

MBMBaM 826: Right to the Couch Hole

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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: Are we on? Are we live?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Okay. Hello, everyone, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me. I'm Justin McElroy, thank you for being with us, everybody, thank you so much for being here today.

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis 'Big Dog Woof-Woof Vroom-Vroom The Heater Award-Winning' McElroy.

Griffin: It feels inappropriate to do all the preamble stuff in your thing—

Travis: Yeah, but I didn't—I didn't want to not show this moment the respect, you know?

Griffin: Yeah! My name's—my name's Griffin, and I'm very sor—I'm the most—no matter what we say or are about to say, I'm the most sorry of the three of us.

Travis: It turns out... Dr. Doom is like a really cool badass scary guy—

Justin: Bad dude.

Griffin: We had a clip from the episode where we did discuss Dr. Doom. Dr. Victor Von Doom, sorry. We need to put as much respect on that name. It did break containment and it went viral—

Justin: It did break containment! Our audience is sophisticated, okay? [chuckles] Our audience understands that we're doing a very complex meta-layered bit, where we acknowledge we know about the superhero guy.

Travis: A lot.

Justin: But also pretend that we don't know about the superhero guy, in a way that's still funny if you no—you—but if you're not part of our like twisted, fucked up world like that we've built over the past decade—

Griffin: It's fucked up! That's the best word for it. It's fucked up. When we say Dr. Doom isn't as strong as the big purple alien man, that's fucked up to say because like, I know his name, I know what he brings to the table.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: But someone who is not familiar with us...

Travis: Yeah! They hear—

Justin: Our engagement—our engagement bait—you ever see the people in the TikTok ads, and they'll do the whole ad with a big glob of spaghetti sauce on their face? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's like, all the comments are like, "The spaghetti! God, get it!"

Griffin: S'ghetti, S'ghetti, S'ghetti, yeah.

Justin: It's like, yeah, yeah, yeah. This is kind of our version of that where we'll say something wrong about Dr. Doom and just wait for the white guys to just pile on top of us.

Travis: Yeah! Where like, ah, a big magnet would stop him. And then they're like, he's got cosmic armor that protects him from reality, forged from the... demon skin of his ex-girlfriend.

Justin: Now tell me another one, and buy some Javi while you're at it. Keep clicking, pal! [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Click all our ads.

Griffin: Do click all our ads, it's—I don't mind doing that type of content, but I want to know that we're doing it while we're—so I can be very, very careful about the words that I use. Like saying Dr. Doom is not a sorcerer, or whatever it happens to be.

Justin: People did share that I think with fren—I think some people maybe shared that clip with friends they knew it would irritate.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And then they commented—

Travis: A real Travis move. Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Like they're trying to bait people into it.

Griffin: That's crazy. I've never once shared anything to anyone I care about in my life that's like, hey, go shit on this for me. I've never once sort of like had the thought of like, this sucks, it makes me mad. Jeff's got to see this.

Justin: That's most of what Travis texts us though, right?

Travis: Yeah, that's what I do!

Justin: Like it's like most of Travis' material is that, right?

Travis: Yeah! My thing is like—

Justin: Provoking.

Travis: Well, they won't like this, but people will like that they don't like it, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. I guess I'm just saying I don't do—I don't do that.

Travis: You know what? I don't apologize! Dr. Doom is a villain—

Justin: Apologize.

Travis: Dr. Doom is a villain. And anyone who defends him is also a villain.

Griffin: Wow! [chuckles] Okay. The defending, again, I don't think people were saying actually—

Travis: People were like, he's actually very nice and—

Griffin: No! They just wanted—

Travis: He deserves a kiss on the cheek.

Griffin: They want us to know he's very strong, because we talked shit about like you're gonna—Captain America's—

Travis: Strong and handsome!

Griffin: Beat his physician's ass. And I just, I didn't... I wasn't careful—

Justin: I mean, I don't want to double down here, but if I could just say one thing! Dr. Doom—Dr. Doom is—okay. We have to establish the stakes of a villain, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Why are we afraid of them? We have to do that work narratively. Thanos poofed half of all people away!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's so—that's twisted! That's so wild! That's so many people! And he just did it like... it was almost as if just a snap.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's like in a snap, he made everybody poof away. Dr. Doom's not going to do—

Griffin: He's not gonna do anything close to that I don't think.

Travis: I'm willing to eat our words if in this movie, at some point, Dr. Doom snaps, and like 53% of the population poofs away.

Griffin: 66% of the population—

Justin: He needs to find one more turbo gem. If you find a turbo gem—

Griffin: We know they're not—

Justin: And you put that—

Griffin: Turbo—we know they're not—

Travis: They're Chaos Emeralds.

Justin: Yeah, but this would be a turbo emerald.

Travis: *Whoa!*

Justin: That you would then put in that links the other ones, and is like, I've ramped it up. It's like, "Wow, feels pretty rad." It's like, "Now try snapping." It's like, "Whoa! You just wiped out 57% of the population."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's just like that little bit, that would get me excited! Now I've got sequelitis. Now I'm ready. [chuckles]

Griffin: The shit Thanos did was so monumental that you can't watch a Marvel television show and not spend the whole time thinking like, I hope no one about to get snapped. Because they won't tell you when the show takes place, you'll just be watching, you know, Ms. Marvel, and then he'll be like, "I love the grandpa character." And then he's proof! Because he gets snapped by Thanos, because—

Justin: Midsentence in some of these—

Griffin: Midsentence, just get some—

Travis: I do think that was an amazing choice by Kevin... I want to say Fayge. I'm going with Fayge this time.

Justin: Feige. Never going to book one of these flicks, are we? [chuckles]

Travis: No. But it could be like, if this actor starts asking for a little bit too much money to come back for season two, they actually got—

Griffin: They get Thanosed.

Travis: They got poofed away.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, he got a-snappin'.

Griffin: Oh, the audience doesn't like this character? That's fine.

Justin: They must have gotten in the poof. I guess they were in the poof but didn't realize—

Travis: Oh! It was a delayed snap.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: They got it.

Justin: So, sorry, Dr. Doom! I guess, I don't know.

Travis: I don't know, man.

Justin: This is an advice show, and the way it works is you send us questions, and we read 'em, and then we see if we can help. "My neighbors like to leave free items in our back alley for others to come by and claim. Recently, a neighbor placed a shit ton of cinder blocks in the alley. My rough count is around 100 blocks—context—in very good condition. If it were just four or five cinder blocks, I could easily ignore this, but 100 blocks feel like a challenge against my capacity for craft. Brothers, if I take on this block burden, what should I do with them?"

Griffin: Who's that from?

Justin: That's from Cinderella in Columbus.

Travis: What do you think—I didn't even think about this when pulling the question, but what scenario do you think led to this person having 100—

Griffin: 100 extra.

Travis: Good, good condition?

Griffin: Unwated. Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: So this isn't like they weren't at any point mortared together—

Griffin: If they were putting—

Travis: And smashed apart.

Griffin: Up a retaining wall, they suck shit at math—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Maybe that's just what it is, is just—or spatial sort of reasoning. Because they bought 100 too many cinder blocks, and those shits are not cheap.

Travis: The scale of project you would have to be doing to accidentally overbuy 100 cinder blocks is like it took 100,000 cinder blocks.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? And like that's how many I ordered, and then I only ended up using 909,900 of them.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: I... I have a story about this. Sydney wanted a wall at the house and—

Travis: Between you guys?

Justin: No, no, no, a retaining wall outside, for gardening purposes. And she wanted to... the way that happens is that me and Tommy go to the block store and buy hundreds and hundreds—

Travis: Blockbuster.

Justin: Of...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Blockbuster. [titters] Buy hundreds and hunderds of cinder blocks, and then build a wall. We've done it a couple of times now in a couple of our different houses. And I went to pick up the blocks in a truck, and what I understood about this truck was that it had 10,000 pounds of towing capacity.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: And so when I went to the store where they had the blocks, the gentlemen were like, "So... there's a huge pallet of blocks here. What should we do with them? How do you want to do this?" And I'm like, "Well, I did a little quick math, and my 10,000 pound towing capacity can handle this, no problem. So you get the forklift there, guys, you just lift the pallet up, pop it right down, in the truck bed." And they did. And it... fell a little low. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Was there some maybe miscalculations—

Justin: [yells out] So I started driving!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So I started driving.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: I started driving. And the thing is that you guys need to know about that I discovered between Lowe's and the bank on Route 60 near Target, is that towing capacity is different from hauling capacity.

Travis: *Yeah.*

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Hauling capacity has a downward force on the chassis of your vehicle.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So while I'm driving, I google, hey, I'm doing this, am I good? And the google says, no, no! [chuckles] "You are not good. You're about three times past good."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "You need to stop, now!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm surprised your car didn't develop sentience to start yelling.

Justin: It was like lea—it was like squatting. It was like squatting down! It was push—I could feel it. And man, it hated turning! Oofa-doofa!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Ah, man! So I—

Travis: Really playing with that object in motion...

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: So I barely dragged it into this bank, and I could see it bending. And I'm like, ah, fuck, I gotta—so I'm like—

Travis: See what bending?!

Justin: The truck! So I opened the back—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And I started taking blocks out one at a time! This is a mega—so this is a like half ton load! And I am unloading b... cinder block by cinder block—

Griffin: How are the bank people feeling about this?

Justin: It's a Sunday, I'm alone.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I'm alone in the bank parking lot, luckily. And I had to call Sydnee and I say, "I don't know what to do." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] "I bent the car. I bent the—"

Justin: I bent the car! No, I had to unload roughly 300 cinder blocks—

Griffin: Oh! Fuck, dude.

Justin: From this—from this thing—

Travis: When you called Sydnee and said, "I don't know what to do," did you think her doctor training was going to help here in some way?

Griffin: I don't know if anyone's really prepped for the exact situation you got yourself into.

Justin: Guys, once you have accepted you're the dumbest person alive—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Pretty much anybody is going to be helpful.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Do you know what I mean? Especially the smartest person I know. So multiple car trips later, I will tell you there were like 40 cinder blocks that I just couldn't. [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: That I just couldn't! And I hope the bank put 'em to good use. And I'm sorry. And that is how sometimes there might be a pile of cinder blocks around. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, the cinder block fairy comes and fucks up.

Justin: You never know! You never know. Good quality bricks. Free to a good home. [chuckles]

Travis: Maybe they're still there!

Justin: Maybe they're still there! Maybe they've been incorporated in the bank, maybe the land has reclaimed them.

Travis: It's the wildest geocache in history, folks. Go get yourself a cinder block from the bank on Route 60.

Griffin: Just a whole-ass cinder block. I don't know if 100 is enough for this, but there was a time where Rachel and I were living together in Austin, on 37th Street, and there wasn't much to do around there. And so, the one bar that was like within walking distance of our place was an establishment that was constructed out of cinder blocks, called Nasty's.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And so Nasty's was kind of our stomping grounds for—did we take you to Nasty's?

Travis: No, just if you are building a bar out of cinder blocks—

Griffin: Oh, then it must be called Nasty's, yeah.

Travis: Nasty's feels right.

Griffin: And there was some stuff that they did. I think it was thematic where they had like bras and panties like stapled to the ceiling, and they had the flattest beer I've ever drank. And one time—

Justin: That's a good stapler that can get into cinder block, I gotta say.

Griffin: Me and my friends went there once—oh, no, the ceiling was plywood or something, but the—my friends and I went once for an open mic comedy night, just to watch—

Justin: Was this a FEMA shelter perhaps, Griffin?! Is this a real—is this a real establishment? [chuckles]

Griffin: Possibly a repurposed FEMA shelter. We went for an open mic comedy night one time, and we sat down, and the vibe was really weird. And after about five people had gone up on stage and done their jokes, one of which was completely stolen from Carlos Mencia, and it was crazy that like I even clocked that, someone said, "You guys know you're the only ones here who are not performing. You're the ones we're delivering all of these jokes at and to." And we were like, whoa. That sucks—

Travis: So you got up and did a tight five?

Griffin: So we got up and did a tight leave. [chuckles] But Nasty's was... I mean, the construction costs on that place must have been quite low. You could make your own cool little bar. Your own little—

Travis: Nasty's 2!

Griffin: Nasty's 2, your own establishment.

Justin: Nastier than ever.

Travis: The problem is that with 100 blocks, right? I'm assuming you're doing this by hand. Maybe you have some kind of heavy duty hand truck.

But let's say you're doing it by hand. Even if you could pick up a cinder block in each hand—

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: You're looking at 50 trips.

Griffin: Sucks, dude.

Travis: And the chances that you will be clocked doing this, moving these blocks a not far distance...

Justin: There—there is a—there is a point, and I can vouch for this, at which the... the monetary value of something and its physical heft start to shi—start to shift places. You know what I mean? It was like... it was like back during the peak of COVID when they couldn't sell oil, they were just giving it away. It's like that, right? Eventually you're like, fuck blocks! I don't want 'em, there's too many. It's a problem now. They no longer have value, now it's just a chore.

Travis: And trust me, as someone who constantly has the impulse of seeing something and going, well, you're getting rid of that? I could use that. But not actually having a plan for it? What's going to happen, you're going to haul these 100 blocks to your backyard. Then you're going to try to think of a crafting thing to do with it. And you're not going to come up with one. And two weeks later, those blocks are going to be back in the alley. And now your neighbors are going to see that those blocks are now behind *your* backyard—

Griffin: They know you—

Travis: And they're going to be like, "They thought they could use those. Just like I thought—" And then you find out that these are the sisterhood of the traveling cinder blocks, and they've just been moving down the alley as people pick them up thinking, well, that's 100 cinder blocks, I could use those. And they've changed everyone's life to realize, I'm not creative, and I actually need to get rid of these blocks.

Griffin: Pizza oven!

Travis: Oh, shit. Good point. Okay.

Justin: Oh, that's good. Cinder oven pizza.

Griffin: Big pizza oven. A lot of people want to do bricks. Fuck that. Concrete for me, thanks.

Travis: Yeah, you could do some industrial pizzas in that thing.

Griffin: Industrial strength pizza crust on these bad boys.

Justin: Mm-hm. Real black at the bottom, real white at the t—[chuckles] real light, like doughy at the top.

Griffin: Chemical taste! Chemical taste on it.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Justin: Little gum. Little gum on there.

Travis: Do you think the first pizza oven backyard was made out of straw, and it burned up? And then the next one was made out of sticks, and that burned up. And then finally they did it out of bricks, and they were able to roast a whole pig?

Griffin: Yeah. Whoa.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Probably not... that.

Justin: "I'm dog sitting f—"

Griffin: How about another quest...

Justin: Can we move on? Yeah, I was abou—we both sensed it.

Griffin: It's a shame that I interrupted you there, because I think you said "dog shitting." And...

Justin: We'll never know.

Griffin: Damn.

Justin: I'm dog... I almost... [chuckles] "I'm dog sitting for my neighbor's parents, who I don't know very well. They went on about how excited they were to have someone responsible watching the dogs, as their last dog sitter had lost their spare keys immediately, and they had to call a locksmith. Well, it's the second day of dog sitting, and some movers they hired came in to take the old couch and put in a new one. Problem is, I realized after the moving guys had left, that my keys, which the spare keys were attached to, had been left in the old couch that was taken." Fuck! "How do I get in contact with the movers? I don't remember the moving company they used—to get my keys back without letting the people I'm dog sitting for know that I lost their spare keys? They're paying me really well, and I want them to hire me again." That's from Irresponsible in Iowa.

Travis: I also love, once again, that you're really worried about this, and not the fact that your own keys are lost.

Griffin: Your own keys are gone. Yeah. You need those.

Justin: That's a tomorrow problem. You gotta take these things one at a time. You can't eat a whole elephant.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You gotta slow down a little bit.

Travis: Well, that's what you do. You call the owners and you say, "Listen, before I say anything else, I've protected your key with my life. I've got it right here in a special chain around my neck. But my keys, I don't care about those guys, because they're not yours, they're not special like your key is. I did leave those in the couch."

Justin: I—you could maybe... bury the lead a little bit and just be like—they come home and be like, "I'm so sorry, there's been a terrible crime. I ha—I tried to stop them, but these mean men took your couch. [chuckles] And the—they stole your couch, and I guess they felt bad later, because they brought a different one... back. And I guess they—I asked for your old couch back, they said they didn't have it. But I'm so sorry I let them steal your couch. I was a victim here, and they beat the shit out of me." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, I threw—

Griffin: "They beat my ass up bad."

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "I threw my keys at them."

Justin: You gotta—you gotta steal that part."

Travis: "I threw my keys at them to try to dissuade them from stealing it, and they beat my ass so bad for it."

Griffin: "One of 'em ate the keys, and he got bigger from it."

Justin: "I did that thing they teach in self-defense class, where you put your keys between your fingers, but I put 'em in backwards the wrong way. [chuckles] And then when I hit the guy, the keys—"

Travis: "And then he laughed at me. And he did that thing that they always do in movies—"

Justin: "They brought a nice new couch, though."

Travis: Yeah! "They did that thing they always do in movies where they kick the person in the stomach when they're kind of posed on their side. Perfect position to be kicked in the stomach. And it's not as fun as it looks in the movies. I didn't like it."

Griffin: Not nearly as fun. Ca—I don't—you could call the locksmith too, right? But this—the locksmith can't make a new key for you, they can just get you in the door. What they can do, and this is a service that not a lot of people talk about, is they can change the lock. Now no one's got keys to the house. You're all on even playing field now. No one's got keys to this house.

Travis: Squatter's rights.

Griffin: We don't know—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] "We don't know how to get into your house. It seems like everyone fucked up equally here."

Justin: Yeah. You could fake that they've ever existed. [laughs] That's one option.

Travis: Ah! Yeah!

Justin: They come home, their key doesn't fit the lock. You don't know them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You don't recognize them.

Travis: You will have to train the dogs—

Justin: That seems like a big play.

Travis: You're gonna have to train the dogs to like you better. That's gonna be a whole thing, and teach the dogs to ignore the owners when they come back. [chuckles] It's gonna be a tough putt, but you can do it.

Griffin: Tough sell.

Justin: I would have attached the keys to the dog. That doesn't help you now, but just something to think about.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Because if you lose one...

Travis: Have the dog sniff out the couch!

Justin: Oh, Travis, that's good actually. Hold on. Now, hold on...

Griffin: You need a smell. You need a trace smell of the couch.

Justin: Yeah, we—I was thinking unless they—do you think they left a cushion? Or some sort of—but it's gonna have the house smell, right? You just be like, "Find house."

Griffin: Find house.

Justin: Just hold it up so it can smell the house. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It'll get it. And then be like, "Get the couch!" And then open the door and let their dog go—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Let it huff some of your jeans that you wore on the couch earlier in the week, assuming you haven't done laundry yet. The dog will be able to get a scent from that. Then what you do, no leash. That's important.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I know as a dog walker, it's encouraged, but you gotta let it ride. If it's gonna track down the stink for you, you gotta let it ride. And you pop off that leash and then you start running, because it's gonna start—

Travis: No, don't start running, you have the other dog to watch at home. Just tell that dog to come back with your keys when they find them.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: Tell that dog to find the first dog.

Travis: Well, I mean, if it comes to that, sure.

Griffin: That's a real Air Bud.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Getting me out of a sticky situation—

Travis: I think that's what happened in that movie with the two dogs and the cat—

Griffin: Homeward Bound?

Travis: Homeward Bound. Yeah, the cat got away. They sent one dog after the cat. And they're like, "Wait, that was the dumb dog—"

Griffin: It was a little old lady who swallowed the fly situation—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: For sure.

Travis: They should have sent a horse after the two dogs and the cat. The horse would have brought 'em back.

Justin: Do you guys think there's... I want to help. Do you think there is one... central couch dumping spot in town? Do you think that they've already taken it to the couch dump? Or do you think there's a way station in between? Like I cannot imagine this furniture store is in the business of like... tidying couches up and reselling them at a profit, right?

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, it depends—

Justin: They're probably taking it to the couch dump?

Griffin: Probably taking it right to the couch hole.

Travis: But then you just gotta ask some cool teens where they hang out and drink beers in secret, because I guarantee it's the couch dump.

Griffin: Yeah, the couch hole would be dope for drinking secret beers.

Travis: The couch hole would be so cool for drinking beers!

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: Go to the QuikTrip, stand outside with your ID out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And just a wad of cash. And it's like, when any teens walk by like, "Can I buy you some beer to show—" [chuckles]

Griffin: Show me where the couches are.

Justin: Can I buy you some beer to show me where the couch dump is?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That could work.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't see any problem with that plan.

Justin: That's actually good, because they will—once they're there, you could be like, "I could—actually, I would love some help." [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Getting this—

Griffin: "There's a lot of couches here, I forget which—"

Justin: "There's a lot of couches here. If everybody could just dig through the couches, that—I guess you guys are probably doing that anyway. That's how you spend your Fridays." [chuckles]

Griffin: If you're kicking it at the couch hole, you're looking for change basically around the clock.

Justin: Do you think the teens that run the couch dump are checking cushions for keys though, as soon as couches come in?

Travis: Now, Justin, the word you used there was "run" the couch dump.

Justin: Rule is what I meant to say. Rule.

Travis: Okay. Okay. Okay. I was trying to figure out what the business model—

Justin: Teens that rule the couch dump like in Lord of the Flies.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: They used to have parents, now they have trash.

Travis: You walk up and you see a bunch of keys on tall, sharpened sticks. To send a message like, "No grownups welcome in here. This is what happens to you."

Justin: Only Boomers have keys.

Travis: Oh my god—

Griffin: I think—

Travis: That's so true.

Griffin: I think... is it time for the retractable lanyard to make a sort of like, not comeback, but just sort of like—

Travis: Well, a snapback.

Griffin: A snapback, like a proliferation where now anyone other than, you know, maybe janitors or sanitation workers, custodial staff. I love that look of a, *zip*—[clicks tongue] *zhew*. And you let it go. *Fshew*. You let it go and it—*psheew*—right to your head.

Travis: Hits you right in the nuts? [chuckles]

Griffin: Hits you right in the tip of your dick. [chuckles]

Justin: We're all torn, aren't we? I mean, I think—I think anybody who's ever seen that, or at least I should speak for myself, I'm always right on the line. I mean, I see it and I'm like, god, that would be cool.

Griffin: That would be cool.

Justin: Not just cool, but convenient and easy. I don't know what even... you know what I mean? Like I don't need something in my hands all the time, I just like... I love the eye—maybe like a pocketknife? *Dwah!*

Griffin: Yeah. And then it—

Justin: Just like zips back.

Travis: Zips right back!

Justin: Zips right back.

Travis: You gotta remember the second half of the equation. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, the zip back is important, actually. There's not a lot of stuff I want truckin' towards my stuff. [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] Fair enough.

Griffin: I mean, phone? Like I don't know, I feel like we... we really blew it with the like phone holster, and it became—like even before we were out of like the 20th century people were like, "That's dork shit!" And now—

Justin: If we had normalized it, and it—we wouldn't have a gun problem in this nation, and I believe that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If we just all had, if we were packin'—

Travis: [crosstalk]

Justin: Yeah, if we were like all packing a phone, we wouldn't need it anymore. This would have been, you know, we would ha—we would have like the confidence of something being holstered.

Travis: Is this—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Guys—

Justin: Very American.

Travis: We have to be very careful here, because we are all—Griffin's almost in his 40s. We're all dads of an age, talking as though we've just realized phone holsters are a great idea and cool, and maybe we misjudge them, as though we're young people making this realization. But in fact, we are—

Justin: Just aged into—

Travis: The target audience, yeah.

Justin: Right, right.

Griffin: For the phone holster.

Justin: We just aged into the demo of the phone holster.

Griffin: I guess I'm just mad. I'm mad at those fucking nerds from the late '90s with their flip phones—

Justin: For making it uncool. Bec—yeah, because—

Griffin: For making it not cool.

Justin: To your point, Travis, I do think it would be useful to have a phone holster, but I'm too cool and sexy to have a phone holster. I can't do it, even though it would be very useful in my day to day, and it appeals to me, I can't do it.

Travis: Phone ankle holster. Like your backup weapon, like they always have like their service weapon.

Griffin: Yeah, that's what I want to do! Every time I want to collect my eggs in the idle game I'm playing, I want to do a full fuckin'... full bend over. A full reach down.

Justin: I want it to look like—I want it to look, at a glance, like I should be at home with my ankle monitor. [chuckles] I want it to be indistinguishable.

Travis: Maybe like a back holster, like it was a shotgun in Evil Dead?

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: A big, long phone. [chuckles] You're going to need a long phone for it to work.

Griffin: I don't know, that's going to get like—I think it's crazy when people are like, "Don't use cell phones because it shoots all the radiation in your brain." I'm like, that's ridiculous. But if I did keep it right there, Trav?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know, it seems like I'm flirting with disaster. Like I don't necessarily adhere to that, but like, I don't know I want to keep it right next to the base of my skull.

Travis: I was going to say like one of those shoulder kind of ones, like mobsters have in movies.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But that feels like it's going to lead to a lot of—

Griffin: That's more of a rib, yeah. I mean, you don't want that. You don't want that. You want people to be safe out there, obviously.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You know what I was always jealous of? Because I knew I could never pull it off. When the people would jog with like their iPods and phones and stuff on their arms.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: In those straps. And I'm like, I know I don't look aerobic enough to justify that.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: But when you see someone jogging along and they have it like on their bicep, and they're doing it? You know, their like cool over-ear head—*ah*.

Griffin: Man, I did a—I had a brief flirtation with Couch to 5K, back when I lived in Austin. And at the—

Travis: How far did you make it?

Griffin: At that ti—fuckin'... half a K, 0.5k.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: I had a—I had like one of those iPhone XL's at that point. And keeping that attached to your arm and running with it? There's no amount of tightness you can do that doesn't cut off circulation and also doesn't make the phone flop around all crazy with every single step. That was a rough—

Travis: That—

Griffin: That was a rough time for me.

Travis: Oh my god, call the owners and say, "Hey, I've been working on a Couch to 5k, and now that this new couch is here, it's not the same."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I'm not feeling the same motivation as when I was couching on your couch to 5k."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "Can you tell me who those movers are, so I can see if I can start my 5k from where that couch is?"

Griffin: Yeah. Can you just say, "I need the name of that moving company because I like the way they move it." And then you can keep it—I was— "I'm thinking about hauling a little personal cargo, and I could use some help, and I like the way they move it."

Justin: Maybe you call and you're like, "Hey, I'm here with somebody who says that they are supposed to take your couch, but that doesn't sound

right. Did you hire a moving company? If so, what name and phone number would you have used to do that?" [chuckles] Because that's how you probably should have done... initially.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, you should have confirmed. If you were going to be there, you should have confirmed who the people—the strangers who were going to come into the house.

Travis: Did they bring a new couch with? Or did they maybe take the old couch and say they'd be bringing in the new couch later and it's still not there?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because you might've gotten robbed. [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah, that's a classic. That's a classic house sitter mix-'em-up right there.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: That's tough! That's tough. You can't shake that rep. I think one of the main things is, don't let people take our couch. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Under false pretenses. And not with your—our house keys inside. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh my god, if they find out? *Ooh*.

Griffin: If you take one thing away—if you take one thing away from our answer to your advice question, it's don't lose your keys, guys.

Travis: Don't lose your keys.

Justin: I'm—I'm surpri—if it was my house they'd just be like, "Fuck! There's so many popsicle sticks! I can't even believe it! How did you get so many popsicle sticks in this couch?!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "It's under it and around it? They're all stuck to it? How—why'd you do this?" Can we take a quick trip to the Money Zone?

Griffin: I'd love to—

Travis: Insist.

Griffin: Thank you.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hey, I've been using Quince.

Travis: You have?

Griffin: *Quince*! I've been using Quince. When I came into this summer, my wardrobe, I realized, was in dire, dire need of a—

Travis: Yeah, it was so bad.

Justin: *Uagh*.

Travis: It was so jacked. The worst. Just absolute garbo.

Griffin: Okay. So I realized, I guess, when the summer started, that a lot of my stuff didn't fit or look good anymore—

Travis: Ugly, man. Made him look like a kid wearing his dad's suit, yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Travis, don't say ugly! He can hear you.

Travis: Oh, shit.

Griffin: Did you say the clothes were ugly, or they made me look ugly?

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You're not an ugly person.

Travis: No, the clothes didn't—they didn't highlight your natural contours and beauty.

Griffin: Okay. Well—

Travis: I love your lines. You know that.

Griffin: You are always talking about the shape I cut, and I do appreciate that.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Quince is a much better steward of my shape and my lines and my curves, my bodacious body. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: I don't mean to say that word that way, but it's just how it came out. Quince—

Travis: You've been looking a lot more bodacious lately.

Griffin: Thank you, it's because of Quince. I used them to basically update my summer wardrobe. I got some really comfy tees, I got some—you know what I got a lot of, was some like lightweight linen short sleeve button-ups.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Griffin: I had zero of those that fit me, and I love all the stuff they've sent

over. And now my wardrobe is ready. And guess what? Fall's just around the corner. So if you need longer stuff, Quince can help you get there too. They can help you pad out your stuff with just like staple stuff, just stuff you're gonna wear all the time. And it's all priced 50 to 80% less than similar brands, because they work directly with ethical factories and cut out the middlemen.

If you're gonna get yourself just a new—a new look, a new lineup, a refresh, I can't recommend Quince enough. The prices are great and it all fits great and looks really good too. Upgrade your everyday, download the Quince app for app exclusive offers, or go to quince.com/mybrother, get free shipping on your order, and 365 day returns. Now available in Canada and the UK too. That's quince.com/mybrother.

Travis: Don't be like Griffin, get better clothes.

Griffin: I did do it.

Travis: Oh, right.

Griffin: So be like Griffin—

Justin: [spoofs taking off sounds]

Griffin: You all right, Juice?

Justin: I just blasted off. Hey, guys, I'm calling from space. I just blasted off. I'm in a rocket ship to debtor's prison. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh no!

Justin: In space. Yeah, I'm going to the really bad debtor's prison in space. I just never figured out a way to get control of my money.

Travis: They're gonna make you mine like Mars or something to make it habitable?

Justin: Yeah, I gotta mine the atmosphere of Mars with an oxygen laser. And I'm gonna do that for 100,000 years, but they have chemicals that are gonna keep me alive. [chuckles] God! I wish I figured out a way to get my money right.

Travis: Oh, Justin, I wish you had told me sooner, because I would have told you to use Rocket Money. Ironically.

Justin: Uh-huh.

Travis: No.

Justin: [chuckles] Uh-huh. Yeah, right.

Travis: No, Rocket Money's real!

Griffin: [laughs] That's really funny, Travis.

Justin: I get it. I get it, Justin's being blasted to space debtor's prison and rocket money. Yeah, ha-ha.

Travis: No, I can see—

Griffin: That's very—

Travis: I can see the irony, but it's a real thing that would have saved you from a 100,000 year—

Justin: I can see—I can see Ironton from here actually. [chuckles]

Travis: So you're not that far! Ask 'em to turn around!

Justin: Okay. You know what? I'll parachute out. Can you tell me about Rocket Money?

Travis: Okay, so Rocket Money, I use Rocket Money in my everyday life—

Griffin: I'm sorry, no, I must interrupt. I don't think you can parachute out of a rocket. I'm pretty sure there's a flame situation happening—

Travis: It wasn't that far up, he could still see Ironton.

Griffin: No, I know, but there's still the enormous plume of white-hot flame—

Travis: He jumped out?

Justin: Griffin, tell me you're a SpaceX investor without telling me you're a SpaceX investor. [chuckles] All right, rocket boy, we gotcha.

Griffin: All right.

Travis: If you've made some bad investments like Griffin has, then Rocket Money is...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I actually invested in space sex. Just the idea of it.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] I'm sorry, I misspoke.

Travis: Yeah. Everything he had— He liquidated all of his assets—

Griffin: Into the idea—

Travis: To invest in space sex!

Griffin: Into the idea of zero G porkin'.

Travis: Zero G spot, they called it. It was terrible.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: So, Rocket Money I use on a regular basis to keep track of not only my spending, but it will categorize like the spending you do, so it's a lot easier to go through later and see like what your habits are, where you can cut back. And it will reveal your spending patterns, let you know like, hey, you spend this much on this kind of thing, is that really what you're comfortable doing? And you get reports in it, real time alerts for large transactions. And sometimes like deposits. I'll get the deposits to let me know like, hey, you have a little more money available. And it's really nice to help with scheduling stuff and planning stuff, and I cannot recommend it enough. So Rocket Money is a—

Justin: [spoofs impact sounds]

Griffin: You all right? Was that the sound of you landing, dude?

Travis: How are your bones?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: So, Rocket Money is a personal finance app that helps find and cancel unwanted subscriptions. It monitors your spending and helps lower your bills so you can grow your savings. Let Rocket Money help you reach your financial goals faster. Join at rocketmoney.com/mybrother. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother. [Rocketmoney.com/mybrother](https://rocketmoney.com/mybrother).

[break]

J.Keith: Say, what's the trivia show where dreams come true?

Helen: It's got to be Go Fact Yourself!

[applause]

J.Keith [live]: Legend in the house!

J.Keith: We quiz celebrity contestants about topics they love!

Helen: Then bring out surprise experts!

J.Keith: To delight and amaze.

J.Keith [live]: And then finally, tell us why you know and love the lyrics to the song "Knockin' Boots" by Candyman.

Helen [live]: Joining us tonight is a rapper and producer, it's Candyman!

[applause]

Guest 1: Oh, Candyman!

Guest 2: This is among the greatest moments of my life.

[audience laughs and cheers]

Guest 3: This is one of mine too. I love it.

Helen: That's Go Fact Yourself!

J.Keith: Twice a month, every month.

Helen: Here on Maximum Fun!

[break]

Dave: International Waters is back, baby! Do you like fun, silly conversations? Do you like fun, silly games? We got 'em both! And it's on International Waters. I am the host, Dave Holmes! This is a panel show that pits American and British comics against each other in a lively and hilarious competition. What is Gentleman's Relish? Who is Bagpuss?

Why is the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile so emotionally resonant? And why does an American cheese have its own anthem? Get the answers, and be left with numerous questions about that, and so much more nonsense, and/or codswallop. Twice a month, here on International Waters! You can catch

International Waters on maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[break]

Justin: [sings the Munch Squad intro riff]

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Oh yeah.

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

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

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

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in *brand eating*!

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Today we're going back to a local favorite, by which I mean... it's opened three times in Huntington and keeps closing. It's Buffalo Wild Wings.

Travis: Ah, yeah!

Griffin: I didn't know that we had added a third—a third sort of cycle.

Justin: So here's what happened, Ditto. You remember the one down at the place that—on Fourth, where Travis ate the really spicy wings?

Griffin: Yeah. I remember that.

Justin: And almost died.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So then they opened one—

Travis: My toes and hands went numb.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They opened the one at the mall, and that was a big like full B-Dubs. And eve—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And they couldn't keep it open. Which, god help you if you can't keep a B-Dubs open at the Huntington Mall, you are officially bad at business.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah dude.

Justin: I'll just go ahead and say it. You fucked up. But now there's a BW3's to go, so you can't get the luxury of sitting in there, but you can get them sent to you via delivery.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: More on that later. Buffalo Wild Wings debuts first ever poppin' ranch, a savory ranch poppin' candy.

Griffin: Finally. Oh, god.

Justin: That brings the crunch and the crackle to wings.

Travis: What?

Griffin: Dude, this feels like the most like, let's get on munch squa—like, "It's been a while since we've been on Munch Squad. We need something." And then they came up with poppin' savory ranch candy.

Justin: "The brand reimagines ranch in a playful multi-sensory way, launching July 20th, ahead of National Chicken Wing Day on July 29th." Sorry, I too have missed it.

Travis: This also, poppin' ranch sounds like a euphemism for boner, that like a college friend is trying to get going.

Justin: Dude! I'm—and I was poppin'—

Travis: I'm gonna be here poppin' ranch—

Griffin: I mean, it sounds like a—

Travis: [yells out] No!

Griffin: It sounds like a crude reference to ejaculate, I think, in my opinion. That's what I was poppin'—

Travis: That's fair.

Griffin: Poppin' mad ranch last Saturday night.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: It was uncontrollable! I was really concerned!

Griffin: It was uncontrollable.

Justin: I was poppin' so much ranch, I flunked out of college.

Travis: [chuckles] Oh no!

Justin: Ah, no. "Buffalo Wild Wings is turning up the flavor with the launch of its newest menu innovation, Poppin' Ranch! Launching July 20th at

participating Buffalo Wild Wings sports bars and Buffalo Wild Wings Go locations nationwide." That's what I got. "Poppin' Ranch reinvents the iconic flavor fans already love by transforming it into a playful multi-sensory experience that quite literally pops."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: "Whether sprinkled directly onto wings, mixed into ranch, or added to a favorite Buffalo Wild Wings menu item, Poppin' Ranch offers a bright burst of savory ranch flavor, followed by an audible pop and a crackle that brings even more excitement to every order."

Travis: I'm so glad that one of those options wasn't poured directly on tongue. Like I thought—

Griffin: Yeah! It doesn't seem to suggest a direct application, which I appreciate.

Justin: You know... but they know, right? I think I—can I actually think that they don't say it, because it won't give people the same sick thrill when they do it if it's like permissible.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Like they want to know that they've stepped outside the lines.

Travis: Oh, I'm looking at the package here. There's actually a surgeon general's warning at the bottom that it should not be consumed directly on tongue.

Justin: Yeah, sergeant general's warning, go to a different restaurant. "B-Dubs has done something that has never been done before with Poppin' Ranch!" Says Tristan Meline, the brand president of Buffalo Wild Wings. Which sounds like—

Travis: Is he clutching a cigar? Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, why is he—

Justin: It's evil genius.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: He's the evil genius in this one. But he's listed as the brand president of Buffalo Wild Wings, which makes it sound like fake—like an honorary president. Like you would let a dog be mayor, you know what I mean? [chuckles] Like—

Griffin: Right!

Justin: Yeah, he's the "president" of Buffalo Wild Wings. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: He's the president of the brand of buffalo wa—

Justin: He's a little—we got a little badge for him and everything. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah! "I get to wear a sash!" [chuckles]

Justin: "B-Dubs has done something that's never been done before with Poppin' Ranch. It takes that classic poppin' candy you remember and pairs it with our signature ranch flavor—"

Travis: And ruins it.

Griffin: "Ruins both in the process!"

Justin: "It's an unexpected sensory experience that sounds wild, tastes delicious, and has to be experienced to believe."

Travis: You know what else is an unexpected sensory experience? Getting slapped out of nowhere.

Griffin: Getting slapped by a stranger.

Travis: Yeah. Like if somebody just were to suddenly slap me I'd be like, that was an unexpected sensory experience. Not something I would pay someone at BW3's to do to me.

Justin: If I was walking out of a funeral and somebody dumped a big bucket of dead sardines on my head, that would be a very unexpected sensory experience.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: I alls—I also find ranch to be a pretty aggressive flavor anyway, and also pop candy, pop rocks are sort of an aggressive sort of texture. No matter what, if I'm eating either one of those, I'm hanging on for dear life. The idea of combining both of those... it just seems like too much, man.

Travis: I found that whole paragraph adorably sweet for some reason, Griffin, that the flavor of ranch and popping candy might be too much for you to handle.

Griffin: One time at church camp I eated so many Warheads that I burnt my tongue real bad. And then I ate some ranch flavored Pringles that mom had packed for me in my suitcase, and it hurt so bad to eat it because I had fucked up my tongue so bad eating all the Warhead candy.

Travis: Are you okay?

Griffin: This was a long time ago, I'm fine now—

Travis: No, I know, but I assume it's had lasting effects.

Griffin: I make good choices now! I don't eat the Poppin' Ranch. This has no appeal—does—is there any part of you that's even... I have 0%, not even morbid curiosity about what eating the Poppin' Ranch would be like. This is—this is completely lost on me.

Justin: I mean, I don't—I'm not a big ranch guy, it's just so aggressive. I mean I've tried before, but it's like *whoa*! Knock me over. It's like a very bold flavor.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I would not source it. I would not source this, but if I was somewhere—

Griffin: If you had some in front of you I guess is the question. If you're at a party and your friends are like, "Hey, we're poppin' ranch—"

Travis: Oh, I'd try it.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Not because I think it'd be good though, let me be clear.

Griffin: Just for the story, for the Vine, I get it.

Travis: For the experience.

Griffin: I don't even want it for the Vine, man.

Justin: So this is—there's—there's two other images I just wanted to share with you guys—

Travis: This is—yeah.

Justin: Here's them sprinkling the Poppin' Ranch like on to a meal, to illustrate like that you could do that, that's no problem—

Travis: But the meal is so wet? Doesn't that—

Griffin: The meal's already really wet.

Travis: Doesn't that ruin the pop part of it?

Griffin: Maybe. You don't want the pop to happen in the mouth, though. You really don't.

Justin: Now then the—this is the last image. Here we go, here's the last one. Here's the last image. It's now just a huge pile of Poppin' Ranch on one wing. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's a snow bank of savory pop candy, sitting mostly on one wing it seems—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: On one wing, they've chosen one to really—well, Griffin, why? Well, because it's available for just 99 cents per packet. Poppin' Ranch gives guests an easy way to customize their order. Whether they're leveling up wings, sides, or anything in between. Because when it comes to flavor—

Travis: A kiss with a lover?

Griffin: A kiss.

Justin: Because when it comes to flavor, there are no rules.

Travis: There should be.

Griffin: That's so not true, man! There's lots of rules for flavor.

Travis: I'm pretty sure there are!

Justin: Name one flavor rule, Griffin.

Griffin: I mean, you can't—you can't...

Travis: Toothpaste and orange juice.

Griffin: That's not really a rule. Like—

Travis: They're bad, don't put 'em together.

Griffin: Is there a law that could be applied to... I mean, you don't want to hurt—you don't want to burn people—

Travis: No?

Griffin: Not just like super spicy, but like dangerous—

Justin: Don't serve it so hot that they burn their tongue?

Griffin: That's not really even a flavor thing though, right?

Justin: [crosstalk]

Griffin: No... Yeah, I guess—

Justin: The—

Griffin: There are no la—there—you're right. There's no rules for flavor. There should be.

Travis: I think the only rule is that when you eat something that's umami and someone says it's umami, you have to say "*ooh, mommy*" afterwards.

Griffin: That is—that's actually—

Travis: Right? Or it doesn't count.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think wings are supposed to be kind of crispy. So to me, if you're like... It's like, it feels like artificially juicing the crispiness of it. It feels like an admission that you don't know how to get 'em crispy.

Travis: So wait Justin—

Justin: You don't know how to make 'em crispy!

Travis: You don't think that BW3's is delivering an authentic Buffalo Wings experience?

Justin: I think that BW3's has opened three times, and keeps getting closed, and I'm not making 'em close, so somebody is.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: You tell me.

Griffin: Can I say it's—maybe it's because of fucking shenanigans like this? Maybe if we talk about—

Justin: Oh.

Griffin: An investment in the core product? If we talked about—

Travis: Yes! A belief, yeah.

Griffin: Where's the—where's the weck? Is what I'm asking.

Travis: [yells out] Where's the weck?!

Justin: Where is the weck?

Griffin: Bring the weck back instead of doing these fucking memes.

Justin: I can now tell you guys about my experience, because I saw this story yesterday and I thought I'm gonna do right by my brothers, I'm gonna tr—I'm gonna get some of this stuff.

Griffin: Oh, great.

Justin: So I ordered—I ordered from BW3's last night, BW3's Go. And I waited a good half hour, and then I got an update that my... Around the World dipper Sampler had been canceled.

Travis: No!

Justin: And I think it's because they no longer have—

Griffin: Sucks, dude.

Justin: The delicious peri-peri sauce, or the delightful avocado sauce. So many of the sauces from the—from the Round the World Sampler were canceled, and I was heartbroken. And I was, I mean, I was trying to recover. And then 20 minutes went by, and the entirety of my order was canceled. [chuckles]

Travis: Wait.

Griffin: Huh.

Travis: What changed in that 20 minutes?

Justin: What changed in that 20 minutes? That's question one. That's a very good question that I would like to begin with. First of all, they didn't have that sampler. That's fine. Okay. It was seven o'clock at night. I don't understand... BW3's just said like, no. [chuckles]

Griffin: No.

Justin: "I'm not going to do it."

Griffin: No dinner.

Justin: Like I... I ref—[chuckles] "I refuse to give him dinner. No dinner." They are open still. They were open last night, they're still open today. They just decided that I couldn't have it, they—I couldn't have dinner. And I called the service that I used to have the meal delivered to me, that may or may not have been a sponsor of this show at one point, and I said, "What about the dinner?" And they said, "Well, we've already put \$5 in your account." Like I said, "But why won't they bring me the dinner?!" [chuckles]

Griffin: Right. "What did I do wrong?"

Justin: And unfortunately they said they can't—they can't contact BW3's, so I don't know, I guess it's just a mystery for the ages.

Griffin: Mystery forever.

Justin: I think they were so embarrassed about not having this special crispy powder that they didn't even want to bring the order. That's—they were humiliated-

Travis: They knew! They knew that was the only thing you wanted, and they didn't have it.

Griffin: I mean Justin, is it possible that they knew you were gonna dump on it here on our huge, hip podcast?

Travis: Oh, they recognize your name.

Griffin: I'd say you're definitely in a database somewhere.

Justin: I would have made my kids try and tell you what they thought, I would have tried a ranch thing myself.

Griffin: It's an aggressive flavor, I think you and I can both agree on that.

Justin: It's an aggressive flavor.

Travis: It's literally a flavor you put on stuff to make that flavor less aggressive.

Griffin: The cream does most of that work, Travis! The ranch flavor is aggressive.

Travis: Boys! I'm just saying between this and your full-throated endorsement of cellphone holsters, you're not doing yourselves a lot of flavor ti—to—favors talk about how ranch is a little too strong for you!

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, I don't know man, I... it's just I'm trying to be authentic.

Justin: Yeah, it's just too much.

Griffin: I can try to be... younger, if you want, like cooler. I know that that's sort of like been sort of my trademark—

Justin: I do miss that energy, Griff. I think that was kind of a nice balance, when like I was kind of the older one and you were kind of like the wild one.

Travis: What was I?!

Justin: The wild child that couldn't be contained.

Travis: What was I?

Justin: What?

Travis: What was I?

Justin: Steady hand at the rudder.

Griffin: The witness.

Travis: Thank you. What, the witness? [chuckles]

Griffin: The observer. [chuckles]

Justin: Mutineer. The mutineer.

[group laugh]

Griffin: The surrogate. [laughs]

Justin: You hold the key!

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: You hold the key to it all! [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs] It depends on which—who I side with!

Griffin: Travis, I didn't realize—

Justin: And you, my friend, are the tower! [chuckles]

Griffin: I said that purely as a joke, not realizing that it was the meanest imaginable thing that I can say. Like—

Travis: The witness? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, we're over here doing bits, and you're just kind of watching—

Travis: No, it made me feel like it's my job to tell the tale when it's all over! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: One of us must survive.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "What are my responsibilities at a play or musical as an audience member? I recently went to my kids' theater camp performance and was seated close enough that every cast member could and did see me from stage. How expressive and encouraging can I be before it gets manic and distracting to the performers? Also, where do I draw the line between I'm a parent cheering for my kid versus I'm an audience member watching hard-working actors?" That's from Audience Anxiety in Colorado. "PS, one of my shoulders was in the spotlight, which meant every movement cast a shadow on the stay—on part of the stage."

Griffin: That's a level of involvement that I'm sorry that happened to you.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That shouldn't happen.

Justin: That shouldn't have happened.

Griffin: That shouldn't happen. We should elevate these spotlights, or else they're not—

Travis: There should not be a spotlight on the audience at all? The bottom of the spotlight should be on the performers' feet.

Griffin: Yeah. I just feel bad, I'm sorry, this is—don't think that all theater experiences are gonna be like that. It sounds like this one was maybe a little... I don't—amateurish.

Travis: Mm-hm. Oh, this kid's—the school children's play?

Griffin: The kids' theater camp performance. It sounds a little amateurish, if I'm being honest. From a technical perspective, at least.

Travis: A gentle thumbs up and nod, like Fred Savage and that one wizard meme?

Griffin: I mean—

Justin: I think that's—I think that's centering yourself in a way that's a little distracting. [chuckles]

Travis: You know, when a kid really nails like Suddenly Seymour or whatever, and you're just like...

Griffin: You gotta have—do you guys have like a... Do you guys have like an audible sort of showy, appreciative response to performance that you can bust out in this situation? Do you have a—

Travis: For comedy?

Griffin: No, this is—

Justin: What do you mean? Like for like and then applause?

Griffin: For like a kids' theater show, and like someone gets up and they do their solo, and you wanna bust out like a, [yells out] "Yeah!" Like a—

Travis: Yeah! I do the yeah. The brief like, "Yeah! Yeah!"

Griffin: Just like, "*Woo!*" Just one woo.

Justin: I do a woo. And somet—every time I woo, every time I woo, I'm—the moment after I'm like, who was that?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Where did that come from? You are not a wooing guy. You don't woo n your day-to-day life. But for some reason, I see Shrek up there singing? *Woo!*

Griffin: Yeah. This is what I liked about church and church camp in general, is like there was no limit. You could fuckin' *aah!* You could fuckin' go absolute beast mode and you were like in good company, and it was—

Travis: Literally—

Griffin: *Yeah!*

Travis: Yell hallelujah. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, dude! You could—there was no upper limit on it. The rules—

Justin: What church did you guys go to? Because that is not true for Highland Baptist Church where we all went.

Travis: No like in summer camp—

Justin: You were maybe thinking of like a pentecostal—

Griffin: I'm talking about centrifuge, dude, I'm talking about church camp in general, where you are—

Justin: Yeah, that was an experience. Because you would go to church camp with kids that went to churches that were a lot more performative.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So like us sort of like buttoned down Southern Baptist kids, we're a little bit more like restrained. And then you'd see some kids who were fully up in tongues and it's like—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: Whew! All right.

Travis: Occasionally laying hands! You know? And you're like, ooh, I don't know about this.

Griffin: Whoa, cool. You gotta have a go-to, and you gotta distribute it evenly. I don't know... I don't know if I'm reading other parents for this in performance situations. I'm pretty dialed in I think on my own sort of kids experience. But you gotta make sure to spread it around and not just woo for your kid. You gotta—would it kill you to sort of boost everyone's ego? Because maybe someone there doesn't have a supportive parent in the room. And you could Be that supportive parent. Doesn't that sound nice? Wouldn't you like to be that person—

Travis: You should just assume everyone needs the 'yeah,' everyone needs the 'woo.' You know?! If we could do it on some sort of cue like they use to do applause signs, where just like a simultaneous "woo" from the audience.

Griffin: Yeah. That'd be cool. You would hand it out in a program ahead of time, and like their woos would be in like bold type face—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And they know here it comes.

Justin: I have a trick because I have had to—I've watched a lot of children's theater. And it's... you know, of varying levels of quality. And community theater, I think the same thing. A trick that I use—

Travis: All theater!

Justin: Sometimes... All theater—

Griffin: All theater—

Justin: Is a little boring.

Griffin: Even professional, sometimes it stinks.

Justin: A trick that I use is, rather than get swept up in the show, flip your brain so that you're seeing everything literally for what is happening in front of you. And it adds a level of absurdity to the experience that you will be delighted by. If you stop seeing like a bad Shrek and start s—this is a—I saw a very good Shrek recently, so I don't want anybody to think I saw a bad Shrek. I saw a fine Shrek. But if you see a bad Shrek—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Then you can stop watching the show and start realizing like, oh my god, that is an 11-year-old barely dressed as Shrek. What is my life?
[chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And if you can get yourself in that headspace, the whole thing takes on a real—a real fantastic vibe. Because then you're seeing, wow, somebody had to paint that whole dragon. Unbelievable!

Travis: Especially fun if you go to like a high school and you're watching like a 15-year-old do like a Willie Loman Death of a Salesman thing.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Enjoy the ride!

Justin: Yeah, you're right. This kid's a teenager. He doesn't know—he's not scared to die! Hey!

Travis: How fun.

Griffin: Hey!

Travis: Have fun with it!

Justin: Michael Beck texted me a new story he read about a group in Virginia that had a production of Rocky Horror Show that was canceled by a bomb threat. And when they—this was just last week. And when they traced the bomb threat to the caller, it was the director of the show who didn't want to deal with the actors anymore! [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And the crew! [chuckles] "I can't do it. I'm not gonna go back in. I'm gonna get this entire show canceled due to a bomb threat."

Griffin: Sometimes—

Justin: That's not—that's not...

Griffin: It's a sacrifice the island requires sometime, man.

Justin: Sometimes... sometimes that's what it takes.

Travis: Was the show a hit or did it bomb?

Justin: It... I don't think it went on, Trav.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: I mean, I'd like to believe that they started several hours later—

Griffin: And I think you knew that.

Travis: But the show must—

Griffin: And I think I knew that when you asked the quality of the show that was canceled.

Travis: The show must go on.

Justin: That's actually working outdoors, you'll find that's frequently not true.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: If there's lightning, Kevin says stop and—

Travis: [chuckles] Okay!

Justin: You gotta stop! [chuckles] Yeah, the show actually stops at that point.

Travis: Okay, yeah!

Griffin: All the world's a stage? I don't think—

Travis: Nope.

Griffin: So... I don't think my Kia is a stage. I think when I'm in there, it's... I'm private—

Justin: Try do—try doing Equus at Sam's Club.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They won't let you get past the intermission.

Justin: That's for sure. [chuckles] Hey, thank you so much for listening to this podcast called My Brother, My Brother and Me. This is our 826th episode of this program.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's perverse, man.

Justin: That's so many. That's awesome.

Travis: It's a big milestone.

Justin: What a pi—what a work. You know?

Travis: What a piece of work is man?

Justin: What a testament.

Griffin: Yeah! Hey, we got some new merch up in the merch store, that you can go check out. We got the—the new Sawbones logo? Yeah, we got a sticker that.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: The new Shmanners logo? Yeah, we got a pin of that. McElroy Family Clubhouse? Yeah, we got a pin of that as well. We got all kinds of pins and stickers, and all kinds of cool stuff over at mcelroymerch.com. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will also be donated to Native Women Lead, so go check that all out. If you are a TAZ listener, we just wrapped up TAZ Royale, our sort of battle royale season—

Justin: [sings in a high-pitched voice] Just wrapped up TAZ Royale, yeah.

Griffin: [chuckles] That was cool, man.

Justin: Thanks.

Griffin: You can email us at adventurezonecast@gmail.com if you want— have a question about the season, for our TTAZZ episode that we like to do. Just send that in with "TTAZZ Royale" in the subject line, and we'll know to go and answer that.

Travis: I got this fidget gear thing.

Griffin: I mean, we got the book also. Adventurezonecomic.com—

Travis: Oh, I'm not selling the fidget! I was talking about for throwing it. To be clear.

Griffin: No, I know, but we just have other stuff to plug—

Travis: This is my fidget! I'm not selling it.

Griffin: Yeah. Buy our book, it's so good, TAZ: Story and Song. You can find it in bookstores or at theadventurezonecomic.com. And also, we're doing a Besties live show in October. October 9th, at the Town Hall in New York City. I just realized I've been saying October 8th on everything, so, fuck.

Travis: Oh no!

Griffin: But you can get tickets over at bit.ly/bestiesonbroadway.

Travis: And thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You."

Griffin: Yeah. Thank you for that. You got a fidget?

[thud]

Griffin: Yeah, dude—

Justin: Fuck! That was actually cool!

Griffin: Did you hit the microphone, dude?

Travis: I might have.

Griffin: That's cool, dude.

Justin: That was cool! That was cool, actually.

Travis: It felt like I was fuckin' Beyblading the chair! It was incredible!

Griffin: That was awesome.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy. That was cool.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: [mumbles]

Travis: Yup!

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

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

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