

## Wonderful! 79: The Gooshy Carpet Incident

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:** Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful!

**Griffin:** Tragedy has struck the wonderful home... studios. The studios have been struck by a most vicious tragedy, a most unkind event. Do you want to talk about it? Do you want to be the one to sort of make the announcement to our friends, or you want me to do it?

**Rachel:** I want you to do it, because I don't know what you're referring to.

**Griffin:** Rachel made a big spill. Rachel just made a big, big spill on the carpet with the LaCroix she's drinking, and it's one of those tall glasses, one of those tall cans, and I think they probably have more fluid in them, which meant more of you to so...

**Rachel:** They definitely don't have more fluid in them.

**Griffin:** Well, it's sweeter, so it's creating a more pungent scent. These like, hybrid LaCroix. I think I do have some traces of—rrregardless, the carpet is now... fully saturated, would you say?

**Rachel:** Um, I would say that sparkling water...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Uh, is actually like, used often as a cleaning agent. So I don't feel too guilty about my spill.

**Griffin:** Yeah, here's the problem, though – there was nothin' to clean, was there? Was there?

**Rachel:** I mean, this carpet's probably pretty gross.

**Griffin:** This carpet's pristine. Are you kidding me? It's my office. I keep this shit, like, fully... this shit's like a laboratory where you could make dinosaurs or something. It's like the Andromeda strain. What are you looking for?

**Rachel:** Do you want to talk about how many empty cups you have on your desk right now?

**Griffin:** Three, but they are completely sanitized. Also, look at the liquid in them. Do you know where the liquid went? They're mostly empty. Do you know where the liquid went? In my mouth and belly, and my... my, y'know, my balls, where the pee is kept. But yours went on the ground. Do you want to talk—you want to explore that? I just took a step to the bathroom to get a towel to clean up the foul mess, and the whole time, every step... [makes some sort of horrible squishing sound]

**Rachel:** Is this how you want to start our enthusiast podcast?

**Griffin:** Well, it's just—I wanted to tell, report on the accident, 'cause I'm still basically a journalist.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Okay. No.

**Griffin:** Still mostly a journo at heart.

**Rachel:** No, yeah, no, that's... that's true. I mean...

**Griffin:** So I guess I could—I thought this would be a good opportunity for a press conference about the spill.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** So we take it to live. Live to Rachel McElroy.

**Rachel:** So, my... am I giving the conference, or are you?

**Griffin:** Yeah, you are. You're the president in office.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I um... I did a whoopsie, and I um... didn't do it on purpose. It was what some people might call an accident. Typically, yes, I'll respond to your questions in a moment. Typically, when someone does an accident, uh, they are met by their loved ones with understanding. But this does not seem to be the case. Yes, Griffin, do you have a question?

**Griffin:** Uh, this is not Griffin. My name is Brock Brang... gin... from the New York... magazine.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** And I have a quick question. There's a rumor going around the uh, y'know, the press bin where we go out for drinks after we finish the newspaper and do the—

**Rachel:** Uh, I'm familiar with the bin.

**Griffin:** So uh, the rumor going around is that you did it on purpose 'cause you were mad. So could you report—can you reply to that?

**Rachel:** Um, can I hear about your source on that? Or...

**Griffin:** Uh, it's confidential, of course.

**Rachel:** Okay. Well, I respect your integrity, Brock.

**Griffin:** Thank youuu. Brock Brangin.

**Rachel:** Um... I will say that, uh, I did not do it intentionally.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Uh, although... I don't regret it.

**Griffin:** This is Chaz Charmin from the Los Angeles magazine. Two questions – one, when you say you don't regret it, where's the sort of, uh... where's that sort of fury coming from? And second of all, there's a rumor going around my press bin that you just like the carpets gooshy. So I'm wondering if you could address that one actually first. That you like gooshy carpets better.

**Rachel:** Uh, Chaz, I have read some of your work.

**Griffin:** Mmm.

**Rachel:** Uh, it seems like you try and bring gooshy into all your stories.

**Griffin:** That's my thing.

**Rachel:** So I don't know that I can really take your question seriously.

**Griffin:** I don't blame ya.

**Rachel:** Seems like all of your stories have a gooshy element.

**Griffin:** I'll be honest, too – Los Angeles magazine? Made that up. So this is my deal. I go to press conferences.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And try to get people to say the word gooshy, and I have succeeded, so uh, I will take-a my leave. Do you have any small wonders?

**Rachel:** I do. Have you seen...

**Griffin:** Ah?

**Rachel:** The photo of Martha from Great British Bake Off? She got married recently.

**Griffin:** [gasps] Oh!

**Rachel:** And a bunch of the contestants from her season went to the wedding.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's good!

**Rachel:** And they all made cakes.

**Griffin:** Ohh, that's good!!

**Rachel:** And there's pictures of it on the internet, and it's wonderful.

**Griffin:** Oh, I'm full of power. I've just been filled with pure energy.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. Martha was the very young woman, and I guess, I think it was season five?

**Griffin:** I cannot keep them straight.

**Rachel:** Uh, but there's just... just beautiful photos of all of the contestants with her, and they're all so happy.

**Griffin:** Why wouldn't they be?

**Rachel:** And there are so many cakes.

**Griffin:** That makes me so pleased. I'm pleased as punch to hear that.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** My small wonder... it could be a big wonder, but I'm worried if I made it a big wonder, it would come off as sort of, um... I don't know the word to like, sycophantic or something? But Brian David Gilbert's, uhh, the PokéRap.

**Rachel:** Oh my gosh, I'm so glad you brought that!

**Griffin:** At uh, PAX East.

**Rachel:** I listened to it again today.

**Griffin:** I did, too. He did a live version of his show, Unraveled, which is on Polygon, and I am so fuckin' like, happy and proud of the work he is doing over there. And Pat is also, y'know, an integral component of the live show process, especially towards the end. But he... it's a 33-minute long panel where he writes the perfect PokéRap, and it is... you watch it thinkin' it's gonna be funny, and then, when the PokéRap gets there, and it's actually a fuckin' slap, you're like, "Oh, wait a minute. Wait, what?"

**Rachel:** He really breaks down his whole process in putting it together, and like, as somebody who is enthusiastic about poetry, I really appreciated some of his precise terminology. And I will also say that I am not particularly familiar with the Pokémon, but I still very much enjoyed it.

**Griffin:** Sure. I did, too. I'm also playing a very good video game called Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice. I'm not gonna go into talkin' about it, but it makes me feel like a cool samurai dude. And I did not know that that was an aesthetic that I appreciated, but you get in on some like, some good sword fightin'? Some good ghost dawg shit?

**Rachel:** Well, you are a man that has owned a sword.

**Griffin:** More than one.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** But it's good. There used to be a game called Bushido Blade for PlayStation, and funny enough, Chris Plant, when he moved here, one of the first hangs he did at his house was to hook up the PlayStation and play this game with like, me and Justin and some of our friends.

And the whole idea is, you're sword fighting, and if you hit the other person once, they die, because it's a sword. So it's not like every other fighting game where you're like, whittling them down. And this game does that, too, and it feels nice. It's got a good sword feel.

Uh, I go first this week.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** My first thing... I could not think of a good way to phrase it, so it's going to be strangely phrased, which is a zone I feel comfortable in. Visible mountains, I enjoy. And that is not to suggest that there are such things as invisible mountains. But I'm talking about mountain—or is there? [gasps]

**Rachel:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** [sings the X-Files theme] That's the X-Files noise. It's hard to do that with your mouth. Uh, what I am bringing is the idea that it is just good to see a mountain. To be able to see a mountain. And I am specifically bringing this, because I just got back from Salt Lake City, where we did a tour, and there's mountains galore there.

**Rachel:** Do you think people like not seeing mountains? Your suggestion is that being able to see a mountain is wonderful. Which, I would just say maybe just mountains are wonderful.

**Griffin:** Maybe that's what it is. It's not the ability to see a mountain, but when you were in a place, and there's mountains there? I think I'm specifically thinking in contrast with a city, where you're in—maybe urban mountains would've been a better thing? But that sounds like an—

**Rachel:** It sounds like you just like seein' mountains.

**Griffin:** I think I maybe—okay. I like mountains.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** But that makes it sound like I'm always like, climbin' mountains, or I like them, y'know, geographically. Topographically.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean, you can like tigers, but not, y'know, hang out with tigers all the time.

**Griffin:** That's fair. So, anyway, uh, since I've been touring with the podcast, I've been lucky enough to go to cities that just have like, mountains. Just like, has them. And like, Phoenix was like that, surprisingly. I didn't expect that. And then, we flew in, and it was like, "Oh, cool, mountains." And then Seattle is so good for that. There's mountains galore.

**Rachel:** That is a really good point. 'Cause you grew up in West Virginia, which is fairly mountainous, but not in that way.

**Griffin:** Yes! So, yes. It is more... I mean, it is mountainy, obviously. There's the Appalachian mountains there. But Huntington is more hilly, I think, for lack of a better term. Y'know, we got some topography. It's topographically diverse, I would say. Because there's rivers, and valleys, and hills all over. But we don't necessarily have like, the huge mountain. We don't necessarily have like, y'know, the big, uh, just awe-inspiring mountain peak.

The Appalachian range is more sort of, uh, just like topographically diverse, sort of long, long, long ass, like eternally reaching forever stretches of hills and mountains and stuff like that. And that's good. Like, that's in my DNA. I will always, always like... it's one thing that I don't get a lot in Texas, right? We're in hill country, but there's very, very few places that I feel like I drive regularly, or on like, Texas car trips, where you get that feeling of being in a road that is like, nestled between mountainsides.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** And I get that in West Virginia, and I get that in certain places, y'know, throughout New England, and y'know, anywhere where there's sort of that mountain rangey thing. I've never actually driven that much on the west coast, 'cause I usually like, fly out there. But uh, just like, being in— Salt Lake City I think is what like, sort of floored me, because the mountains there are huge, and like, snow-capped, majestic mountains.

I wanted to go hiking in them, which is new for me, wanting to do that while on tour and not just like, sit in my hotel and play Switch. Uh, but then I found out it's like, 40 degrees still in the mountains, and there's like, lots of snow on the ground, so I would've died up there, which is not great.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I'm glad you did that prep work before you went out there.

**Griffin:** Me too. It could've been a real horror story. Um, I think like, just having your horizon broken up with like, upward land, is a really like... uh, is a really beautiful thing.

When we were younger, the McElroy family would take a summer vacation every year without fail. We'd all go on vacation together, and the options were either beach, where we would usually go to Myrtle Beach, or uh, Nags Head occasionally, or somewhere in Florida, usually Vero Beach. Uh, or, we would go to the Smoky Mountains. We would go up to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. And Gatlinburg has it all. I don't know if you've ever been.

**Rachel:** I have not.

**Griffin:** I'm sure you've been to places like Gatlinburg, here in your—

**Rachel:** I've been to Memphis, and that's about it.

**Griffin:** Okay. I've heard your experiences from Silver Dollar City, and it sounds kind of reminiscent, because it has the Smoky Mountains, which are gorgeous. Beautiful mountains, and there's plenty of cabins to stay in. We always stayed in a big cabin with a hot tub, and got to like, chill in the hot tub at night and look over the mountains. It was beautiful.

**Rachel:** Oh, that's nice!

**Griffin:** And then in the city, they had mini golf, and laser tag, and like, a thousand places that sold fudge.

**Rachel:** Oh, that does sound like Branson.

**Griffin:** And they had a place that sold replica swords and BB guns for some reason? Um, but even when they had... y'know, swords and BB guns and infinite fudge, all I really wanted to do was hang out in the cabin in the mountains, 'cause it was so pretty and so nice. And I preferred it to the beach, which I know, this is a weird dichotomy that sometimes people float. Beach versus mountains, which one you'd rather go to. But the mountains do have less sand. And so—

**Rachel:** Oh, I really don't like sand.

**Griffin:** I really am not a big fan of it. Um, I had a very formative week when I was in high school, where I went with some family friends from church to Hillsboro, West Virginia, which was actually what inspired the setting for Kepler in Adventure Zone: Amnesty, because we went to the Green Bank Telescope on that trip, 'cause Hillsboro is very close to it.

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** It's just like a small town, like 260 people live there. But it's in this like, basin. It's in this basin just surrounded by mountains on all sides, and it was just such a like, gorgeous, gorgeous place to be.

**Rachel:** That sounds nice.

**Griffin:** Um, I just like being around mountains. I don't usually—I don't like—we did one hiking trip when I was in, uh, when I was in Colorado, in Breckenridge, and I cannot remember like, what the hike was. But we hiked for like, almost three hours, and went way up a mountain, and then were there like, by the, like, uh, the climb up to the mountain, up to the peak,

and it was raising up over this beautiful lake. And there was still like, some snow in places, and it was the most gorgeous thing I've ever seen.

And then like, when we were in Hakone, that was one of the prettiest places I've ever been for similar reasons. We were there right when fall started to go, and like, it's in the mountains, and uh, we went to like, these spectacular places, and Mount Fuji was in the background, supposedly. We couldn't really get a good look at it, but um... I just like visible mountains.

And I think what people find so inspiring about mountains is the sense of scale. Like, how humbling they are, because it's, uh... it is tough to see something like that in the distance and feel like big shit, I feel like. Especially when it's right next to a city. Like, here's all this huge stuff that people made. Like in Seattle. Look at all this big stuff we made! And it's like, yeah, that's pretty cool, but... here's a mountain. So...

**Rachel:** Yeah, I can't—I am not, obviously, I am not somebody that grew up around mountains. And I've only spent a very small amount of time. But I am curious how that kind of changes a person, just to have that connection. I feel like you'd be a lot more outdoorsy and adventurous if you just had this like, big, incredible thing near you all the time.

**Griffin:** This happened to me on this trip. I was in Salt Lake City, and I went on this vision quest of going hiking, and I found this seven mile hike down to like, a similar kind of lake next to the mountains. And it looked great, and I was trying to convince my family members into doing it with me before I found out that it would be lethal. But it made me want to like, go to REI and just fuckin' stock up and go live in the mountains for a bit!

**Rachel:** Oh, here we go...

**Griffin:** On my flight home, I watched Free Solo, and I was like, "This is me! This is me now!"

**Rachel:** Please. Please, no.

**Griffin:** And then I watched him climb El Capitan by himself without ropes, and I was like, "This is not me."

**Rachel:** No. Please no.

**Griffin:** "Who is this?" That movie's ballin'. My asshole was so clenched during that entire—I'm demonstrating to Rachel.

**Rachel:** Yeah, he's giving me like, a hand...

**Griffin:** It's like, um...

**Rachel:** Like a very tight OK sign right now.

**Griffin:** It's like not even—yeah. It's like a molecular level sort of asshole, um, sort of uh...

**Rachel:** What would you say, if you had to give me a hand gesture for how your asshole is normally?

**Griffin:** Oh. I mean, on a normal day?

**Rachel:** Like, I want to compare, y'know? So I really appreciate the tightness.

**Griffin:** Do you just want to see it?

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** That... probably like that?

**Rachel:** Oh, wow.

**Griffin:** Is that bad?

**Rachel:** I mean, it's a pretty... pretty big letter O right there.

**Griffin:** Well...

**Rachel:** Actually looks more like a D. Is your hand okay?

**Griffin:** No. My asshole's bad.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** This is gross. Um...

**Rachel:** You started it!

**Griffin:** I think—I don't want to slam beach people, 'cause I think you can also get this from the ocean. I didn't—I've never gotten this feeling from the ocean. This like, awe-inspiring, like, humility, until we actually went on the boat. Because there's a difference between like, hearing a bunch of people playing volleyball, and you're sitting on the sand where you can still see land, and being on a boat where you're like, "Uh oh. If this boat—if this boat went down, I'd be fucked, because the ocean is so big." So I got that on the cruise.

But again, sand. No good. Not a beach guy.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I really hate sand. I do love, as we all know, the sun.

**Griffin:** Oh, sure! You have it tattooed on your body. What's not to love about it?

**Rachel:** Oh...

**Griffin:** Do you not like people knowing that?

**Rachel:** I mean, I'm okay with it. It's just kind of embarrassing.

**Griffin:** She got the Sunny Delight logo tattooed on her, uh, buttock.

**Rachel:** Noo... nooo...

**Griffin:** No? Hey, what's your first thing?

**Rachel:** My first thing is the Perry Preschool Project.

**Griffin:** Don't know it.

**Rachel:** I figured you wouldn't.

**Griffin:** I love Perry's work. But I don't know about their wonderful preschool project yet. So...

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. Uh, so, the Perry that is being referred to is Perry Elementary School. And this is a randomized control trial that took place in the early 1960s.

**Griffin:** I was thinking of Matthew Perry. He did his own—

**Rachel:** Ohh.

**Griffin:** He did his own thing. But it's with middle schools, and it was called Chandler's Kids.

**Rachel:** You always say 'Shandler.'

**Griffin:** Do I?

**Rachel:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Is it wrong?

**Rachel:** Yes!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** It's so strange to me.

**Griffin:** How does a person get like that, I wonder?

**Rachel:** I don't know!

**Griffin:** I've seen Friends quite a bit. It's not an affectation.

**Rachel:** When I say it, does it sound weird to you?

**Griffin:** You say it.

**Rachel:** Shandler.

**Griffin:** You just said it the way I said it.

**Rachel:** I know. I'm saying, when you hear that, does it trigger you of like—

**Griffin:** Oh, no.

**Rachel:** "This is the wrong way to say it"?

**Griffin:** No, that's right.

**Rachel:** *Chandler.*

**Griffin:** Okay. [laughs]

**Rachel:** So strange. Okay, so this project basically validated the importance of high quality preschool for kids.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** That's kind of the elevator pitch.

**Griffin:** Okay. I didn't know that we had decided that was something that was necessary.

**Rachel:** Uh, what, high quality preschool?

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, I mean, I guess it's better than the alternative. But I learned how to skip in preschool. I don't know that I needed that to thrive in the workplace.

**Rachel:** Well, let me tell you...

**Griffin:** Okay, please, yes.

**Rachel:** What happened.

**Griffin:** Dunk on me.

**Rachel:** So they went into, uh, an area of high poverty, and looked at 128 three and four-year-old children that were assessed to be at risk of school failure.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Whether it's like, their background, or y'know, there are income issues, or whatever. It began as a research study seeking to answer whether access to high quality education could have a positive impact on preschool children in the communities where they live.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** It was conducted from 1962 to 1967, and then they followed up with the kids at age 27, and then again at age 40.

**Griffin:** Oh, they're on some like 7-Up shit.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. So at age 27... oh, and let me just say – randomized control trial means like, some of the kids were in this high quality program, and some were not.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Uh, they were divided into two groups. One received the high quality preschool, and one received no preschool education.

**Griffin:** Were three of them triplets, but they didn't tell them?

**Rachel:** No. Although, that's a very good movie.

**Griffin:** Heartbreaking.

**Rachel:** So they followed up with these kids at age 27. At age 27, the kids that had the high quality preschool had completed, on average, one more year of schooling, had 44% higher high school graduation rate.

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Rachel:** And then at age 40, they followed up, and they were 46% less likely to have served time in jail, 33% lower arrest rate...

**Griffin:** Just from preschool?

**Rachel:** Just from goin' to like, a high quality preschool.

**Griffin:** Just for like a year? How long—like, just like a little bit?

**Rachel:** Three and four-year-olds, so...

**Griffin:** Wow! That's such a narrow—that scares the shit out of me as the parent of a two-year-old! That makes me think, in the next two years, shit's gonna like, pop off that's gonna decide everything?

**Rachel:** That's—I—I've known for a while now that preschool is very important, 'cause I worked at United Way and early childhood education was a big part of that.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And it's part of the reason that I worked so hard to find Henry a preschool that was NAEYC accredited.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Because there are certain quality standards that preschools, uh, have to meet when they receive that accreditation.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Uh, and a lot of it is like, class size, and y'know, access to learning materials, and y'know, teacher-child ratios, and...

**Griffin:** And is it a barn, and is there actually hay everywhere, and is there animals everywhere, and is it actually a farm that you're dropping your kid off at, and is the farm abandoned...

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** And is it run by feral goats, and do the feral goats like the taste of children flesh... and hair...

**Rachel:** Uh, let me tell you about some more of their results.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** So again, at age 40, the children that had been to the high quality preschool had a 42% higher median monthly income, and were 26% less likely to have received government assistance in the past ten years. So there's just this suggestion of investing in high quality preschool has a huge

return, and this is actually one of the first studies—'cause longitudinal studies are really rare.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Y'know, committing to these kids for like, over 30 years is significant. But it showed, just by keeping these kids out of jail, for example. Like, the ROI on it was significant. They were actually able to demonstrate two communities. Like, invest in early education. It will save you money in the long run, 'cause these kids have much better outcomes when they go.

**Griffin:** Has anybody ever done a study like this since then that has like, corroborated those... those numbers seem fuckin' buckwild to me. They seem buckwild. They make me—I know that they got like, over a hundred kids for this study, but it makes me think that there must be some sort of wild outlier. Because fuckin' like, 40—if you have a good preschool when you're three and four, you don't go to jail, but if you do, it's 45%--like, that's so high. That's so much.

**Rachel:** Well, I think part of it, too, is that they're looking at low income kids, so they're kids that don't have access to a lot of resources. And so, the school was an opportunity for them to get access to resources they might not have had otherwise.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** And so, if you think about the kids that didn't get to participate, y'know, they were missing all sorts of resources that the kids that did... did. Y'know? Like, if you look at like a middle income or high income neighborhood, you probably wouldn't see these kind of results.

**Griffin:** Did... people take this study to heart? Like, did this lead to like, a serious change in like, how communities thought about early childhood education?

**Rachel:** Yeah. So in the '60s, like, around this time period, and I don't know that it was a result of the study, 'cause it was... the very beginning of

it. But that's when Lyndon Johnson started Head Start, which is like, the big program for low income kids. He was a big proponent of saying that everybody, regardless of income status, should have access to high quality preschool.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I just... y'know, I talked about how I am like, y'know, passionate about teachers and education, and as Henry gets older, I just feel more and more strongly about this. I see the benefits with him having been in a school program already. Y'know, he's two. And I just—I just think it's so tremendous, 'cause it's such a like... spongy age, y'know? Like, to invest at this time, where kids are really, like, setting their trajectory of how they learn and how they discover things, like, is such a huge opportunity.

**Griffin:** I don't remember anything from preschool, save for one memory, and it's that I didn't—there was a period where I didn't like napping. This is—this may be my first memory. When I was like, three or four, and we had these cots that were just these metal racks with this stretched... it was almost like a trampoline material that was stretched, and that was the cot.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean, that's what a cot is.

**Griffin:** Well, yeah, but there was nothing else on it. You were just sleeping on this trampoline. That's not what they sleep on at daycare, at Henry's daycare, is it? Maybe it is. Wow. Okay, never mind. But I couldn't sleep, and so I had the blanket pulled over my head. I was just like, holding onto it like I was in a horror movie, holding onto it over my head. And the, uh, the teacher walked up and pulled the blanket off me, because I guess she could tell that I was awake, and she went, [angrily] "Go to sleep."

**Rachel:** [laughs] Are you—

**Griffin:** That's my first memory.

**Rachel:** Are you sure this is real?

**Griffin:** That's a real memory. Because I remember it. It was like, so—that's a good first memory to have, because of course that would be burned into your skull. Because first of all, that's not how it works. That's not gonna get me driftin' off to slumber land.

**Rachel:** The first preschool memory I have, I think, is when I was on the playground, and they had those big cement tunnels, and I like, bashed my head into it.

**Griffin:** Oh no.

**Rachel:** So I don't think it's fair to say that the memories are really reflective of preschool, because it's easier, I think, to remember the traumatic memories than, uh, "Oh, I had really good milk all the time."

**Griffin:** The milk was good, though. Damn. Hey, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

[ad break music plays]

**Griffin:** Got a couple sponsorinos, here, and there's a fun theme, actually, connecting these sponsors. Oh no, you set your phone down in the puddle mess you made. Is it okay?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Okay. I know it's not a like, recent generation iPhone, so I don't know how waterproof they are.

**Rachel:** [laughs] You will just put me on blast for all sorts of things right now!

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's not true. I believe that's an iPhone 8, right? It's an iPhone 8, I think?

**Rachel:** I think it's the seven.

**Griffin:** Oh no, god. You put that thing on your face?

**Rachel:** Do you want to hear about Third Love?

**Griffin:** Oh yeah.

**Rachel:** Third Love is an opportunity for our listeners to find a great new bra.

**Griffin:** Yep!

**Rachel:** And here's what I'll tell you about bras.

**Griffin:** Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:** A lot of people just pick a size and just stick with it their whole life. And hey, y'know what? Your body changes throughout your life.

**Griffin:** Tell them about the wonderful changes their body's gonna—  
[laughs]

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Listen.

**Rachel:** I would say if you gain or lose weight, if you, for example, have a child, sometimes that can change the size bra that you should be wearing. And Third Love gives you the opportunity to find the right bra, because there is a fit finder quiz, which asks you questions about kind of how your bra typically fits. There are also more than 70 sizes, including their signature half cup sizes.

**Griffin:** That's wild.

**Rachel:** Isn't that great?

**Griffin:** That's wonderful.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. So every customer has 60 days to wear their bra, wash it, put it to the test. And if you don't love it, return it to Third Love, and they will wash and donate it to someone who could benefit.

**Griffin:** That's wonderful!

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** I need to stop saying that. I've said it like 15 times in this message. It's the name of our show.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Go to [ThirdLove.com/Wonderful](https://ThirdLove.com/Wonderful) now to get your perfect fitting bra, and get 15% off your first purchase. That's [ThirdLove.com/Wonderful](https://ThirdLove.com/Wonderful) for 15% off today.

**Griffin:** I want to tell you about MeUndies. Because other than Rachel, who is my wife, it is the longest relationship I've ever been in is with MeUndies, I feel like.

**Rachel:** Wow.

**Griffin:** It's so good. They send the best underwear. They send it every month. Every month, I get a new design on it, and...

**Rachel:** Did you see the ones we got today?

**Griffin:** I saw that we got a package, I didn't open it, though! Did you open it?

**Rachel:** They have little cassette tapes on them.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's great. That's great. Um, yeah, every time I see that little colorful package, I get so excited. It's like the last thing I do the day I get it,

is I crack it open, and, "Oh, I'll wear these tomorrow!" I got so many wonderful, comfortable pairs of underwear. I got lounge pants. I've got two onesies. I'm like, I'm drowning in MeUndies over here, and I'm living my best life.

**Rachel:** Did you hear about the new style they have for you?

**Griffin:** Oh, are you talking about the boxer brief with a fly?

**Rachel:** Yeah, you can like, get everything out without...

**Griffin:** You can just get it all out. [laughs] And that sounds ideal to me.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Seriously, that's so good to me. That's very important to me. Uh, yeah, they got a bunch of stuff if you want to go through the gate instead of over the fence.

**Rachel:** I saw that. [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's good. So anyway, uh, they are just—they're so good. They're so good. They got comfortable lounge pants, they've got—I've talked about it. It's so good. So to get your 15% off your first pair, free shipping, and a 100% satisfaction guarantee, go to [MeUndies.com/Wonderful](https://MeUndies.com/Wonderful). That's [MeUndies.com/Wonderful](https://MeUndies.com/Wonderful).

**Rachel:** Hey, can I read you some personal messages?

**Griffin:** Hell no. Yes!

**Rachel:** Oh! [laughs] What a rollercoaster.

**Griffin:** Mmm!

**Rachel:** This first one is for Amy. It is from Daniel. "Happy birthday and/or anniversary! It's been about a year since we met, and that's pretty dang sweet, dawg. I'm so glad to be consciously coupling with such a charming and charismatic cutie. It infinitely rules that you're the one I get to spend my life with. You're my favorite person, my golden hour, and I love you more each day. Definitely still a ten. Nice."

I like referring to somebody as a golden hour. That's perfect.

**Griffin:** Yeah. And I like referring to someone as still a ten, and then declaring in all capital letters, "Nice."

**Rachel:** Nice! [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, here is a jumbotron, and it's for Jenny, and it's from Sophie who says, "I hope that by now, we're living together with the cats, and the Furbies, and our eight years apart are finally over. If not, just pause the podcast until then." For eight years? Stay subscribed, I guess. Those downloads still count. "I am so proud of you, and I can't wait to see everything life has in store for us. Thank you for always supporting me, crushing whatever you put your mind to, and making every day a small wonder." That's a very sweet little message.

**Rachel:** That's very nice!

**Griffin:** Eight years is a long time.

**Rachel:** Yeah, that's really, really tough.

**Griffin:** Do you think that Jenny is former president Barack Obama? It's like a nickname. A nickname for him, and then, it's eight years...

**Rachel:** And it's the city of Chicago? [laughs]

**Griffin:** And the city of Chicago is very excited. [laughs]

[music plays]

**Janet:** Hi, I'm the JV Club podcast's Janet Varney, and I used to suffer from indecision. I couldn't choose between Star Wars and Star Trek, whether to call or text, or the best way to cook my eggs. But now, thanks to my weekly dose of We Got This on Maximum Fun, my decisions are made for me! Thanks, Mark and Hal!

**Speaker 1:** Warning: We Got This may cause shouting, phone throwing, the illusion that the hosts can hear you, laughter on public transit, and death.

**Mark:** We Got This with Mark and Hal. We know what's best.

[music fades out]

**Griffin:** Can I tell you about my second thing?

**Rachel:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Okay. I want to talk about chillhop.

**Rachel:** Chill what?

**Griffin:** Chillhop?

**Rachel:** Chillhop.

**Griffin:** I'm gonna talk about chillhop now, and—

**Rachel:** That is not an expression I'm familiar with.

**Griffin:** Same until about a year ago. And of all of the internet trends that I thought I would find myself susceptible to, chillhop was not among one of the more, like, likely ones. But damn it, these teens are onto something. These millennials have figured something out.

Chillhop is... and I'm going to be very reductive and wrong, because I'm an old man. But it's kind of this sub-genre that has like this wildly specific origin story, and also like, wildly specific purpose. Basically, I'm talking about like, low-fi, typically instrumental, hip hop, like, beats that one might, say, chill out to. Or study to. Or prepare an episode of their podcast to.

Um, and I was made aware of chillhop last year when Polygon did a sort of parotic, 12-hour-long stream of chillhop music to study to, featuring Waluigi. And at the time, I was like, "Oh, this is funny." But I did not get what it was referring to. And now I do, because I've been listening to it lately. Because I like instrumental music to like, work to. I have a work playlist on Spotify, but it's like, mostly like, acoustic stringed stuff and piano stuff.

But chillhop is starting to sort of supplant that. Chillhop is also kind of referring to this like, genre of YouTube channels that feature 24-hour-long streams of just these chill, like, low-fi hip hop beats. And they typically play over these like, very relaxing, Ghibli-esque, like, anime scenes, of usually like, some characters studying.

And if you're wondering how popular this sub, sub, sub-genre actually is, one of the formative YouTubers behind this genre is a person named ChilledCow. They have over three million subscribers, and when I was like, researching this, they had 15 thousand concurrent viewers, just like, watching this chillhop beats to study to.

**Rachel:** Wow.

**Griffin:** So to like, give you a feel for the vibe, if you're uh, over the age of 30 like me and don't know what this thing is, this is a chillhop song from an artist called Mommy. And it's called Passing.

[ 'Passing' by Mommy plays ]

**Griffin:** So like, what I couldn't understand...

**Rachel:** First, can I say...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** So chill.

**Griffin:** It's deeply chill.

**Rachel:** Just incredibly chill. It like, lowers your heart rate.

**Griffin:** My blood pressure is—yes. It's negative. The blood is pumping backwards. Um...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I couldn't understand why... it's such a specific thing. These are chill, low-fi, hip hop beats over anime scenes, and you're supposed to study to it. And that's like, what it is. That's like, what it is. And I could not understand, like, what are the origins of what that is? Vice did a feature on this subset of chill study beats and where it came from, and it's just an extremely late 2010s internet culture story.

So they're big on YouTube, because YouTube is kind of lax for its live streams for like, copyright laws. The other big streaming service is called Twitch, and if you run music... as somebody who played a game set to Orinoco Flow 15 times over, and like, the entire video got just scrubbed from the face of the internet, YouTube is way like, cooler about that.

But it didn't start doing streaming stuff until 2013, and then it wasn't really even like, good and stable until 2017, which is when this sort of... this genre kind of took off. Uh, it's very new. Um, the idea of background music that you can kind of absorb and have it be like, uh, inoffensive is not new, right? Like, you are aware of Muzak.

**Rachel:** Yeah, of course.

**Griffin:** I did not know Muzak was invented by a dude named George Owen Squier, who was a soldier and an inventor. And in 1922, he invented Wired Radio, which was a service that you could just like, shoot music to

businesses and subscribers over wires that they could work to. And that music was Muzak.

**Rachel:** Whoa.

**Griffin:** So like, Muzak, when Muzak was invented, it was also like, a system of transmitting music from one place to the other, which I did not appreciate.

**Rachel:** That's wild.

**Griffin:** So I think you could argue that this is kind of an evolution of that?

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** This idea of like, wallpaper music. And you hear it everywhere, right? Like boarding planes, or in bathrooms.

**Rachel:** Boarding Borders.

**Griffin:** Boarding Borders. In stores. And this is, I think, better than Muzak, but it's its own thing. Um, and another big reason for this like, the advent of chillhop is, streaming music. So over the last few years, Spotify has been putting together like, curated playlists for you to listen to. Not just the Discover Weekly, but like, almost always, every time you log onto Spotify and load it up, there's some chill variety of playlist. Be it like, chill hip hop, or chill acoustic, or chill piano, or chill vocal, or whatever. They have something on there.

Uh, and funny enough, Spotify did a study in 2014 on like, where people were listening to these chill playlists. You'll never guess. In US states where marijuana is legalized...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... is where they are listened to most frequently.

**Rachel:** So chill.

**Griffin:** So this cross-section of low-fi hip hop beats, and college students needing music to study to, and anime... like, that was kind of a harder trend to solve. But this Vice article interviewed a DJ named Celsius who put up the following theory that like, blew my mind. Celsius said... this is actually from the article.

"He theorizes that the chillhop renaissance can be traced back to a bygone nostalgia for Cartoon Network's Adult Swim and Toonami. Adult Swim specialized in toothsome, twilit grooves for its bumpers and commercials, and they also engineered the crossover success of the zonked-savant rapper, MF Doom." Do you know MF Doom? Like, uh...

**Rachel:** Only since I've known you.

**Griffin:** Known me? Yeah. Uh, "Toonami, on the other hand, brought Cowboy Bebop and Samurai Champloo to a western audience for the first time with their incredible meringue-tinged soundtracks intact. The teenagers who loved this stuff are now entering their late 20s. Of course they'd be ready to feel those textures again."

**Rachel:** That makes so much sense.

**Griffin:** Makes so much sense! Like, these—these people who like—I grew up watching Adult Swim and Toonami. I grew up watching Cowboy Bebop and Samurai Champloo. And like, they did have these like, uh, like, black screen with white text, and they would usually have some sort of piffy thing, like, between shows. And they would all have these like, low-fi grooves under them. And when you put that all together, like...

And then, some of the people who are watching this are in college now, and need music to vibe out to or work to or study to or whatever. I read that, and I was like, "Oh, I get it!" I typically—whenever I have a question about like, arcane internet stuff, I very rarely find it answered so completely from a single source. But like, I read that, and I was like, "Oh, yeah."

But for me, it's less about like, this aesthetic, this Cartoon Network, Adult Swim, Toonami aesthetic, and more about just like... I like having chill, instrumental music to work to. And this is like... [sings] A whole new woorld... [normally] Of just stuff. And there's infinity of it. There's infinity of it.

**Rachel:** Yeah! I am really fascinated by that like, subconscious link to nostalgia. It makes me wonder if every single thing that we're interested in can be traced back in some way to nostalgia.

**Griffin:** Maybe. I don't know. But this is one example of like, explicitly yes. Absolutely yes, that's what it is. Uh, what's your second thing?

**Rachel:** My second thing...

**Griffin:** Is vaporwave! Deal with it! I thought we could just all do like, very arcane internet focus.

**Rachel:** I don't know what vaporwave is.

**Griffin:** Oh. Did you ever use Windows '95?

**Rachel:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** That's what vaporwave is.

**Rachel:** Huh. Okay. My second thing is saying "I don't know."

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's good.

**Rachel:** And I'm not referencing You Can't Do That on Television.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** Because that used to be what they would say, and then the slime would fall on them.

**Griffin:** We are really covering all of our sort of... we are covering decades of pop culture interest in this episode.

**Rachel:** There is something, and I wanted to introduce it, because there are a lot of people that haven't reached this stage in their life yet. And it's actually something I talked about with your former boss, Chris Grant.

**Griffin:** Okay. Genius. Genius man.

**Rachel:** Genius man. It's something about getting to an age. For me, it was like, early 30s, where I felt comfortable saying that I didn't know something. And it opened just a whole bunch of doors for me. Uh, and I would recommend it to other people.

**Griffin:** It's a very valuable phrase, because you learn something, typically, when you say it.

**Rachel:** Yes. So I will say that I think, when I was younger, I felt this pressure of either like, guessing at an answer, or trying to prove that I knew something about it. So instead of saying "I don't know," I would like, say the thing that I did know.

**Griffin:** Or making up an answer, thinking they're not gonna call you on it. And then they call you on it, and you get embarrassed.

**Rachel:** Yes. I've reached an age now where somebody will ask me a question... sometimes as simple as Griffin asking me if we have any brown sugar. And I will just say, "I don't know." And it's so freeing. Because it like... is honest. And it like, keeps me from like, doing the mental gymnastics of like, "I don't know, do we? Should I know this?"

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** "When was the last time I saw..." Y'know?

**Griffin:** Yeah. Now, you did eat all the brown sugar. You scooped it all out of the bag like a bear might do, and you did eat all of it. So when you said "I don't know" that time, it was a lie, 'cause you knew that you ate all the brown sugar just right out of the bag and threw the bag away. You buried the bag in the yard.

**Rachel:** After I made your carpet gooshy.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I just rolled around in brown sugar.

**Griffin:** She's kind of like a big Kodiak bear that has wandered into our house.

**Rachel:** [laughs] So I found this great, um, list of ten reasons it's great to say "I don't know." Uh, on this website called OpenColleges.edu. It's from Inform Ed. Uh, number one, as you mentioned, you learn something new. If you don't know the answer, you learn something new, which is not a bad thing.

Uh, two, it helps you develop relationships. When you are willing to voluntarily learn from others, you can help build a relationship.

**Griffin:** Yeah. People love saying smart shit to other people. And let them do that for you.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Uh, three, it helps you avoid complacency. Actively realizing you don't know an answer and planning to do something about it is one of the keys to successful, self-driven learning. It will stimulate engagement. When one person admits it, others feel at ease to speak up. This is another one of my favorite things.

**Griffin:** Ohh my god.

**Rachel:** When you're in a conversation, and somebody's talking about vaporwave, and you're like, "I don't know what that is."

**Griffin:** Yes! Or in class, when you're getting quizzed on something, and you stand up on top of your desktop and you say, "I don't know!" And then everybody else does, too.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** That'd be a cooler ending for that movie. [laughs]

**Rachel:** Yeah, right? [laughing] And how proud that teacher would be.

**Griffin:** How proud Robin would be. Yeah.

**Rachel:** Good work, boys.

**Griffin:** Good. Good. That's right.

**Rachel:** None of you learned anything.

**Griffin:** Wonderful.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um... it helps you remain open-minded.

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Rachel:** Keeps you in line with the truth, instead of shutting your mind to something. Builds your thinking skills. Uh, you don't necessarily mean you have no idea, it just means that you're not 100% sure. I do this all the time. I used to feel like I had this pressure to like, guess. Just like, "Oh, when did this happen?" And I'd be like, "Uh, probably early... 1800s?"

**Griffin:** [laughs] History is what I bullshit the most. "When did Napoleon do his thing?"

"Aw, man. 14... 82. I don't know. 700? 700? Am I in the right millennia?"

**Rachel:** [laughs] Uh, number seven – practice intellectual humility. Stop trying to be right all the time. It’s not a goal of education. When you know your intellectual limits, you can increase efficiency of our learning.

Eight, improve credibility. This is another thing I really like.

**Griffin:** If you lie less, then... [laughs]

**Rachel:** Yeah! People do this. Especially, I'll say it. Especially men do this all the time. Of just like, “Oh, I feel like my answer is probably gonna be right, so I'm just gonna say it really confidently.”

**Griffin:** Let `er rip. Yeah.

**Rachel:** Uh, number nine – pursue meaningful problems. The deeper you plumb an issue for answers, the closer you get to the kernel of truth.

**Griffin:** Ooh.

**Rachel:** Of just like, y'know, I don't know why somebody does that. I'm gonna figure that out, instead of just assuming that you know people’s reasoning behind their actions, like, actually figuring it out.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** And number ten, gain academic confidence. It may seem counterintuitive, but you'll only gain more confidence in yourself if you remain aware of what you do and don’t know.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I think it’s a very freeing thing. Now, granted, it can make you lazy if you're not careful.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** But it is just a great opportunity to learn more information, and connect with people over, y'know, shared ignorance. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Sure. It is also one of the power phrases that you can... you *should* learn in a bunch of different foreign languages.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** When we went to Japan, I made sure to learn, "I'm so sorry," and "I don't know. I don't understand."

**Rachel:** Do you remember what it is in Spanish? I remember what it is in French.

**Griffin:** "No lo se."

**Rachel:** "Je ne sais pas."

**Griffin:** "Je ne sais pas" is "I don't know"?

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Oh, I'm thinking of "je ne sais quois."

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And that means... "What that booty do?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** What that booty do? Uh, can I tell you some submissions?

**Rachel:** Yes, please.

**Griffin:** Uh, here's our first one. It's from Leah who says, "Hey guys! My small wonder this week is baseball season finally getting into full swing. I've

been a season ticket holder for the Houston Astros since 2004, and I've grown up at Minute Maid Park." Such a good park. Holy shit. We had a great time at—

**Rachel:** Yeah, you just got to go there!

**Griffin:** Yeah, we went last year. I would love to go again. I think I like the Astros. The Reds have been like, my team, but that's just because it's the one you're born close to in West Virginia. And I don't live there anymore, so... but I am close to the As—anyway. This is Leah's time.

"Opening day is a highlight in my year, and going to baseball games is one of my favorite things in the world. Bonus – this is the first year I've been 21 during the regular season, and now I can have those giant frozen margaritas."

**Rachel:** Ohh!

**Griffin:** "Maybe you three can get out to a game this season the cheer on the 'Stros."

**Rachel:** Oh, that sounds really fun! I actually—I really love going to baseball games.

**Griffin:** Yeah, we go to the Round Rock Express from time to time when it's not 400 thousand degrees Celsius.

**Rachel:** I've always kind of wanted to be a season ticket holder to something, but it's never really made sense or been convenient.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I never have. When my dad MC'd the River City Locomotives team, which was our very shortly lived arena football team in Huntington, we went to every game of that. But that wasn't really a season ticket, that was daddy perks.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I hated saying that out loud. Alex says, "Something I think is wonderful is using a very sharp pencil to begin a printed puzzle. My favorite is Sudoku."

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** I have not owned...

**Rachel:** A pencil?

**Griffin:** Sharpener. In... I'm... I haven't been in school for a long time. And so like, my need for a pencil sharpener is like, once or twice a year.

**Rachel:** Oh, my parents had one of those electric pencil sharpeners. Those are the best.

**Griffin:** Oh, we did too, at the house growing up. But then, y'know, the computers happened. And the need for pencils plummeted drastically.

**Rachel:** Do you remember pencil sharpeners at your elementary school?

**Griffin:** Oh yeah.

**Rachel:** It was kind of like the water cooler for little kids. Like, I just remember like, going to the pencil sharpener and just like, chit-chatting with whoever was there.

**Griffin:** I liked seeing how little I could get my guys.

**Rachel:** Oh, you're one of those. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Okay... Alright. Emily says, "I think that seahorses are wonderful. I love thinking about them out there, putzing around with those curly tails and the snouts."

**Rachel:** I love that the dudes carry the babies!

**Griffin:** That's pretty good too. I just like a seahorse.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Some of them look scary. I've seen a few that have a lot of tendrils, let's say. A lot of uh, extra... dangly bits. And I'm not a fan of that. I don't—they're still beautiful, but they are not my cup of tea. There's probably people who love the tendrils, though.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And those people are perverts.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. Thank you to... gosh. Maximum Fun, and everybody who came out to support us in the MaxFunDrive. We really, really appreciate you helping keep our show goin' and growin'. And uh, thanks to... I mean, all the shows on the network are also super good, and you should go listen to them.

There's... what is there? Mission to Zyxx is real good.

**Rachel:** Who Shot Ya?

**Griffin:** Who Shot Ya, Switchblade Sisters, Stop Podcasting Yourself... there's so many, all at MaximumFun.org. And we've got stuff at McElroy.family, too. What else, babe?

**Rachel:** Those of you that are in and around Austin, Jordan, Jesse, Go is doing their first tour in almost a decade. And they're coming through Austin, and we are planning to go.

**Griffin:** Yeah, we're gonna—well—

**Rachel:** We would love to see you there.

**Griffin:** Well, we've been invited to perform on the stage with them.

**Rachel:** Yes, that's—yes. [laughs]

**Griffin:** We're not just attending. Um, but yeah, that'll be fun. I think it's June... I'm gonna get the date wrong. It's in June, but I want to say it's the 29<sup>th</sup>?

**Rachel:** It's the end of June.

**Griffin:** Something like that. So yeah, come see us in Austin. Uh, speaking of tours, we just announced that we're—for MBMBaM and Adventure Zone, we're doing the Become the Monster tour. It's basically, we've announced all of our live shows for the rest of the year. So if you want to come out and see us, we're going to a bunch of different places.

Just off the top of my head, like, Cleveland, and uh... why is Cleveland the only one I can remember?

**Rachel:** [laughs] Brooklyn.

**Griffin:** Brooklyn.

**Rachel:** Chicago, Minneapolis...

**Griffin:** Chicago, Minneapolis... Orlando, Atlanta... um, uh, west coast, probably, some... some... anyway, yeah.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That's very good.

**Griffin:** I did a good job. It's all at [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family). You can find links to the stuff there.

Uh, one last thing – this is kind of a bummer. I don't really know how to talk about it, but it kind of came up during the streaming stuff we were doing during MaxFunDrive where people were... like, Justin and Travis were showing off their pets, and people were asking about, uh, Cecil, who we haven't mentioned in a while. Uh, it is because he is, uh, he is very sadly, he is gone. He, uh... he ran off last year, and we have reason to believe that is, uh, no longer with us, which is a very sad thing.

And like, it felt weird not to, uh, like, talk about it on the shows...

**Rachel:** Yeah, he was kind of a character on the show.

**Griffin:** He was kind of a character on the show, but like, I don't know how to like, announce that. And we're not very like, active on social media, and it seems like a weird thing to like, make a proclamation about. But so many people were like, asking, and it felt—it made me realize, like, oh, that's kind of strange.

**Rachel:** Yeah. We mainly wanted to share so that, in the future, if you have questions, you should know that we are not talking about it because it is not a thing for us anymore, unfortunately.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It's been... it has been a—yeah. It's been a year, also, so if your instinct is to like, let us know some tips on like, how to lure a cat back, like... believe me, we've done it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, we did that.

**Griffin:** So please, please don't send that in. It's kind of a bummer. But yeah, I know it's kind of a weird way to end the show, but it's something we wanted to talk about, just because, y'know, people are... people are invested in our lives and stuff, and Cecil was a big part of our lives. He was a very, very, very good cat, but... uh, yeah. Uh, so, let's—

**Rachel:** We still have Henry, though.

**Griffin:** We still do have Henry. Yeah. [laughs] He...

**Rachel:** And he's doing great.

**Griffin:** He's doing very good. So uh, that is it. Let's do some... what's a funny joke now? [laughs]

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um... maybe we could... I'm gonna... should you... do you wanna hit me with a pie? You want to pour the rest of the drink on the ground, make it gooshy?

**Rachel:** Gosh.

**Griffin:** You want to go maybe, uh... there's my closet over there. You want to go get a plate of spaghetti and just up end it? Please, I would be lost without you. Please do not leave me.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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[music plays]

**J. Keith:** Hey, everybody. This is J. Keith van Straaten, host of Go Fact Yourself, a live game show here in the Maximum Fun network. Make sure to listen to our next episode of Go Fact Yourself with guest, Kurt Braunohler.

**Kurt:** I did a show in Flagstaff, Arizona, where the venue just didn't list that the show existed.

**J. Keith:** [laughs]

**Helen:** Amazing.

**Kurt:** Uh, and I... and it is the smallest crowd that I've ever done a full hour of standup for. It was three people.

**J. Keith:** Wow.

**Helen:** Oh my God.

**J. Keith:** And Sarah Schaeffer.

**Sarah:** Yes, I love crafting. It's my hobby. I have a craft nook in my home.

**Helen:** You do?

**Sarah:** I do. It has all of my supplies displayed in an adorable manner.

**Helen:** Wow!

[audience applause]

**Sarah:** Yes, applause!

**J. Keith:** Applause for a nook!

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