

MBMBaM 829: Content Basement

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

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

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

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

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

Justin: I will ask the question that has united children and their fathers all across this country.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Are you watching Lanterns?

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, Dad—

Travis: Not hopefully not—

Justin: Hey, Dad!

Griffin: This is my—this is mine to our dad, so you guys can't use this one.

Justin: I used it at—

Griffin: Hey, Dad, watching Lanterns?

Justin: I used it at dinner last night. I said, "Dad, you watching Lanterns?"

Travis: Now, hopefully, Justin, when you say children and their fathers, you don't mean like child children. You just mean offsprings.

Justin: I just mean like if you need something to talk to your dad about, and you've already talked about Reacher, you could just ask about Lanterns. Just be like, "You watching Lanterns?"

Travis: If Bebe came to me and said, "Dad, are you watching Lanterns?" I'd be like, "Wait, are you watching Lanterns? How are you watching Lanterns?"

Justin: "You shouldn't be watching Lanterns?"

Travis: "You're nine years old! There's some strong language in there." And then, in episode two—and listen, if you haven't watched Lanterns, this isn't a spoiler, but in episode two, boom, full frontal corpse dong.

Justin: Full frontal corpse dong.

Griffin: Now, that's interesting! Because that's—comic books are for kids

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: If memory s—if—

Justin: 100%—

Griffin: From what I understand—

Justin: Everybody—

Griffin: They're kids'—

Travis: Funny books, yeah.

Griffin: Books. And they're funny books. Some of them's not so funny.

Justin: Right—

Griffin: The Spider-Man 9-11 one I did not think was super duper funny.

Travis: And Spawn is like PG-13.

Griffin: Spawn's pushing it, definitely. But when I turn on my show, and I'm like, fuck, yeah, we got Coach Taylor, we got Rebel Ridge, and they're up there and they're kicking ass together. I love all of that stu—and then a dead dick on the screen?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yucky, what? Where?! Why?!

Travis: And not even like a passing shot, it's like the focus of the shot, corpse dong.

Griffin: Yeah, because they have to get in there, and they're like, that's not a dick, it's an alien dick with—and it's—there's two rings inside the—and they had to get 'em out.

Travis: Well then they each—

Griffin: And I'm like—

Travis: Like they each take turns being like, "I think it looked like this," and recreating it with the ring. And they're like, no—

Griffin: And like—

Travis: It was more like this.

Griffin: My five and nine-year-olds are sitting with me on the couch. I got an arm over all of 'em, having family bonding time, and they're like, "What

is that, Dad?" And I have to be like, "It's a—it's a dead body's private parts." Yuck! Coach Taylor, this how you do me? Goddamn!

Justin: They did the—they found a secret to success with Lanterns, and that is he just—nobody ever does any kind of magic ring stuff. And that's a secret—that's the secret to the show, because you're like—you watch the whole show, you're like... somebody do something with the magic ring, but they tease you. It's just, it's—

Travis: They do little things? They do little things—

Justin: Little things!

Travis: They're like, "Oh, that ring could do something!"

Justin: Something! And it's this—I've seen the ring used more to like hold down papers and prop open doors at this point.

Travis: Open a beer!

Justin: For ironically, for like close-up magic! For like, watch this—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Whoo, it's gone. I've seen that more times—

Griffin: Well—

Justin: Just make a—

Travis: There is literally a moment where he creates a bottle opener, and he reacts like he's just done a great sleight-of-hand trick—

Griffin: So fuckin' cool.

Travis: Where he's like—

Griffin: So fuckin' cool.

Travis: *Eh?! [chuckles]*

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Look—

Justin: See?

Griffin: Coach Taylor insi—early edition, he can do anything. I'll watch that man do fucking anything up on my TV screen.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Absolutely. I do wish that they would explain why they're not using the rings more, which is, if you read the comic books, you learn that the green stuff the rings make is stinky.

Travis: Stinky as hell, dude.

Griffin: It smells super-duper-duper b—and they haven't even shown that like one shot of Rebel Ridge making like a—

Travis: Ooh-ee!

Griffin: Making a—making a bubble around himself and then being like, "What's that fucking sme—" Because they cuss a lot—

Travis: Yeah, they do.

Griffin: On the show. "What's that fucking dick smell?" And then Coach Taylor can be like, "That's the bubble. That's the bubble."

Justin: [chuckles] "The bubble always makes this smell."

Griffin: "The bubble makes—"

Travis: "That's the smell."

Griffin: "The green stink—"

Justin: "You listen to me, junior. The bubble always—"

Griffin: "Listen, junior—"

Justin: "Makes this smell."

Griffin: "It's green—"

Travis: "Oh, you—"

Griffin: "Because it's stinky—"

Travis: "You don't like it because it's stinky? Oh, grow up, Junior! What the fuck? Sometimes magic's stinky. What world do you think you live in where magic isn't stinky? Grow up!"

Justin: Every time he drops some sort of alien bullshit, my whole body shudders. Every time they make that guy say something like "abensour" it's just like *wha-ha-ha*, delicious!

Griffin: Yeah! Kyle Chandler's... Kyle Chandler's too cool. Watching him say nerd stu—I do appreciate how much f—

Justin: A little bit. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: There's a lot of football that they ease you into in the pilot of *Lanterns*, and I do appreciate that, where there's like, okay, I see—I see Coach Taylor on the field—

Travis: He sits in the stands a lot, so you can like anchor him!

Justin: It's like if it came on after Friday Night Lights and you're already asleep, you wouldn't necessarily notice like—

Griffin: You wouldn't understand like, what the fuck?

Travis: Did I turn on a different language all of a su—is this—

Justin: Did Coach Chandler just ice that guy?

Travis: Dubbed?

Justin: Is that a dong? On Friday Night Lights?

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: What?

Justin: Why is this dead man...

Travis: This is Friday Night Lights Nights.

Griffin: Friday Night Nights Nights. [chuckles]

Travis: I would love to see, I hope they go into a backstory where you just see Kyle Chandler as Hal Jordan like, on like his second week of the job and he's starting to feel like he's got a handle on it. And he's standing at like Oa, and he's surrounded by actual alien Green Lanterns, and like the Guardians are saying some alien bullshit. And you just see Hal Jordan like, "What are they... what are they talking about?"

Griffin: What are they talk...

Travis: What is this shit? What are you talk—*what*?!

Justin: What?

Travis: *What*?! None of this makes any sense. I'm going home. I think it's a good show.

Justin: I do feel like if they're gonna put warnings on TV shows, which I fully support—

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: They just have gotta be like, listen, if you have kids in the room, there's no reality. It wouldn't occur to you. Just a... I wouldn't even need it at the beginning of the episode. You know what I mean? If ha—

Travis: It said nudity at the beginning of the episode! I saw that and I was like, well, okay, I wasn't expecting that.

Justin: Not really. It's gonna be some alien butt. [chuckles] You're thinking alien butt!

Griffin: You think it's gonna be alien butt, for sure.

Travis: Yeah! You're thinking alien butt!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's like, I know you said nudity, but you didn't say—[laughs] in a way that would have been actionable and useful for me to brace for it in any way.

Griffin: I'm watching this show on my like phone while eating my meals, and my kids will walk into the room where I'm doing it and they will see it. And I need Kyle Chandler to come on before each episode and be like, "All right, gang, in this one we're talking about—"

Travis: "Thank you for watching the show like it was meant to be watched, on your phone." [chuckles]

Griffin: On your phone. "Listen, we got a dead alien dick in this one. It happens at three minutes and 15 seconds. So, just be on the look—keep your head on a swivel."

Justin: This is a great—

Griffin: Clear eyes, full hearts.

Justin: This is a great plane show. You know, this is the kind of show that once it's all out, you can take a Dramamine and just kind of vibe. And then all of a sudden I'm in 3B, the guy in 3C is looking at alien dong, because I had no idea and I didn't close my iPad fast enough. Or maybe I went to the bathroom and left it playing. You know me.

Travis: So you could listen.

Griffin: And look! This isn't us taking a stance against televised penises.

Travis: No!

Justin: Far from it!

Griffin: Absolutely. Free the—free the—free the tippie is what I say about all of this business! I'm an equal opportunity employer, and it's time. But to be dead and maybe an alien, I haven't watched this episode yet—

Travis: It's the context that we need!

Griffin: The context! This is comic books, you know? Deadpool's not getting his dick out and he's the raunchiest dude in town. So like lan—I don't know, man.

Travis: Or more corpse dong, so that we become like inoculated to it. You know what I mean?

Griffin: So it's not a big deal.

Travis: If Lanterns was like every five minutes, full frontal corpse dong.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right now I'm like, okay, I know exactly what kind of show this is. And by the time it happens, you know, like the 10th time, I'm like, well, they couldn't—

Griffin: It's no big deal.

Travis: Make the show without the dong. It's structural. This is a structural dong.

Griffin: That is a thematic dead alien penis. Absolutely.

Justin: They gotta have a flashback to it. At some point it's gotta become narratively—

Travis: Yes!

Justin: Like a structural dong.

Travis: Yeah, if you remove the dong, the whole plot falls apart. You know what I mean? This is a weight bearing dong!

Griffin: The hero's journey ends and begins at the dong shot. The dong shot. That's—that's, I mean, Plato said that. I think he's the one who came up with it. He said that like gotta have the dong shot at the top, and the bottom.

Travis: I did think it was weird that not only did they not have Kyle Chandler's Hal Jordan react to it, but he said like, "Not again." And you're like, wait, how often has this happened in the Green Lantern like thi—right? And then you saw him make a little tally mark in a journal, and it looked like there were hundreds of them.

Griffin: Hundreds of little marks, yeah. And some of them were bigger than others.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: The marks. And so you're like, what's that mean? Is that some sort of code?

Travis: And it recharged—

Griffin: Anyway, that's—

Travis: The ring! When he saw the alien dong, it recharged the ring for—

Griffin: Yeah! I thought that was weird!

Travis: It was a choice. I haven't read every issue of Green Lantern—

Justin: Johnster is like, "Do you hear a buzz? I hear a buzz from the ring area. Is there a buzz?"

Griffin: I thought it was weird when the ring ran out of juice, and he ran and he took a little girl's ice cream cone, and he ate it. And then the ring got power back to kill Sinestro. And I was like, okay, taking a few liberties.

Travis: And the whole scene at the Cirque du Soleil-esque show. And then he made a ring—he used the ring to make an electrified fork or something? It was—

Griffin: Yeah, he used the ring to make a suitcase around himself that he rolled down a staircase in.

Travis: It was a strange choice.

Griffin: Strange.

Justin: In the first episode, he makes money with the ring and puts it in a jukebox. And I gotta say, even as a comic book fan, that's strange credulity. [chuckles] Like this is optical—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: This is a optical—

Griffin: Yeah, you know what?!

Justin: Device.

Griffin: Fuck that!

Justin: It's not—

Griffin: Yeah! If I put a creased... if I put a creased bill in one of these machines it's like, no, that's not money—are you telling me—

Justin: He good. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. He's good, but... that shit's glowing. I think any—

Justin: Quarter, maybe! Quarter—

Griffin: Maybe.

Justin: Yeah, got a free gumball!

Griffin: They could fool it.

Justin: Brightest day.

Travis: It's also, what—

Justin: But not this. Not this.

Travis: You don't got \$5 on you?

Griffin: Also, use the ring to make your own jukebox that's free and has all your favorite music on it, Hal!

Justin: [laughs] It's a big green boombox he just carries around all the time. [sings] "I wanna be your sledgehammer!" You guys like this? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: You guys like this track? [chuckles]

Travis: All I could think about—

Griffin: But it's all him singing because it's...

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It's all him singing.

Travis: He can't, for copyright reasons, recreate Sledgehammer.

Justin: [sings] "I sell my tapes! *Uah!* They're \$10!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [sings] "I'm pretty hard up now!"

Griffin: "The tapes are made out of my stinky green stuff. They will disintegrate as soon as I get out of line. Absolutely it will disintegrate."

Travis: "It will disintegrate as soon as I stop thinking about it. I'm so sorry."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "But luckily, I never stop thinking about my music."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is an advice show. We take your questions and turn them alchemy-like into wisdom. This is our first question. "I work in a tech support

job at a public elementary school. I don't have my own desk or room, so I set up my laptop at a back table in the school library. It's a nice spot, but it's right next to the kids' activity table with a chess board. Every day after story time, kids will go play chess or watch other kids play chess. And most days, there'll be at least one loud argument about the rules. And a lot of the time, everyone arguing is wrong. How do I get the kids to ask me what moves bishop can make or how capturing pieces work, instead of shouting at each other?" From Would-be Chess Referee, in CT. Good.

Travis: I believe that's connect-i-cut.

Griffin: I think it is connect-i-cut. Look, there's a lot of source material, a lot of inspiration you can lean on here. I'm not like great at chess. You know, I'm like 1950, 2000 on a good day, ELO rating. But I think that everyone wants that moment of becoming the wizened... the wizened sort of chess maestro.

Justin: Sure.

Travis: The anime sensei type character who's suddenly like backlit and standing over the board. And at first you're like, who's this guy? And then he says something in like a low, quiet voice and you're like, oh my god.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: This guy knows his shit.

Griffin: A Larry Fishburne searching for Bobby Fisher. Like, "This old man at the park is so unassuming." Actually, he's a wizened chess master.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And he's gonna tr—he's gonna train your—I don't remember the plot of that movie—

Travis: I think that was it.

Griffin: Real good.

Travis: I conflate that movie with Little Man Tate a lot.

Griffin: Way different.

Travis: I know it's way different, but in my head I was like, is Harry Connick Jr. in that one? I think Harry Connick Jr. is in Little Man Tate.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think that you're—I wouldn't start by quibbling about the rules. In a lot of movies I've seen where someone turns out to be good at chess, which is in a lot of movies, you gotta start with something like... it's already over. Like while the kids are playing, you're like not even looking like... "You're about to move bishop to... knight's three." And it's like, it's already, the game's already ended. And then the kids will kind of look at you like, "What'd you say?" And then, this is really important...

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: "Never mind."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like just like no—

Griffin: Shit, dude. [chuckles]

Justin: "No—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Sorry—"

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: "Forget I said anything." Type, type, type. Computers, computers, computers. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I'm assuming you say—I don't know.

Travis: Computers, computers—

Griffin: Cables and wires. Cables and wires—

Justin: Plug it in, plug it out—

Travis: ROM, ROM, ROM, ROM.

Griffin: ROM, ROM—

Justin: Pick it up, pick it up, pick it up! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: I... you could also name like, ah, the, you know, the something opening. You know? Anytime it's like ah—

Griffin: Travis, name one chess opening.

Travis: This is what I'm saying, I don't know it.

Griffin: Oh, man.

Travis: Right? But nobody does.

Justin: Griffin, name a chess opening.

Travis: You make it up.

Griffin: Karakon!

Justin: Oh, I love—

Travis: Queen's Gambit!

Justin: The Karakon.

Griffin: Queen's Gambit is one. Yeah.

Travis: I... you ever see in a TV show or a movie when someone's playing chess and they're like, it's mate in, you know, four or whatever. And I always think when they're doing that, if I was playing against them, I'd be like, ha-ha-ha, that a s—you assume I know what I'm doing enough that I will make prescribed moves. But jokes on you—

Griffin: That's awesome.

Travis: I don't know what I'm doing.

Griffin: No, this is a—no, ju—

Justin: By the time they say things like that... A statement like that carries with it the assumption of competence from the players involved, right? You know they don't just say that when like theoretically you could achieve this goal.

Griffin: But what Travis is saying, and I would love to watch this Netflix miniseries, The King's Gambit. It's time, dudes!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: We're going to have Travis in there and—

Travis: For the boys!

Griffin: And then he's—he grows up at an orphanage and learns about chess, and there's a cantankerous sort of groundskeeper who's secretly really good at chess.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And Travis is going to just say no thank you to those lessons.

Travis: I'm busy!

Griffin: Because he r—he rolls up, he's going to play Garry Kasparov. And Garry Kasparov is like, "Mate in two." And Travis is like, "I don't know what I'm doing."

Travis: "Could you explain that to me? What two moves are you thinking of?"

Griffin: Yeah! And then you just do different moves.

Justin: They can't stop you.

Griffin: Different ones.

Travis: Never once have I seen in a movie or TV show someone say like, "Mate in four." And somebody respond like, "Bullshit." [laughs] Like, "All right, mate in three! Is that what we're doing? Is this just like a bidding—yeah, I can beat you in two then!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I don't know, man! If we're just saying shit!

Justin: Griff, do you ever get really mad playing chess on your phone?

Griffin: Do I ever get really mad—

Justin: Do you ever get really steamed playing chess on your phone?

Griffin: I tend to play short burst games that don't allow me to have the time to get mad.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Like, you know what I mean?

Justin: Don't you ever lose like four of them in a row and you start talking to yourself like you're bad at chess or a bad person and then it's like, you get *really steamed*. [chuckles] You ever experience that?

Griffin: Nah, man, I... not really—

Justin: If you lose a few, you're start to—you s—you ever think everybody starts to be like, "You fucking idiot." [chuckles] Like, "Why do you even play chess? You should go do anything else. Stupid."

Griffin: Yeah. I don't thinks—I don't really thi—

Justin: Me either! And I want to make sure people aren't doing that. And it's important that you gotta take it easy on yourself, because it's just a game.

Griffin: You see Magnus Carlsen stand up from a table, he just lost a game—

Travis: He gets so mad.

Griffin: And he's fucking steamed. Fists balled up, arms straight down, *grr*! He stomps off. It's like... life's too short, bud!

Justin: Look at Bobby Fisher! He got so angry at everyone. He got so steamed at everybody!

Travis: The beautiful equation is, the more you know about chess, the more you know how to play, the angrier you get when you lose. So the best way to lose at chess is to have no idea what you're doing. And then you lose and you're like, of course I lost! I have no idea what I'm doing!

Justin: I have perpetually left myself in that like... the sort of competence, you know, divot between just beginning something, and actual competence where like—like you experience it in fighting games, I think, where like you

learn the moo—like start out pretty good here because you're just hitting stuff. And then you learn the moves and then you get much worse, because you're trying to do moves. That's where I'm at at chess, I'm like, "Ah, yes. [chuckles] Well, I know just what this—ah, fuck." Like that's every single time. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, no. I don't get that upset. I get disappointed in myself.

Justin: Not any—me neither anymore!

Griffin: Yeah! You've moved on.

Justin: From chess!

Griffin: You don't do chess—you don't do chess as much anymore—

Justin: [chuckles] Don't do chess no more!

Griffin: That's the secret. Can't make you mad if you don't do it no more!

Justin: Stick to drawing. [titters]

Travis: Hey, question—

Griffin: Doesn't matter how much you love it, how good you are at it, how much time you've invested in it. It can't hurt you if you do not do it no more.

Justin: Can't hurt you there.

Travis: This is an elementary school, by the way. Just wear a checkerboard patterned shirt and they'll ask you. Because they're like, "You look like a chessboard. Hey."

Griffin: Well, okay, no, because if we want to be chess—if you want to look like a wizened chess master, you need to have, one, kind of a scruffy beard, two, a flat cap that you're wearing—

Travis: Scottish accent!

Griffin: A Scottish accent helps, absolutely it does. But you need to be—it's more—it's less your dress and aesthetic and more your vibe. The more cantankerous you are, the better they are going to assume you are at chess.

Travis: Or Forest Whitaker! If you can do like a Forest Whitaker like s—like you're kind of a soft-spoken giant. How big are you? Are you big enough to be impressive?

Griffin: How big a boy are you?

Travis: Yeah, because if you're like a big ol'... like if you're taking up a lot of space, but you can make delicate moves, *oah*, that's a powerful combination.

Griffin: Beautiful moves.

Travis: *Oh!* Like a beautiful dance, you know? So—

Griffin: Yeah, god!

Travis: So—*aah*. So graceful on the chessboard.

Justin: Problem with your situation right now is it sounds insane to complain about kids playing chess. And I think what you need to do is maybe amp it up. So can you get, you know those things that you hit after you do a move and it makes the other timer start? Bring in four of those. Hand them to the kids. Wait two hours. Go to administration and say, "Listen, I can't work in there with this fuckin' chess anymore. It's a nightmare." They'll go in. It'll be true. The kids will have clubbed each other to death like Lord of the Flies with these clocks! Chess will be done. It'll be banned at the school.

Griffin: So you're saying this is a way of getting your own office—

Travis: *Yeah!*

Justin: Yeah, eventually the library becomes your library, like Belle in Beauty and the Beast. [chuckles] You know what I mean? You just...

Griffin: Yeah! No, the message of Beauty and the Beast is, it's better to have your own library—

Travis: That's my favorite part—

Griffin: That make everyone else go away—

Travis: Where the apocalypse happens, and Belle walks out of the big vault! And she's like, "Ah, there's so much time now to read all my books."

Griffin: Yeah, but then she drops her glasses.

Travis: *Uah.*

Griffin: "No!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: We should institute those little clock mechanisms into conversations.

Griffin: *Ooh*, that's interesting.

Travis: Yeah, where like you ask the per—like, "Oh, how was your day?" And then you hit the button and their time starts. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they hit—

Griffin: How much time are we talking? I guess it depends on the person you're talking to. You walk up and you like... you have to agree like two minutes. Bullet. A bullet conversation.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: If you... that sounds great to me.

Justin: I need—

Griffin: We have one minute each.

Justin: I need the opposite one for me where it's like, how long do I have to sustain this? Okay, go. All right, 30 seconds of me holding court, let's do it, I—and then I want to relax into the other person, just whisking me away. I want to know how long I have to contribute before the other person can pick me back up.

Travis: How long do I have to talk to you before you'll tell me about a hyper fixation you have, and I can just enjoy it vicariously and then go to sleep?

Griffin: Yeah. You watching Lanterns?

Travis: You watching Lanterns? [chuckles]

Justin: Hey, you watching Lanterns?

Griffin: [chuckles] Click.

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: Let's take another question from the audience. "My friend has recently told me about a fried pie festival near their town, and has invited me to submit an application to judge the fried pie contest. Problem is they want you to give reasons why you'd be good for the job. Now brothers, I like pie as much as the next guy and I eat my fair share of it around the holidays, but I don't think I have any special qualifications as a fried pie taster. Worse, I don't live in the town hosting the competition and I'm worried they'll favor a local pick. What do I say to convince the folks that I have the unbiased and refined taste needed to be an impartial judge so I can taste a bunch of free pie?" That's from Vying for Fried Pies in Georgia. God, that sounds good.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Fried pie sounds good?

Justin: I love a fried pie right now.

Travis: This is like a ham pie, right?

Justin: Ham pie. And if they have savory ones—which they might, right? Do you think they have empanadas?

Griffin: I guess that's a hint. I guess that's a type of hint. Yeah—

Travis: You would think they'd put those in different—

Justin: Fried pie. Can be a fried pie.

Travis: Gotta be a different category, right? You should—I shouldn't be comparing a savory ham pie to a sweet ham pie in the same judging.

Griffin: It's not fair. I think you could make the argument that a local judge will be inherently biased.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Because like, you know, if you know, Burt Wolf—Burt Wolf Ford's in there and he's making his own pies then people are gonna be like, "Well, I love his commercials, so I'm going to give his pie a good score." But you can roll up and say in your application like, "I don't fuckin' care about any of you. I think your town sucks, and I don't know anyone there except for my best friend, Dylan, who fucking shreds, dude." [chuckles]

Travis: "And Dylan is not allowed to compete. Not by the rules, but by a conversation he and I had." Could you blindfold yourself, too, to take it even further? Like I will be—

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: "I will be basing these on mouth experience alone." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. I don't care how nasty they look. I'll eat 'em all up. Send a video of you eating 15 hand pies.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: Just to let them know like, physically, I can do this—

Justin: I can have this.

Griffin: I possess the capacity for many fried pies.

Travis: I'm gonna be having to eat a bunch throughout the day to judge 'em, and now you get to watch a trial run of that.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Doesn't sound that appealing.

Griffin: Here's what it'll look like. That's good. When you audition for a role, you gotta do sides and you gotta do, you know, a self-tape. And so you just ha—you know—[makes eating sounds] "*Mm!* Nutty and flaky—"

Travis: You need to demonstrate—

Griffin: Just how I—

Travis: Yeah. Take the bite, and then click a pen, and jot something down on a piece of paper while you go, "*Mm-mm!*"

Griffin: Mm-mm-mm—

Travis: Maybe swish it around in your mouth a little bit.

Griffin: Yeah, do the advanced techniques. You gotta swirl it to check the tannins.

Travis: And then spit.

Griffin: Check the nose of the fried pie.

Justin: I think there's still time before this event to create the number one fried pie channel on YouTube. Or like maybe if you want to be a little more current, and shorter form, honestly, like the fried pie TikTok guy. Fried pie guy.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah, I don't think you have to put tik— I don't think usually they put the name of the platform—

Justin: [chuckles] The friend TikTok pie guy?

Griffin: We're the McElroy YouTube brothers!

Justin: [chuckles] We would be so much more famous!

Griffin: Come on down and stream with us—

Justin: If we had started calling ourselves the McElroy YouTube brothers in 2010, we would be billionaires by now!

Travis: Oh my god.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We'd have a content house and everything!

Justin: Content house.

Travis: That's the dream!

Justin: Not a content basement. [chuckles]

Travis: No!

Justin: That I have to share with the c—with the garden basement and the TV basement. [chuckles] The 3D printing basement.

Griffin: How... I don't think I would like being a fried pie judge. Maybe this—we'd never take this tact with an email, but maybe reconsider that the thing you want to do would maybe not be a great thing to do.

Justin: Why?

Griffin: I don't think you're getting paid. You get to eat a lot of fried pies, but this could also be like a... Your parents catch you smoking cigarettes, that make you smoke a whole carton. Maybe eating a hundred fried pies, you won't like fried pies—

Travis: But you're forgetting about the power, Griffin, that comes with being the judge. And we talked about being impartial, but what if you took it the other way? You get the job and then you're like, "I am open to bribery. I am open to flattery. I will accept plenty of gifts and stuff."

Griffin: I can be extorted so easily.

Travis: *Oah.*

Griffin: I have secrets that if they got out, I'd be ruined.

Travis: That's kind of the opposite of the w—I was going with like I could be bought. But I could be sold, I guess, is where Griffin's going. [chuckles] It's like, yeah—

Justin: How many—

Travis: Absolutely.

Justin: How many fried pies do you think you gotta eat for this? How many—I mean, do we thi—are we thinking this is like a regular day? Or do

you feel it's like gonna take a physical toll on you? Do you think that you are going to like—

Travis: Well, it's a fried pie festival.

Justin: Yeah. That's true, Trav, it's not a fried pie picnic or shindig. It is a festival.

Travis: Yes! I assume it's more than—

Justin: It's a celebratory—

Travis: One fried pie.

Griffin: You don't gotta finish 'em, though, right? I don't think you gotta finish—

Justin: Nah, they probably have cu—like which bites of the fried pie, though? If you give me a really crusty corner one, I might be a little bit more in favor of it. You know what I mean? That's not fair to anybody.

Griffin: Yeah—

Justin: Gotta have the—

Travis: I think it's gotta be the second—

Griffin: Well, I don't think serving—

Travis: Section.

Griffin: I don't think they're serving fried pie cores. [chuckles]

Justin: No, I gotta have my funny filling in there, yeah. No question.

Travis: I think the middle, mm, this is over—

Justin: You can't get—no! You can't do that! A lot of people do that, they're like, "Here's my sample of my pie." And they've cut off the quarters, and just left that fruity, funny filling. No, thank you!

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: I have to try the whole pie!

Travis: No—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I think you gotta go—if you're looking like a bell curve, separate it into fifths. I want the second—

Justin: But it should look like a bell curve, kind of like this—

Travis: Yeah! I want the second or fourth fifth. You know what I mean? Not the corner—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah! *Oh!* The—

Travis: Not the middle.

Griffin: That's the good stuff.

Travis: I need that! That's gonna give me a clear indication of how much you filled it, because this middle's gonna be too full to—

Griffin: Not the heel!

Travis: Not the heel.

Griffin: Not the ru—not the rump!

Travis: Not the rump!

Griffin: But the between the—

Travis: The haunches!

Griffin: The haunches of the fried pie.

Travis: That's gonna give you a good indicator.

Justin: That's—that's where the—that's where the money is.

Travis: And if you say shit like that in your application, you're gonna seem qualified, even though you're talking out your ass.

Justin: I think—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think it's... I think you could just change your name.

Travis: To The Fried Pie Guy?

Justin: The Fried Pie Guy. The TikTok Fried Pie Guy. [chuckles]

Travis: My name is—

Justin: If you legally chain—

Travis: Friedpieguy.com!

Justin: If you legally changed your YouTube account to The TikTok Fried Guy—[chuckles] The TikTok Fried Pie Guy, I think that you would start getting traction. At least in time to where you could send a link to somebody, and if they didn't pay really close attention...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You might have to delete some older content if you've been doing other stuff on there.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Because if people go back like three videos, and it's, you know, you doing Minecraft tutorials and they're like, "What is this—" Unless you're doing fried pie Minecraft tutorials, on how to build fried pies in Minecraft. I've never played Minecraft, I don't know how it works.

Griffin: That's crazy.

Justin: That's awesome. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's crazy you never played Minecraft, man.

Travis: Not that I can remember, but I have about a week of memories at any given time. I don't have a lot of RAM.

Griffin: It's just all over the place, man. It's a sort of cultural phenomenon. Did you see that movie?

Travis: They made a Minecraft movie?

Griffin: All right, dude.

Justin: Let's take a break. Let's go to the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Can I tell you guys, Wayfair has just what I need, which was a new table for my office. Because the other one I got was like a three-legged thing that I had for like, mm, three months before one of the legs just snapped right off—

Justin: That's two legs.

Travis: And I thought—

Justin: And then you're sunk.

Travis: Yeah, only two legs. And it didn't really work that much. A two-legged table is not effective. So I went on Wayfair, and not only did I find a better, sturdier table, it's pretty as hell, and matches the weird mid-modern century thing I'm going for, modern mid-century, whatever. I was able to find the exact thing, it's sturdy as hell, I could dance on this thing, and maybe I will, to celebrate it.

Justin: You should. They got a wide range of stuff at Wayfair. If you're—whatever the budget is for this purchase, they got something that's gonna fit your needs, and that's really nice. It's kind of your one-stop shop.

Travis: They even have playground stuff! I've been looking to revamp the kids' playground as they've gotten bigger. They got playground stuff on Wayfair.

Justin: Wow. Wow.

Griffin: Yeah, I, I love Wayfair. I always use it when I have like, well, I've left one sort of 70-inch gap where I need to put a very extremely specific size piece of furniture. You can't really do that anywhere else but Wayfair. Wayfair will—Wayfair will get you exactly what you need.

Justin: Transform your space with pieces that hold up to real life. Join Wayfair Rewards today and get 5% back on every purchase. Head to [wayfair.com](https://www.wayfair.com) or shop the Wayfair app for all things home. That's [wayfair.com](https://www.wayfair.com).

[break]

Brea: Hey, romance readers! What are you looking for?

Mallory: Brother's best friend, alien boyfriend, Mothman, vampires.

Brea: We got your cowboys, your dukes, your hot professors, your rock stars, we got your shifters, we got demons, we got sexy fairies!

Mallory: You want morally gray? No problem.

Brea: Can't pick? Don't worry, sweetheart. We've got white cheeses up the wazoo!

Mallory: Reading Smut, the show where we read spicy books and figure out why people love them.

Brea: Join us on Reading Smut every other Friday on Maximum Fun.

Mallory: Oh, that's a spicy book-a!

[break]

John: Sleep is important, but it's difficult sometimes. I'm John Moe. On Sleeping with Celebrities, famous people help conk you out by talking in soothing voices about unimportant things. Maria Bamford on parking.

Maria: I parked in a bus stop. That's just not right. I am not a bus.

John: Roxane Gay on airports.

Roxane: My favorite airport is Indianapolis. It has a really smart layout.

John: Alan Tudyk on yardsticks.

Alan: You hand somebody a yardstick, yardsticks become part of the family.

John: Granted, it's a weird idea, but it's lots of fun and it works. Listen wherever you get podcasts.

[break]

Travis: I'd kill a man for a fried pie right now.

Justin: It's all I can think about, dude.

Griffin: I just, I guess I don't know other.. yeah. I'm just going to google fried pie—

Travis: Do you remember when they—like you could get... what was the pie? There was like a green filling pie. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles pies? The hand pies, that's like a fried pie!

Justin: [sings] Celebrity wine, why not?! Celebrity one, why not?! [sings a tune]

Griffin: No way.

Justin: [continues singing a tune] Dahbras.

Griffin: Da... ba...

Justin: Da hubris. [chuckles]

Travis: Da hubris.

Justin: This is celebrity—[chuckles] This is celebrity tequila, por favor. And we're gonna be talking about all the great celebrities that have wandered haphazardly into the world of premium tequila. Now, of course, this all goes back to Sammy. Sammy Hagar with his Cabo Wabo. His Cabo Wabo tequila, which he was so integral in making. I mean, he was a pioneer of premium tequila. That's what—

Travis: It also, if you say it, it sounds like you were trying to say something else, but you got stung by a bee on your lips and tongue at the same time. And all you can get out is—

Griffin: Sammy Hagar Cabo Wabo!

Travis: Cabo Wabo! [yells out] Cabo Wabo!

Justin: Well, eventually, Campari bought it all for a hundred million, so he can't do that anymore. So they made him do it again, a different one, which doesn't seem very nice. But he is—has—Sammy Hagar has returned to his roots, his agave roots, that is, and bringing along Guy Fieri for the ride.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: That's crazy to have him in the fuckin' side saddle. That's crazy to have him—

Justin: I'm gonna go ahead and pop you guys—

Griffin: Riding shot—

Justin: Let me ga—

Travis: But you get—

Justin: Let me go ahead and pop you guys up—

Travis: But you kind of get it!

Justin: This isn't even to make the show better. It is just because I like you guys, and I want to show you a picture of these two just like chilling.
[chuckles]

Travis: *Oh!* It's just a dad and his son!

Griffin: That's his dad. Sammy Hagar is Guy Fieri's dad—

Travis: *Oh!*

Griffin: Confirmed, absolutely.

Travis: It's nice that they can still get together!

Justin: Yeah, it's beautiful. So a...

Travis: With not enough bottles to really fill the shelves behind 'em! They really—

Griffin: Yeah, they had 15 bottles and that's it—

Travis: Yeah! They underestimated. *Uah.*

Justin: "Over my career, I've teamed up with a lot of high-profile people," says veteran rocker Sammy Hagar. "It's kind of like what you do with a band." Because he was in Chickenfoot. I guess. [laughs] "Sometimes when you go on tour, you bring another big band with you, and you can put together what they call a package. You sell five times the tickets, and you play at big stadiums."

"Mr. Hagar, if you could just answer the question about tequila—"

Travis: Yeah! [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "The question was about tequila, Mr. Hagar."

"That's kind of the way I am with trying to do it with the liquor industry, because everyone is now making spirits or liquor and getting involved!"

Travis: Everyone?

Justin: Especially in the tequi—yes, hey, Travis? Everyone.

Griffin: Fuckin' everyone, man.

Travis: Okay!

Justin: Yeah, especially the tequila. His first brand was, of course, Cabo Wabo, and now he's back. Because his new tequila brand began by making a mezquila in 2017, which is neither mezcal nor tequila, as both are internationally legally pret... Okay—

Griffin: What?

Justin: Mezcal—

Travis: It sa—

Justin: And tequila are both—

Travis: Wait! It says this in the press release?

Justin: Internationally legal... they are internationally legally protected names, right? So he c... And because nee—he's producing tequila—

Travis: Like champagne!

Justin: Yes, exactly, Travis. And if he made tequila, that would be in violation of his non-compete clause with Cabo Wabo, his first child of liquor.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay. Right.

Justin: "I tasted all these mezcals—" This is Sammy Hagar. "I tasted all these mezcals and went around the distilleries to see how it's really made. I decided that I don't really like it that much." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Who let this man?!

Griffin: What?! [chuckles]

Travis: Okay, under what pretense did Sammy roll up to a mezcal distillery, if not, "I want to start a competing brand to yours. Let me see how you do it. It's cool—"

Griffin: Yeah, gulp, gulp, gulp!

Travis: "I'm Sammy Hagar."

Justin: Gulp, gulp, gulp!

Griffin: "I'm Sammy Hagar. Gulp, gulp, gulp. Yuck."

Justin: "Yuck I don't like it!"

Griffin: "This actually sucks. I don't like this."

Justin: "I actually don't enjoy it."

Travis: "And I won't be signing anything, not that you asked."

Justin: Hagar—okay. "I don't really like it that much. It's rustic, it's smoky as hell. If you try to age it, it gets sweet. It does funny things. It's not typical." Hagar, who admits he only began liking tequila in 1988—[chuckles]

Griffin: That's a long career of enjoying a—

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Particular spirit, dude!

Justin: It was only after tasting premium, 100% agave tequila, he decided that he was going to try and make a blend of tequila and mezcal. The guys in Oaxaca said no you—

Travis: Well also because he wanted money.

Justin: They guy said—

Griffin: He did want from...

Justin: You can't even bring tequila into this area. And then a tequila guy said, "No, you can't bring mezcal into the Jalisco area. That's where we make tequila. So I got some guys to bring truckloads of already made Espadin mezcal into Jalisco, and then Juan Eduardo Nuñez, the former distiller for Cabo Wabo, got it in and he started trying to blend it. And it took us about a year to get it right. And I finally, I came up with the product, and the name, mezquila."

Griffin: So it's a combina—sort of a both...

Travis: Is guy fee—

Griffin: The best of both worlds.

Travis: Is Guy Fieri just sitting next to him during this entire interview?

Justin: So that's the story—

Travis: Being like—

Griffin: Smoking a big, fat blunt!

Travis: Talk about me!

Griffin: Nodding his head, "Mm-hm—"

Justin: All right, that's the story of mezquila.

Griffin: "That's my man."

Justin: Now we're going to talk about Santo. That's the new product—

Travis: I thought it was Santa! Ha!

Griffin: I thought it said Santa on the—Guy Fieri's shirt.

Justin: "Everyone knows Cabo Wabo Tequila. How is Santo different?"

"I'm much more involved in the actual production of Santo. Guy Fieri and I go down to taste all the samples before it's put into the bottles!" Hey, can I just—

Travis: "We take a sip from every bottle before we ship it!" [chuckles]

Justin: If I could get an invite to that, by the way, I would just love to be—

Griffin: That hang.

Justin: Along for that hang, for that weekend.

Griffin: I can't believe that wasn't your Guy Fieri voice, by the way, Juice. It was hugely Guy Fieri coded.

Justin: Yeah, I did realize that. I didn't want to distinguish who was actually speaking, but I—yeah, you're right. "The difference is we cook it tw... We cook it twice instead of once! We let it rest and cook it again, so it's caramelized. That's a big deal. That's like letting a steak rest, so the juices go back into it. The agaves are hand-chosen—"

Travis: And then cooking it again!

Justin: It's like cooking it again! [chuckles] Like you put it in the microwave and give it that last bit of heat. We go through—

Travis: [yells out] Like all the famous chefs do it!

Justin: "It's not just a dump truck full of agave chopped up and thrown in the oven, we go through—"

Travis: "Stop saying it is!" [laughs]

Justin: "We go through and get the elders, the bigger, juicier agaves. [chuckles] Agave is expensive now! And there's a shortage! So everyone's using younger, greener agaves. We don't do that."

Travis: Nope!

Justin: "We don't do that."

Travis: Do you—do you think they had to institute, after all of these Guy Fieri and Sammy Hagar like tasting sessions, they had to like put a big sign up on the wall for the end of the day that says like, "No conversations about collaborations regarding either recording an album together, or making a cookbook together. You're drunk again."

Griffin: "You're drunk. We put you in this hyperbaric warehouse-sized chamber, just the two of you, where you can't harm anyone else."

Travis: It's videos of them from the past like, "Hey, this is sober you guys. I know that it seems like it would be such a good idea to make an album where Sammy makes the music, and it's themed to Guy Fieri's recipes. It's not a good idea!"

Griffin: "Who brought that guitar in here?! You know we can't have guitars around when they're taste tested!"

Travis: "Not like this!"

Justin: They did—they did ask about Guy. Guy wasn't interviewed for this, but he asked about the partnership with Guy. "Guy was one of the first fans I met in the restaurant business! Way back when I started at Cabo Wabo. We held a contest. Whoever sold the most tequila in their restaurant got to meet me backstage when I was on tour in their area, and win a signed guitar. So of course, Guy won the contest by putting a premium tequila in his well."

Travis: What a terrible business decision!

Justin: "When I sold Cabo Wabo, he said, 'If you ever do that again, dude, I want to make tequila with you.' So when I started making tequila, he called me up and said, 'Hey! What?! Did you forget about me?! I said, 'Come on.' We shook hands and he joined the team, and he's been the best partner anyone could have."

Griffin: That's not the most flattering kind of depiction of him to put in a press release.

Travis: Please, please, Mr. Hagar, let me be a part of the magic! Please, I'll do anything! I'm begging you!

Justin: So that is—that is Sammy. That is just a sampling. I would like to very briefly talk about Flecha Azul, if I could, if I could be so bold. Flecha Azul is the one by Mark Wahlberg. And Mark... Mark has a different sort of take on this whole business. And I wanted to be fair to Mark, because a lot of people... sort of wandered into this business and decided to make themselves tequila experts.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: And Mark has taken a different approach that I really celebrate.

Travis: Can you please get rid of the picture of Sammy Hagar and Guy Fieri staring at me? [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah—

Griffin: It's been on my screen for—

Travis: Hey! We saw you from across the bar! We really like your vibe! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] I've got screen burn on my monitor now. There's just a ghostly trace, an inverted trace of Sammy Hagar and Guy Fieri.

Justin: Yeah, he got burned in. [chuckles] It's not just the actor's go-to—Mark Wahlberg is a tequila guy, it's not just his go-to drink of choice. But now he's invested in a line of tequila called Flecha Azul, co-founded by Mexican PGA golfer Abraham Anser and entrepreneur Aaron Marquez. "It's funny because when it was first mentioned to me, I said, absolutely not!" [chuckles]

Travis: *Ouh!*

Justin: You have all these other people out there claiming to have gone to Mexico and created tequila, and cultivated agave and all this stuff. [chuckles]

Griffin: Holy shit! Is this in... is this in conversation with Sammy Hagar?

Justin: No—

Travis: This is off the record, right?

Justin: Yeah, this is off the record, right? These fuckin' guys—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] "What am I? I'm not going to go find some jerk off like Guy Fieri to partner up with."

Travis: "Let me lift off six celebrities that I think can huff ass!"

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, well, these people... they clay—okay, they were like, "This is not what this is. We have two amazing guys who are really young and like-minded. I said, I would just like to invest in them." The trio partnered during the coronavirus pandemic, and with Wahlberg inking a deal last year as the principal investor. And yes, he did take a visit to the brand's ancillary in Jalisco, Mexico.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Yeah. "Well, I said I wanted to put my money where my mouth is and cut a big cheque, and get involved with your brand and utilize all of my resources. Everything that we have we're going to tap into and utilize to make sure this brand is as successful as possible."

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: Cool.

Griffin: You never hear that in press releases, of someone being like—

Justin: Finally—

Griffin: "I have so much money. I have so, so—the amount of money I have would make you sick to your stomach."

Travis: "I was the executive producer of Entourage. I'm rolling in it, guys."

Griffin: "I have cash on hand. I am liquid."

Justin: So he's just an investor there. That is the—that is the entirety of Mark's contribution. He does know that others are in the space, like Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, of course, and George Clooney, the tequila entrepreneurs. Wahlberg is unfazed by the competition. The space is

growing, thanks to guys like Dwayne, who have created a lot of awareness and excitement. But that's not stopping Wahlberg from heading for the top. "We're coming for everybody's spot! We plan on being the best! Because we have the best product out there. It's the best value proposition for the customer," said Mark Wahlberg.

Travis: Tequila investor.

Justin: Tequila investor. Adding he's down to host a tequila-off with Johnson and Clooney. "I've tasted their product, they haven't tasted mine!"

Travis: How do you know?

Justin: Those ga... This is the—my favorite part. "Those guys know me very well. They know my competitive spirit. Hey, I'm really good friends with George Clooney and Dwayne."

Griffin: [laughs] Okay, I believe—

Justin: Those guys know me very well!

Griffin: I believe one of those! I believe one of those. I do believe Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson have been in at least one motion picture together. Maybe mo—probably more. But George Clooney and Wahlberg, I'm not a hu—I'm not as sold that they are on each other's speed dial.

Travis: Do you think that he said that with such confide— "I've tasted theirs, but they haven't tasted mine." Is he calling them and asking them regularly like—

Griffin: "Try my shit yet?"

Travis: "Have you done it?"

Griffin: "Dwayne!"

Travis: "Hey, did you try it?"

Griffin: "Try my shit?"

Travis: "Hey! Did you try it?"

Justin: "What do you think? Do you like it?"

Travis: "I've tried yours."

Justin: "It's pretty spicy, huh? Ooh, I like the—"

Travis: "Is it good?"

Justin: "Spicy parts of it. Did you like the—"

Travis: "I put a lot of money into it."

Justin: One more, just for this—just for the quote.

Travis: For the Vine.

Justin: This is a business story from 2022. Abasolo Ancestral Corn Whiskey and Ojo de Tigre Mezcal, the founders of those is called Casa Lumbre, and they joined forces with renowned—and this is... the en—this is in the title of the press release. And renowned musician, actor, and designer Lenny Kravitz. [chuckles]

Griffin: Hell y—hell yeah!

Justin: Hell yeah. To develop nochel... Nocheluna Sotol, an exciting offer in the newly emerging and highly promising Sotol spirits category. It's distinct from tequila and mezcal.

Travis: Oh? Legally.

Justin: It's this—this is a—yeah, thank you, Travis. [chuckles] Almost certainly, yes. That is probably front and center, we just want to clarify, it is not these legally protected things. Now, the creator of this ultra-premium

reference in the category, Nocheluna, Lenny said, "As an artist, I respect the journey. And I'm inspired by every intricate step of how this team crafts Nocheluna Sotol. I value how this spirit stays true to the traditional ways of making sotol, exemplifying a true understanding of this craft," says Lenny Kravitz. "I'm honored to bring further awareness to this incredible spirit and region."

Travis: Hey, could you clarify, Mr. Kravitz, on what that process is? "Oh, I have no idea."

Griffin: "I have no idea."

Travis: "I could not even begin."

Griffin: Real quick, how much money do you have, and are you friends with George Clooney? Can you clarify that in your—

Travis: "I wrote a big cheque. Not in amount, mind you, but in size."

Griffin: "I don't know anything about this stuff, but I have a significant portion of my own personal estate kind of riding on this. Please buy it. You love my music. You love my music. I didn't make this stuff, but I helped, I guess. So drink it. Drink it up, please."

Travis: "I was in Hunger Games. Please drink my legally distinct tequila."

Griffin: Please! American Woman! Fly!

Justin: I did want to mention to you guys, because I love to ta... Matt McConaughey is kind of like a West Virginian, basically, because he did live here for some period of time. So I would say—I don't know if he's a native West Virginian, but like...

Travis: Hometown boy make good.

Griffin: He came into the subway.

Justin: Kind of.

Griffin: He came into the subway next door to the TCPY I worked at.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So, I—

Justin: Is that true?

Griffin: Yeah, so—

Justin: Did you see him?

Griffin: I didn't see him, no. But I heard about it.

Justin: That would've been cool. Yeah, no, a—

Travis: Did you smell him? I don't think he bathes. I think he said that famously.

Justin: Matthew McConaughey has a tequila. He has it with Camila McConaughey, his wife. It is called Pantalones organic tequila. And Pantalones organic tequila, it recently expanded into Asia. Actually, this is from April, okay? Pantalones organic tequila, co-founded by Matthew and Camila McConaughey, is expanding into Asia. Here's the quote. "We launched Pantellone's to remind everyone that tequila should be high-quality juice. And fun."

Griffin: To remind everyone.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: We've forgotten, I think, that tequila should be high-quality juice, and fun.

Travis: We've lost the reason for the season. And this Christmas, we want to remind you. I just want to be like, I launched this brand because I love money. I like to get it and have it and spend it.

Griffin: Well, I don't know if it's that for a lot of the folks who become investors in tequila brands. I think it's more like, "I would like to be a s—I would like to have my own liquor brand. I think it would be cool to be a liquor magnate. In addition to an award-winning actor."

Travis: Do you think when they announced this brand coming out, Joe Pantellione was like, "They didn't even ask me."

Griffin: That sucks.

Travis: "I would have done it. My name's right there? Come on!"

Griffin: "My name's almost right there."

Travis: "Come on! I'm Joey Pants! Let me make the pants tequila!"

Justin: When they dropped this, this Pantalones organic tequila, he and Camila did a video where they were riding on motorcycles with no pants. And in the clip Matthew McConaughey says, "When did tequila stop being tequila?" Damn—

Griffin: How are you—

Travis: Legally?!

Griffin: The one to—

Justin: Damn, dude! I don't know!

Travis: Do you mean legally?!

Griffin: That's crazy, Matt. That's cr—that's—

Justin: That's crazy, dude!

Griffin: That's so wild, man. That's not really your call to make, I don't think.

Justin: I don't think you can. Everyone, everyone, listen, tequila should be high-quality juice and fun!

Griffin: Yeah. "Everyone making it stinks. Not me though."

Travis: Everybody's making serious business tequila for serious business meetings and stuff. It's supposed to be fun!

Justin: "The world doesn't need another celebrity tequila, but tequila sure could use a kick in the pants. Pantalones organic tequila is the best thing we've made with our pants on."

Travis: Ew?

Griffin: What's that mean, Matt? Are you talking about your ch... your kids?

Justin: What does that mean? Everybody... everybody talking about tequila sounds *insane*.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You sound... you understand that you shouldn't be the people say—do you understand that?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Here's—here's a cl—here—remember Casamigos? That's—they got that from squishing together house and friend. House friend. George Clooney's my house friend. Sure!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: George Clooney's house friend. "We talked about how this was going to be like the bottles you see in old John Wayne movies, where you slide the bottle down the par, pull the cork out with your teeth, and pour yourself a shot." What the fuck does that mean?

Griffin: What are you fucking talking about—

Justin: "If you go to Mexico for the holidays, you drink a lot of tequila. So we thought, why don't we just make one that doesn't burn going down? Casamigos was just... made just for us, a safe non-burning tequila for white people." [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "We—we—we... we didn't put any seasoning! It's not spicy at all! This is the mild—this is mild chunky salsa!"

Griffin: "We put a *little* milk in there. Just a *little* bit of milk to cut the—cut some of the acidity."

Travis: It's 50% water!

Justin: Okay, so, this—I just wanted to point out, the m—one of the reasons I'm not that familiar with the work of Mr. Fluffy Iglesias, but I do know he's quite a popular Mexican American comedian. He has the tequila. He has tequila. Now, this is the gentleman I would like to listen to. Here's his quote about his tequila, which by the way, his tequila has flavors, like Mexican candy and grilled pineapple. Okay, thank you!

Griffin: Yeah! Cool.

Justin: He says, "As a proud Mexican American, I wanted to make a tequila that celebrates both my roots. When creating Pocho Fino tequila, it was important to me that tequila is approachable, full of flavor, and fancy enough for a fine glass, or casual enough to drink out of a plastic cup. That's what makes my kind of tequila." Okay! Now we're fucking talking!

Travis: That's a statement of intent that I understand!

Justin: Thank you, Mr. Fluffy.

Travis: Not, "I wanted to make a tequila you could slide down a bar." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. Or, "I hate this shit, but I've got so much goddamn money. And my fre—famous friends, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson..."

Travis: I love—I mean, McConaughey is probably my favorite where he led off saying, "The world doesn't need another tequila made by a celebrity." And then continues explaining why he did it. "The world doesn't need this, but I did it anyways, because my wife and I have sex, and made cool children, but this is good too."

Justin: Even Wahlberg is not immune, because he's like... I— "listen, I don't know shit about tequila. I wrote him a big-ass cheque.' He actually says later in that press release, "If I was being real, I would have done whiskey." [chuckles] "If I was being like real, I would have done Irish whiskey." Even he c—

Travis: Is it too late?!

Justin: He can't resist the temptation to be like, "I mean, I went to Mexico... Like I went down there!"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Yeah, I looked at it."

Justin: "I went down there and looked at it." As if that's in some way like Skype, dude! Like seriously!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Zoom in.

Justin: Yeah. They mentioned like, "Yeah, I mean, Mark came down..." Like Mark just went and like poked around.

Travis: Yeah, took some pictures with people—

Justin: I'm going to stop there. I could go on and on and on. But I... yeah, I will return to this incredible world. But—

Travis: To this well, or top shelf?

[pause]

Travis: Like tequila.

Justin: No, I—it's good. I liked it.

Travis: Okay, cool. Thank you.

Justin: No, I liked it, I just didn't—I couldn't think of something like better.

Travis: You know what I like?

Justin: Like it's what I—I miss that like, you know in Clubhouse we have that like sound.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know that like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: *Prow!*

Griffin: You mean like *praw!*

Travis: We need to get a fourth brother in here on a s—on a like a sound effects machine.

Justin: Literally every show ah—like literally everybody but us does this, right? They have like a stream... I have a stream deck here. Look at it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's not plugged in. [chuckles]

Travis: Hey, Justin—

Justin: It's not plugged in! It doesn't do anything! [chuckles]

Travis: Justin!

Griffin: I got mine—

Travis: Not plugged in at all! Mine—

Griffin: That's crazy, guys!

Travis: Mine's a paperweight.

Justin: Every time I plugged it—every time I think, this is the road to competence! Here I come, professionalism! I'm coming for your ass! And every time I'm like, I really need that USB port. It's my best USB port. I need it for my handheld devices. Sorry, pal. [chuckles]

Griffin: I can... I can do this with my stream deck.

Travis: Wha!

Justin: Yeah, that's cool.

Griffin: Lights on, lights off. No big deal. You guys gotta use this thing, it's like a coo—it's like a remote control for tech.

Travis: And you people at home need to get your tickets to see The Besties live on Broadway, October 9th, at The Town Hall, in NYC. They're doing a Besties show live? I didn't even know they had real bodies! But they do!

Griffin: True.

Travis: Get your tickets now, bit.ly/bestiesonbroadway.

Griffin: Yeah, come see us. We've never done one before.

Justin: It's gonna be good.

Griffin: It's going to be an absolute hoot. We got merch over at the McElroy Merch Store, mcelroymerch.com, including a limited edition "Pupating is always a free action" design shirt.

Justin: [chuckles] Limited edition.

Griffin: It is limited edition.

Justin: I know, it is!

Griffin: Limited edition! "Pupating is always a free action" shirt, inspired by the TAZ Royale finale. All that is over at mcelroymerch.com. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will also be donated to the Midwest Food Bank's Disaster Relief Fund, so go check all that stuff out!

Travis: I also wanted to say, we just did an episode at Clubhouse with Alexis Nikole Nelson, AKA Black Forager, on a button—that's her username on a bunch of different things. It was such an absolute delight. And if you miss it—

Griffin: Such a treat.

Travis: You gotta head over to McElroy Family YouTube and check it out there in the live tab. It was so good. Super fun.

Griffin: Sorry, you can't say ma—it's McElroy YouTube Family, is—

Travis: McElroy you—McElroy Family YouTube—

Griffin: Name of the channel now.

Travis: Or McElroy YouTube Family.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, and thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life is Better With You."

Griffin: Oh, yeah. I can really hum this, is what I'm saying. Like I know it's not the most exciting one, but I—

Travis: It's gonna make a good noise!

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, absolutely. Okay.

Travis: No look!

Griffin: I'm gonna stand up... Oh, over the shoulder?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Let me make sure it actually is empty. Hold up. Oh, no, it was not empty. That would have been disastrous!

Justin: Wait, do you not have a bag in there? And you're just emptying that into the can?

Travis: Raw dog!

Justin: Oh, that's Sticky City for good!

Travis: There's no sugar in LaCroix!

Griffin: It's flat LaCroix! There's nothing sticky in LaCroix! LaCroix is—

Justin: Oh, I guess it just like evaporates?

Griffin: Is neutral.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: It's the memory of flavor!

Griffin: Here we go. One...

[thud and clattering]

Justin: Frick, dude! You did that so angry. Very cool.

Travis: You were so angry! [chuckles]

Justin: Very cool. That's highly GIF-able.

Griffin: I hit my Garfield—I hit my Garfield phone.

Justin: Highly GIF-able. That's going to do it for us. My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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