 20 flavors of ice cream. Because it was—anytime anyone ordered ice cream at The Country's Best Yogurt, I'd be like, god damn it. Because the yogurt, you just go [squelches] with a little handle, and then your job's done. And with the ice cream you gotta fuckin' *argh*. And it always bummed me out so much—

Justin: God! I miss TCBY.

Griffin: Shit, man. Me too. Pretty sweet job. This job is great. I love making content with my family and having so much creative freedom. This job doesn't let me eat free fun-sized Snickers bars infinitively in the back room of the job while I play Nintendo DS. That's not an option here.

Travis: Do you want that? We could set that up for you.

Griffin: Oh, man, I'd be so bad. Don't trust me in a big room full of free Snickers, because I have sort of evidence that I can't be trusted in that regard.

Travis: You can't, Question Asker, you can't do cone. Any—

Justin: Can't do cone.

Travis: Anything in a job interview—

Griffin: No cone, yeah.

Travis: Where you're like—

Justin: Yeah, that's an upsell.

Travis: And it involves a lot of like licking? No.

Griffin: [spoofs licking sounds] Yeah, no one wants that. I think if you're an ice cream delivery driver, I don't know, they want you to be punctual. The ice cream situation is not so important, they want you to be punctual, and they want you to not be kind of weird. And if you—I'm afraid that if you go with a certain ice cream arrangement—oh, the worst, a little cake cone with a big swirl, and you like...

Justin: Okay, I think they've gotten that you don't want 'em to get a cone, Griffin.

Griffin: [spoofs silly licking sounds]

Travis: I think—

Justin: I think they get it. Okay? [chuckles] I think they get that you shouldn't get a cone.

Griffin: Fuckin' three popsicles at the same time like—[spoofs silly licking sounds]

Justin: Okay, Griff—

Travis: [spoofs silly licking sounds]

Justin: Licking is out, we all get it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] I think you—we all get it.

Griffin: Don't lick anything at a job interview is pretty good just general advice.

Travis: Unless you're there to be an envelope sealer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They're not.

Griffin: That's a—that's—

Justin: It said it.

Travis: So, I think that, as a delivery driver, I want someone who doesn't hate ice cream, but I don't want to worry about them eating the product on the way there.

Griffin: Yeah. I was not screened—

Travis: You know what I mean?

Griffin: I was not screened for this particular trait.

Travis: "I don't want you going too ham. The products aren't even sold. You're delivering it. I don't need you to sell—I don't need to see you're enthusiastic about it."

Griffin: Also, guess what?

Travis: "I need to see that you have a healthy respect for the product."

Griffin: Yeah. If it gets out that when you do a job interview at this company, let's call it The Country's Worst Yogurt, and you roll up, and they're like, "Have a scoop on us." But you're actually allowed to have a free double fudgy double blast sundae with extra extra drippings on it. And you

eat that, and they're like, "You haven't said anything this whole interview, you're just going—[spoofs eating sounds] yummy!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And you're like, "Yeah, guess I don't get the job." Guess what? Next day, you're going to put on a wig, you're going to put on a big, fake beard, and you're going to come back in for the next day for the ne— "Hello, I'd like to interview for the job, too. I'm a great driver! Let me get a double fudgy super-duper blast with extra fuckin' drippings."

Justin: [chuckles] This person is unemployed! They need a job, Griffin. You're not helping. You're giving them—

Griffin: Yeah, they don't need food—

Travis: Well now hold on!

Griffin: If they have infinite ice cream—

Travis: Here we go.

Griffin: And as many hundreds and thousands as they can possibly fit in their pocket.

Travis: And there's—yeah! There's a lot of peanuts you could get on there, cherries.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's fruits and protein, baby.

Griffin: That's fruits and protein. Cones is—

Travis: How crazy do you think you can go with the toppings before they're like, "Actually, I think we're done here."

Griffin: I think the toppings are an instant fail. If you go for a—the cream—I always looked it down on people who put toppings on their ice cream, which already contained nuts—

Travis: *What?*

Griffin: Listen, the cream already is folded in with nuts and mallows and... chocolate chippies and all kinds of wonderful—

Justin: [chuckles] This is indefensible, keep going.

Griffin: I'm saying the cream has all kinds of great stuff in it! You're saying like—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: But what if it also had—

Justin: You can't—

Griffin: Caramel—

Justin: Toppings of ice cream, you lunatic?

Travis: Yeah, why put—

Justin: What are you talking about?

Travis: Icing on cake?

Griffin: I don't—

Travis: It already has sugar—

Griffin: One—

Travis: In it. What are you talking about?

Griffin: Super-duper-duper messy. Two, a lot of ice cream toppings—guys, I worked at The Country's Best Yogurt, who the fuck do you think you're fucking talking to right now?

Justin: You're right, I'm sorry.

Griffin: Do you—guess what percentage of ice cream toppings are like on a fundamental level compromised by being rubbed all over smooth, cold, wet cream? The answer is almost all of them. Almost all—try getting gummy bears on your ice cream. My kids do it every time. And every time I have to say—

Justin: So weird.

Griffin: Nope, those get—

Travis: Oh, no, no gummies.

Griffin: Rock-hard, inedible and gross. Don't fuckin' do it! But they do it—

Travis: No gummies.

Griffin: All the time?

Justin: I want to be the sort of person that just like waits until they get there and thinks, hm, what kind of ice cream would I enjoy? And then they order that, and then the boss is like, "Huh, tell me about your order." And then you're like, "I don't know, that's just what I felt like." I want to be that person.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: You know, hi—where do I—but the problem is, once you've thought about it ahead of time, you're no longer that person. So what the fuck are you supposed to do?! Not think about it?

Travis: I—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I like to pretend to be that person.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: But there's a voice at the back of my head that's like, "You know what you're getting." And I'm like, I don't know! Is this the new place, maybe they have different flavors? And it's like, "You know." And then again, I look and I'm like, "Hm! Well, you know what is jumping out to me?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "This like chocolate peanut butter. Yeah!" And it's like, "That's what you were planning the whole fucking time. You knew that about yourself."

Justin: You're right, Trav. Just like at Baskin-Robbins, there's chocolate peanut butter—you know the Baskin-Robbins on Hal Greer was for sale for a little bit.

Travis: Oh, really?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, I almost—I was thinking about it. I was like, dude, should I be an ice cream man?

Travis: Justin Robbins.

Justin: Is that a career path for me?

Griffin: That's good, man.

Justin: What?

Griffin: I can show you the ropes, kid.

Justin: I was worried—

Griffin: Show you the ropes.

Justin: I was worried, honestly, the reason I didn't do it is that I was worried that for—for the—for—first of all, I don't know how to do that. [chuckles] Like that's a—that's a huge—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: A lot of the—a lot—

Griffin: That hasn't stopped you from doing other big things—

Justin: A lot of straight white guys will do this thing where like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Like so I just, I don't know how to. So that's the one thing that stopped me.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: The other thing is like—

Griffin: Where's the ice cream come—do you make the ice crea—like, where does it fuckin' come—

Travis: I assume someone else took care of this.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I just realized, I saw the future of like Baskin-Robbins trying to tell me how to do it. And I'm—and I'm—I can't be in a fight with corporate all the time about the cool way I want to sell ice cream. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: You know what I mean? Like—

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: If I want to call mine the dirty Baskin-Robbins—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah. Welcome to—this—welcome to Tim Robbins—

Justin: "Welcome to nightmare Baskin-Robbins!"

Griffin: "Welcome to Tim Robbins, it's a Tim Robbins themed Baskin-Robbins."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "We're watching—we got monitors for the kids, we got Shawshank going."

Travis: "Bask in Tim Robbins."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Bask in Tim Robbins together." [chuckles]

Travis: "Just really come in and soak it all in!"

Justin: "We got a thousand baths in Tim Robbins." [chuckles]

Griffin: "We got—you gotta try our double fudgy mystic river caramel streak cheesecake. It's so good."

Travis: "Do you want some Timmy's on that? That's what we call sprinkles."

Justin: "Hey, Tim Robinson, I think you should leave. This is Tim Robbins' Baskin-Robbins." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Cool.

Justin: We should take a break. Yeah, does that—is that right?

Travis: Yeah! It sounds good to me.

Justin: Okay. Let's take a quick commercial break.

[theme music plays]

Justin: You want to get your money figured out, you—the first step is figuring out where it all is, like awareness, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Where is it all going?

Travis: What it is, how it works.

Justin: What it is, where is it going. Hey, money, get back here! Where are you guys going? Well, here's your answer, is Rocket Money. Yes, Rocket Money—hey! Check out my finances. Tell me about my little money soldiers. Where are they going off to battle? You know what I mean? I want to know where are they fighting where maybe I don't need them—maybe there's a subscription you forgot about, or 20, that maybe you don't need to be sending your money to anymore. Well—

Travis: You can just kill—maybe that's already dead, in this scenario. Like you're ki—you're sending... Wait, I'm trying to follow Justin's thing. You're sending your money soldiers—

Justin: It's like soldiers—monies—listen, I watched a lot of Shark Tank, and money is soldiers. [titters]

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay? Money is troops. War is basically for money.

Griffin: War is everything. Business.

Travis: War is hell—

Justin: War is for money—

Travis: War never changes, but it does have change and dollars in it.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Rocket Money is a personal finance app that helps you find and cancel your unwanted subscriptions. You monitor your spending and it helps you lower your bills, so you can grow your savings. I mean, that's not complicated, guys, that's just... just Rocket Money.

Griffin: They categorize your spendings for you, so you can look and see that where you're—where you've deployed SEAL Team 6. The world's most elite...

Travis: That's your credit card.

Griffin: Group. Your credit card is SEAL Team 6. Elite operatives doing the dirty work that keeps America safe. [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I'm trying to—

Justin: Happy 250th—

Griffin: I wanted to be a part of it!

Justin: Big boy! I love you. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] I just want to be a part of it, man!

Justin: I love you so mu—have you noticed how everybody is putting 250—we can *all* get a hit on that ball, huh? I saw Doritos extreme garlic Parmesan, America is 250. Which like, fuck, fair play, Doritos.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Like absolutely, man!

Griffin: We should do another episode 250. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Again.

Griffin: [chuckles] Awesome. Rocket Money would probably think that's a great idea, because of how much money we would make on it. And Rocket Money is always telling us, "You guys are spending your money in such a wild way."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "You told us to stop you if you tried to spend money this way, and we would—we're just letting you know we're concerned." But yeah, I've actually used Rocket Money a lot, and it always catches my kids' iPad subscriptions in the dragnet. I guess their fingerprint is close enough to mine that they can authorize Apple ID purchases sometimes. [chuckles] So—

Travis: Or they do it while you're sleeping.

Griffin: Or they do it while I'm sleeping.

Travis: They just walk over to you, grab your thumb.

Griffin: And they *ping-pong*. Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So... yeah, thank you. Thank you, Rocket Money, for sponsoring the show. And everyone should use it if you want to keep your money straight. Let Rocket Money help you reach your financial goals faster, join at rocketmoney.com/mybrother. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother. One last time, rocketmoney.com/mybrother.

Travis: Wouldn't you guys think—don't you think it'd be cool if in Fallout 5 it started with them saying like, "Turns out, sometimes war changes."

Griffin: War does change.

Travis: And then it's like bionic sharks are fighting the war—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah!

Travis: That you have to fight, and you're like a dolphin with legs.

Griffin: It's a psychic battlefield! Yeah.

Justin: That's a big change.

Travis: Wouldn't that be fucking cool?

Griffin: That would be sick.

Travis: Aura Frames makes the perfect gift for any occasion, even if that occasion is just letting someone know how important they are to you, how much they mean to you. Because you can constantly be adding new things to it, new pictures, even like little video clips or whatever. Sometimes my kids scare the shit out of me by hitting play on a video when I didn't even know they were standing by the Aura Frame, and suddenly noise starts coming out of it and I think I'm being attacked. But other than that, it's great! I love it!

Griffin: You need to have fewer videos of men yelling and chasing you.

Travis: That's true!

Griffin: Like strangers me—you put them on the Aura Frame, because it couldn't be easier to put stuff on an Aura Frame. If it's someone else's that doesn't know how to do technology stuff, you can like manage it for 'em. So like for your dad, if he's maybe not so great at technology, for Father's Day, it would—it would feel that need. Don't put videos of men screaming and

yelling his name that they're going to get him and that they know what he did, because then—

Travis: Even if it's pleasant screaming, it can still be off-putting, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yes, don't—

Travis: I don't need people cheering for me for sitting down.

Griffin: Only beautiful memories of you and them and your loved ones.

Travis: And quiet men.

Griffin: And quiet men, whispering your name.

Travis: Yeah, quiet, whispering men. Load up your dad's Aura Frame for Father's Day with quiet, whispering men.

Griffin: [hushed] "Dennis, we're not—Dennis, we're not going to get you."

Travis: You know how your dad loves the Lost? You can recreate the Lost experience for your dad by filling his Aura Frame with quiet, whispering men.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That just occasionally whisper some gibberish.

Griffin: [hushed] "We don't know what you did, Dennis."

Travis: [hushed] "No one's talking about it."

Griffin: [hushed] "No one—you're safe. You're so safe."

Travis: [hushed] "Bigfoot loves you." Something like that. You know.

Griffin: Named number one by Wirecutter, you can save now by visiting auraframes.com. For a limited time, listeners can get \$35 off their best-selling carver mat frame with code "My Brother." That's A-U-R-A-frames.com, promo code "My Brother." Support the show by mentioning us at checkout. Terms and conditions apply.

[break]

Alex: Sunscreen companies calculate SPF by testing it on volunteers' butts.

Katie: There is a can of spam in the Mariana Trench.

Alex: A Nobel Prize-winning physicist from the Manhattan Project invented modern speed bumps.

Katie: Mesoamerican Native people invented kidney medicine that glows in the dark.

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Alex: Topics you'd never expect to be the title of the podcast, Secretly Incredibly Fascinating.

Katie: Find us by searching for the word "secretly" in your podcast app.

Alex: And at maximumfun.org.

[break]

John-Luke: If you like too many podcasts, you'll love Sound Heap, with John-Luke Roberts. It's got clips from all your favorite podcasts, such as Diary of a Tiny CEO.

Speaker 1: Leonard Sprague, tell me how you make your money.

Loenard: I go to the beach and I steal people's towels.

John-Luke: Rememberama.

Speaker 2: Do you remember the trend of everyone whacking themselves on the head with hammers and mallets when they wanted to lose weight?

John-Luke: And Elton John's lobbely songs.

Elton: I'm here today with Kiki Dee! Hello, Kiki Dee!

Kiki: Hello, Elton.

John-Luke: There's dozens of episodes to catch up on, and brand-new episodes going out right now! So, if you want far, far, far too many podcasts, then look for Sound Heap on Maximum Fun. Boop-boop!

[break]

Justin: [sings the Munch Squad intro riff] Huh?

Griffin: Yes!

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

Travis and Griffin: [yells out] Squad!

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

Travis and Griffin: [yells out] Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast. The thermostat is heating up and I couldn't be more excited over here.

Griffin: Okay. Hot boy summer?

Justin: And America's ice cream purveyors are also very excited. I just wanted to talk about the summer of America. Please. Please. I'm begging you, QSR magazine, stop showing me the pop up for that pizza. They don't have it in my area—[chuckles] and I want to eat it very bad. These are—the first one I wanted to tell you, Trav, this is a local interest story that I wanted to mention—

Travis: *Ooh.* Graeter's?

Justin: Graeter's, baby. Guess what Graeter's is doing for 2026? Now, of course, these... they're celebrating America's 250th. Okay? With a cherry sparkler, that's crafted to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday. This wild cherry ice cream combines red and blue popping candy folded into every star-spangled scoop.

Travis: Now, if it wasn't Graeter's, I would question how that possibly holds up.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: A thing that dissolves when it hits moisture.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But it's Graeter's—

Travis: In an ice cream.

Justin: They're the pros.

Travis: But it's Graeter's and I trust them.

Griffin: They'll figure it out.

Justin: But Trav, here's the really exciting one. Ghost notes.

Travis: [gasps] *Hah.* What?

Griffin: Ghost notes.

Travis: [yells out] Oh! I know about this! I saw this!

Justin: Go ahead, Trav.

Travis: Kings Island is bringing back the Phantom Theater—

Griffin: Holy shit! No way!

Travis: And this is the—

Justin: Yeah, dude, this season, dude, it's reopening. Kings Island—

Travis: This is the Graeter's—

Justin: Get at us. We are—we can be the spokespeople for Kings Island! Please.

Griffin: Please get at us—

Justin: Get at us!

Griffin: We'll do—we'll do anything.

Travis: Please! Please! Please! And this is the Please! Phantom Theater ice cream tie in.

Justin: Yeah, they're—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So it's ghost notes, celebrate Kings Island's new ride, Phantom Theater: Opening Nightmare.

Griffin: New ride.

Justin: Very quick history on this ride. I'm going to try to do it from memory, so apologies if I mess any of the steps up. It starts out as Phantom Theater, which is a themed dark ride—

Travis: Nope. Started off as Smurfs.

[pause]

Justin: Yes. God, Travis, you're right. Oh, that's all the way back to the Hanna-Barbera integration. Right, okay. So it's a dark ride of the Smurfs, and then they lose that license, and then it becomes Phantom Theater. Right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: And then they get the... Scooby Doo license—

Travis: With Paramount.

Justin: With Paramount. And then it becomes boo... Scooby Doo, Boo Blasters on Boo Hill. [chuckles]

Travis: Yup.

Justin: Right?

Griffin: Fuckin' sucked so—

Justin: And then they lose the Scooby Doo thing, so then it's just a bunch of people that kind of look like Scooby Doo people running around. [chuckles]

Travis: The most generic.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: You know, it's the gang! Harry and Frank and Dofney—[chuckles]

Justin: Scrobo—

Griffin: Shabby Dog! Shabby Dabby Doug!

Justin: Yeah. But they finally—they finally are reopening as the Phantom Theater: Opening Nightmare.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: And the Maestro is back. Yeah, it's very cool. Good news. Good all around.

Griffin: Do they still have the room where they have like a big oven, and they blast you with fuckin' a 15 second uninterrupted jet of really hot air?

Travis: The best way to dry off after it rained at the park.

Griffin: You get wet on one of them wet rides, you go on Phantom Theater, it's cold in the beginning, but then they blast you with that oven! It feels so good!

Travis: Get hit by that Dyson hand dryer of a ride!

Griffin: It's so good!

Justin: You can get at ghost notes right now, Trav, so make sure you bring me a pint. Carvel is a chain that has not been a big presence in our neck of the woods, in West Virginia, but I do want to tell you they are celebrating America.

Griffin: Good.

Justin: With the USA Carvalanche. That's Carvel soft serve mixed with red, white, and blue M&M candies.

Griffin: Okay. Those are an edge case. They are a little harder to get through in an ice-cold context, but they do—I mean, the candy shell does a lot of work—

Justin: There is also one thing I wanted to highlight here that is a new trend for summer, that I've not seen before, but two places are doing it, which is the side eye celebration of the World Cup, without actually mentioning it. There is a limited edition—

Travis: Ooh! A big game kind of play.

Justin: Yeah, there's a limited edition—the big cup. [chuckles] The limited edition soccer-themed ice cream cake, created for summer soccer viewing occasions!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That could be anything.

Justin: You know!

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Baskin Robbins, by the way, for June, not July, we don't know what they're doing for the 250th yet, but they're launching Fútbol Fireworks. Not to be confused with Football Day in North Americano. This is fútbol, de classico. "The brand's June flavor of the month is made for super fans, soccer moms, local legends, and aspiring stars alike." Weird that we're still just taking gendered strays just from nowhere, right?

Griffin: Sure!

Justin: We're just like—

Griffin: Yeah, man!

Justin: Randomly like, "Hey, soccer moms! *Pah-pah-pah!*"

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah!

Justin: You know? Like, "Moms do soccer, right? *Pow!*"

Griffin: Dads don't give a shit about soccer! What?

Justin: What?

Griffin: What are you talking—what do you mean?

Justin: Okay. It's a winning combo of sweet cream soda ice cream, cherry-flavored sherbet, with bonus assists from green apple and blue raspberry popping candy, plus blue raspberry swirls too.

Travis: That's a lot of shit.

Griffin: I mean, as a—as a bever—as a sweet treat, that's too much shit. As a little representation of America on its quarter millennial? I think it's not bad! It's pretty acc—pretty accurate, I think, for the state of things now.

Justin: But what about... the king?

Travis: Wait, is that a drink?

Justin: What?

Travis: Is that a drink?

Justin: No, it's the flavor of the month for June.

Travis: Okay. I was so worried that I was going to be sipping on my soda through a straw, and a popping candy would shoot out through the straw and hit me and make my heart explode.

Justin: You know, milkshake would be a boss pull if you want to be a delivery driver for an ice cream place, because that's on the go, right? But ice cream-based. But you can only get it at the store, so they know they have power over you. [chuckles]

Griffin: It is the hardest thing to make, too. Guys, I got so jacked making milkshakes at—I miss working at an ice cream shop—

Travis: How were you making it? Were you churning it?

Griffin: Yeah, man, you had one of those fuckin' things and the big metal cup and you had to *vrrr*.

Travis: Blenders exist?

Griffin: I've done a lot of really, really suggestive pantomimes, and I have never been particularly aware of that shit. But our pivot to video that we've made 12 years too late is like really illuminating to me that I just do a lot of... jerk off motions when pretending to do other sort of tasks.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And you guys haven't said anything—

Travis: That's why we don't let you hang out with our kids.

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: One last quick check in on Burger King going absolutely wild for the—for July. There's three new summer menu items. First is the Loaded Jalapeno Whopper. It's an all new guest creation. It's 100% flame grilled beef, with crispy pickled jalapenos, layered with creamy jalapeno sauce, and then the other stuff that's usually there. And it says, "Delivering the spicy kick guests have been asking for." So that's good news.

Griffin: Can I ask what the 100% is representing in the phrase "100% grilled beef?" Because—

Justin: No breadcrumbs anymore. [chuckles]

Griffin: So, it's just straight up—so, it's 100% beef, grilled. 100% grilled beef makes me think that you have... every—

Justin: 100% flame grilled beef.

Griffin: Is the flame... the flame was turned up to 100%—

Justin: They don't nuke it for like 20 seconds and then flame grill it right at the end. It's 100% cooked that way.

Travis: Every bit of this thing is grilled. It is grill—

Justin: It's all grilled.

Travis: We—

Griffin: It's grilled inside—

Travis: "We have a special tesseract that we put it in, that's able to grill it from every angle at once."

Griffin: "Why is my beef patty like 10% the size that it's supposed to—" "Well, the 100% grilling, it reduces—there's no moisture in that whatsoever."

Travis: There's some meat loss.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The—

Griffin: Where's the beef? The beef is—

Travis: Time lost is meat lost.

Griffin: The beef is in the cloud. The beef is just kind of—we evaporated the beef.

Travis: "We digitized the beef for your convenience!"

Justin: Next up is the Orange Dreamsicle Freezee King.

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: And it says—

Travis: *Ooh.* Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

Justin: No, listen, guys, we gotta—don't get like Pavlov's dogs over here. [chuckles] "Freezee King is the new home for our frozen innovation." The first time that one of these brands decided that they were launching a drink platform, we should have stopped them. Like McCosmic, all that shit, we should have said no.

Griffin: No.

Justin: You cannot have bubbles by Captain D's. You know what I mean? Like you can't do it. You can just have drinks. "It's not a new home for frozen innovation, it's a new lever on the fucking slushie machine." Stop it. Stop it.

Travis: No, I will—I—listen, no matter how excited I get about an Orange Creamsicle thing, describing a beverage as an innovation, unless there's some new cybernetic way of consuming it that makes it so I look at the drink and I've drunk it or something, it's not an innovation. It's just a different flavor of drink.

Justin: But what about the birthday? What about the B-Day? We got the Firecracker Cookie Pie, a chilled crunch experience.

Griffin: Firecracker Cookie Pie! That's three different words, man! [chuckles] That's crazy!

Justin: "Firecracker Cookie Pie is a chilled crunch experience—"

Travis: No.

Justin: "That layers velvety cream over a crisp sugar cookie crust, topped with red, white, and blue star-shaped sprinkles to celebrate America's 250th birthday. It's a chilled crunch experience!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Honey, you look different?"
"Yeah, I—"

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I...

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "It's just, I had a chilled crunch experience today and I... I don't know, it's changed—"

Griffin: "It shook me to my core!"

Travis: "Everythi—it's—I'm looking at things, there are—colors just aren't as bright anymore, and I don't find joy in you or the children's faces. It's just not the same!"

Justin: Griffin, I just texted you this quote from Joel Yashinsky, because if I read it, you guys are going to think I read it wrong.

Griffin: Okay. "As the weather heats up, we know our guests are craving for fun flavors that they and experience and share," said Joel Yashinsky.

Justin: What? Sorry, say again? [titters]

Griffin: "That they and experience and share," said Joel Yashinsky, Chief Marketing Officer, Burger King USMC. "Whether they're looking for a full meal or a sweet or savory snack, these new limited time menu items deliver the type of innovation Guests—" with a capital G for some reason— "have been looking for. And we're continuing to listen, and give them what they want."

Travis: "There, I said what you wanted me to say."

Justin: "I said it."

Travis: "Please let me go, set me free," says Dave.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Joel says, "It's getting hotter, so we make colder things. And if you want to eat a lot or a little bit, we'll do it. No problem." [chuckles]

Griffin: "We'll do it."

Travis: "Is that what you want?"

Griffin: "Let us fuckin' know, man."

Justin: "Just let us know. And we're going to keep doing this, okay? You keep saying whatever, and we'll do it, and they experience and share, and they and experience."

Griffin: "Please stop complaining about our food! When you complain about our—"

Justin: "We are trying to make it as good as we can!" [chuckles]

Griffin: "Do you guys know how hard it is?"

Travis: "How?! We don't know how to do it better! We tried!"

Griffin: "It's sucks!"

Justin: "Other than spending more money to do it, like if we could—"

Griffin: "To do it and—"

Justin: Like yeah.

Travis: "Out of the question."

Griffin: "Use better stuff. But like, we have to grill 100% of this goddamn thing."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "So like—"

Travis: "You know how long that takes?! Per burger?!"

Griffin: "It takes forever!"

Justin: "If you all would stop eating the middle 10%, you greedy pigs, then we wouldn't have to cook it—"

Travis: "That's the hardest part to reach!"

Justin: "We just cook the 90% around it."

Griffin: "And stop telling us you want more chicken fries as a joke! Because you keep doing it, and we keep bringing 'em back, and then no one buys it."

Justin: "We bring 'em back and no one orders 'em!" [chuckles]

Griffin: "No one orders it and you send us a note that's like, 'Ha-ha-ha, got you again. No one likes chicken fries, idiot.' That hurts my feelings!"

Travis: "We built Jim's house out of chicken fries, with all the chicken fries we had left! Jim needed a house and we didn't have money, because we spent it all on chicken fri—right, Jim?"

Griffin: "We spent it all on chicken fries."

Travis: "Yeah."

Griffin: You ruined this guy's fuckin' life with your chicken fries prank. Firecracker cookie pie. Firecracker cookie pie—

Justin: Firecracker cookie pie—

Griffin: It sounds like the title of like—

Justin: We don't need to water, let the motherfucker burn!

Griffin: It's—yeah! Okay, I let—

Justin: Firecracker cookie pie burn. [chuckles]

Griffin: I went more it's like—it sounds like a rave, like sa—like a rave track that one might get from—like you might hear on like a RuPaul's Drag Race.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: Like a Rebecca Black, like just sort of one for the—one for dancing and forgetting about it. [hushed] Firecracker cookie pie.

Justin: "My boyfriend is a horology nerd, and so I've bought him a pocket watch and a miniature grandfather clock." I'm trying to put together what the word horology means from context clues.

Griffin: Time? Time?

Justin: I'm not going to look it up. "The only problem is—"

Travis: Time piece?!

Justin: "The only problem is they both have mechanical movements. These clocks tick loudly. How can I disguise or suppress the sound of them at night when he sleeps at mine so as not to spoil his gifts? I know the easiest thing would be to stop them, but mechanical clocks work best when they run consistently, and I can't afford the service fee. My neighborhood is dead quiet and my apartment is small. Any help is appreciated." And that's from Conspicuous Clock Clamor in Cambridge.

Griffin: I mean, I have some great—some great thoughts on this.

Justin: Oh, yeah?

Griffin: I do. The ticking would drive you absolutely wild unless it was the steady beat of a popular song. How many beats per minute is the second hand putting out?

Travis: Probably 60.

Griffin: Probably 60, yeah, is what I'm thinking.

Travis: If I had to guess.

Griffin: I just looked up 60 BPM songs. We got "Kiss from a Rose" by Seal. You could get that crankin'. I'm talking about a playlist of 60 BPM songs. "My Girl" by Otis Redding. "Try A Little Tenderness" by Otis Redding. "These Arms of Mine" by Otis Redding. Otis Redding worked at the natural sort of rhythm of the universe. And I fuckin' love that. I'm all about that. "New Slang," "Skinny Love." There's like some—a lot of tracks that are just kind of there for you. You have to sync it up just right. Because you can't have the ticking—

Travis: And they should be sleepy songs. I don't know if "Try a Little Tenderness" would put me to sleep.

Griffin: Okay, well take that—then don't do that one. Do a different one—

Travis: But it's my favorite one on the list you just said.

Justin: Could you convince your partner like... "Okay, yes, it's true. I am a clockwork man."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "I was—I was assembled by Dr. Zalias, and he died before he could give me a soul." [chuckles]

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "But it's true. You hear the ticking of my heart. I am a clockwork boy. And only your love has brought me to life."

Griffin: So, it's their—so, their boyfriend is the nerd about clocks. And you're saying that you would say, "I am a clockwork person." And I don't understand how this is going to help them sleep at night.

Travis: I'm hung up on the "it's true" part, as though the partner has always suspected that they are a clockwork boy. And you're finally confirming it?

Justin: Sorry, say again.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: I don't see where the—

Travis: The "it's true" part!

Justin: So what you—Trav, I'm gonna explain it to you one time, but I do feel like explaining robs some of the genius. But I will—I will explain. You are telling your partner, "That ticking sound that you hear is not a gift for you. It is in fact the ticking of my heart, because I am a clockwork boy—"

Griffin: Okay! Okay!

Justin: "Assembled by Dr. Zalias."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "And he died before he could give me a soul. But your love has made me—"

Griffin: Right. I'll tell you what happened here, I—there was a bit of a false start because I saw, "How can I suppress the sound of them at night?" And I just thought it was because they were so loud that they made you not be able to fall asleep easily. That was me projecting my own shit on you. I didn't realize the layer about you didn't want to give away—so yeah, saying you're a clockwork boy—

Justin: So the—

Griffin: Strong idea—strong idea, Juice!

Justin: You missed the part—

Griffin: Strong idea, Juice.

Justin: Where they're like, "It's a gift I don't want to spoil." Was that the context—

Griffin: Yeah, I missed—I missed the main kind of thrust of the question, yeah.

Travis: But they do wanna spoil the big reveal that it's true, they are a clockwork boy—

Griffin: That they clockwork boy.

Travis: Built by Dr. Zalias.

Justin: I wanna know, Griff—

Griffin: Okay, so even with my own mistake—

Justin: Now understand my initial, can you react to it with a little more earnest like—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Like a little bit more—

Travis: Yeah, can you give us—can you give us the line again?

Justin: Yeah. No, I actually won't be delivering the premise a third time. It's exhausting emotionally and mentally. [chuckles] I can't do it—

Griffin: He has to pretend to be a clockwork boy like Hugo, Trav.

Travis: I do like, can I just say, Justin, when you were doing a voice as the clockwork boy—

Justin: "Clockwork boy."

Travis: Confirming the truth.

Griffin: That's cool. He did it again! He said he wouldn't, but then he did. Fuckin' A.

Travis: It's very... it's even more human, I think, than you normally sound.

Justin: "I have a porcelain heart."

Griffin: A porcelain heart, okay.

Travis: Wait.

Justin: "My porcelain heart ticking so it echoes terribly."

Griffin: Why do they have a porcelain heart ticking—

Travis: Yeah, wouldn't it be like—

Griffin: If they're a clock?

Justin: "It was a prototype. But Dr. Zayas, before he could—" [chuckles]

Griffin: Dr. Zayas?

Travis: Wait, Dr. Zayas did it?! Okay, Dr. Zayas—

Justin: Zalias!

Griffin: Zalias.

Travis: Mm-hm...

Justin: "Zayas was his assistant. His monkey assistant." [chuckles]

Travis: His monkey assistant. Oh, it's a tie in! This is all part of the Planet of the Apes universe.

Justin: "Heart of the Planet of the Apes!"

Griffin: What's the next 10 words of this idea when they—do you know how disappointed this person is going to be when they find out their partner is not, in fact, a clockwork boy?

Travis: The love made them real, Griffin!

Justin: The love made them real.

Griffin: But is the ticking still—are you still going to give him the clock and the watch at some point? Because they'll probably figure out when you do get—you gotta smash these gifts—

Travis: And the grandfather clock is their actual grandfather!

Griffin: Yeah, okay.

Justin: That's actually very good. I actually like that now, Trav. That's actually good. "That's my grandpa. Please ignore him. I'll move him out of the room so he doesn't watch our lovemaking."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "Oh, yeah, that's right. I can go forever." [chuckles]

Griffin: There's a—

Justin: "Through the power of steam! I could go forever." [chuckles]

Griffin: There's a—there are some cultures in which giving someone a clock as a gift is a... is bad luck, is a bad thing to do. Because I think it is—like reminds folks that you're going to die or like is the same character in, I can't remember, I'll google it later. And then next time I talk about this, I'll sound super-duper smart. But do you think when that sort of became a thing where they're giving someone a clock is a—is a very rude gift because it's like you're telling them they're going to die, do you think the clocks industry was like, "Shit..."

Travis: [yells out] No! I don't know about all that! Hey!

Griffin: "I think—I understand your hang up, but I think clocks make a—make a great fuckin' gift. And you should get our—we got all kinds of new clocks this season."

Travis: "This one has a cuckoo that comes out of it! That's new! You guys like that?! Huh?!"

Griffin: Has no—

Justin: Do you think—

Griffin: "No one is picking up our clock catalogs off the grocery store shelves. I'm starting to get a little bit worried about this... about this market."

Justin: The clock guy went home and he was like, "You're right, Debra. I should have done paintings." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "That would have been a better—that would have been a better wall thing. You're right." [chuckles]

Griffin: "Damn it."

Justin: "Damn it." [chuckles]

Travis: Question Asker, sundial.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It's—what does that me—

Travis: Completely silent!

Justin: What? It's bought already! It's bought? You can't fix it with a sundial?

Travis: You're gonna—okay, Gift of the Magi! "I sold the grandfather clock and the pocket watch to get you this cool sundial."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. In The Gift of the Magi, once again, in our series of misunderstanding the point of The Gift of the Magi, I don't think they sold something belonging to their partner to get their partner a present. I'm realizing now I— "Hey, I sold your car to get you this book." I don't think that that happened—

Griffin: Well, no! In this case it would be, "I sold your watch to get you this watch case. Shit. That was really bad of me to do."

Travis: "I wasn't even thinking about it at the time."

Griffin: "Shit."

Justin: Do you think the first person who finished reading that story, they put it down and they're like, "O'Henry... I don't think this is very good? I don't really understand it." And then O'Henry had to be like, "It's not—it's more like everything else will relate back to this." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Like you'll only kind of understand it in retro—it's like, it's only gonna make sense when other things happen that are like this. But right now, in isolation, I understand that it's like, it's just kind of very sad. [chuckles] Like I get that it's not a very good story.

Griffin: Well, it's kind of sad! It's kind of sad.

Justin: It's kind of sad! But it's like, it's not a very good story. I understand, but it'll be a very useful story later. [chuckles]

Travis: I created a reference point for other people.

Justin: Right.

Travis: What I've done here is a huge humanity sacrifice, where I've written a weird story, but later, it'll make other people's weird stories make more sense.

Justin: Right, but they need this contextually. As a culture, we need this story. Even though I'll admit, I don't really know how to feel about it either. [chuckles] It's sort of a mixed bag.

Travis: Yeah. But my friend Kafka wrote this story about a guy who turns into a big bug. It doesn't make any sense, but it's gonna help other things make sense later. So, you're welcome.

Griffin: He sells his watch to buy her combs for her hair, and she sells her hair to buy him a chain for his watch.

Travis: She sells seashells.

Griffin: Well, no, I... she'll grow the hair back—

Travis: We've talked about this at least three times.

Griffin: Okay, never mind.

Justin: Yeah, and I actually don't want to. And you know what? Luckily, we don't have to, because that's the end of the podcast. We've gotten here. Once again, I—just as I knew we would. You guys at the beginning were like, "I don't know... How are we ever gonna do it?" I was like, cut this part out later, but—and then I inspired you for like 15 minutes, you remember? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, man!

Justin: That's cool.

Griffin: I've never felt so good about the work that we do. We have some new merch in the merch store, over at mcelroymerch.com. Got a new shirt, it's a design with "you're going to be amazing," from TAZ: Balance. It was designed by Sabrina Volante. And all the proceeds from that shirt go to Lambda Legal. And 10% of all of our merch proceeds this month will also be donated to Lambda Legal, a national organization working to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV through impact, litigation, education, and public policy work. Our merch is all over at macroymerch.com. There's a lot of stuff up there.

Travis: We've also got the "make it sick" sticky notes by Evan Crews over there as well.

Griffin: Oh, yes.

Travis: Make sure you check those out.

Griffin: Also, I believe we are five weeks away this week from the release of The Adventure Zone: Story and Song graphic novel, the final graphic novel—

Travis: We should finish writing it.

Griffin: In our series. [chuckles] We should finish writing it. Quick. Go to theadventurezonecomic.com, you can pre-order that now. There's some special editions available at Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million, and they've got some stuff you can get for your order. But wherever you get it is—just help us out. If you think you're going to read it, pre-ordering it helps us out a great deal. Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." I really appreciate that Montaigne continues to let us use this song. They're so talented and the song absolutely rips, and just thank you.

Travis: Somebody's got to throw something.

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Have anything good?

Justin: Oh! I got a box. No... Tripod! *Ooh*, tripod!

Griffin: *Ooh*, that's a big one! Are you sure?!

Justin: I'm positive!

Griffin: [chuckles] I can't wait to see where he fucking throws this thing.

Travis: Yeah, I don't know what he's aiming for here.

Griffin: You know you got to hum it, right, Juice? You gotta really wang this—

Justin: Never mind, it's too big. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah! Okay.

Griffin: You're gonna do a—

Travis: I'm gonna do a water bottle flip.

[pause]

Travis: Can I do a water bottle flip?

Griffin: Wait, he can't hear us. He's just throwing a case at his phone.

[thud and clatter]

Griffin: Wow! That was—

Justin: I'm Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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