

MBMBaM 828: *Unless I'm Pissin' Pants

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

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

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

Griffin: Good morning, Trav Nation. It's me, your sweet baby brother, 30 Under 30 media luminary Griffin McElroy.

Justin: I am so excited, guys, because I have some news. We're obviously of a time of year when we start looking to find out where the Spirit Halloween is gonna be in your area.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Right. I wanna be ready.

Justin: Ours has been at the abandoned Toys "R" Us for the past few years, but guys, I don't know that we're gonna get one in Huntington this year.

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: It seems like we may have to go to Ashland, Kentucky.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Oh, dude.

Justin: I know.

Griffin: Did you do something wrong, do you think? Maybe you didn't...

Justin: Bought 'em too hard, went too frequently. Probably lingered too long without buying enough for the amount of time I spent there.

Travis: Oh, you pressed the button on the animatronics too many times. And they were like, "You're just here for the animatronics."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I was thinking more like a deficiency in your Halloween activity. Almost like a Hallmark movie premise, like, "The town that skipped Halloween."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: You guys just didn't go.

Justin: I would use the changing rooms there even for non-costume changing, just my day-to-day clothes changed.

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: Just, you know... But it's actually where I got all my groceries too. You remember that week that I was just living off candy cigarettes and gummy eyeballs? [wheeze-laughs] Well—

Travis: Yeah. And you drank only fake blood, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. I remember last time I stayed over, actually, at the house. And I was like, "Hey, I'm gonna take a shower. Do you have any towels?" And you said, "Yes." And you opened up a closet, which was traditionally your linen closet, and just a bunch of Freddy Krueger masks spilled out.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And you said, "Here you go." You said—

Travis: You didn't even get the sweaters, which would have made—

Griffin: You said, "Here you go!" And you handed me a Freddy Krueger mask. And I was like, "I don't— This isn't gonna dry my nude form off. This is a Freddy

Krueger mask." You seemed confused.

Justin: My relationship to Spirit is not what is the topic today. Major business news this week. For starters, did you guys know that Spencer Gifts owns Spirit Halloween? That's one company.

Griffin: That makes a lot of sense.

Travis: Yeah. That really clicked for me, because for whatever reason, Dot has been asking a lot of questions about Spirit Halloween lately. Like, how it works, why it goes away.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I thought— And I was explaining to them that a Halloween store being open in April doesn't make any sense. But then I thought, "They must have a board of CEOs. Are *they* employed year-round?"

Griffin: They just hibernate, no.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: They have cryopods they climb into November 1st. And then, you know, honestly probably Mid-April, they're back, they're cracking, trying to figure out what's hot.

Travis: Teresa and I got really excited when we realized a fairly big department store closed about six months ago near us. And the possibility that that could become a Spirit Halloween, and it's very big, was exciting to us.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So this is one company, Spirit and Spencer. Now, Spencer, if you don't know, they're the bad boys of mall gifts. If you go into a Spencer Gifts at the mall, you're gonna see cleavage, and butt cracks, and farts, and black light posters.

Griffin: Yeah, dude. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: And jokes about getting old.

Justin: Yeah. Jokes about getting old, for sure. I actually— I bet there's some new high-tech stuff, maybe holograms or what-have-you.

Travis: Ooh, yeah.

Justin: But now there's something brand new that you're gonna be able to enjoy there, because the— Well, not by Spencer. But the Spencer Spirit company has purchased Hot Topic.

Griffin: No way. [chuckles]

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Dude, they're all coming together.

Griffin: The singularity... [laughs] The singularity approaches, dude.

Justin: Dude, there's an axis. There's an axis of power now.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Justin: This is our best shot at fucking— I'll be honest. As the conglomerations start to make their steampunk pivot into militarized Google, militarized Amazon, we need one corpo that we can root for that has the hopes of humanity pinned to it. Spencer Spirit Holdings gets Hot Topic, which also is BoxLunch and Her Universe. So now, Spencer Gifts, BoxLunch...

Travis: Jesus.

Justin: ... *Hot Topic*. There's one man— I tell you who's eating good is Jack Skellington. [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Yeah, man!

Justin: [through laughter] The guy is fucking losing it! I bet he had to get this deal in shares. They couldn't even *afford* to pay him.

Griffin: No way, man.

Travis: Jack Skellington and the dude from *Death Note* are hanging out, just on their big piles of money.

Griffin: Just making bank.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah. *My Hero Bankademia*, is what I think. [chuckles]

Travis: Do you think that somewhere, there's a council convening of the leaders of the emo kids, and the leaders of the goth kids, and the leaders of the weeb kids, and then in comes the Spencer's Gifts dirtbag kids? With like, big weed leaves on their shirts.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: And they're like, "I call this meeting to order." [laughs] And they're all just making big decisions about what's gonna be *in*.

Griffin: "I cast my scrying bones!" And it's just a bunch of little plastic dicks.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: That's the Spencer's mysticism.

Travis: If they swallow up Hollister, fuck, man. We're in trouble.

Griffin: They can't! See, that's taboo— Hollister's gonna—

Justin: No, different kids.

Griffin: The other ones can change. The Hollister kids? Those are different kids, Trav.

Travis: No, that's what I'm saying. If they were to ever swallow up—

Griffin: Encroach, yeah, yeah.

Justin: They wouldn't allow it. Like, they're not fit.

Travis: If we got news that Spencer's had bought Hollister, I think there'd be a singularity.

Justin: The CEO, Steven Silverstein, said, "While our operating models and the strategies catered to unique and different audiences, our core values, missions, and commitment to hating our parents are completely aligned." [wheeze-laughs] Just a little editor's note, sorry. It said [through laughter] commitment to innovation, excuse me.

Travis: Oh. Commitment to fake tattoos and fishnets, fully aligned.

Justin: "This transaction enhances our long-term durability, further proving it's not a phase, mom!" [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] "It broadens our reach, and positions us to write the next chapter of our retail— To get history together, which will be—"

Griffin: Get this guy fucking out of here!

Justin: "It will be sins, not tragedies! That is the chapter we will be writing together."

Griffin: Get this dork out of here. I need a cooler member of the executive suite for this company.

Travis: "Shareholders will be excited to receive their dividends this year via blind bags."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "So you'll find out how much you got, on the day."

Justin: "I chimed in with a, 'Haven't you people ever heard of cutting our prices to attract a different clientele?' Thank you, COO Brandon Urie. Thank you for driving in. We are so happy to have you at this company; you've been such a great addition."

Travis: The board recognizes Pikachu. Yes, thank you for coming.

Justin: [laughs] Uh, yeah, so that's a great— I'm rooting for 'em. [wheeze-laughs] I can't even say that. But I guess they're gonna stay separate, but...

Griffin: Nah, man. For a while, this is gonna be a GameStop situation eventually. There will not be an Electronics Boutique no more. I think they're just gonna combine into one really— A store with a lot of 'tude.

Justin: Just a 'tude.

Griffin: Just a 'tude shop.

Justin: Just call it 'Tude.

Griffin: Just call it 'Tude.

Travis: Just call it 'Tude!

Justin: Yeah. How far are we from Spirit—

Travis: Was Gadzooks one?

Justin: Do you think there is a point at which they own enough businesses where Spirit Halloween just has to say, like, "Listen. Joking aside, I am *tired* of opening and closing these stores so much. We have all these other stores we don't have to do this! It's such a pain in the ass. Just leave it open, please!"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know they have Spirit Christmas! Okay.

Griffin: Okay, but there's a good chunk of the year there where you're not— I mean, Easter, we do up I guess a bit, but there's—

Justin: Just do paintball!

Travis: But I know that year-round Christmas stores exist.

Griffin: Yeah, they can live.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: I don't understand how, but I know that it happens.

Justin: There's a year-round Halloween store. The problem is, it's Hot Topic, and

they just bought them. So I don't know where you go from there.

Travis: What if Spirit Halloween becomes hidden within Hot Topic? Right?

Justin: Oh.

Travis: It's like, yeah, it's all kind of pieced together throughout Hot Topic. You'll just start noticing different stuff going in, leading up.

Justin: This idea that maybe Spirit Halloween is more like an infection that we have to drain every Halloween, [chuckles] so it becomes bulbous. And it's like, "Woah, we gotta— It's swelling throughout the store! We've gotta drain this off."

Travis: The name comes from the fact that it haunts dead stores every year. And Halloween, Spirit Halloween haunts dead stores.

Griffin: Yeah, that is a good point.

Travis: So I think it's a possession problem, and it must be exorcised through commerce.

Griffin: There was a Spirit Halloween that was really close to our old house in Austin that used to be a furniture store that specialized in Texas shit. So a lot of longhorns, a lot of cowskin rugs, a lot of...

Travis: Dead things.

Griffin: *Big*, heavy wooden furniture. I think it was called Primitives.

Justin: Ooh, yeah.

Griffin: And I never saw anyone in that store, even once. And then it became a Spirit Halloween. But whenever you were in there, shopping for costumes or Babadooks or whatever, you could tell. There was a lingering sort of funk of large Texas furniture just kind of in the air.

Travis: Mm. You can feel that in Texas in general, funk of large Texas furniture.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It makes air quality terrible.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is an advice show.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So like... We're gonna do that, still.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: It would be wild to stop at this point, to not do that. We're still gonna do that. Sorry, I got an email from Hunted Killer that just said, "Dead body, thumbs down. Solving a mystery, thumbs up." It's like, okay, guys.

Travis: Huh!

Justin: It's really blowing down the concept of— [laughs] You got it all in the subject line. I'm really impressed.

Griffin: That sounds like the subject line of the Act Blue emails that I still get.

Justin: Good for you, Griffin.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: To stay involved. [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] That was meant to be a complaint about the subject line of fundraising emails, and less of a brag.

Justin: Griffin hasn't given up. [laughs]

"I live in an adorably small town in Tennessee, and have heard rumors that we will be having a Hallmark movie based on the town that will be doing principal photography locally. I do not know the schedule, or any plot details obviously, but I *desperately* wanna be in this movie! What can I do to secure my part as a local weirdo in the production? I already host trivia at two spots in the town, if that helps."

Travis: Yes, obviously that helps.

Justin: That's from Hallmark Hopeful. Hmm.

Travis: I did witness them filming a Lacey Chabert vehicle Hallmart movie at Disney.

Justin: It wasn't like a Lacey Chabertmobile, right? 'Cause I've been asking them to make one of those forever.

Griffin: [giggles]

Travis: No, no, no.

Justin: If they'd stole that idea from me...

Travis: No.

Griffin: What would that look like, Juice? What would the Lacey Chabertmobile— Would it be like the Wienermobile, but just a big Lacey Chabert?

Travis: Or is it like a mobile that spins around?

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: It's like the Jokermobile, but it's her face on the front, just smashing through walls in Gotham.

Griffin: Cool!

Travis: *Oh.* I saw it as a thing that calmed down babies. That would just spin over their crib.

Griffin: It does, actually.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Weirdly. When this big fuckin' V8-powered Lacey Chabert car comes up on a baby, they are soothed.

Justin: That's so weird that you said that, Trav. 'Cause I actually was thinking of [through laughter] Lacey Chabertmobile, Alabama.

Travis: Oh! Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: That was actually what I was— So it's actually confusing.

Travis: But I saw them filming this, and now it's coming out, and I'm very excited. I didn't have the courage to approach the filming in any way. I had my resume, *Trolls World Tour*, just written out on a piece of paper, 'cause that's all I've got. And I tried to hand that over, and they threw me—

Justin: [holding back laughter] Just a piece of paper that said *Trolls World Tour*?

Travis: Yeah. *Trolls World Tour*. And they threw me into the pond, in the middle of the World Showcase. So it didn't pan out, but good luck!

Griffin: Mm... I mean, can you get your SAG card? That seems like a good start.

Justin: Are those all union gigs?

Griffin: You might not need it. You might not need it, but it's better to have it and not— I've had my SAG card for a long time, and needed it like two or three times.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And so I'm speaking from experience. It's better to have it, and not need it.

Travis: Host a trivia night of Hallmark movie trivia.

Griffin: Ooh!

Travis: That's gonna be catnip! Especially if you put up a big cash prize. The production team is gonna try to get in there, recoup some costs of the filming, right? 'Cause they're like, "This is gonna make our budget," right? It's gonna have to be a *big* cash prize.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And you're gonna draw them out.

Justin: Gathering a group is solid. The fact that you're doing trivia already, if you

can say, "Listen. I can get a group of people together, and I know that's probably the biggest pain for you. 'Cause you just want people in the background. So I'm usually— I can get 20 to 30 people, if I just start asking questions out loud." And that, I think, you just have to have one *really, really good* trivia joke. [laughs] That they can't cut.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: And you have to make 'em— One really good... I don't know what a good trivia— You know, it could be anything, it's trivia. But you get it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: If you can connect the trivia joke to also be a summary of the plot hinge of the movie, you're making it in the trailer, they can't cut that. Right?

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: So if you can make something about, you know, "Oh, when you look at it, I think that pursuing your job over a love of Christmas is pretty trivial," right? Something like that?

Griffin: Yeah, that's good!

Travis: Is that the question?

Justin: Is there a scene—

Travis: Here's the question: "What's important in life? A, the love of family. B, your job."

Justin: Oh, that's good, Trav!

Travis: Right?

Justin: You can almost hear the violins, like, "Ahh." Was there a movie that— Was there a movie that we have watched [chuckles] about Christmas that has a scene very much like this *in* it? Because I feel like in *I Believe in Santa Claus*, there's a pub trivia night where—

Griffin: There is a Christmas trivia, Santa Claus based trivia, yeah.

Justin: Christmas trivia comes up, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Justin: Dang. So maybe they don't wanna— [laughs] They're all *super* concerned with being original over there, so they don't wanna rip off anybody else's Christmas trivia scenes.

Griffin: You gotta find out more about the plot of the movie, and I don't know how you do—

Justin: You gotta find out *something*.

Griffin: You gotta talk— We'll talk to Joel. We'll call Joel up and see if he knows about one of these projects shooting in a cute town in Tennessee. 'Cause you gotta tailor it, you can't do the same trivia for *Hot Frosty 2* that you would do for *Yes, Chef! Christmas 2*.

Travis: Yeah. Absolutely. I still believe in—

Justin: God. Did you say *Hot Frosty 2*? I got chills, like, [laughs] I just—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Justin: I know it won't, but...

Travis: Oh, could you walk around town just loudly talking, like on your cell phone, about how the true meaning of Christmas is having the most successful trivia night, and that's what you're really dedicated to? And you don't have time for love, and you haven't talked to your mom in years.

Justin: [laughs] Dang, that's a hard pivot, to try to spin it around yourself. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Justin: [through laughter] Just like, "Hey. Maybe the one element they're missing is a story and lead actor."

Travis: "We found the location, and we got the budget."

Justin: "We're so close."

Travis: "Now, we just need to figure out what happens in the movie."

Justin: [through laughter] "We just need a married 40-something to really bring this thing together."

Griffin: [laughs] I think it's hubris to think you're gonna make the shoot come to you. You're gonna need a network. You're gonna need a eyes. You're gonna need boots on the ground, eyes in the sky, and you're gonna need them to post up at. For instance, it is not too early now to start reaching out to all the owners of Christmas tree lots in the city.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: And just say, like, "If you hear something, I'll slide you a \$20 to give me a ring." And you can just be in the background.

Justin: But they won't be doing that in Christmastime, though.

Travis: No, it'd be—

Justin: 'Cause the Christmas tree lot people— You gotta go to the Arbor Day lots, or some of the other more summer lots.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: If there's a coffee shop in town that also has a stone fireplace in it...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's guaranteed. That's locked in. You're gonna wanna just sit there for like six hours a day, looking for them. 'Cause they gotta put up those things that are like, "If you walk into this, you're in the shot, and we own you now." They gotta put that on the door of places. So you're looking for those.

Griffin: You're looking for those.

Travis: You're looking for crafty.

Griffin: You just gotta start spreading the word. Just start putting the drag net out. Start printing out flyers of Candace Cameron... Burg? [chuckles] Candace Cameron Burg? I think she has—

Justin: I just say Mrs. Bill Burr. It makes— It's easier for me to remember. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. Lacey Chabert is easier.

Griffin: Just printing out flyers—

Travis: She hyphenated her last name when she married Bill Burr. Lacey Chaburr.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Just printing out flyers of one of them, and saying, "If you see this woman, give me a call." [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And have your number on it.

Justin: That's good! [frantically] "Hi, I'm looking for Lacey Chabert!?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] "Come back!"

Travis: "Have you seen Melissa Joan Hart?"

Justin: "Come back! I'm looking— Have you seen Melissa Joan Hart or Candace Cameron Bill Burr?"

Griffin: "Recently. Like, recently."

Justin: "Recently. I'm— Obviously [crosstalk]."

Travis: "Recently! And not [crosstalk]."

Griffin: "We've all seen *Sabrina the Teenage Wi*— Like, we've all seen— Yeah."

Justin: "We all watched *Clarissa Explains it All*. I'm saying, have you seen her around town, nearby? In the ne—" If you traveled with a t-shirt that said, "I consent to be filmed," [chuckles] that could probably get you— [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a cool shirt!

Justin: Yeah. [through laughter] "I consent to be filmed at all times." Dang, hold on a sec. We gotta get that one going, yeah. We'll sell that, no problem.

Travis: Yeah, there's no— Nothing bad could come from that. [laughs]

Justin: No. I could do that, no problem. No problem at all.

Travis: Oh, wait. On the back, asterisk, "Only when I'm doing cool shit." You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So that way, it's clear.

Justin: [through laughter] "Unless I'm pissin' pants."

Travis: Yeah! [laughs] "Unless I'm pissin' pants." That's in tiny—

Justin: [through laughter] It's in tiny letters.

Travis: In small print at the bottom.

Justin: "You have my full legal consent to film me at any moment." Asterisk, "Unless I'm pissin' pants."

Travis: "If it pleases the court, if you look at my client's shirt, it clearly states..."

Justin: "I'm wearing the shirt now, actually, Your Honor. If you look at the shirt—I've provided one for everyone in the audience. You can see, it clearly says..."

Travis: "Ahh. Case dismissed!" And then roll credits on the greatest Hallmark movie ever.

Justin: "And wait! One more question, young man. Where was the URL you purchased this great shirt?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It's McElroyMerch.com. It's an ad.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. This is an ad.

Travis: The greatest brand pairing between Hallmark movies and McElroyMerch.com brings you *I Consent to be Filmed Unless I'm Pissin' Pants*, the movie.

Griffin: Unless I'm pissin' pants.

Justin: God, dude! It got so commercial so fast. [laughs] "I Consent to be Filmed Unless I'm Pissin' Pants" used to be outsider shit.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? And now, they're making goddamn Hallmark movies about it! You know?

Travis: I remember when I bought the "I Consent to be Filmed Unless I'm Pissin' Pants" shirt when it was *cool*, when it *meant* something! When they stood for something!

Justin: I used to give my consent to be filmed unless I'm pissin' pants, before it got all corporate!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now, there's protest shirts, also available at McElroyMerch.com.

Justin: McElroyMerch.com. The others are at Goodwill, 'cause we are done with those!

Travis: "I *Don't* Consent to being Filmed Unless I'm Pissin' Pants."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Roll away, Mr. Ziegfeld."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Alright. Here's another question for you, our beloved audience. "My partner and I are visiting his parents tomorrow to stay for the week. Normally, I only bring one pair of shoes to visit them, but I recently acquired a pair for the express purpose of wearing outside..."

Griffin: Inside.

Justin: "Since I hate going barefoot around the house." Inside shoes and outside shoes, house shoes. Okay.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: "I want to bring these shoes with me, so I don't have to deal with dust and crumbs at the bottom of my feet. But my partner's family is generally a no shoes inside the household. How do I let my in-laws know that I'm wearing *house only* shoes, and not disgracing their floors with dirt from the outside while keeping up the illusion that I'm a well-adjusted young man who doesn't overthink this sort of thing, and is good match for their son?" And doesn't, what, email podcasts about it, I'm assuming is the underlying— [chuckles] The undertone there?

Travis: "I'm well-adjusted, and not this. Not the exact thing I'm doing right now."

Justin: "That's not what I am."

Griffin: I mean, that is— That's suggested in the post script of every question we get.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: If people knew that they listened to our show, and were asking this question, it would put some English on the ball basically every time.

Justin: “My house shoes are black rubber slide sandals, which I have never worn outside. My in-laws have tile in every room in their house, as is common here.” Y’all, for starters, [chuckles] if you want us to try to solve this in another country, you at least have to tell us what country we are talking about.

Travis: Yeah. Southern Europe could be anywhere.

Justin: Southern *Europe*!? I don’t even know—

Travis: What is that— I think that’s Antarctica.

Justin: Spain, right?

Griffin: Italy? Where’s Italy at?

Justin: Italy, Spain?

Travis: Where’s Greece? Greece is down there, right?

Justin: Tile is very common. An enigma.

Griffin: Down there, yeah.

Justin: How on *earth* would I begin to presume to know how to help you to navigate this?

Travis: But that is good, so we don’t dox you. I see you’re being very careful here.

Justin: No idea! No *clue*!

Griffin: Right. Those countries are so small, it would not be hard for someone to triangulate.

Justin: I have to assume it’s from a country without sockarinos. Is that the

implication?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In Italy, they don't have *socks*?

Travis: Well, I mean, Italy's shaped like a boot. So if we take that as our—

Justin: That still doesn't make any sense! You're right, Trav!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They would've thought of socks *way* before us.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah. They would've been early adopters.

Travis: I think there's a problem here too. Well, I mean, there's many problems. But even if you were to say the exact— Like, "These shoes have never been outside. I'm just wearing them," and then follow up with "because I don't like getting crumbs and shit on my feet." You are telling your in-laws, like, "'Cause your house is nasty dirty."

Justin: Yeah. "I don't want your dirty floor—"

Griffin: I can't get past this. I *can't* get past this. If you're walking— I'm not a clean freak or nothing, but if you're walking around your house and you sit down, and you hoist your puppies up, and they're covered in crumbs and dust? You have a floor— That's not a foot problem; that's a floor issue. And you need to Swiffer WetJet all that shit. It takes just but a moment.

Travis: Now, to be fair. I've got two dogs and a cat. It gets bad so quick, you could do it every day.

Justin: Oh, dude. I was gonna say, man, I don't know what fantasy this is— My socks at the end of every day have to be decontaminated. Like, my floor— If you've only worn your shoes in my house, then good news, you probably only have baking soda and crayon and food coloring on them. So it should be no problem at all for you to plop those right on my beautiful, pristine linen couch. My white—

Travis: Griffin keeps his kids in a taped-off area with plastic wrap down.

Griffin: The dirt zone!

Travis: Yeah. That's how he keeps it— I don't know. My kids eat all over the house like the Tasmanian Devil, and I don't know— I don't even see them do it. I just know it's happening. But your feet get cold! Your feet get cold on the tile.

Justin: Your feet get cold?

Travis: Your feet get cold on the tile!

Griffin: Yeah, your feet gonna get cold on the tile.

Justin: Ohh.

Griffin: I don't know that slide sandals are gonna do much for the warmth factor.

Travis: But it's gonna keep the heat transfer. The heat transfer is—

Griffin: Guys, we're trying really, really hard. I can tell we're trying really, really hard. When the answer is socks, and it's crazy that we have an—

Justin: Can I just say, like, it's definitely not black rubber sole sandals. That's what you wear to my house if you're coming to help me clean up flood damage. Like, sincerely. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: That's not an indoor shoe!

Travis: Now, I know we've already developed "I Consent to be Filmed Unless I'm Pissin' Pants," right?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: But what if we developed a sock with a hidden sole at the bottom? Right?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So looks like a sock, but inside the sock, right along the bottom...

Justin: Looks like a sock, eats like a shoe. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Okay, if it's— Okay. Just a physics thing, if the sole's on the inside of the sock, you're gonna destroy the sock beneath the sole. I think the sole has to be outside of the foot.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Outside of the sock material.

Justin: So you need like Spider-Man, basically. Like Spider-Man booties that have —

Griffin: Ballet shoes, almost.

Justin: Hospital socks? Like, that kind of deal? If you get hospital socks in your back pocket, that's literally much less weird—

Travis: But I'm talking about maybe removable sole.

Griffin: Awesome. Magnetic.

Travis: It's velcro.

Justin: Bro, I was trying to help you out, and get you away from this bad idea, but you just keep— You are fixated on it.

Travis: No, I'm sticking with it like the sole sticks to the bottom of the sock, 'cause the velco on the sole, you see. You don't even need velco on the *sock* side, 'cause the sock will provide that naturally. All the hooks are on the sole. And then you can change it in and out.

Justin: I have— Trav, I wish I wasn't— This is true. I have a pair of shoes that I got off of Shark Tank that have a— They basically convert into a slipper. You put the bottom of the heel on, and it attaches, and then you're in outdoor mode. And then when you get into the house, you rip the bottom of the shoe off.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: And I guess... [through laughter] set it aside. I don't know. I've never figured that part out. [laughs] We can go into the house and—

Travis: It didn't come with, like, a case or something? [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, where do I— Can I just throw these in a pile by the door? I don't wanna forget 'em. And then it's a slipper, right? So you just removed your outdoor sole.

Griffin: Nice.

Justin: Which is like—

Griffin: So you use— You could just wear those 24/7, then.

Travis: Well, I'm adding—

Griffin: Never let those puppies out.

Travis: I'm adding a third layer to that, Justin.

Justin: More complication.

Travis: Where it's like, then you can remove *another* layer, and it's just sock. So you go shoe, to slipper, to sock.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: That's good. That's actually a huge innovation, Trav.

Griffin: Give me a boot upgrade. I want a whole Iron Man thing that I step into.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: And it just kind of gets me where I need to go.

Justin: 'Cause that's one step up from that. Boot— It's like sock, slipper, shoe, boot, thrusters.

Travis: Pants.

Griffin: Thrusters.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: Thrusters.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I was gonna say, but it's all one piece. Like waders.

Griffin: Yeah, man!

Justin: That's a utility. I mean, you're talking about— Yeah, like waders.

Travis: You're gonna zip— It's zip-off pants, but instead of at the knee, it happens at the top of the boot.

Griffin: Sometimes, we stumble into a really good answer after just kind of vamping for a little bit. I think if your shoes are part of your pants...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: ... the parents can't say anything. You walk in, and they— They can't be like, "This is a no-shoe household."

You'd be like, "Uh, it's part of my pants. What, do you want me to get my dick and butt out?"

Justin: [laughs] "Nice to meet you, by the way. Sheesh!"

Griffin: "Nice to meet you. Crazy energy. Like, hi."

Justin: [laughs] "Do I— Should I hang my suspenders up somewhere, or how do you want me to work this?"

Griffin: "Excuse me. I'm wearing a big, inflatable *Among Us* crewmate costume that I got from Spirit Halloween. It's a onesie. You want me to climb out of this,

and be naked with you? I *guess!*”

Justin: “Although I could return it to my local BoxLunch or Spirit Halloween *or* Spencer Gifts...”

Travis: For credit!

Justin: “... for *credit!*”

Travis: It’s been used. Well loved, I like to say.

Justin: Lightly used.

Travis: Inflatable *Among Us* costume, never worn.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Infrequently worn, but worn with a depth that feels like time has been, uh...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Hey, how about we take a quick break?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: I’d love that.

Justin: Would that be okay with you guys?

Travis: Yeah, man, I’m exhausted.

Griffin: My water bottle’s been empty this whole time, and I’ve been like, honestly kind of panicking about it.

Justin: Alright. Bring in the ad, guys! Do the ads.

Griffin: I’ll be right back.

Justin: The best guys.

Griffin: I really am about to fill this. I'm thirsty as hell.

Justin: Okay. Yeah, man. You gotta hydrate.
[theme music plays]

Travis: Okay. Hi, everybody. Quick, before Griffin gets back, Justin and I want to tell you about Bonobos. Bonobos is great, but we wanna tell you before Griffin gets back.

Justin: Yeah, he wants to keep the secret to himself.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: If he hears us talking about Bonobos, he's gonna [whispering] kick our asses.

Travis: Yeah. Griffin has loved Bonobos so much that—

Griffin: What are you two jabronis talking about!?

Travis: Uh, nothing! Nothing, Mr. McElroy!

Justin: No, no, nothing! Nothing, nothing.

Griffin: Better not be Bonobos, or I'm gonna turn your [crosstalk]—

Justin: No, it's not Bonobos, it's a—

Griffin: I'm gonna turn your tails pink, if you keep talking about Bonobos.

Travis: No. No, sir.

Justin: It's not them! No, no, no. This is another great, great option for nailing the perfect fit in men's pants! It's a *different* place. It's not Bonobos!

Travis: No. No, this is another place—

Griffin: I'm gonna make those pants fit, when I pink your behinds!

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: If you're talking about Bonobos.

Travis: No, this is a different place.

Justin: What's so great about Bonobos anyway, Griffin? Why are you so protective of them? What's so great about Bonobos?

Griffin: I mean, the pants fit perfect, genuinely. They got polos, they got everyday shirts, shorts, everything in between. They got whatever you need. It all looks very trendy. You're gonna look like a stylish person that seems like they know what they're doing. And I genuinely— I got some stuff from Bonobos a few months back, and I cannot tell you how frequently they have entered the rotation. Some of my favorite slacks I've ever gotten, I got from Bonobos.

Travis: He literally can't tell you, 'cause he doesn't want to get the word out, 'cause he wants to keep it all to himself.

Justin: Keep it *all* to himself.

Griffin: Well, no, 'cause Bonobos is paying us to spread the word. So like, I do—I'm conflicted.

Travis: Oh, God, you lost it, Griffin!

Griffin: But maybe the compromise is just *you guys* don't make a big deal out of it. Or else you're hankering for a spanking, if you keep this up, guys.

Justin: Hankering for a spanking? Okay, here's what I will note. I'll give you an example of what I'm not going to say, just for the future reference, okay?

Griffin: Okay. Okay.

Justin: I will not say, "So put on Bonobos, feel good, and get on with your day. Right now, head to [Bonobos.com/mybrother](https://www.bonobos.com/mybrother) and use code mybrother for 25% off your order. Once again, that's [sing-song] [Bonobos.com/mybrother](https://www.bonobos.com/mybrother) for 25% off, and make sure you use our promo code mybrother, so they know we sent you."

Travis: Hey, have you ever noticed how fuzzy the world looks? And it's hard to see things that are far away, or it's hard to see things that are close up? Well, have I got news for you! Glasses!

Justin: Okay.

Travis: You're gonna *love* these things!

Justin: *Am* I gonna love them?

Travis: They're like telescopes you wear on your eyes!

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: They are like little telescopes.

Travis: And they make your vision— They make the world clear, and make things that are—

Griffin: They're like two magnifying glasses, like you're some sort of cool double detective any time you put them on.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Yeah. Yeah!

Griffin: Twin monocles sort of situation.

Travis: Bionicles, if you will.

Griffin: Mm-hmm! And we've all been waiting for Bionicles to come back, and Warby Parker is surprisingly the one to do it. And we all thought the Lego company would be the Bionicle— Nope. Warby Parker does incredible glasses and sunglasses, prescription lenses, whatever you'd need. And also, these rad Lego action figures with their many multicolored masks and weapons.

Travis: Now, I'm worried that we're gonna be sued. Bionicles the toy will *not* improve your vision. We wanna make that clear. I tried for many years, but no matter how many I ate, it didn't make my vision any better.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Bifocals, yes.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Bionicles? No.

Travis: Happy Pride Month. So—

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: Bionicles for happy Pride is—

Travis: Bionicles and bifocals. Either one works.

Justin: I don't think that's right.

Griffin: We're late. It would have been something in June, but like—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I literally just bought new sunglasses from Warby Parker yesterday, because I lost my other pair at the pool. And that sucks when that happens, but it sucks less because the glasses are so affordable. Prescription glasses start at just 95 bucks. These are Warby Parkers. *These* are Warby Parkers. I have multiple pairs of glasses now, for the first time, because Warby Parker makes—

Justin: These right here, Warby Parkers.

Travis: No...

Griffin: Makes them just so affordable! And they look great, and I don't think those are Warby Parkers. Those look like novelty sort of pineapple glasses.

Justin: Oh, much better! Now, I can see.

Griffin: I don't think— Now, the—

Justin: Now, I can see the most important thing,

Griffin: my future is bright, and sunny! Hurray! Thank you, Warbo!

Griffin: So thanks, [holding back laughter] Warbo, for this sponsorship.

Justin: Take it from me, a lifelong fan! [laughs]

Griffin: I can't believe we're beefing— This is genuinely a—

Travis: Of Warbo Porky!

Griffin: This is the—

Justin: Guys, I don't know how to relate to you on these ads. I can feel you losing control of it. I don't know what to say! My vision's perfect. I wanna step in, but I'm not welcome in this space.

Griffin: I have tried to get glasses other ways. Warby Parker is the only way that I have found to do it that makes sense financially, and they look fuckin' great!

Justin: Just hoping there'd be an obstetrician on there.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Nope. Right now.

Justin: And I told them, that's a baby doctor!

Griffin: Right now.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Buy one pair of glasses, and get 20 percent off any additional pairs at [WarbyParker.com/mybrother](https://www.warbyparker.com/mybrother). That's 20 percent off any additional pairs when you purchase one pair at [WarbyParker.com/mybrother](https://www.warbyparker.com/mybrother).

Travis: W-A-R-B-*why*? Because you can't see clearly without them!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's... That's not bad, Trav. I would hold that one in reserve.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You should charge extra for that.
[ad changes]

Justin: Hi, I'm Justin McElroy, and I host *Sawbones* with my wife Sydnee. I'm here with Max Fun Member of the Month Amanda Adams. Thank you so much for being a supporter, and thank you for being our member of the month!

Amanda: Woo-hoo! You're so welcome.

Justin: How long have you been listening to *Sawbones*, Amanda?

Amanda: It's been probably a good ten years. I very much enjoy Dr. Sydnee and everything she does, and it's wonderful to be able to support it!

Justin: Let me ask you about the most important moment of your life, when you decided to become a Max Fun supporter.

Amanda: Honestly, I am just proud I can support the people who make me hours and hours of content every week. I feel honored to do it.

Justin: Amanda Adams, thank you so much. I really appreciate your support. Congratulations on your whole month!

Amanda: Thank you so much. It has been a good month already.

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[ad changes]

E1: Hi, everybody! It's Ellen Weatherford.

C1: And Christian Weatherford.

E1: People say not to judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree.

C1: But we can judge a snake by its ability to fly, or a spider by its ability to dive.

E1: Or a dung beetle by its ability to navigate with the starlight of the Milky Way galaxy.

C1: On *Just the Zoo of Us*, we rate our favorite animals out of ten in the categories of physical effectiveness, behavioral ingenuity, and of course, aesthetics.

E1: Guest experts like biologists, ecologists, musicians, comedians, and more join us to share their unique insights into the animal kingdom.

C1: Listen with the whole family on MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[ad break ends]

Justin: [sings Munch Squad riff]

Travis: Wow!

Griffin: What?

Justin: [continues riffing]

Travis: Huh?

Griffin: Squar!

Justin: [continues riffing] I wanna munch!

Travis: [simultaneously] Squad!

Griffin: [simultaneously] Squad!

Justin: [continues riffing] I want to munch!

Travis: [simultaneously] Squad!

Griffin: [simultaneously] Squad!

Justin: [finishes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it is a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. And guys, we've talked a lot about Burger King 'cause they are— [sighs] It's kind of getting a little weird, how much they want to do a better job. [laughs] It's like every time, they're like, "We really want you to come to Burger King! It's really good now."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, it's starting to be— I don't know, they need someone to tell them they're doing a good job.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I don't know how many people have to finally say to Burger King, "No, we've *had* it our way."

Justin: "No, it's good."

Travis: "We enjoy it our way."

Griffin: "It's good!"

Travis: And they'll be like, "Thank God."

Justin: Burger King is continuing to turn guest feedback into action with the Your Way Champion.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "Burger King is launching into the next chapter in its brand transformation. Acting on feedback shared by thousands of guests across the US, just four months after inviting guests to share honest feedback through its listening initiative that gave out President Tom Curtis' phone number." We remember this.

Griffin: Bullshit.

Justin: Yeah. Bullshit. Didn't answer.

Griffin: I mean, yeah, I remember. But I also remember that it was bullshit.

Justin: I did get a call back, by the way. And I was too scared to return it.

Griffin: No fucking way.

Justin: Like, I couldn't. They were like, "We heard you talking about it on the podcast—" I couldn't.

Griffin: No, what!? Really?

Justin: I couldn't even [crosstalk]. Can't do it. Can't do it! Too weak. [laughs] Uh, Burger King is—

Griffin: [wheeze-laughs] Man, God, Juice, this is brave. People never do this on entertainment products, where they're like, "There was a thing we could have done. It probably would've kicked ass, but I am too weak to do it."

Justin: Too scared.

Griffin: "Too weak and scared."

Justin: Too weak. Too scared to do it. Too weak. Burger King—

Griffin: But you can imagine, guys, what that content would have been like.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah. You can get it.

Griffin: It would have been great. We're just not the ones to make it.

Justin: Burger King is—

Travis: It probably would've been better in your imagination than it would've been in real life, so you're welcome.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If it had just been me and that person, it would have just been me trying to get them to like me. It wouldn't have been funny, you know? You're not gonna enjoy that.

"Burger King is introducing two new initiatives designed to improve the moments guests told the brand matter most. One, providing consistent, accurate, and welcoming in-restaurant experience." That is the number one thing about Burger King when people called them, as said. I would never eat— [laughs] I don't like eating in Burger King as much as I used to. Are you— First of all... [laughs] Leave the building.

Griffin: First of all— Okay. Yeah, okay.

Justin: Do not. Unless you're going in to get a crown...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Do not be in Burger King longer than you— But apparently, the number one thing they heard is, "I used to love eating in Burger King, and I don't love that experience like I used to."

Griffin: I hope they factored in the curve of... it's 2026. None of us like anything

that we used to like as much as we used to like it. It's tough out here, and we're all struggling a bit. I used to— I would probably say *I* probably enjoyed eating at Burger King more than I currently do.

Travis: Yeah. Unless the next line in this press release is, "So we're bringing back the Burger King kid's club with Kid Vid, and Wheels, and all your favorites."

Justin: That would be...

Travis: I'm never going in a Burger King again.

Griffin: That's the only press release— Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, dude. Yeah, dude.

Griffin: Or an apology press release for chicken fries. For them to be like, "We fucked up. We really, really hung a lot of our hopes on these long nuggets."

Travis: "Hey, we're sorry that we made good fries for like a month, and then stopped. We apologize."

Justin: Burger King is the only brand that will sell you Have-sies.

Griffin: What's that mean?

Justin: If you want half onion rings and half french fries, they'll do that for you. Have-sies. It's on the menu. No problem.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: Anyway. [chuckles] "One thing Burger King heard *consistently* from guests was that they wanted someone in the restaurant who could quickly make things right when needed."

Griffin: Awesome. [chuckles]

Travis: Huh! Yeah. Wait, yeah? Yeah! Yeah!

Griffin: [through laughter] Burger King is excited to announce, [with stilted pronunciation] Ma-na-ger. M... Mana-ger. The mana-ger, who comes when things are bad, to *fix* them.

Justin: Griffin... "In response, the brand is introducing the Your Way Champion. A reimagined restaurant manager role..."

Griffin: [clapping]

Justin: "... designed to empower restaurant leaders and put the guests' experience first. More than overseeing restaurant operations, Your Way Champions serve as a dedicated point person, clearly identifiable in a Your Way Champion uniform."

Travis: *Mm-hmm.*

Griffin: And the Bastard Sword that they have slung around their back.

Justin: [through laughter] Yeah! They are—

Travis: Oh, see, I was picturing like a championship belt. But yeah.

Griffin: Oh, that works too.

Travis: Or both!

Justin: "Who welcomes guests, ensures orders are prepared the way they are requested, and is available to make things right whenever needed." So okay, I want to stop things here in the press release to discuss. Yes.

Travis: Sorry. Just a quick question. Was I not already doing that?

Justin: No. I don't know what the— The number one thing that people told Burger King is, "I will tell people that things are wrong, and they will respond to me with stony silence [laughs] and refusal to address the issue."

Griffin: Right.

Justin: "I need at least one person who will not meet me with stony silence and refuse to address the issue." So now, you have...

Griffin: The Your Way Champion.

Justin: The Your Way Champion. Who they have described as sort of like...

They're like an *extra* Burger King. They're almost outside the sphere.

Griffin: This is— Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: They like... "Listen, corporate says I'm not supposed to do this, but they have unhinged me from the shackles. I'm literally deputized to kinda do whatever it takes within the local laws."

Griffin: I need everyone else at that Burger King to *hate* the Your Way Champion.

Travis: Oh, yeah. It's the internal investigations of Burger King.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right?

Griffin: The narc. Yeah.

Travis: This reads as the most passive-aggressive way to tell managers like, "Yeah, we're changing—"

Justin: It does, doesn't it? [laughs]

Travis: "Hey! From now on, you're gonna be the Your Way Champion."

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: "Can I please— Can I just stay...?"

"No! Because managers before weren't fixing problems, they weren't making sure food was done consistently."

Griffin: Dude.

Travis: "So *now*, you're a Your Way Champion, Doug."

Griffin: Who would not bail? I feel like there would be a mass exodus at Burger King large enough to impact the global economy.

Justin: What has gone wrong at Burger King that they need to make it someone's job to care if the burger is upside-down?

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: Like, I don't understand that they have to have one person who's— Like, shouldn't everybody kind of want it to be my way? [chuckles] I feel like that's part of the idea.

Travis: "Hey, I ordered a Whopper, and this box was empty?"

"Yeah, I don't know what to tell you. The Your Way Champion isn't here right now, so fuck off, I guess."

Griffin: "So fuck you! We hate your fucking guts!"

Justin: "Fuck you, they're in the can!"

Griffin: "Get out of here, shrimp dick!"

Justin: [laughs] Is the implication that if the Your Way Champion is on lunch break, don't even fucking bother? [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: Don't even go *to* Burger King.

Travis: They're gonna have to put up a "hot 'n fresh" like sign, like fucking Krispy Kreme has.

Justin: They will make your entire meal perfectly, and then they'll take the tray and smash it into your chest.

Griffin: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Justin: Just smoosh it all, then knock you in the toilet. You're the worst.

Griffin: "Can I get a Double Whopper J—"

Whapoo!

"Did you just fucking spit on me?"

"Yeah, man. No champion, no rules, no god. Get out of here."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: The further— [through laughter] "Where's your champion now?"

I think— Okay. In fairness, there should have to be a Staff Champion that tries to thwart the Your Way Champion in return, right?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah. The Our Way Champion.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] The staff needs someone to stand for them, against the Your Way Champion!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's an imbalance of power. [laughs]

Travis: Well, we then will need a third party for them to team up again. A Hamburglar-esque "And I'm here to stop it—" A No Way Champion. "I'm here to stop it all."

Griffin: Well, that's the Burger *King* does that.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Can mediate for the champions of the realm.

Travis: Oh, no. I need an evil one.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Justin: "To further reinforce the commitment to getting things right, Burger King is also introducing a Whopper Guarantee," which is something that I thought I lived under the protection of already. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [through laughter] But apparently, I do not.

Travis: I didn't know that it was a Whopper at your own risk scenario.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: "The Whopper is the brand's most beloved item, and guests expect to have it served hot, *exactly* the way they ordered it. That's why if a Whopper doesn't meet a guest's expectations, the brand will not only continue to remake it on the spot, but they'll offer the guest's next Whopper for free."

Griffin: Uh-oh! Infinite food hack.

Justin: "When we ask—" This is Tom Curtis, who— I've read a lot of press releases. I believe this is written by the man, Tom Curtis. Let me say that. One, I believe this was written by Tom Curtis. Two, I believe that Tom Curtis took phone calls from people who eat at Burger King regularly for some amount of time, because this is a changed man. I've never seen a CEO express this level of humility. Quote, "When we ask guests where we could do better, they gave us a *lot* of honest feedback."

Griffin: Hoo!

Justin: [chuckles] "And now..."

Travis: Chilling!

Justin: "And now, it's our responsibility to act on it. We're not gonna get everything right every single time."

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: "But we're committed to listening intently..."

Travis: That "but" is doing so much work there.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: But, but!

Griffin: But, but.

Travis: I promise.

Justin: “But we’re committed to listening intently and improving every day.”

Travis: “Please stop yelling.”

Justin: “When guests choose us, they expect high-quality food, orders made the way they ask, and a team that’s there when they need us.” I have lost track of the [laughs] pronouns at this point. I do not know who is “them” and “us” anymore.

Travis: I don’t think Tom has slept in weeks, Justin.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I don’t think *he’s* kept track of it.

Justin: “That’s what these changes are about. We’re raising the standard in our restaurants, so every guest feels like they made the right choice.” You know, that’s funny. Tom Curtis took phone calls from people who all eat at Burger King, and he’s like, “I gotta figure out why people aren’t eating at Burger King more. I gotta get to the bottom of this.”

Do you know how humbling it must have been to just be like, “The one thing, Tom, is it would be nice if it didn’t suck, and if everybody gave a shit if it sucked. And they fixed it when it sucked.”

“Is that—”

“Okay, thanks. Bye!”

Travis: And that, Justin, is the calls from people who love Burger King enough to call the CEO and give feedback about Burger King.

Justin: Yes. To talk about the in-store dining experience.

Griffin: If Tom wanted a really representative sample slice, he should’ve called *us*. Like, called strangers, just picking ten random numbers on the phone and

saying, "Hey, real quick. This is Tom from Burger King. Do you like it? What could we do to possibly get you back?"

Travis: Bring back Vid Kid and Wheels and the whole BK gang.

Griffin: Bring back Vid Kid and Wheels. Got it.

Justin: We will never— You gotta give that up.

Griffin: You are the 50th person to tell me that today.

Justin: "Your Way Champions serve as a clear point of contact for guests throughout their visit."

Have you ever been at a Burger King and been like, "Who the fuck do I talk to about this?" [laughs] Like, whose— Is it the people in the striped shirts, or not? I don't know where I'm supposed to go.

Travis: I guarantee you, though, Justin, that the managers at the time did love any tiny bit of anonymity that they had during that time.

Justin: That's true.

Griffin: That's gone.

Travis: And now, they have to wear the big hat with streamers on it that says Your Way Champion.

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm.

Travis: And they can't hide from it anymore.

Griffin: I gotta say, also, as a customer, I don't want that much attention to be paid to me while I'm at Burger King. I'm probably on a road trip, stopping for lunch. That's the only reason I can think that I would be in there in the first place, and I don't need someone— It's like an interactive theater experience that I was not really— That I didn't sign up for. I don't need someone waiting, watching, looking, prowling. "Everything okay?"

Travis: "Here at Burger King, our latest innovation, we've installed a third window at the drive-thru, with an arm down that you can't pass until the Your

Way Champion confirms that the burgers you got in the bag *are* your way."

Griffin: "Can I watch ya eat 'em?"

Travis: "And if they're not, you won't be allowed to leave. Until you eat them in front and enjoy and smile at the Your Way Champion, only then will the arm be lifted and you can continue on your way."

Griffin: "We did pretty good, huh?"

Justin: Maybe Tom was like, "Okay, guys. I've crunched all the numbers, and I talked to everybody, and I figured out what our biggest problem at Burger King is." *Cha-chick!* "Bring up the next slide. Napkin theft! That's our big problem. [laughs] The reason we're not making more money is people are stealing too many napkins. So the Your Way Champion [laughs] is really to just hang out by the napkins."

Like, "Woah, woah, woah, partner! Was that made wrong? Do you need so many napkins?"

Travis: "Yeah. Too goopy?"

Justin: "'Cause we can make it again!"

Travis: What if they realize, one day—

Justin: "You got a spill? 'Cause we keep a mop back there, partner."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: What if one day, Tom, after poring over charts and chalkboards and everything that you realize is the problem is that people who order at Burger King don't know what makes a burger good, and their way sucks.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he's like, "Oh, actually, we should make it *our way*, because we're the ones who have learned how to make the burgers good."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "And so from now on, there's *one* burger you can order. One burger, one size of fry."

Justin: "This is the best one."

Travis: "This is it! This is the only one you get. But we nail it every time."

Justin: I would— Oh, man. I'm just thinking about— I mean, I'm not gonna eat inside a Burger King. [laughs]

Travis: No.

Justin: But I'm thinking about the social pressure of eating inside a Burger King, and having this person— And what if I'm the only one there?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: What if it's just you and the Your Way Champion, staring you down?

Griffin: A new friend.

Justin: Watching you chew. "Hey, partner, this seat taken?"

Travis: "How was *that* bite?"

Justin: "[crosstalk] not."

Travis: "What about that one?"

Griffin: "Again."

Justin: [laughs] "Is that your way?"

Griffin: "More ketchup this— More ketchup.j"

Justin: "Hey, you know the black bun makes your poops a different color, right? Don't be freaked out. [laughs] That's still your way. If your poop's weird, it's just your way. That's your way."

Griffin: [laughs] You may not know— That's cool. The Your Way Champion can be a little pushy about what your way *should* be.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Don't freak out.

Justin: By the way, to make redeeming the Whopper guarantee frictionless, guests who aren't satisfied with their Whopper can scan the QR code provided inside their Whopper box to receive a unique six-digit code that can be redeemed for a free classic Whopper during their next [through laughter] visit to Burger King.

Travis: There's no way anyone will abuse that!

Justin: What?

Griffin: That's what I'm saying. How do you— But does it also say under the QR code, like, "But be honest, because *I* think we fucking crushed it"?

Travis: Yeah. "But please. Please?"

Justin: Free has an asterisk next to it, and I cannot find what that [through laughter] asterisk is referring to. There's no—

Travis: There's something that tickles me so much that it's like, "Hey. If your burger is gross and you didn't like eating it, don't worry. You can have another one."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Yeah. We'll make you another one. No problem. You're not gonna leave Burger King hungry.

Travis: "Yeah, but I didn't like the first one."

"I don't care. Here's another one. Eat this one."

Justin: Hey, maybe you don't like Whoppers, [laughs] okay?

Travis: "Eat this one."

"I didn't like that one either!"

"Scan the QR code."

"I don't want—"

"Scan it!"

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Scan it.

"I think I just don't like the flame-grilled taste."

"Um... Yeah, no, you will like it. Eat another one. You'll learn to love it."

Travis: "Here's another one."

Justin: Putting the code in the box feels like when, in video games, you're watching a cinematic and there's a huge skip cut scene button. And it's like, they really are not confident in this product, huh? [laughs] They really wanna make it clear how you get around this. Like, opening the box and being like, "Disappointed? [laughs] Scan this code."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "We know."

Justin: "Did we let you down again? We know, we get it."

Griffin: Is it under— It has to be on the bottom of the clam shell container, right? Not on the top.

Justin: Because the supposition would be at that point. But like, then you have to finish the whole Whopper you don't like? That sucks.

Travis: It's in the middle of the Whopper, like a fortune cookie. [laughs]

Griffin: No, okay. Does it make less sense that—

Justin: "You clearly didn't eat the whole thing. The code's at the bottom of the burger!"

Griffin: It doesn't make less sense than opening the box, and the first thing

you're confronted with is the little QR code that's like, "On the off chance this sucks, listen."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "This may not be good. You might not like this hamburger you see before you."

Justin: "Possible."

Travis: Oh, they've written out the QR code in ketchup [laughs] on the bottom of the bun. That's nice of them, thank you.

Griffin: Hmm.

Justin: Hey, thank you so much for listening to this podcast, which is called *My Brother, My Brother and Me*.

Travis: That's true!

Griffin: That is— Yep. We're called that.

Travis: I can confirm that.

Justin: Did you guys think I was gonna say more stuff?

Griffin: Kinda.

Travis: Well, if you like other podcasts, specifically—

Justin: Oldest trick in the book. [laughs] Always leave 'em guessing.

Travis: Specifically if you like a podcast called *The Besties*, boy have I got huge news for you. *The Besties* is performing live on Broadway. And not just out on the street. Like, in a theater.

Justin: Yeah. [crosstalk].

Travis: At the Town Hall in NYC. Like, on a stage, too! Not just in the lobby like a quartet, singing. They'll be *on* the stage, doing *Besties* live. And you can get tickets now at bit.ly/bestiesonbroadway.

Griffin: That's October 9th, coming up real soon. So come see us.

Justin: It's gonna be a great show.

Griffin: It's gonna be a good time. We got some new merch up at the merch store, over at McElroyMerch.com. We got a "Pupating is always a free action" shirt, inspired by the *TAZ Royale* finale. That one's only available 'til the end of September, designed by Bryn Dougherty. Thank you so much, Bryn. And ten percent of all of our merch proceeds this month will also be donated to Native Women Lead. So go check all that out, over at McElroyMerch.com.

Travis: I've got this 3D printed pirate ship that I haven't even broken the support trees off yet. But I think—

Griffin: Ooh!

Justin: That's a great way of doing it.

Travis: I think I could arc this pretty good.

Justin: Dude, how do you resist?

Griffin: But no, no, no, no! Trav, Trav, Trav!

Justin: Hey, can we look at the supports real quick? What we got going on there, just out of curiosity? Organic?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I love organic supports!

Travis: I like the tree slim, is what I go with.

Justin: Me too. Those are much more fun to break off.

Griffin: Looks cool. I wouldn't break those off, honestly, 'cause—

Justin: What kind of gap spacing do you have in between the material there, Trav? What kind of infill percentage we got?

Travis: Standard.

Justin: Nice. Nice, nice.

Griffin: It's the normal one.

Travis: The normal one.

Griffin: Trav, remember, we chuck shit over our shoulder [crosstalk].

Travis: I know, I know.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: I'm gonna try to do it without looking, and not slamming into all the precious awards I have in the back.

Griffin: That's what I'm saying, man. That's high stakes. Well, you're standing— Okay.

Travis: Yeah. I need some room. Hey, you ready? Here we go. Can you see me enough to know that I'm not facing [crosstalk]?

Griffin: Fucking not at all, bro.

Travis: Okay. Well, that's my shoulder, see? Hahaha.

Justin: You got it, Trav.

Griffin: I'm just saying, you can do it from your chair— Okay. You got it. [pirate ship clatters]

Travis: Where'd it go?

Griffin: That sounded big.

Justin: It sounded bad, dude.

Griffin: That sounded like a big smasheroonie, dude.

Justin: Is it okay? Is it okay?

Travis: Let me see. I gotta find it first. Geeze, Louise.

Justin: Yeah. Sorry to push you, dude.

Travis: There it is! [rustling, clattering] Oh, God. It's okay!

Justin: Whoo!

Griffin: It's alright, man!

Travis: A piece of the support came off, but that's okay.

Griffin: That's fine. That's fine.

Justin: That's what you want! That's ideal.

Travis: Yeah, it was perfect.

Griffin: Do it again.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy. [laughs]

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

[theme music plays]

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