MBMBaM 826: Calling All Pazziniacs

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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 cracking, Trav Nation? It's me, your sweet baby brother, Griffin '30 Under 30, Media Luminary' Griffin McElroy.

Travis: I like that, what's crackin', I like that, that felt—

Griffin: Thanks! Yeah, I just came up with it!

Travis: It was good.

Justin: We probably talk on this show more about the musical recording artist Pitbull than most guys like that we know.

Griffin: Alive on Earth.

Justin: Like alive on Earth.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I think, especially I would say for people that do not listen to the music of Pitbull, I would say I talk and think a lot, a lot about Pitbull. And

just so people know this is not a bit, and this is like not a fake thing, Griffin and I recently did a show with our friends, The Besties, a video game podcast, in New York, and I had just seen the newest drop from Pitbull. And it's all we talked about.

Griffin: It was a TopFan exclusive drop from Pitbull.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Mr. Worldwide. We're not on a first-name basis with Pitbull Worldwide.

Justin: That's fine.

Griffin: Pitbull Worldwide, yes.

Justin: Yes, Mr. Worldwide, Pitbull Esquire, dropped a new one on me, and here's how I encountered it. It was like this triple-layered dip of funkiness where I see Spotify's like, "Hey, Doc, got a new album for you, got a new drop." And I'm like, what? How dare you? And then they're like, "It's a new Pitbull album." I'm like, okay, keep going! And they're like, "It's called Pitcoin." And then I was like, okay, I guess I have to click on it! The choice is out of my hands at that point.

Griffin: Yeah, you know what sucks, is I saw the name of that album and I immediately invested. And then I was told that it's not an actual fungible token.

Travis: Griffin, you're not alone!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That was a big—because I looked it up, and I was like, surely, this is—

Griffin: Surely.

Travis: This is associated, this is going to be—

Griffin: Almost certainly, Mr. Worldwide has some sort of non-fungible tokens floating around.

Travis: I was like, this is a—this is a… what's the word I'm looking for, multi-tier? This is a… a brand—

Griffin: MLM?

Travis: Yeah, well, that's an integration. I'm doing—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: The album and crypto. No!

Griffin: No?

Travis: But many people were confused and assumed so. And I looked it up, and according to what I could find, and it's hard to believe this is true, not only does Pitbull not have a cryptocurrency of his own, but has not endorsed any either!

Griffin: It's a matter of time. It's a matter of time.

Travis: There is a Pitbull coin that he is not associated with, which must bug him to no end.

Justin: That is wild, that there is a Pitbull coin, and that he has no association with it. You would think that he would be—he would want to cash in on that. Now, if you've been paying attention to Pitbull, he has—

Travis: Of course.

Justin: Come up with something that I want to see if it's okay.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: And I don't know if it's all right. And he's done it once before, and I think he got away with it. And everybody was like, well, I guess it's okay this time, but now I'm going to have to share this one without audio, so apologies. But Pitbull and Jon Bon Jovi released a song called "Now or Never," is what the song is called. Now, I say that, but here's what I'm telling you. It is the song "It's My Life" for the first full minute. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I mean, it's just that song again. And you probably heard it, you might have heard it. They did it on the Grammys. It was a whole thing. Mr. Bull and Mr. Bon Jovi, together.

Travis: He also did this with Dolly Parton.

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Okay, so—

Justin: And it's not a new song. It's not a song. It's just like Jon Bon Jovi comes out and he's like, "Do you remember this?" And then Pitbull's like, "I do enough to rap about it a little." And then they're like, "Let's make millions of dollars!" [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeha, imagine it's karaoke night, and Jon Bon Jovi's "It's My Life" starts playing on the—and do you guys need me to…

Justin: Yeah, if you could give us a sample of the beginning—

Griffin: We can't play the song, but I could bust out the talk box—

Justin: Griffin, because I'm trying to remember how you get into it.

Griffin: I actually… my talk box isn't plugged in, and it's a huge pain in the ass. So we can just play a clip of me doing that.

[talk box plays]

Justin: Okay, so we assume it was edited in.

Griffin: So it was there. And it's—imagine it's karaoke night, someone gets up to do Jon Bon Jovi's "It's My Life," but instead they just start yelling about how it's party time, and everyone get loose, everyone get ready to go. Tonight, a big theme is tonight is—

Travis: Tonight.

Griffin: The night.

Travis: Tonight's the night.

Justin: The night.

Griffin: It's tonight. Don't fucking wait—

Justin: And another big thing is that—

Travis: He has Memento syndrome, where he's like—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "This is—tonight is all I can remember. Tomorrow, I won't remember it, and I don't remember yesterday. I've tattooed on my body here on my arm, tonight is the night."

Griffin: Tonight's the night.

Travis: Griffin, I'm going to take your metaphor one step further and say, it's like if you got up to sing "It's My Life," and one minute into you singing "It's My Life," somebody else jumped on stage and started doing a whole different song.

Griffin: It's party time, tonight-tonight.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: Tonight, I'm going to die at 12:01 AM.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles] The magic that powers my body from—

Griffin: The magic that—

Travis: A plague construct to this physical form.

Justin: [sings] "I'm only real when you clap! You've got to believe, Mama, or I'll disappear into a puddle of ephemera!"

Griffin: "I'm a real fucking dog!"

Justin: "I'm a real boy."

Griffin: "I'm an actual pit bull dog that a fairy came and turned to a human being, so I could get married to a woman in real life. But it hasn't happened, and so the curse breaks at 12:01. It's got to be tonight."

Justin: But this was—

Griffin: "Give me everything tonight."

Justin: But this was a year ago! And we all said it was fine for him to do the same song again, just with a—

Travis: We let it go.

Justin: More Pitbull. We let it happen. We didn't do anything to stop it.

Griffin: If you give a pit bull a Jon Bon Jovi pseudo cover, he will want much, much more than that from the world of classic rock—

Justin: And now I want to talk about his new song, that's with a band called Kiss. Now, Kiss has—

Griffin: The pit bull—the pit bull of rock and roll party music.

Justin: The fact that Amanda would email us about 'Til Death Do Us Blart in the middle of when she knows we're recording My Brother, My Brother and Me—

Griffin: Don't jump scare us in the middle of MBMBaM!

Justin: Fucking demented, Amanda! What's wrong with you?! Mr. Worldwide has done it again with "Reach for the Stars," a song with Kiss. Who has, speaking of Blart, there's your mini—Kiss Blart connection there.

Travis: There you go.

Justin: Kiss has sucked forever!

Griffin: Kiss has always been so shitty.

Justin: Kiss has always been shitty.

Travis: Kiss has two good songs! And I'm—

Justin: No!

Travis: Not going to say what they are. Ooh, you…

Griffin: No, no, no! Kiss has two good songs, but they're kind of, you have to take them from the bit—like the bridge of "Detroit Rock City" is fucking great. That's a great rock and roll number.

Justin: Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Griffin: You squish that in with like, you know, the tail end solo of "Rock And Roll All Nite—"

Travis: "I Was Made for Lovin' You" fucking rules.

Justin: The point is some songs have been milked for so long and so deeply, they no longer contain any marrow. You can scrape—

Travis: The udder is dry!

Justin: The bones and there's nothing there. You can't get anything out of them. And I would argue that one of those songs… The most one of those songs maybe—

Griffin: The most.

Justin: Is "I want to rock and roll all night and party every day," by Kiss.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You know what's funny, is of those empty songs, there isn't a song that has the word "rock and roll" in the title that is not completely all drained up, all used up and free of content.

Justin: Yes, it's—I would put this in that subgenre of like, I love it when like the Bob Seger missed that old time rock and roll. Like, if you want to rock so hard, nobody's stopping you. Go fucking rock! [chuckles] You know what I mean? You want to rock and roll all night and party every day? Why is your concert two and a half hours long, Gene? You know? Just do it!

Travis: It also does start—

Griffin: It's still rock and roll—

Travis: To feel like a 50-year-old like dad of three being like, "Yeah, man! I want to rock and roll all night and party every day!" And you're like, "Doug, I know you're in bed at 9:30! I know you're in bed at 9:30!"

Griffin: "If you tried to party every day, Doug, you'd die, dude. You'd be dead as nighttime Pitbull."

Justin: This is-it is—the intro of this song is so good, because it covers all the bases. Kiss.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's the first thing. Mr. Worldwide—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: These are the lyrics.

Justin: These are the lyrics of the song. Kiss. Mr. Worldwide. This is history in the making. Inarguable. Scale is questionable. Inarguable that history's being written.

Griffin: This hasn't happened before—

Justin: This is happening now. Then he says, "Let's go." And this couplet we have next, "I'm on a classic with Kiss."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: "That's right. Having a blast. If you don't like what we're doing, then you can kiss our ass."

Travis: Now—

Griffin: I want Kiss—

Justin: Every—

Griffin: I want Gene to hop in here and be like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa! Don't—"

Travis: Coming out strong!

Griffin: "Pitbull doesn't speak for us on this matter. Our music is an acquired taste. We understand that."

Justin: [laughs] Yeah. PS, Gene and nobody else. Nobody. Gene, not nobody, not Gene, no member of the band got into a recording studio for this, I guarantee. Gene Simmons' lawyers' lawyers barely knew about this collaboration. Guaranteed.

Travis: No—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Mr. Worldwide went and bought a CD at Sam Goody.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And then just like played it on a boombox in the studio with them.

Justin: [sings] I bought a classic from Kiss. It was on the sale rack.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [sings] "If you don't like what they're do—" The fact that he's—okay. So he said this is a historic thing that's happening, if you don't like it, tough titties. [chuckles] He's gotten ahead of us already.

Griffin: He insists that they're having a blast. And that's a new turn of phrase from him, I feel like, to describe a party atmosphere. It feels very dad-coded. The idea of like, "Hey, it's me, Pitbull. I'm having a freaking blast out here with my buddies from Kiss."

Justin: From Kiss.

Travis: Yeah, it's what like Carson Daly would say at the MTV Spring Break Beach House, two years after he should have still been there.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Travis: Like, "Yeah, we're here, having a blast!"

Griffin: Post Tara Ried breakup sort of sallow-faced Carson, "Having a blast at Spring Break today."

Travis: I've listened to enough Pitbull to say that the two most common themes in Pitbull music are, one—

Griffin: "Tonight's the Night." Or what?

Travis: Well, one is, I assume that you are angry that I am doing this, that you can kick rocks. And two, I know it's hard to believe I've made it to this point, look at me now. And it's like, Mr. Worldwide, you've been doing this for at least 15 years from memory.

Griffin: I believe it.

Travis: I'm no longer surprised that you've made it to this point.

Justin: Yeah, you're Mr. Worldwide. Let the chip go.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Let it—

Travis: You're here.

Justin: Go. And it's hard because I do… I don't like what he's doing. You know what I mean? [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It's hard because he got me dead to rights! It's like I'm listening like, this sucks! And he's like—

Griffin: It sucks, it's genuinely the shittiest song maybe ever—

Justin: We're not even to the lyrics of the song yet, because the next thing that happens is he just—it's just the chorus from "I Want to Rock and Roll All Night."

Griffin: Yeah—

Justin: Just—

Griffin: You can't play it, but you know it—imagine it. You know it in your mind.

Justin: You can't—we can't play it, but imagine it. And then Pitbull's like, "I'd like to do something a little different here, guys. I know that normally this isn't where I rap, but on this version of this song, which I renamed 'Reach for the Stars,' we're going to do different words. I'm going to say, hmm, maybe, Gene, what do you think about something like this? Now we're going to rock him to roll him. Look at her booty, it's rolling."

Griffin: It's rolling or it's swollen? I heard it's swollen.

Justin: Genius.com says rolling. But I heard swollen.

Griffin: Genius.com can be wrong. I heard swollen. And that's way better than rolling.

Travis: No, because that makes it seem like a medical issue.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: She got stung by a bee!

Griffin: It's fine.

Justin: Then he says, "I'm robbing the bank, so put your hands up, it's a hold up." He really jams a lot into the meter there. "Give me that boy, right there from the bottom. Yeah, you name it, we got it, yeah, you name it, we got it. You talking money? We with it. From Las Vegas to China, we got 'em open like gynos."

Travis: *Uah*.

Justin: "From CeeLo to C-notes,, now I'm Richie like Lionel."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: He comes back, doesn't he? And he reminds you why he is the be—like he reminds you—

Justin: He is the best!

Griffin: Why he is still—

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Here, is he'll say a line like, "From Las Vegas to China, we got them open like gynos."

Justin: And then—

Travis: [yells out] Ooah!

Griffin: Which doesn't—

Justin: I don't think I can be more against this song at this point, right? Like he's already like pretty bad—lyrically it's like—

Travis: Made some bold statements.

Justin: Made some bold ones. And then it goes for what turns out to be the refrain—

Griffin: The pre-chorus—

Justin: Pre-chorus.

Griffin: Ostinato.

Justin: "I'm like Elon Musk. I'm on my way to Mars. Now put your hands in the air and reach for the stars." That—

Travis: Now——

Justin: Sucks. That just, it s—it sucks!

Griffin: It sucks—

Travis: And there's so—

Griffin: In a hundred—

Justin: Sucks.

Griffin: Ways, yeah.

Travis: Many other thing—it's not like, well, that's the—

Justin: Sucks.

Travis: Only thing that would have worked there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's so… there's so—[yells out] aah!

Griffin: There's so many different things you could have said.

Justin: Yeah, it's—and he doesn't matter, but it's like the celebration of like, first of off, if Elon Musk is headed to Mars, I do support that. Like if the plan is an un—-a manned mission to Mars starring Elon Musk, damn the risks? Yeah, man. [chuckles] Yeah, man!

Travis: At this current point in history and science where we have not figured out how to do it?

Justin: Trav, that was implied.

Travis: Oh okay.

Justin: That was implied. You are now legally—

Griffin: I love—I love an Impey Barbicane, Earth to the Moon sort of arc for Mr. Musk at this point, crashing that big, creamy eyeball of that red planet. And have a good—have a good one. I don't know that that's what Pitbull's thinking. There's so many ways in which you can be like Elon Musk! Maybe Pitbull was a big fan of Doge's arbitrary cuts to USA?

Travis: That's true!

Griffin: Which led to the deaths of ac—a hundred—hundreds of thousands of real human beings. Maybe that's what Pitbull's like, "I'm like that? Put your hands in the air and reach for the stars?"

Travis: "I want to be like Elon Musk!"

Griffin: "I want to have been married to Grimes! I don't want to be married to Grimes, but I want to have been married to Grimes."

Justin: Previously.

Travis: Reach for the stars!

Griffin: Reach for the stars!

Travis: None of the rest of the lyrics are about stars that makes me think he wrote the line—-

Griffin: That's a good point, Travis!

Travis: "I'm like Elon Musk. I'm on my way to Mars. Now put your hands in the air and reach for the stars." And then built an entire song around it!

Griffin: An entire song around it. And I think the preet—there is maybe the least amount of pretext that you can pick up from earlier in the first verse is that, "Put your hands up, it's a hold up." So this could be a threat of this is an actual, this is a cri—a stick-up crime that he's doing and—-

Travis: [yells out] "Give me that boy!" What? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, "Give me that boy from the bottom—"

Travis: Sorry, what?

Griffin: What?

Travis: Sorry—

Griffin: "Put your hands in the air—"

Justin: "Give me that boy."

Griffin: [yells out] "I'm like Elon Musk! Don't move! Don't press the button!"

Justin: Elon Musk understands what it's like to come from the bottom of the diamond mine and claw your way—

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Out. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Then he's like, "Hey, guys, I don't think I'm empty. I got another verse in the hopper." So Pitbull says this, he writes this down first pass. "So cover the world with class. Same way I got girls in class."

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Yeah. That's a little bit of, "Yeah, right—"

Justin: What is that?

Travis: "Picture that with a Kodak." Kind of—

Justin: Okay.

Travis: He *loves* rhyming words with the same word.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, sure.

Justin: "Love women that are sexy and smart with a whole lot a little bit of sass. Never made it to the NBA, never got an NBA, but that don't stop me from playing and owning business today."

Griffin: I'm so sorry… Is he a registered National Basketball Association participant?

Travis: He likes to go out on the court! He sits courtside and will sometimes just bolt out there and grab the ball. And they're like, "Mm-hm."

Griffin: It's okay.

Justin: So he does the Musk thing again. And he does this chorus from that… Really, I mean it's just a wretched song. And this doesn't recontextualize it in a way where it's like fun again. It just re-reminds you how utterly bankrupt it is of like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Of any sort of value. And then there's a bridge that, I shit you not, Mr. Pitbull says, "From the window to the wall, we're going to rock it, we're going to rock and roll. From the window, to the window, to the wall, to the wall, we're going to rock it. We're going to rock and roll. Let's go."

Griffin: No star stuff.

Travis: "And then a—that's just placeholder lyrics for now. I'll think of something else to put in there—"

Justin: "I'll s—think of something! You know, yada, yada, yada, coming up from the bottom, got 'em. Hands in the air—"

Travis: "Tonight's the night! Yeah, there's a comet headed for Earth, so reach for the stars."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Reach for the stars.

Travis: "Because it all ends at midnight." Something like that.

Justin: Hey! When you do the reach for the stars thing, you know, 10 seconds ago you said it's a bank robbery and a hold up, and that's why we're reaching for the stars. Do you just want our hands up? Because you can just say it. You don't have to trick us—

Griffin: You can just say it.

Justin: With stars and banks and—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Whatever. [chuckles]

Griffin: Is—

Travis: Does he know that when you say reach for the stars, no one does that literally? Like when you say to a kid, "Hey, man, yeah, reach for the stars," they don't start stretching up to the sky?

Justin: I feel so hollow, because I've come to the end of this material, and I feel like all I've done is play the exact role that mister—like, that Mr. Bull wanted me to play. I feel like I am like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He's la—watching. Like someone from his entourage is like, "You got him again." And the worde—-he's like, "They're just talking about it, and I'm so happy and wealthy over here. And everybody has kind things to say about me."

Travis: "You'd never believe it!"

Justin: Yeah, you'd never believe it!

Travis: "I know it's hard to believe how wealthy I am!"

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: "Look where I am—"

Justin: And happy!

Travis: "Now!"

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Yeah, no, we know.

Griffin: There's also the implicit demand that we must kiss the ass of Pitbull and the—-

Justin: Just for not liking it.

Griffin: I think five old members of Kiss for—I don't want to kiss any of those old Kiss—

Travis: No.

Griffin: Guys' asses—

Travis: Where have they been?

Griffin: Or anywhere on their bodies.

Justin: I just don't think Pitbull should be allowed. This is my only thing I'm saying, is I don't think that we should just be bringing out old. dusty songs and then pretending they're new songs, because Pitbull says they are. I don't think that that's fair. I think everybody should be writing new songs. I also feel like… I feel like at this moment in history, there's an ongoing discussion about the value of human-made art. And I just feel like we should all—

Griffin: This hurts us.

Justin: Do our best—[chuckles] to make—

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: A good—

Griffin: Be best behavior! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Just make a really good case for it, you know what I mean? Like—

Travis: We're grading on a curve! You know what I mean?!

Justin: Right!

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: And this throws it off.

Justin: We should just really be like, as humans, like dialed in—[chuckles]

Griffin: On point—

Justin: You know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If we're going to keep up with this like, "No robot can make that," we gotta really—

Griffin: We gotta make sure—

Justin: Like lock in!

Griffin: That we're sticking the—

Justin: You know what I mean?

Griffin: Landing. For sure.

Travis: I think—

Griffin: I don't—

Travis: That if Mr. Worldwide, who was formerly Mr. Miami, by the way, and then when he hit, changed into Mr. Worldwide, if he's going to make songs about, "Can you believe I've made it where I am now, and look at all the things I got," I think we need to hold him to a level of accountability where some of that goes away. And then the next song features lines like, "Okay! I realized that I was a little bit wrong there! And I lost a little bit! So how about this? Then will you let me get back to where I was before? I'm Mr. Florida now!" And—

Griffin: He's always fighting his demons inside of him. And sometimes he needs a collabor—this is Kiss' fault.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Because we all know he can make a banger when he doesn't, when the evil twin, when the wah Pitbull doesn't come out—

Travis: Inside of him, there are two Pitbulls!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Right?

Griffin: There are two Pitbulls inside of Pitbull. He needs Kesha to grab him and say like, "You have it. The magic's—"

Justin: You got it inside you, Mr. Bull.

Griffin: I promise you, it's—you gotta just shave off the stuff on top… and you'll find it.

Justin: This feels like it does feel a little bit like Mr. Bull realized that he had absolutely saturated the demographic of young people that enjoy dancing and listening to music. And he was like, "I'm going to get those dusty, old men. I swear to god."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "You watch me. Hey, Paul, Jonathan, watch me! I'll get these dusty old, men to my concerts! I don't care! I'll do it! I'm Mr. Worldwide!"

Griffin: He's reaching across the isle.

Justin: That doesn't mean stopping at dads! You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mr. Worldwide doesn't stop at uncles!

Griffin: Yeah. When you make the tent so big, you let in some fart gas, as it turns out. [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: There was actually a gas leak right there, and when you expanded the flaps of the tent over it, you let the fart smell in.

Travis: That'll happen.

Justin: That's the problem with having a big, beautiful buffet, is every once in a while, you're going to find a few olives. You know what I mean? It's not for you. [chuckles]

Griffin: Absolutely.

Justin: Oh, Mr. Worldwide. As always, welcome on the show. Anytime. [chuckles] Would love—just stay away from these—

Griffin: Hey!

Justin: These lesser impulses. Feed the—

Griffin: We'd be great—

Justin: Feed your funky wolf, Pitbull!

Griffin: You can ask Justin and Travis, I poo-poo a lot of ideas around here.

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Mr. Bull, get me on—get me in the stu—

Travis: [yells out] Oh yeah!

Griffin: I promise you, I can help you.

Travis: Griffin will curtail a lot of your worst impulses.

Justin: Yeah—

Griffin: I promise you—

Justin: And few even better ones.

Griffin: It's my specialty.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And a few good ones. Yeah, they'll get caught in the thresher, for sure—

Justin: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: But that's the—you can't break an omelet.

Justin: Pitcoin. [chuckles] It's eight years too late to call it Pitcoin—

Travis: Do you think someone's now gonna start—

Justin: It's like 15 years too late to call it Pitcoin. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: There must be people on his team, his manager team, where like, "Pitbull, Mr. Worldwide, someone is going to start a crypto called Pitcoin. Please let us start it to go with the album."
"No!"

Justin: "I'm saving it for an album title. It's going to kick ass." [chuckles]

Travis: "Please, Pitbull, let us start it."
"No. I'm using it with this. No one will start a coin under it."

Griffin: How about a question?

Justin: How about a question? How does he keep doing it? You know?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Time after time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I don't understand. "I just got a new job working at a popular sit-down chain restaurant. I'll be starting with training shifts from the 14th to the 16th. And on the 18th, they'll be having a staff Halloween party. The bonding activity of the party is that everyone will get a pumpkin to paint, and there will be a contest for best pumpkin. Part of the problem arises in that I went to art school for sculpting and painting, and I'm a pretty good painter. Do I go to the party? If I do go, do I participate in the pumpkin painting contest? Do I paint to my full potential, or do I gracefully paint a middle-of-the-pack pumpkin? Extra details: it is a barbecue restaurant." That's from Painting Pumpkins in Peg City.

Travis: Which is Winnipeg! I didn't know that!

Griffin: Oh, I didn't either?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: The only additional details that would have been helpful there is if it was a pumpkin restaurant. And that doesn't… exist.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know what the—I don't know that the barbecue restaurant puts any English on the ball, necessarily.

Travis: I mean, I would want to go—if the company's paying for barbecue for you?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That does make the party more enticing for me.

Griffin: There's a factor we can't answer for you here, which is like, do you want to be pals with the people at this workplace, or at least have them kind of know and acknowledge and respect you? Because I do think busting out like, you know, a creative talent is a cool move!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I think it's a cool move at a job. They learn something about you that doesn't have anything to do with barbecue. And that's all right. Unless you don't want them to know that. I can't answer that for you.

Travis: Well, I can tell from the wording of the question that I don't think there's a risk of you coming in and being like, "Watch out, losers! I'm about to use my art degree!"

Griffin: You're aware. You're aware of it.

Travis: But I would say there is a too far the other way, where you're like, "It's nothing, this is dumb."

Griffin: "It's nothing, it's nothing." And then you smash ass.

Travis: But like you should be… politely humble.

Justin: This is also—

Griffin: Yeah, and still smash ass.

Justin: You're also really still running a risk though of… I don't know, a little bit of hubris here, isn't it? I mean, yeah—

Travis: Oh yeah.

Justin: I'm gu—I think it's very good you went to art school and I'm—I celebrate that. But yeah, yeah, once you get out there, you just never know what people are going to like, do you? Maybe they'll just put a funny face on one of them and everybody will just love it. And then you'll be the one thinking, "But I went to ar—but I went to art school? How can you like this funky pumpkin better than my incredible one?"

Travis: When it comes to pumpkin carving and painting, everyone thinks they're Mozart. But sometimes you're Salieri. You know what I mean? You go in, you're like, "I'm classically trained. I know what I'm doing." And then like

Stephanie from accounting rolls up and you're like, "What? Ha—-did she go to art school?" And they're like, "No. This is just—she's—-"

Griffin: "No, she didn't."

Travis: She's just born to do—

Griffin: She just *loves* Halloween. You gotta respect the pumpkin as a medium. It can be a real B-I-T-C-H.

Justin: I did the pumpkin—

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Carving contest this week, and there were two different tables that carved out a big hole in the front, and then had some sort of scene or projection there in the big hole. Making a tableau. I'm sorry—

Griffin: How do you feel about that, Juice?

Justin: I'm sorry, but… I thought we were carving the pumpkins, not turning them into little stages. You know? It's like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Are we—

Griffin: Did you say something?

Justin: Using the pumpkin as a—

Griffin: Did you say something?

Justin: Medium? Or are we using it as a proscenium? You know, which is it?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is it a—-

Travis: *Hooh*.

Justin: Is it a canvas or is it a hallway? You know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sorry.

Griffin: Here's my pumpkin, it's—

Justin: Here's my pumpkin—

Griffin: Seasons one of—

Justin: It's Tim Curry's face.

Griffin: It's season one of Family Guy! Running on an iPad inside of the pumpkin hole.

[pause]

Justin: Unbelievable.

Griffin: Did you win?

Justin: Did I win? Well, the ray—the race is still, on because it's voting by dollars. But I'm doing well, because our folks are always very supportive.

Griffin: What's the link people can go to, to support?

Justin: Givebutter.com slash H-C-M-V-I-P's 26. How am I doing?

Griffin: Pretty good. I didn't—I wasn't typing that—

Travis: Yeah, I'm not gonna go to it!

Justin: Oh, I thought you were typing it to go support. [chuckles] Wow, that really hurt.

Griffin: Can I just ask a question? Was—I already gave, first of all.

Justin: Of course you did.

Griffin: I gave.

Justin: You're such a good brother.

Travis: I gave at the office.

Griffin: If you saw Biddy Blaze in the ticker feed, that was—that was me. I did it under a pseudonym.

Justin: Oh, you did it under Biddy Blaze? That's good.

Griffin: I didn't want people to think that, you know, I—anytime I do that shit—

Travis: You didn't want people to think you support your brother?

Griffin: Yeah! Well, I didn't want people to see that and be like, "Wow, Mr. Big Shot." So I always put in like a… like Biddy Blaze or something—

Justin: Oh, that's hilarious, dude, I love that. That's really good. So anyway, did you—what were you saying?

Griffin: What—when do you buy the pumpkin for carving for Halloween season? Because I feel like I always have the thought in early October. And then I'm like, that shit will rot or get smashed before. But then I'll wait too long, and it'll be the 29th. And then you're *fucked*. Because the only thing that's left is like the bottom of the barrel snickle fritz pumpkin fucked ups Kroger shit.

Travis: You—

Griffin: And not the primo stuff.

Travis: As long as you don't crack the seal, right? It lasts pretty long. It's once you open it up—

Justin: Yeah, once you—

Travis: That it's like, now the clock is running.

Griffin: Now bugs—now bugs—

Justin: I'll tell you a hot, new tip. This is a good one I just picked up. Carve the bottom out.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: Don't carve the top out with the handle and what all. Don't do that. Carve a hole out of the bottom. Nobody gives a shit about the bottom. [chuckles] You don't even have to put it back in if you don't want to. Nobody cares!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just cut the whole fucking bottom out!

Travis: If you really want to—

Justin: That's quick to—

Travis: Cheat, like I do, you go buy one of those like foam, fake plastic pumpkin things. And then just carve that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You don't have to carve out the inside guts, you know? Teresa doesn't like the guts! She won't let me do the guts. And I was like, but I still want to carve a pumpkin and find joy in it. And so, I carved a fake foam

ones! It's great! And then they last year to year! I've got quite a collection of carved pumpkins.

Justin: Are you wearing a mask, though? Are you wearing a mask or something? Because I would worry about you breathing in that particulate.

Griffin: Yeah, that can't be good.

Travis: I do it with several box fans pointed away from me at the neighbor's house.

Justin: Oh, sure. Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's true. Hold on,, well let me just show you guys what I'm talking about, it's like as long as we're here. Let me just give you a good example.

Travis: Of the people cheating?

Justin: So let's like—

Travis: That's yours!

Justin: Okay, so this is my pumpkin on the right. It is a tribute to Tim Curry, as you can see, the eyes are a little bit—okay, fine—

Travis: How did you do the signature, Justin?

Justin: What?

Griffin: Do you have a Dremel?

Justin: I freehand it with a Dremel, yeah.

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: God—

Justin: And then ne—and then over here to the left, I'm not going to dox anybody, but this person has cut a big hole in their pumpkin! And then made a little scene in there, like it's a s—like it's a little town or a charming village!

Griffin: But did they make the scene out of pumpkin stuff?

Justin: No! It's just out of stuff they got at Hobby Lobby, I bet! They're that kind of—

Griffin: Sucks.

Justin: I don't remember who it was, but still, you get it!

Griffin: And who put googly eyes on this one little gourd here? That pisses me off.

Justin: That pisses me off, too. Look at this. This is a craftsman. This is me.

Griffin: Wow, Juice, you… Justin, that's the handsomest you've ever looked in your entire life, bud. That's a really good pic of you, pal.

Justin: Oh, man, it's a real—it's Ryan with the HD, he always takes good pictures, and I was like, this is my moment. And that's a craftsman working.

Griffin: You're in flow state, dude.

Justin: What?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's a craftsman.

Griffin: You're in flow state!

Travis: You look handsome—

Griffin: You got a bowtie.

Travis: As fuck, man!

Griffin: You look so good, dude.

Justin: That's a bat bow tie, as a tribute to Mr. Curry.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Awesome.

Travis: Anything can happen at Halloween!

Justin: That's right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's what they say. Anything can happen on this show, unless you want anything to happen, other than us taking a break to go to the Money Zone. Because that is what's going to happen. So like—

Griffin: That's going to happen right now.

Justin: If you want that to happen… good news. Your wish is granted.

Griffin: Here it comes. Here it comes. Here it comes.

[theme music plays]

Travis: You need website! Website, good. Not website bad.

Griffin: Website does not need you. That's important.

Travis: Where get website?

Justin: Store?

Travis: No!

Justin: Store?

Travis: No website store!

Justin: Sorry, I said it—I said it too quiet. Store?

Travis: No website store.

Griffin: Tree?

Justin: No website store. Tree.

Travis: No website tree. Squarespace website! Good!

Griffin: Yes! Don't give thumbs up—-

Justin: [yells out] Store-a-a-a-a-a! Store is square space.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Store is square space!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Square space like store.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Store is square.

Travis: Brick and mortar Squarespace?

Justin: Store is square. Store has space. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Story is square space.

Griffin: Certainly no brick and mortar Squarespace, what even be on shelf? Great—

Travis: Fair.

Griffin: Business! What be on—

Justin: Great business.

Griffin: Shelf?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Great business.

Travis: Keyboard?

Justin: Didn't stop a lot of businesses in the mid-20-teens from opening up storefronts. [chuckles] But—

Griffin: Yeah, fair.

Justin: Still. Squarespace is not a brick and mortar store where you buy websites. That is charming and cute, and maybe a good Super Bowl ad, but it's not this. This is you taking control of your future by making a website with the great tools that Squarespace gives you. Cutting edge design? They got it. Yeah. You want to sell stuff? Sure, you can do that. Bring in your own photos, your products, your stories, your dreams, your wishes, your songs, your tales, tall tales… Beans, magic beans. Sell 'emm.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Doesn't matter.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Get started today. Unlock your potential with a Squarespace website that is fun to build! We've all done it and we enjoyed the process thoroughly.

Head to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use offer code "My Brother" to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Travis: I need your guys' help.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: On something. So, I started playing Sonic the Hedgehog Dating Simulator 27.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: And it is just too beefy for my rig.

Justin: Ooh.

Travis: Right? Like the graphics are so—some of the cut scenes are so high def, and like there's a whole morality decision making matrix that my computer just isn't able to handle.

Justin: And you just got that new—yeah, and you—you got a—you need a smell card to even—

Travis: Yeah! Oh, god yeah!

Justin: [chuckles] Make that work properly.

Travis: Well, for the pheromones and for like—there's some sensual experiences that are purely scent-based, that I'm just not getting the most out of. And I don't know what to do. My old computer is just not enough.

Griffin: The problem, Travis, how can you find a computer that can run that and also Alien Blaster Fuck X?

Travis: Yeah, right?

Griffin: Because that game has an entirely different set of requirements—

Justin: Del.

Griffin: On our hardware—

Justin: Del. Del. Del.

Travis: And—and—and I'm—

Griffin: Sorry, what's that, Justin? Sorry Justin?

Travis: I'm also trying to play maybe—

Justin: Sorry, I just… I wanted to say the word Alienware. [chuckles] Because it'd have been like—

Griffin: Del, Del, Alienware, Del, Alienware.

Justin: Del, Del, Alienware, Del. Sorry, it had just been so long in the ad, I just wanted to like—

Travis: Okay! Yeah, no, but I got one more!

Justin: I was getting a little antsy. Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm trying to play Mavis Beacon Teaches Fucking, and I can't!

Justin: So—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's too beefy!

Justin: Probably not that, I don't think. Let me check.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, turn the dial down a little bit. Let me try again.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Alienware Dell Theater presents Travis talking about computers. Let's go.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well—

Griffin: Listen.

Travis: If I'm gonna—

Griffin: Listen, no, we're done. No more jokes.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Alienware systems are built with the performance to handle everything you could possibly throw at it. Imaginary games like the ones we've listed, real ones, high-power, cozy, lo-fi, whatever. With NVIDIA GeForce RTX, it delivers powerful graphics that bring every world to life, while optimizing battery life. So whether you're playing, creating or jumping between both, everything runs the way it should. No interruptions, no slowing down, you don't have to adjust how you play, you just keep gaming your way, however that looks in the moment. Be more alien at alienware.com/game-your-way. I shouldn't have taken the lead on that because I'm like—Warby Parker's up next and you know I'm like a freak for these guys.

Justin: Hey!

Travis: Oh, god, I do.

Justin: Griff, I…. I'll set you up. Hey, Griffin, I really like the frames that you've been wearing. Can you tell me where you got them?

Griffin: Sure, these are Warby Parker frames. These are my work frames that I wear during the working day. My wife, Rachel, prepares—prefers my more tortoise shell, sort of a lower profile—

Travis: And she prepares them for you along with your lunch and dinner!

Griffin: She prepares. Sometimes when I'm—

Travis: Ss you demand.

Griffin: Driving, she will wipe them for me if she notices they're dirty. It's a very nice—it's a very nice—-

Travis: And Griffin just clears his throat, and she…

Griffin: No!

Travis: Knows.

Griffin: Stop that. That's not true at all.

Justin: How can you afford to have multiple pairs of glasses?

Griffin: Well, Justin, why I—we've talked about this like exclu—like extensively off mic, off the air. You know their prescription glasses start at just $95. So you can actually get quality and stylish frames at an affordable price.

Justin: Warby Parker, Warby Parker, Warby Parker.

Griffin: Warby Parker, Warby Parker, Warby Parker.

Justin: Warby Parker, Warby Parker. Okay, good. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I mentioned this, you know, a couple months ago, but I recently tried to leave the flock and see what, you know, what other glasses options there were out there in the world. And as it turns out, the answer is

nothing good, and all like really prohibitively expensive. Warby Parker frames look fucking great, and they are—

Justin: I wish—

Griffin: Super-affordable—

Justin: I wish my incredible eyesight would start failing me, so I have—

Griffin: Sure!

Justin: An excuse to wear these beautiful beauties. That's how I—that's how great these look.

Griffin: I gotta give props also to Warby Parker. I feel like they've been listening to my psyche feedback and having more extra wide frames in stock. I do appreciate that. I do have a head of a certain… disgusting carriage, and they cater to that and they enable that, and I appreciate them so—

Justin: Enable is the word. Enable is the word.

Griffin: I appreciate them so, so much. Right now, buy one pair of glasses and get 20% off any additional pairs at warbyparker.com/mybrother. That's 20% off any additional pairs when you purchase one pair at warbyparker.com/mybrother.

[break]

Andrew: Hi, I'm Andrew Reich and I host Dead Pilots Society, and I am here with Max Fun member of the month, Jacob Eads. Thank you so much for being a listener of our show, and congratulations on being this month's member of the month.

Jacob: Pleasure to meet you!

Andrew: What made you take the leap to become an actual member of Maximum Fun?

Jacob: I'm spending all this time listening and enjoying them for content, because it's not like just supporting one podcast either, it's supporting a whole network of people, so I feel like the dollar really goes a long way.

Andrew: Can't tell you how much we appreciate it. And as our member of the month, you will be getting a $25 gift card to the Maximum Fun store, a special member of the month bumper sticker. You can take that car with that bumper sticker and drive it to the parking spot at Max Fun headquarters in Los Angeles, which will be there just for you.

Jacob: I might have to get one of my friends to bring like a cardboard cutout of me who lives in Los Angeles, just to show that I was there. [chuckles]

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[break]

Jackie: Hey, Max Fun listeners! It's me, Jackie Kashian. I have a podcast with Laurie Kilmartin. Say hi, Laurie.

Laurie: Hi, Jacqueline! Hi, Max Fun listeners!

Jackie: [chuckles] Very formal! We have a podcast and it's about stand-up comedy and how much we love it, and how much we dislike some of it.

Laurie: [laughs]

Jackie: So listen to that podcast. It's called The Jackie and Laurie Show.

Laurie: We drop new episodes every Wednesday that gives us plenty of time to decompress from our comedy weekends, and discuss things with sane, level heads. Ha, no, it doesn't.

Jackie: [laughs]

Laurie: But if you are a woman our age or a man our age… or you know what, any person of any age, I think you'll enjoy our podcast.

Jackie: [laughs]

Laurie: Jackie and Lori Show, on maximumfun.org. Bye!

[break]

Justin: [sings the Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Ah, sick.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Fuck.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Jesus.

Justin: Sorry, something's kind of off today. Let me try again.

Travis: *Yeah*, nasty.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Travis: Maybe try hitting it?

Justin: I wanna munch! No.

Griffin: Squad. Dude, what's going on?

Justin: No, it's not working, I need a little—I'm going to need a little extra help, which is lucky for me, because I've been arranged for a special Munch Squad correspondent, Jordan Keyes, to join us with a s—to us to tell us about a special mascot that hasn't gotten their due. And Jordan shined a light on, I would say maybe when he needed him the most. [chuckles] Please welcome the show, Jordan Keyes. Welcome, Jordan. Welcome.

Jordan: Hello.

Griffin: Hi, Jordan.

Justin: Hi, Jordan.

Jordan: Hey, everybody.

Griffin: Thanks for joining us in this podcast within a podcast.

Justin: Yeah.

Jordan: Thank you—

Justin: We've never had a guest—

Jordan: So much for having me.

Justin: Yeah. On this podcast within a podcast this year. This is a new one for us.

Griffin: A lot of people get lost! A lot of people end up in just the podcast. They don't make it through the Minotaur's maze to the podcast within a podcast.

Travis: Jordan, would you say that you are the world's preeminent scholar on this topic?

Jordan: I do think that myself and my friends probably have done more research on the mascot of, spoiler alert, CeCe's Pizza buffet—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Jordan: And treats, more than anybody else has, I would—I would say that. Yes. There is—

Justin: Jordan, how d—how did you meet C.C. Pazzini?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Ah, this is great. Yeah. Please.

Justin: Tell me about your first encounter with C.C. Pazzini, the inventor of CeCe's Pizza. Who, it's so important that you know this, because this to me is the… number one thing about C.C. Pazzini.

Jordan: Mm-hm.

Justin: Is that he spells his name C, period, C, period.

Jordan: Mm-hm.

Justin: Not like the name of the restaurant that he invented.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Invented, by the way—

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Another wild thing for a chain, a word we so rarely think of, as attached to pizza franchises. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That he invented a restaurant.

Jordan: Yeah.

Justin: He invented the chain that he did not name for himself.

Jordan: You know, they don't hand out a lot of restaurant patents, as far as I know—

Travis: Yeah!

Jordan: But I think they made an exception for C.C. Pazzini. Yeah, he did name it, and he added the I's, I guess. I don't know… I don't know when that happened, but I guess that did come along later. But yeah, we—I met C.C. Pazzini when my friends and I started going to CeCe's on a weekly basis because my son, it was one of the few places that he would eat just food out. And—

Griffin: Yeah.

Jordan: If I wanted to hang out—

Justin: Yeah.

Jordan: With my friends, that was a place where we could all meet, and he would also eat the food without fighting or having an issue.

Justin: Also, a primo kids' locale because so many restaurants are restaurants. And with kids, you really need something that feels more like a ranch or a corral, or sort of like a—

Travis: *Yeah*!

Justin: Pop-up—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Bean tent—

Jordan: Yes.

Justin: Out on the open range, you know? That kids could just roam freely across.

Jordan: Yeah, it definitely sort of has to feel like a cross between a cafeteria and arcade, and just a free range just Wild West saloon scenario.

Griffin: I'll tell you what kids also love is a non-imposing pizza mascot. Because you take a look at The Noid? Forget about it. You take a look at the Little Caesars' Caesar, no way, he's got a weapon. You take a look at Reggie Fils-Aimé? He's enormous! I need a tiny little guy who I, as a child, am actually much larger than.

Travis: Now—

Jordan: Yeah.

Travis: The tininess though, I must disagree here, Griffin—I'm sorry, Jordan. But the tininess? Sure. But he looks like a—the—like the evil twin of Jiminy Cricket. Like he would be on the other side of Pinocchio's shoulder going like, "Nah! Burn it!"

Justin: I love you guys so much, but I… We will cover what C.C. Pizzini looks like, I would just love to hear how Jordan like first encountered this C.C. Pizzini character.

Jordan: So here's the thing, guys, Cicis, up until a certain point, for a couple—for as many years as I had known Cicis, the restaurant did not have a mascot. They had not revealed their inventor, as it were. And then—

Justin: [chuckles] They were saving it for a big inventor reveal at some point when they needed a boost.

Jordan: Yeah, they were like, "We're doing so well for so long, we're just coasting for a while." And then at some point they were like, "It's time." And they—this guy started popping up on the posters.

Justin: Yeah.

Jordan: Just sort of a… sort of a circus pizza Wonka fellow.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Pretty good, yeah.

Jordan: And he was presenting the pizzas—

Justin: Real Matt Berry energy, I gotta say, like a huge sort of Matt Berry vibe.

Jordan: Yes, very much Matt Berry, very What We Do in the Shadows. And so we looked it up,, we—you know, we'd been going for a long time, and then all of a sudden, he's on all the promotional materials. He's everywhere. Almost, I started thinking it was a sort of Mandela effect, like I'd shifted into a timeline where C.C. had always been there, because he was *every*—like one week, nothing, and then the next week, C.C. is everywhere.

Griffin: C.C. Pizzini is everywhere, yeah.

Jordan: So we look him up—

Justin: Well I mean, in your defense, it does say inventor. That's not something you just make up, right? That has to be, like I guess you would have heard about it before if they invented it.

Travis: It sounds legal, you know?

Justin: Yeah.

Jordan: Yeah, no, it's so official. It's so official—

Justin: Yeah!

Jordan: It's historical. And it should be on the record, honestly.

Justin: There is a bit of like "We've always been at war with Eurasia" going on here a little bit, isn't it? Like oh, yeah! We've always been invented by C.C. Pizzini, a small Dreamfinder-esque figure. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Jordan: Yes, yes. "And we've always been named after him, and his name's always been slightly different from the name of our restaurant."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. "You've been spelling it wrong! Not us."

Jordan: Yeah.

Griffin: The—

Justin: Not us.

Griffin: The founder of Papa John's is actually, his name is *Johm* Schnatter.

Jordan: Yes, yes. And he—and that's just sort of a pizza thing, is you change it, a little bit.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: And he's huge! He's way—he scares kids left, right and center.

Jordan: He's massive.

Justin: There was a Cicis pz—Cicis Pizza literally next to the Best Buy that Travis and I worked out for years, and I never heard this guy. And even though the Cicis continued to operate in this area.

Jordan: You didn't hear him skidding around in the vents or anything? He wasn't like—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: No, he was never around.

Griffin: "*Pizzini*!" [spoofs scurrying sounds] "*Pizzini*!"

Jordan: And I know we've been talking about him being tiny, we haven't really discussed the full dimensions of him. So I do want to like, we… We did some research, because we were like, surely, this is on us that we don't know who's—we've been coming here for, you know, years now. We don't know who this guy is. We look him up. Of course, his history is on the website.

Justin: Sure.

Jordan: And I didn't check when the page had been updated, but the page is there. And a—

Griffin: Was there a seal that was broken as you entered the website, letting you know you were the first person to ever go to that website?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Because it feels likely.

Justin: It was like the little strip on the toilet at the hotel! [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Jordan: Yeah, yeah, there—I did notice there was that little HTML like widget in the corner, like they used to have on the ha—the Angel Fire website.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, yeah!

Jordan: Where it was like—

Travis: Yeah!

Jordan: How many visitors? And it just clicked from zero to one.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: All the little like ones and zeros on the matrix code were like, "Oh, wait! Everybody, get to work! Hold on—"

Griffin: Quick, quick—

Travis: "Somebody's here! Oh, shit."

Jordan: Yes.

Griffin: "Someone wants to know more about the inventor of Cicis Pizza, C.C. Pizzini."

Justin: What did you discover there at the website, the official repository of information?

Jordan: So we found out that many years ago, in a place called Little Italy, there was a man named Papa Pizzini. And he discovered in a basket on the doorstep of his pizza shop, a teeny tiny baby, that he named Cosmo Coluccio Pizzini. Of course, he adopted this teeny, tiny baby.

Travis: Of course!

Jordan: And of course, now this baby grew up, but he only grew to be four inches tall.

Travis: That's so little!

Griffin: That's quite little—

Jordan: It's so—

Griffin: And it also makes you wonder about the dimensions of baby Cici Pizzini. Because that had to be like—

Justin: It's horrifying, it's a baby bean. A baby bean that lives and can get eaten by the cat. I hate it.

Jordan: Yes. He surely saved him from a horrific fate, because even in the basket—

Justin: Horrible. Unimaginable. Like a robin's egg being scattered across the concrete.

Jordan: Perhaps microscopic. We don't even know like what was going on in that basket at that time.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So tiny.

Travis: If I could step outside the kayfabe for a second?

Jordan: Proceed, proceed.

Travis: Cici's could have chosen anywhere but like a foot. That's still a little guy—

Griffin: Could have done a foot, could have done a foot and a half.

Travis: Eight inches, still a little guy. They went for four inches, like smaller than a—

Justin: So small.

Travis: G.I. Joe!

Griffin: That's a little inventor.

Justin: Super-duper tiny. Yeah.

Jordan: And let me tell you, I—like when you look at the commercials and you look at the rest of the materials, they're not sticking to this. There's—

Travis: What?!

Jordan: Absolutely no way that they know—-they they're using a ruler. There's no consistency with the size. And I've done the research, I've looked. I'm like that guy on TikTok who was like measuring people's door frames and stuff, there's no way this guy's consistently four inches. And I mean, as an inventor, maybe he is able to shift his size through scientific means, I don't know. But I don't believe these claims whatsoever… within the realm of—

Justin: That wasn't what prompted you to speak a—speak out about Cici Bazzini, though, was it, Jordan? Because I feel like, maybe not intentionally, but I feel like you've become something of a chronicler for the more mundane ways, the simple joys that AI has ruined for us. Like inventing movie listing genres, I just saw today, movie genres it was inventing. I know you were frustrated about the Buffalo Wild Wings trivia and its de—and its degradation. And then what happened to your close friend, Cici?

Jordan: So, well, you know, he's been portrayed by a lovely actor, who I found out his name is Lee Russell, a lovely actor from Chicago. Improviser, comic actor, great guy. And then—

Griffin: Four inches t—four inches tall? What's the height on—

Justin: Four inches tall.

Griffin: Him? Because we could get to the bottom of this thing pretty quick.

Justin: [chuckles]

Jordan: Look, I haven't met Lee. From what I can tell, compared to his microphone, he's a little bit bigger than four inches tall at least.

Travis: [yells out] Well, he would use a little microphone, Jordan!

Griffin: Yeah, that's a—

Justin: Yeah, obviously, Jordan—

Griffin: Good point.

Travis: They wouldn't give a full-size microphone to a four-inch-tall man!

Jordan: That's so fair. You know what? I—

Justin: That was probably his first cheque for Cicis. [chuckles]

Jordan: [chuckles]

Justin: That tiny mic.

Jordan: He was—it—he—-it was right in the middle of the pandemic and he bought—he purchased the full…

Griffin: The full setup, baby!

Jordan: Microscopic—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah!

Justin: Yeah.

Jordan: Zoom-zoom audition rig with—complete with the SM7B.5.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Jordan: Yeah. But they… the social media account, one of my friends, Caitlin, a fellow Pizziniac, sent us a link. My friends started a group where we

exchanged information and updates about C.C. Pizzini and Cicis in general, and sent us a link. And it was a fully AI-generated story about C.C. Pizzini. And it was the—

Griffin: How could you t—how could you tell? Did it have some of the hallmarks of artificial intelligence sort of all over it?

Jordan: Yeah, yeah, it was—it was, you know, poi—it was three second sort of vignettes, sort of stitched together with—

Griffin: Okay.

Jordan: Very little narrative, just sort of, "Ha-ha!" And then it would move on to the next thing. And… oh! And there was one where he was in the Nutter Butter Caves, searching for new flavors for the fudge brownie, of course.

Travis: Yeah.

Jordan: And the min—they claimed that a miniature Nutter Butter was chasing him. But I know that a miniature Nutter Butter is about this big, and he was smaller than the miniature Nutter Butter. So… again—

Griffin: That's bullshit. Yeah, no, that's bullshit. A Nutter Butter is not bigger than four inches. That's crazy.

Jordan: It's all over the place. S,o I know that—I know that AI was afoot, and it was that classic sort of—I didn't check the number of fingers, but I know it can't have been—it's—yeah, there we go.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Travis: That's not—that's not my Pizzini!

Jordan: No! And it doesn't look like Lee. It's—

Travis: No, the mustache is way off!

Griffin: And you know what sucks is—

Jordan: The mustache is off.

Griffin: AI could never come up with C.C. Pizzini. AI could never sort of organically dream up C.C. Pizzini and for—

Justin: Wouldn't have the strength of its convictions.

Griffin: To get its grubby fingers all over this very human creation, I think is an in—is an insult.

Travis: It also, the AI chose to make the Nutter Butter Cave pulsate in a way that I'm not comfortable with.

Justin: Hugely, hugely unpleasant, yeah.

Griffin: Breathing, living.

Jordan: Yes, exactly! To make the Nutter Butter peanut butter alive is… haunting.

Travis: No.

Griffin: So, did they just blow their whole ad budget on R&D for… like did it take them $350,000 to say like maybe he should be kind of steampunk? And then they didn't have any money left over for commercials and stuff?

Jordan: Yeah, I think, well, I think one of my favorite parts about him is that he has a little pizza cutter weapon that is attached to his belt. And so I think maybe they spent a lot on his like accessorizing him.

Griffin: That's interesting that you think it's a weapon. Can you speak on that? Why you think it's a, he would use it for combat and not pizza slicing? Because that would be my instinct.

Jordan: I guess I just assume since he's so small, he needs something to defend himself. But I get—that is… I am from Florida, so I guess I just—

Justin: What do you defend yourself with? Like your claws and your teeth, like same as—I mean, he's got those?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Tiny claws and tiny teeth.

Jordan: That's true. Yeah, C.C. is probably sharpening his fingernails to a point often.

Justin: [laughs] He's got to keep the borables away from all this shit.

Jordan: Filing his canines down.

Travis: Can I speak on something that's really bothering me about this whole story?

Jordan: Please do.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Yeah, dude.

Travis: C.C. Pizzini was found as a teeny, tiny baby, and Papa Pizzini took care of him. And I can't imagine that that was easy. There must be some incredible challenges that come with raising a four-inch-tall human being.

Justin: Don't breathe too deep, for starters.

Travis: And then C.C. went, "Hey, Papa Pizzini, who owns a pizza store, fuck you. I've invented Cicis Pizza, a different pizza store that's going to put your pizza store out of business."

Griffin: That's a good point, yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Jordan: And I do want to point out like you—and you bring up a point, he's credited with inventing not only Cicis, but the first pizza buffet, period.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's interesting too, yeah, he invented that whole idea of the pizza buffet.

Travis: He should have named it after his dad and called it Pee Pee's Pizza.

Jordan: [chuckles]

Justin: Maybe Cicis was a nickname for his dad. Maybe that's why it's spelled wrong, it's because his family calls him Cici, C-I-C-I. So, what was the reaction like when you decided to speak out on this, Jordan?

Jordan: Honestly, the grassroots swell of people coming to the defense of live action C.C. Pazzini was genuinely inspiring. And stepping out of kayfabe, it was very, very exciting to see people like care, even in such a small way, about peep—-like real people who need to make a living and the environmental impact of artificial intelligence, generative artificial intelligence, and actors trying to make a living, creators trying to make a living. And people really spoke out, they, you know, were… some of them maybe a little bit more vehemently than I would have.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Jordan: Through the anonymity of the—

Justin: That's the internet!

Jordan: I don't know if you guys have ever experienced this—

Travis*: Yeah*!

Jordan: But sometimes—

Travis: [yells out] Wa-wa-wa-wa-once or twice!

Griffin: We're trying to find the middle ground still—

Justin: *Yeah*! Sometimes you wish the dogs of war would just—you could bring the dogs of war back on inside for a bit.

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: Nestle in by the fire—

Travis: Hey! Sit!

Justin: Dogs of war.

Travis: Sit, boys!

Justin: Sit, boys!

Jordan: People sharpening their—

Justin: Get on bo…

Jordan: People sharpening their little pizza cutters for combat—-

Travis: Yeah!

Jordan: You know?

Travis: Let's roll out!

Jordan: [chuckles] Yes.

Justin: Does Cici… does the eye of Cicis turn towards you? Do they notice your disruption?

Jordan: They did. They left a comment. They said… basically, they were like, you know, "The people have spoken. We realize that AI isn't for

everybody." Which is a little bit of a centrist takem, some people weren't happy with that.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah.

Jordan: Cicis stands for centrist. Maybe—

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You're telling me that Cicis Pizza didn't take a stand?!

Jordan: Yeah, they didn't really take a hard, leftist, left-wing stance, which is crazy, I think, for a Kansas City-based pizza chain. But they did say, "We are not going to use AI for our social media posts anymore," which I think for a corporation is probably the strongest stance we're ever going to get out of them.

Griffin: Yeah, no kidding—

Justin: Jordan, I will just say—

Travis: *Yeah*!

Justin: Credit to you, my friend. If everybody did that for all the corporations, we'd be sitting pretty, man. Like you got Cicis Pizza, honestly, for… I think that's pretty solid! Like you handled an entire chain, that's pretty good!

Jordan: You know what? I've—like I do have a journalism degree that I—that has lain dormant for about a decade, and for it to have done even

this very small thing, I'm like, okay! All of that student debt, maybe a little bit worth it. And yeah, so they have not—they are not using AI on their social media anymore. And… they, you know, have committed to that, and a l—and they're pretty happy because a lot of people are like, "Hey, great job." You know.

Griffin: Yeah!

Jordan: A smaller minority are also like, "Hey! Now you need to do this! And this and this." Which, you know, that's the internet—

Justin: Who's next?!

Jordan: And it's fair! And you know, if people have other qualms, that's fair. That's what they need to speak on. But like I—it's—it's been… You know, I feel like it's been a good outcome for everybody.

Travis: Jordan, I want to say a big thank you for standing up for the little guy.

Griffin: That's awesome. Yeah, he is su—he is super-duper small.

Justin: Oh, that's really good, Trav. Dude, that's so good.

Jordan: Awesome!

Griffin: Have you used your—

Justin: Cool.

Griffin: Have you used your journalism degree at all to check in on Joe Croci and Mike Cole, who founded Cicis Pizza in 1985? And just to check and see if they're feeling particularly disenfranchised by this four-inch-high little dream boy?

Justin: Oh, yeah! Like the real, actual inventors of Cicis—

Griffin: The actual inventors of Cicis Pizza.

Travis: Well, they're the founders!

Jordan: Yeah.

Griffin: I guess I don't know what the distinction is.

Travis: They found the buffet that he invented.

Griffin: They found C.C.—-they founded C.C. Pazzini.

Jordan: He invented—

Justin: They found the very—

Jordan: They found—

Justin: Small buffet he had made and they said, "Whoa! You gotta do this way bigger, pal! No one's going to be able to eat this!" [chuckles]

Jordan: They're like, "Hey, man, we see what you've invented."

Justin: "We love it. Love the vision."

Jordan: "We found it. We found it. Now let's get this—let's scale this up."

Travis: Uh-huh!

Jordan: No, I haven't spoken to them. I—this is—I do want to drop this sort of exclusive on the podcast here.

Justin: Wow.

Jordan: They have reached out, and I'm hope—-I will be interviewing the president of Cicis and their creative director very soon.

Griffin: oh, boy.

Jordan: So, I'm hoping to maybe… get a little bit more information on how everybody's feeling about C.C. at this point, and see what's maybe is next for him. I also might want to check and see, there are some accusations that you alluded to in the comments that he's very close to Dreamfinder. And—

Griffin: He's extraordinarily close to—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: He looks like Dreamfinder, from—

Justin: Looks like Dreamfinder, but that's okay. That's an inspiration and there n—they're not doing anything with him anymore.

Griffin: Yeah.

Jordan: Two guys can wear hats and have a beard, I know that. But we are—we are going to try to—-we are going to try to hold their feet to the fire and figure out what's different, and maybe if there was some inspiration there.

Travis: Jordan, what part of you—is there a part of you, that at this meeting, you're hoping they'll do like that thing that they do sometimes on like talk shows and stuff with like John Cena, where they get like a fan of John Cena who's like, oh, talking to a movie poster. And they're like, "Oh, I'm a big fan!" And then John Cena smashes through and he's there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Jordan: Honestly, that would be everything. That would be s—that would be—I would… I might just hang it up. I might just like pin that post—

Justin: God, we gotta get C.C. Pazzini on cameo.

Travis: Well, Jordan!

Jordan: At the top of my social media account and just be like, all right—

Travis: I'm so excited, Jordan! Look in your pocket right now. We brought Cicis—

Justin: Oh god you—

Travis: Pazzini into the show!

Justin: You crushed him!

Griffin: Oh, you gooshed him up!

Justin: You crushed him, he's dead!

Jordan: [laughs] Oh, no! He tried to cut his way out with his little pizza cutter, but it—

Travis: [yells out] Oh, no!

Justin: [chuckles] We told him it wasn't a weapon!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Jordan: Oh, it wasn't—

Justin: Jordan, how can people… how can people find your exciting work? If they want to follow more of your exciting thoughts.

Jordan: If you want to find me on pretty much anything, it's @itskeyes, I-T-S-K-E-Y-E-S, or just look up Jordan Keyes, J-O-R-D-A-N-K-E-Y-E-S. That's probably the best way to find me. I'm on Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and Patreon. Find me on any of those places, and I'll be making songs and doing long rants about the different ways that AI and the general shitification of technology is slightly ruining my life.

Travis: Yay!

Justin: All right, Jordan, thank you so much! Appreciate you being here, and keep up the good work.

Jordan: Thanks so much, guys.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Hey, can we do one more question?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: "I recently crocheted a realistic sword for my brother to take to the Renaissance Fair. We go in a group with our sister and my partner, and I've crocheted other Renaissance weapons for them and myself. However, his rapier is the most impressive thing that I made. How do I get people to notice my brother's cool sword?" Friends, if I could just tell you, I'm looking at a picture right now, and you may be thinking like crocheted rapier, but like it looks like one, it—

Travis: You're thinking like, oh, it looks like a toy! Like, oh! It's like a—

Justin: No, it looks—it looks like—

Griffin: A floppy scarf, maybe.

Justin: It kicks ass.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It looks so fucking cool.

Justin: It looks so cool. Anyway….

Travis: How'd you do that?!

Griffin: How'd you—

Justin: It's incredible.

Griffin: Freaking do that?

Justin: "How do I get people to notice my brother's cool sword? How do I get credit without looking like an overbearing big sister? I spent five hours on it, and I'm really proud of it, but I don't want it to look like I'm bragging. I could really use your help on how smoothly to show off my craftsmanship." That's from Crocheted Cleric in Massachusetts. "PS, if it matters at all, I'm the oldest, he's the youngest, and my sister is in the middle."

Griffin: That helps. That's actually good shit. That's good deets.

Justin: Hm…

Griffin: Hah…

Justin: Hm…

Griffin: A lot of this is going to come down to your brother. Your brother is going to have to be the hype man. He's going to have to be the one I think just doing lots of flourishes.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: He's going to have to have—

Justin: Hear you, hear you! [chuckles] Look at what I have!

Griffin: At all times. Maybe just starting shit—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: With other people that have swords, and like waving it in their face.

Justin: Ooh, that's good.

Griffin: And be like, "I'm going to kill you." [chuckles] Probably not that, but—

Justin: Huh!

Travis: I'm going to cozy you to death.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: You could also, I think that—

Justin: I didn't think you were going to say "I'm going to kill you."

Griffin: No, don't say that.

Justin: That's interesting.

Travis: This is why there are three siblings. This is why you have a third sibling.

Justin: That's why you must.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Right? For circumstances like this. You did the work, your brother's carrying it around, you need that middle child energy to be like, "Do you see his sword? They made that" Right? That's why you need the third! Because the brother's carrying it, so I think there's a little weird if he's bragging about it. You made it.

Griffin: No.

Travis: You don't want to brag about it. Hype sibling who's like, "Yeah, did you see the sword? They made that!"

Griffin: Give them a little horn that they can use to be the town crier. You don't get enough of those at Ren fairs. It's a role, it's a job that is not being staffed.

Travis: I'm available, by the way. If anybody needs a town crier.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm doing it most of the time anyways. Let me do it for you.

Justin: Crying in our towns.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Travis is usually crying in a town somewhere. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: He might as well get paid for it.

Travis: That's right!

Griffin: This sword's so cool. I know we are supposed—

Justin: It's so cool—

Griffin: To make jokes and—

Travis: Do you think there's a dowel in it?

Griffin: There's got to be some rigid structure inside of it.

Justin: There's got to be a dowel in it. If I could make one of—you talk about five hours, like that's a long time, if I could make something this cool in five hours, that's all I'd do anymore.

Travis: Yeah, man!

Justin: I would just make crocheted swords.

Griffin: Yeah, you wouldn't hear from us again.

Justin: Honestly? You should probably get business cards ready, because I think the problem you're going to have is people asking you for commissions.

Travis: Damn right.

Justin: On these swords.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Hey, can I buy one of those swords? Dang…

Griffin: I think the thing that could help is if the rest of his kit is also crocheted.

Travis: That's what I was going to say! I just thought of that too!

Griffin: Crocheted hat, crocheted armor, crocheted tunic, crocheted…

Travis: It's a theme.

Griffin: Crotch cup, crotch guard.

Travis: That's croshe. I think it's pronounced croshe.

Justin: You look like a—you look like a starting guy. [chuckles] You look like a starting guy in an open world RPG. "I've got the string armor, the string pants, and the string sword! I'm ready to go!"

Travis: "I got these shoes without soles on them. This is perfect!"

Justin: [chuckles] It's good.

Travis: "I got a rusty sword that this guy was going to throw away, but gave to me instead, because I guess he wants me to die. Yeah, I'm ready."

Justin: My parents used a crocheted condom, so… that's what happened with me.

Griffin: *Gross*. Justin? Gross?

Travis: Gross in so many ways.

Griffin: Gross, doesn't make any sense, that was—that didn't have anything to do with anything. That was a real reach for the stars comment, Juice.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: What do you mean?

Travis: Cam out of nowhere.

Justin: I'm not familiar, Griff.

Travis: Oh…

Justin: Oh, it's that new song from Pitbull. Do you know what I think about it? [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Extensively I think, yeah.

Justin: Would you like me to share my thoughts on the new Pitbull song?

Griffin: I think we're—I think it's covered.

Justin: Hey, thank you so much for listening to our podcast. I hope you have enjoyed it. We appreciate you. Thank you to Jordan Keyes. I hope you'll go follow Jordan, I really appreciate him coming on the show. And thank you to him and the other Pizziniacs for your important work. And if there's any other, you know, Cicis related business, we'll be sure to bring it to you.

Griffin: We got some merch over in the McElroy Merch Store, for the month of October. We got the Super McElroy Brothers logo pin. We got the "Don't Talk to My Brother Ever Again" hat. 10% of all merch proceeds this month will also be donated to the Center for Reproductive Rights. There's a bunch

of other stuff on there, too. If you like any of the shit that we make, you'll find something over there for you to wear or put in your house, or car or something, mcelroymerch.com.

Travis: Also, we have a YouTube channel that you've probably heard us talk about before, or maybe you're already a subscriber to the McElroy Family YouTube. We've added a membership feature to it where we will be posting the full videos of us recording the podcasts every week. Those are going to go up there just a few days after the recording itself. And we're also going to be posting videos like Technically Competent and Monster Factory and the other videos like that. Those are going to go in there a few days early. And it's a nice way to support us, if you want to do that. It is $5 a month. You can go check that out. Apparently, if you try to do it through your phone, like iOS tries to charge you extra. So, do it—

Griffin: Don't do that.

Travis: Like yeah, do it on your computer. Go check that out! I think you'll like it!

Griffin: Thank you, Montaigne, for the use of our theme song, "My Life Is Better With You." It's a club banger. It's a hundred million billion billion times better than "Reach For The Stars" by Kiss and Pitbull. And I just really appreciate getting to use it.

Travis: I have—

Justin: Who's got something to throw?

Travis: I have these grippers, because I—

Griffin: Grippers?

Travis: I hold pencils and pens too tightly, and it puts a divot in my finger.

Griffin: Oh, wow?

Travis: So I got these grippers to put around them.

Griffin: Are you just going to throw like six of them?

Travis: Yeah, I've got—

Griffin: As hard as you can at the wall?

Travis: I've got these bad boys.

Griffin: Yeah, throw five grippers.

Justin: Do it.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: I'd love to hear the sound of five grippers.

Travis: I'm going to close my eyes.

Justin: Okay.

[thud and clattering]

Griffin: That was cool! They really bounced and landed in really interesting ways.

Travis: And I karate chopped my microphone halfway through.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: 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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