

Wonderful! 83: A Eulogy for an Onion

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi. This is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey. This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: Aw, come on, sit on down over here with us.

Rachel: Please do.

Griffin: Pull up a big seat.

Rachel: We've got a bean bag, but if you don't want a bean bag, we've got a papasan, and if you don't want a papasan, we've got a recliner, and if you don't want a recliner, we've got a barstool, and if you don't want a barstool, we've got nothing, and I'm sorry.

Griffin: Yeah. We got a swing outside, and it's fun, but you won't be part of this sort of conversation.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: This is an indoor— don't sit in that chair, though. Do not— I see you eyeing that one chair, the nasty one? Don't you dare get in that— I just said! Can you believe it?

Rachel: It's wet. It's a wet chair.

Griffin: It's wet, but not the kind of wet you think.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This is Wonderful!, it's a show where we talk about real good stuff. Good stuff— great stuff, I would actually argue.

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, you got any of them small wonders?

Rachel: I do. So this is kind of a guilty pleasure, but I've been looking at those outfits from the Met Gala...

Griffin: I was literally going to say the Met Gala. Like, yes.

Rachel: Like, part of me is like, I recognize the extraordinary privilege it takes to create a dress that you will clearly only wear this one time, and never again...

Griffin: And then just throw it in the river.

Rachel: ...and it probably cost a ridiculous amount of money...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...but oh, man, that hamburger outfit that Katy Perry wore?

Griffin: I haven't even seen that. Did you see what Lizzo was wearing?

Rachel: I think so. Yeah.

Griffin: It was so powerful.

Rachel: It was powerful.

Griffin: It was so fucking powerful.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, yeah, that's really good. Uh, I will say my small wonder— you actually took mine, but I like those wildflowers that you're seeing.

Rachel: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: Those wildflowers are showing up. I like 'em. They grow right next to the highways here in Texas. And you get the bluebonnets and you get the yellow ones, I don't know what they're called, and you get stuck in traffic here in Austin a lot, but you have this nice thing to look at...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...and just be reminded that...

Rachel: There's red ones, too.

Griffin: You get to be reminded that it's not all roads out there.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: There's still some places that aren't just road.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: They're between the roads, they're sandwiched in the roads, they are suffocated by the roads, but it's not always just road. Sometimes, it's plants.

Rachel: That's beautiful, Griffin.

Griffin: Thank you. I've been thinking about it a lot lately.

Do you want to hear my first thing? 'Cause I go first this week.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My first thing is the delicacy, the taste evolution of human consciousness that is called various names, but its first name, its Christian name, is the bloomin' onion. I want to talk about the bloomin' onion.

Rachel: What?

Griffin: The bloomin' onion? Do you know about him?

Rachel: I do, but I feel like I don't know you at all anymore.

Griffin: He's a big one-pound onion that they fry up for you.

Rachel: And now...

Griffin: Or for anyone.

Rachel: All right. Let me get on your level here.

Griffin: Yeah. Please do.

Rachel: You selected this because of the concept, because of the flavor, because of both?

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, both, yeah.

Rachel: Okay. Okay.

Griffin: The concept is the flavor, the flavor's the concept, the concept is the promise, the promise is mouth satisfied.

Rachel: 'Cause you're not an onion guy, really.

Griffin: That's not true at all. You take that back right now. How dare you.

Rachel: I feel like if a sandwich were to come to you, and they said, "Do you want onion on it?" you wouldn't always say yes.

Griffin: I don't want a raw onion.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: What am I, Shrek? Hell no.

Rachel: [laughing] Okay.

Griffin: I'm a man. I'm a human man. Shrek was a big, green monster.

Rachel: Okay. Well, I guess call me Shrek, then.

Griffin: I mean, you're more like a parfait.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: People love parfaits. Who doesn't love a parfait? [imitating Shrek]
Donkey!

Rachel: All right. Continue with your—

Griffin: [Shrek voice] Donkey!

Rachel: Continue with your bloomin' onion.

Griffin: [normally] Uh, so yeah, the bloomin' onion is the uh, is the—
Outback Steakhouse. This is their thing, right? I did not know this: Outback
Steakhouse launched in 1988, and it had bloomin' onion on the menu...

Rachel: Did they get to you?

Griffin: Did they get to me?

Rachel: Did Outback Steakhouse get to you?

Griffin: I mean...

Rachel: Are they paying for this episode of Wonderful!?

Griffin: They definitely put out a radio ad that had the activation word in
it...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ...that sort of set off my Manchurian Candidate— no, they didn't get to me. The bloomin' onion got to me, when I ate it and felt a promise of mouth satisfaction fulfilled, so...

Rachel: All right. I'm sorry. I keep interrupting you. Please— please, go ahead.

Griffin: It's a deep-fried one-pound onion that they sort of desiccate into the shape of a flower, and then you have a dipping sauce with it.

Have you ever had a bloomin' onion?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Oh, my God, babe!

Rachel: I can visualize it, I can imagine what the taste is, but I have never actually had one.

Griffin: You cannot imagine the taste of the dipping sauce.

Rachel: What is the dipping sauce?

Griffin: Exactly. It's this sort of pink slime...

Rachel: Is it like ketchup and mayo, or something?

Griffin: No. It has a spicy tangy, outrageously tangy flavor that I could not put my finger on. After some internet research, I learned it's mayonnaise, so it's technically an aioli; it's a horseradish aioli.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: They mix it with horseradish. And it's good. That's good. The flavor's good. The fried element is good. The on— the sweet onion, the sweet, hot onion, is very good.

What you have to understand, when I was growing up in Huntington, we did not have good restaurants. We essentially had uh— we had the chain stuff. We had Applebees, we had a TGI Fridays, eventually...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, and then we got an Outback Steakhouse. And so Outback Steakhouse is like, where I went for prom or homecoming.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I went there for multiple proms and homecomings, 'cause it was like a nice meal. Now, Huntington's got all kinds of fucking dope restaurants, of course, after I left. So I have— I think it's mostly nostalgia. Because I think if I try to eat a bloomin' onion now, my body would die before my brain knew what was happening. Um, it is— but I can appreciate the sort of invention of the bloomin' onion. It just— also the breath aspect. It makes the breath really bad.

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: It makes the body die, but it's gonna go down with a big stinkmouth while you're going. Uh, I can't remember anything else, any other menu item at Outback Steakhouse, and it's possible I never ate anything else...

Rachel: I have a hint for you, and it's in the name of the restaurant.

Griffin: Well, no, I think that I never ate anything else there. I think you get four bites into a bloomin' onion, and...

Rachel: And you're done?

Griffin: ...you're done. Which, this may be a solution for world hunger, you know?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: If we could just give people little samplers of bloomin' onions, then...

Rachel: Onions aren't hard to grow.

Griffin: They are famously easy to grow. So yeah. Launched in 1988 is basically the tent pole of the entire restaurant. I don't know why they didn't change their name to Outback Onionzone or something like that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It is a profoundly unhealthy food, which you probably do not need me to tell you. Uh, it's a one-pound fried onion. The bloomin' onion's got 1,954 calories, with 134 grams of fat, which is very bad.

Rachel: Well, you don't eat the whole thing by yourself.

Griffin: You can, depending on like, if you were...

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: ...I don't know, dumped four days before homecoming one year?

Rachel: Oh, Griff.

Griffin: It's fine. We don't have to go into it, but getting dumped, yeah, you can really tear into a bloomin' onion.

Um, and very quickly, other restaurants took notice of like, "Hey, this restaurant just launched, and they are riding this one appetizer; let's get it." Uh, so Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon had the Texas Rose, which is essentially the same thing.

Rachel: Oh, clever.

Griffin: A more beautiful name, I would say. And also more fitting, because another thing you have to keep in mind is the bloomin' onion is not an Australian invention.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's not anything over there. It really isn't. They sort of just did it their own thing, and then they were like, "This is Australia food," and it's not. It just isn't. It never was. But Texas Rose, I feel like we could own the bloomin' onion a lot more.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because it's— I feel like fried anything is more of a Texas thing.

Rachel: For sure.

Griffin: And then famously, Chili's... I've said famously a lot. This is a famous topic.

Rachel: Star-studded.

Griffin: Star-studded topic. Chili's had the awesome blossom.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: And that was my shit. It was crispier— have you ever had an awesome blossom?

Rachel: No. [laughs]

Griffin: That would've been wild.

Rachel: I love that you think...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...that there's this world where I would let you talk about bloomin' onion, and say, "No, what is that?"

Griffin: "Now, awesome blossom..."

Rachel: "Awesome blossom..." [laughs]

Griffin: Awesome blossom was better. It was so good. Uh, it had uh— it was just crispier. It tasted better. The problem with the bloomin' onion is it would get sloppy, and sometimes you'd try to pull a thing off, and you'd just...

Rachel: Oh. And the whole thing would fall off?

Griffin: No, yeah, you'd just get the breading.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You wouldn't get the onion. It was so bad. But that didn't happen with the awesome blossom. It was just better in every way, and also you could eat there and not think about the fact that the Outback Steakhouse has a pact that donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republican candidates in the 2004 election.

So you eat at Chili's, and you can kind of feel better about it late— now.

Rachel: I have to imagine there's shit with Chili's too, though, you know?

Griffin: Chili's probably got some shit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I didn't dig into Chili's. Uh, so the thing happened. There's a tragedy. Men's Health, the magazine, the traitors ran an article about the worst appetizers in restaurants in America. This was in 2008.

Rachel: Oh. Okay, okay, okay.

Griffin: Number one spot was the awesome blossom. Which makes me think that Outback Steakhouse paid for this fucking article. Uh, the awesome blossom came in at number one. I don't know what's so wildly different between the two preparations of the two items...

Rachel: I know. It does make me wonder.

Griffin: ...but somehow, the awesome blossom has 2,710 calories...

Rachel: Hoo!

Griffin: ...194 grams of carbs, 6,360 milligrams of sodium, and 203 grams of fat, which is how much fat is in 67 strips of bacon.

Rachel: Holy shit.

Griffin: That one got a Rachel cuss, folks, so you know that's a big boy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, that's how it tastes better, I guess. I don't know what kind of restraint...

Rachel: Yeah. Maybe there's butter, and then they fry it, whereas uh, the bloomin' onion just has oil?

Griffin: They air fry it, maybe.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, whatever the case is, literally pretty much right away...

Rachel: Hoo!

Griffin: ...Chili's pulled the awesome blossom off the menu in 2008...

Rachel: Oh, no.

Griffin: ...never to have returned, much to the chagrin of the fans of the awesome blossom. And...

Rachel: No, they'll replace it, though, but it'll be called, like, the... uh, the crazy daisy. And it'll be...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...just a little bit healthier.

Griffin: Now, you might be wondering, what did Outback Steakhouse do? 'Cause obviously, they weren't named, but their tent pole item was definitely put on blast.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: They went ahead and announced the loaded bloomin' onion, which has cheese fries on it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So just like, do the damn thing. Just like, get in there and stick to your guns...

Rachel: There is something to be said, this is— sometimes people just want to be bad. [laughs]

Griffin: Sometimes, people just want to be bad, and they should have a place to do that, but in 2017, they announced the 3-point bloomin' onion, and this came in for March Madness, and this one had cheese fries on it, and it also had like little pieces of steak, too. On your onion slivers! On your fried onion slivers. Tell me how to fucking eat that, Outback Steakhouse.

Rachel: That's a good point.

Griffin: I need three different utensils to do that.

Rachel: You gotta use a fork.

Griffin: You gotta use a fork, right, and you gotta use a knife to get the s—

Rachel: Well, depends how big the steak pieces are.

Griffin: They're—

Rachel: They're like little bacon bits, little crumbly?

Griffin: No, they're not bacon bits, no.

Rachel: No?

Griffin: They are, sort of, cubes, like you might put in a stew.

Rachel: Hoo!

Griffin: And also the cheese fries, and I think you need a fork to get the bite on. You need a knife to get separation from the onion, and then you also need a spoon for the cheese sauce, and I don't even know if we're dipping. I don't even know if dip enters the equation on this monstrosity.

Rachel: And then maybe some aspirin.

Griffin: And then some aspirin and a...

Rachel: For the heart attack you're about to have.

Griffin: ...for the heart attack, and then a Slip N' Slide that just goes right into a coffin. So you can take that last bite, and somebody can just effortlessly shove you into heaven. Yeah.

So bloomin' onion. I have not eaten one— I mean, I haven't eaten at Outback Steakhouse since I left Huntington. I haven't eaten at Outback Steakhouse since high school. I have eaten at Chili's far more recently than that...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...but they don't do this shit anymore. I also remember that they were selling, like a, as-seen-on-TV make your own bloomin' onion maker? And it was...

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah, it was kind of like that apple slicer that we have...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...that's like a circle that like, slices the core out...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...and then also— but you know, it slices it a lot more. It slices it in a lot of different ways, and I think you're supposed to use smaller onions. I think we had one at the house, and I'm pretty sure we never used it.

Rachel: Huh.

Griffin: Bloomin' onion. Bloomin' onion.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: Takes me back, the bloomin' onion.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: What is your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is temping!

Griffin: Temping.

Rachel: Temping.

Griffin: Did you temp?

Rachel: I temped!

Griffin: When did you temp?

Rachel: When I was in Chicago.

Griffin: Ah, it makes sense.

Rachel: Yeah. I went with this agency, so I moved to Chicago, had trouble finding a job... Uh, was working retail for a while. I was working at the Barnes & Noble coffee shop. And then got a very short-lived job in publishing, 'cause they fired me after a month.

Griffin: What did you do? Were you stealin' pens?

Rachel: Oh. No. No, I didn't do anything specifically. It was an environment— it was a very small office, but nobody talked to each other. All the correspondence was done via email.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: And they wanted me to answer the phone and manage their intern program, and manage all their mail.

Griffin: Ugh.

Rachel: Uh, and manage their website and do some light editing. And I just couldn't do it.

Griffin: Yeah, it's too much stuff.

Rachel: And I was getting paid \$20,000 a year, too. It was not a great gig.

Griffin: Not ideal.

Rachel: So when they fired me, it was kind of a blessing. But did not want to go back to retail. So instead, went to North Bridge Staffing in Chicago and got temp jobs. And it was the best!

Griffin: Was it?

Rachel: Yeah! It kind of was. So they were in the Wrigley Building, which I don't know— what is that called now? Is it not called the Wrigley Building?

Griffin: The Jiggly Building.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: You talking about the big, big— the biggest structure?

Rachel: No, no, no. The Wrigley Building is like— it's right by the river, and I don't know if it's still called that.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But they were located there, and one of the temp gigs you could get was you would be an administrative assistant in the building. So when people would call in sick, you'd get a call in the morning, saying, "Hey, can you come in?" to sit at the front desk.

Every front desk had just an entire shelf of gum.

Griffin: Oh, damn!

Rachel: So all the guests that came in could be like, "Oh, I'm waiting for my appointment, let me just grab this little five-pack of Wrigley Spearmint."

Griffin: A whole— a whole pack?

Rachel: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: A whole pack?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: First of all, it sounds like your first thing should've been gum.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, because then after that— so I did that a few times.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: And then I worked at various companies, all doing like, reception gigs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But then, I got a five-month gig at DePaul University.

Griffin: Oh, cool!

Rachel: They were transferring all of their paper student records— it sounds a little bit like uh...

Griffin: Oh, what I did at uh, Tri-Data.

Rachel: At Tri-Data, yeah. We were manually— but we weren't scanning. We were manually inputting them into their computer system.

Griffin: We had to do that sometimes.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, so I did that for five months. So it was like an April to September gig, right before I went back to grad school. And it was awesome.

Griffin: Did you enjoy that work? Did you enjoy— to specify, Rachel and I, I am learning this just now, have both done the job of digitizing paper records.

Rachel: Here's what I did.

Griffin: What did you do?

Rachel: Uh, I watched all of Buffy in the little corner of my screen while I was doing it.

Griffin: Oh. Aw, they would not approve that at Tri-Data.

Rachel: [laughs] At first, I didn't. At first, it was kind of like, "Oh, okay." And then I revealed myself to be very adept at it...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...and then my supervisor just kind of didn't care anymore?

Griffin: Wow, okay.

Rachel: 'Cause I was doing the work. So I found a YouTube channel that had all of Buffy on it.

Griffin: Oh, so it was illegal streams, too, so that's great.

Rachel: Uh... [laughs]

Griffin: That's great, that you were doing that then. [laughs]

Uh, I started working at Tri-Data— this is, by the way, Tommy Smirl's company that I was um...

Rachel: I think everybody knows the lore.

Griffin: ...unceremoniously— unceremoniously fired uh, from. And I started working there right when Pandora came out, the website. And so I could just have Pandora open in the background, just find some new tunes.

Rachel: Well, that's fun.

Griffin: It was, except I was working the 4:00 to midnight shift. Which is the opposite of fun.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: And my car kept getting broken into.

Rachel: Yeah. See, no, this was like your standard like 9:00 to 5:00 kind of job, and it was great, 'cause it helped me get other jobs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Getting that experience... you know, when you work retail, it can be difficult to transfer into an office environment, because they want to know that you've done office-type things. Well, temping is kind of a great way to get experience in that area, and have a kind of variety of employers.

Um, whereas, you know, if you applied to those jobs cold, let's say, they wouldn't hire you, but if you're filling an immediate need they have, and you're doing the same kind of things a person in that position would do, you can kind of get that experience.

Griffin: Is it inherently part-time work? Can you get benefits from, like, the temp agency or whatever? Like, health insurance and et cetera?

Rachel: Yeah, that's the tricky part, is that you're technically an employee of the temp agency.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So you're kind of following whatever their rules are. And so I did not have health insurance while I was doing it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So it's not ideal in that sense. But if you're looking to break into kind of a new field and build your network in a new city, it is really good.

Griffin: Yeah! Just as long as you do not get sick. Do not get a gallbladder problem.

Rachel: Yeah, don't— but don't ever get sick. But I will say, over a th— I was looking at American Staffing, and over a third of temp workers are offered permanent work during their temporary assignments.

Griffin: Wow, okay!

Rachel: So it's not— I mean, it's not bad in that sense.

Griffin: It's kind of like fostering a dog before, you know...

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: ...you adopt it. Or you send it away to be adopted by somebody else.

Rachel: So the staffing industry, the whole idea of getting temp work, like staffing agencies existing to fill needs of employers, actually started during World War II, when small agencies in urban areas started hiring housewives for part-time work while the war was going on.

Griffin: Oh. Okay.

Rachel: So that was kind of the beginning of it, of like how employers were saying, "We need to hire a tremendous amount of people, we can't— we don't have the capacity to hire this ourselves."

And the temp agencies were like, "Hey, we got these ladies. You want 'em?" And that was kind of— that's how it all started.

Griffin: I'm about to say one of the most profoundly unintelligent things I've ever said on any podcast before, so buckle up.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Doing this show, and talking about all these, you know, typically older things has really made me realize just how much stuff changed and was invented during World War II.

Rachel: I know!

Griffin: It was a big— hey, it was kind of a big thing, huh?

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, it was a tremendous investment of United States resources that, like, totally restructured how they do everything in this country.

Griffin: Yeah, huh? That was big.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It was a big one.

Rachel: We hopefully will not have to do that in our lifetime.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But...

Griffin: But if we do, think of all the fucking new, like, types of candy bars we're gonna get out of it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And think of all the cool new board games, and you know, fun new furniture...

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, terrible times do generate a lot of creative work.

Griffin: Yeah. No, I don't want the war, because I'll for sure be the first against the walls.

Rachel: But the candy bars...

Griffin: But the candy bars, though, they're gonna keep for so long and have new exciting flavors.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Uh... [laughs]

Griffin: Hey, can I jump back to something?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: When you had all those packs of gum in front of you, what'd you usually go for? What was your jam?

Rachel: Oh, gosh.

Griffin: What's your favorite gum?

Rachel: I can't— see, I mean, it was restricted to Wrigley gum, obviously.

Griffin: Ah, I see.

Rachel: So I can't really remember off the top. I mean, if you think about it now, this was over 10 years ago that I was doing this.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I can't remember.

Griffin: Okay. You're at the grocery store, and you want a pack of gum, but stick form, not like whatever else. What do you reach for? What's your shit?

Rachel: I mean, now, I go minty.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I think cinnamon used to be kind of a go-to...

Griffin: Big red?

Rachel: Yeah, but you find that the flavor kind of disappears after a while.

Griffin: It does. It goes away very quickly.

Rachel: And then you just want more gum.

Griffin: And then you just want and need more gum.

Rachel: I did have to do the, like, delicate work of— the tremendous mental energy of figuring out how much gum I could steal...

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: ...that was appropriate.

Griffin: Everyone's done that, who's worked in an office environment.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I liked Winterfresh.

Rachel: Oh, yeah. There you go. That's it.

Griffin: That one woke you up, didn't it?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That was a cup of coffee. [munching noise] "Oh!"

Rachel: The thing was, is that I did have to answer the phone, so I was always conscious of like, "Should I really be chewing this gum?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That's the thing about temping, though, is you show up, and nobody tells you anything.

Griffin: Yeah. Cool.

Rachel: Most of the time, you are just answering phones, so one time that got me in trouble, because I was working at a company at their front desk, and it was going to be a week-long gig, and I was given no instruction. Just a list of phone numbers. And somebody called, asking for someone by name that was not on my list of phone numbers. And so I said, "I'm sorry, I can't find that number."

And they said, "You can't find the COO of your company?"

Griffin: Ooh!

Rachel: And I was devastated. But nobody was there to witness it, so...

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: ...it worked out okay.

Griffin: So then you sent somebody to kill this man.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And nobody was the wiser.

Rachel: Hey, can I steal you away?

Griffin: Uh-huh. Here we go, down the money slide!

[music plays]

Griffin: So I wanna tell you about MeUndies. My goodness. Rachel, let's point this out. Rachel put on the MeUndies onesie that you're wearing. Not the black one. What is the...

Rachel: Strawberries?

Griffin: Strawberries. It's blue with strawberries over it. How did it feel? How was the comfort level, for you?

Rachel: Oh, it's incredible.

Griffin: It's incredibly comfort.

Rachel: There's pockets in it, and there's a hood. Like, things that you would not demand if you didn't know they existed, but once you find out they do...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...you can't imagine your life without it.

Griffin: And if you don't mind my saying so... Will you mind my saying so?

Rachel: I don't think so.

Griffin: I think you hear a pajama onesie, and you think it's gonna be unflattering. You think it's gonna be kind of dumpy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Rachel is looking good as hell! Rachel is looking good as hell in this strawberry onesie.

Rachel: Griffin loves that modal fabric.

Griffin: I do love that modal fabric. It makes you smooth, like a dolphin.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You're typically always very smooth, but when you're wearing this thing, it's just like I could skip a quarter offa ya, or something. I could probably skip a quarter offa ya regardless.

Rachel: This is getting weird.

Griffin: Like a well-made bed.

Rachel: Griffin, will you just do the ad?

Griffin: Yeah. So anyway, MeUndies makes underwear that's really good. How many bounces of a quarter do you think...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, so anyway, they have the micromodal fabric that's three times softer than cotton. And oh, by the way, they have new boxer briefs that have a fly in them, so you can go— what is their thing? Uh, through the gate instead of over the fence. And let me tell you, like, I only have the one pair that they sent me, and I cannot tell you what a gamechanger it was. Traveling on a plane...

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: ...with it is so huge.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, I record— I was doing a video shoot for something I can't talk about yet last week, and it was like, 12-hour days, so a lot of peeing was happening, and just being able to just get in there and blast off, and get out with— oh, it was super good.

Rachel: Don't— no, don't say "blast off."

Griffin: Uh, okay. Uh, shoot one out? Shoot— blast off? I said the same thing again, didn't I? MeUndies has a special offer. I see Rachel trying to get in there. Uh, to get 15 percent off your first pair, free shipping and 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed, go to MeUndies.com/Wonderful, that's MeUndies.com/Wonderful.

Our second sponsor's 'Rothius.' 'Rothis.'

Rachel: I'm very excited to talk about Rothy's.

Griffin: It's Rothy's? It's not 'Rothis'?

Rachel: It's definitely Rothy's.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Uh, so...

Griffin: Is this David Lee Roth's company?

Rachel: [sighs]

Griffin: Is this his pet name?

Rachel: None of this would be appreciated by the sponsor.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Uh, so I have two pairs of Rothy's now.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Uh, and it's uh, it's incredible.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's incredible. People will come up to me, and they'll say, "Those are some really nice-looking shoes." And here's why. They're stylish. They have different colors and prints.

Griffin: [quietly laughing]

Rachel: Are you appreciating my emphasis?

Griffin: [laughs] You said— just— you're doing a great job, but you just said, "People come up to me, and they notice my shoes, and they come up and say that they're really cool, and here's why: because they're stylish." And it's like, what other thing could they possibly be— "That is a great fit on that shoe, and the smell is fantastic. The sound of it makes slapping against the marble floors inside of this bank is majestic."

Rachel: [laughs] That's fair. Uh, but here's the thing. So not only are they stylish; they're made from recycled plastic water bottles. And sometimes, when you lead with that, people think, "Oh, they must look like you're wearing, like, two water bottles on your feet," but they don't.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: They come in many different colors and prints, and they change it all the time!

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I check that website, like, once a month, because they're always changing, like, the different-featured shoes they have.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, and I'd really recommend it. So Rothys's has diverted over 25 million water bottles from landfills, and they're incredibly comfortable. Check out the amazing styles available right now at Rothys.com/Wonderful, that's Rothys.com/Wonderful. Comfort, style, and sustainability. These are the shoes you've been waiting for. Head to Rothys.com/Wonderful today.

Griffin: Got a 'Jumbotram' here, and this one is for Cam, and it's from Una, or perhaps Yuna. It's a very cool name. Either one of those is a cool name. Uh, "Heyo, Cam, sweetest angel. [stuttering] My—" Jesus, why am I like this? Why am I like this some days?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Heyo, Cam, sweetest angel, my North star. Right now, you're getting ready for work. I don't know where we'll be when this drops, but wherever we are, I hope we're happy and have a sweet cat-friend. Anyhoo, you should know that you're wonderful, and I love you oh-so much. Here's to many more road trips, D&D sessions, and everyday adventures together." And then there's an emoticon here, which it's always refreshing to see an emoticon instead of an emoji, and it's a smiley face, but there— oh, it's winking, but it's been given a nose.

Rachel: A li'l pointy nose!

Griffin: I'm uncomfortable with this. I do not think emoticons deserve— I don't trust what they're gonna do with those noses.

Rachel: Maybe Cam has a pointy nose, and this is like a subtle hello to that.

Griffin: Yep. Yep. Probably that's it. Can you read the other one?

Rachel: You wanna hear the next one?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: The next one is from Melissa. It is from John. "Attention, attention. Please sit a moment and let me tell everyone listening why my fiancée is so great. Late-night TV, co-op Stardew, board games, flux, and playing Pathfinder. Since we've met, you've kept me smiling and laughing. You're such a wonderful woman and I'm so lucky to have you in my life. I can't wait to marry you in October. I love you."

Griffin: Uh, it actually says "Oct.," which a lot of people think October, but they're actually...

Rachel: Octopus?

Griffin: They're getting married by Dr. Octopus from the Spider-Man.

Rachel: Oh. I don't know whether to be happy for that or not.

Griffin: Uh, he's a bad boy. Like, he likes to fuck shit up and hurt Spider-Man and his friends, but at the same time, he gives a very moving sort of sermon up there.

Rachel: I believe it. I believe— do you think he uses all those wild arms to just gesticulate during the ceremony?

Griffin: He uses it— it's a funny joke at the end, when he's like, "You may now kiss," you know, whatever, he uses them to push them together, and everybody has a laugh at it.

Rachel: Oh, that's fun!

Griffin: Yeah, except one time he did it too hard.

Rachel: [laughs]

James: [laughs] Ahahaha!

Nnekay: What are you laughing at, James?

James: Nnekay, I'm laughing at you.

Nnekay: What?

James: And me too!

Nnekay: Huh?

James: Our podcast! Minority Korner, silly.

Nnekay: Oh! The one where we talk about topics that cover the queer community, race, feminism, and good-old pop culture?

James: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yup, that's it! Oh, girl, we are so funny. Ahaha, teeheeheehee! I was just thinking about something we did.

Nnekey: Wait, wait, wait, are you listening to me, or [distorted] me?

James: Both.

Nnekey: Minority Korner.

James: Every Friday!

Griffin: Can I tell you about my second thing?

Rachel: Please.

Griffin: Yeah, okay, here comes the second thing. My second thing, you're gonna hate. You don't like my second thing very much, but that's okay, 'cause most people don't. I wanna talk about Clue, the board game, Clue.

Rachel: To be fair, I like Clue. I don't like playing Clue with you.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Is that better, or worse?

Griffin: It's worse...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ...because I— my first point here, is Clue is probably my favorite game that everybody refuses to play with me.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think I'm, like, great at Clue. I just...

Rachel: It's not that you're great. You're just super intense.

Griffin: I'm very intense about it, and it's just because I really like it very much.

Rachel: It's like the other people you're playing with are just obstacles to you winning the game.

Griffin: Is that not the— is that not by design?

Rachel: I mean, it's not traditionally, I think, what people focus on when they play a game.

Griffin: Huh.

Rachel: Of like, "How do I get all these people out of the way, so I can win?"

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, yeah. I guess that's a good point. It explains a lot, actually. Um, I also think it's just not a very popular— like, I feel like it falls into this category of like, iconic board games. Like Monopoly. Like, the suite of board games that just everybody has. Everybody has a Monopoly, everybody has like a, you know, checkers or chess set. Everybody has a deck of cards. And I feel like Clue is kind of up there, except nobody likes playing Clue. I feel like Monopoly is the much more playable, enjoyable game.

A lot of that is because, and Monopoly suffers from this as well, of the sort of prevalence of house rules of Clue, which like kind of makes it— when there's that many, it kind of makes it impossible to remember what is actually rules that are intended for the game. Like, doubles or dragging a player into your room when you make an accusation, or can you stay in one room for multiple guesses, can you bounce back and forth between shortcuts. Like, all these different things. Uh, I'm not sure, like, what those mean, but I really like it.

If you've never played Clue, which is probable, because nobody plays it, it's a game where you're in a big mansion, you gotta solve a murder, everybody has some cards that have different rooms or weapons or characters on 'em, and then there's one of each of those in a secret envelope in the middle. And by asking what your opponents have, you sort of, process of elimination, figure out what's in the packet.

Rachel: Here's the thing, though. And this is something that I didn't realize until I started playing with you.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: Like, the deception that's involved, and like, specifically asking questions that you know aren't true to, like, throw people off.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: That's the part that, like, I was like, "Oh, no, I'm not ready for this game."

Griffin: I mean, there's a— so I was gonna talk about this. Like, Clue, I think people write off as a luck-based game, or at the very least like a game that does not require or allow a lot of skill or strategy. A lot of like— it's basically like tic-tac-toe in that sense, like, somebody's gonna win this time. Let's just play it out, and see what happens.

But there's actually, like, a lot of strategy to it. Like you said, like...

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: ...fooling people with fake guesses for stuff in your hand, to make them get on the wrong scent for a while. There's if somebody is heading to a room that you think is actually the murder room, and they're about to guess it, you can accuse them of the murder, and pull them into whatever room you're in, so like a defensive sort of play. You can do stuff like that. Um, you can like, not only keep track of which cards are out of the running, but keep track of who has those cards.

Rachel: That's what's crazy. Like, this is where the notetaking reaches new degrees of, like, oh, he asks that question a lot. Does that mean that that's the right question, or does that mean he's holding those cards, and he's trying to throw people off?

Griffin: And he's just trying to dial into one of the either person or weapon or room...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...and so he's fake— yeah. Uh, yeah. So I really like it. It is a very exciting game for me, because it almost always— like, every game I've played usually plays with a rush to the center of the board, which is where you make your final accusation. And like, somebody knows it, and another person probably knows it too, and it's just the first person that can get to the room, and it's like this wild race to finish off the game.

I think it's a really well-made game. I think it is a very, very fun and enjoyable game. Uh, before I talk about the history of it, I should also point out that Justin and Russ Frushtick made a video for Polygon a while ago that is like this 12-minute exhaustive explainer of Clue and its origins, that is going to be far more comprehensive and, probably, entertaining than my thing's gonna be, so go watch that. It's on Polygon's channel.

Um, but if you do wanna hear me talk about it, it was made by an English musician named uh, Anthony E. Pratt in 1944, and it was kind of like, evolved from this murder-mystery game he had made shortly before, the title of which was called Murder! with an exclamation point, which I like very much.

So he got a patent. He sold it to a UK-based board game company called Waddingtons, and they changed the name to Cluedo. Did you know about Cluedo, the... that is still what they call it in most of Europe, is Cluedo.

Rachel: I think I watched that video that you referenced, and so like— it sounds familiar to me.

Griffin: I knew about the name "Cluedo;" I did not piece together that it is a portmanteau of the words "clue" and "ludo," which is like a prefix that means, like, "gaming." That means—

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: So there's talks of— like, in the gaming industry, like, ludological sort of studies...

Rachel: Huh.

Griffin: ...are like studies into game design and game theory and stuff like that. Um, so it was Cluedo in the UK when Waddingtons had it, and then when Parker Brothers brought it to the US, they just trimmed it down to Clue. But it's still called Cluedo over there.

Um, and there was actually a lot of stuff in those original versions that weren't in the game. There were 10 characters in the game, and one of them would be killed at random, like, before you started.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: So it's not just Mr. Boddy, it's like, you have to figure out the killer. And so the roles change every time, which I think is actually really cool.

There were more weapons. There was, like, a bomb, which is great.

Rachel: The probability of this, though, with this many variables...

Griffin: It would be a much, much longer game, which is why I think—there were more rooms, more weapons. Like, I think they just trimmed it down, which is a smart choice. There's 21 cards now, in regular old Clue.

Um, and Clue was Clue for a long time. And people were into it. Then in 2008, they introduced Clue: Discover the Secrets, which I think is the version we have. That changes a few things; it changes, like, the characters. Like, Mr. Plum is now Victor Plum, who is like a game designer multimillionaire. And it also adds these little intrigue cards that can give you, like, little bonuses, but then there's these clock cards, which can permanently kill your character. And there are some diehard Clue fans that still think this version is shit. Uh, I like it. I think it's fun and entertaining.

But yeah. I just think it's a really fun game. I think that it's— I think that it scratches an itch that it kind of falls somewhere between, like, Candy Land and, like, Werewolf, kind of. Like, it is a game about— it's a game that

really tickles a part of my brain that I don't think any other sort of board game does.

Rachel: Do they have Clue computer games?

Griffin: Oh, yeah, for sure.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They definitely have Clue computer games.

Rachel: I feel like I might like that a little better than, like, the handling of the pencil and the paper and trying to keep track of all the notes and whatever.

Griffin: Yeah. You're more of a cyber— like, a cyber surfer.

Rachel: That's what they call me.

Griffin: Would you say that you're more of a cyber surfer?

Rachel: Yeah, no, I mean, that is— that's what they call me.

Griffin: Okay. Like a hacker?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I'm trying to remember so desperately the Julia Stiles monologue from Ghostw—

Rachel: Yeah, you are.

Griffin: Ah, shit!

Rachel: Yeah. Sorry.

Griffin: "Do you know anything about hackers? Can you jam with the console cowboys?" [laughs] "Can you jam with the console cowboys in

cyberspace? Never experience the new wave, next wave, dreamwave, or cyberpunk?"

Rachel: [laughs] I love how you did the hand gestures while you were saying that too, like you couldn't not...

Griffin: You couldn't not do it. What is your second thing there, my console cowboy? My little cyberspace jammer?

Rachel: [laughs] My second thing is something that I thought you might not be familiar with, which is early college high school.

Griffin: You've just said two things. You've just said two things.

Rachel: Or have I?

Griffin: Uh-oh!

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, early college high schools are high schools that allow students to receive a high school diploma and an associate degree...

Griffin: Woah!

Rachel: ...by taking a mixture of high school and college classes.

Griffin: What?

Rachel: So this is different than dual enrollment, where you get college credit while you're in high school. At early colleges, students have fewer high school classes, because some of their college classes replace their high school classes.

Griffin: How co— I have literally never heard of this.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This has to not be very common, right?

Rachel: It's a relatively new thing. Like, it really took speed in 2002. Bill and Melinda Gates funded a large number of these high schools around the country.

Griffin: Is it designed as kind of a, like, fast track, or is it designed to sort of get students who may not graduate, like, across the finish line?

Rachel: Yeah. So it's focused on access.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: It's focused on getting college credit to students who otherwise wouldn't get it.

Griffin: Okay. Interesting.

Rachel: So it's not like an accelerated model for elite students; it's like the idea is they put these in areas where there isn't a great college-going culture to give students access to things they wouldn't otherwise.

Griffin: So it's like a sampler for college, but also like, "Hey, if you do decide to go to college, you're gonna have this leg up."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Wow, that's really interesting.

Rachel: Yeah. Um, so there are more than 230 early colleges across 28 states, serving 50,000 students. Uh, and 92 percent of these students graduate from high school, versus the national rate of 69 percent.

Griffin: That's really incredible.

Rachel: 86 percent of graduates enroll in college the next semester, after high school graduation. Uh, and 70 percent of these students are students of color. And over half of them are on free or reduced lunch. So the idea is that they are getting students that are first generation college, whose

parents potentially didn't go to college, and don't have the means or access to know what it would be to enroll in college after graduating.

So the— in the Austin area, there are I think six early college high schools.

Griffin: What?

Rachel: And it's focused on schools that were graduating a lot of, like, underperforming students.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So there's still problems with it, because they've focused on these under-resourced schools in really like high-poverty neighborhoods, so they still have a lot that they're up against when they become an early college high school. But it's giving these students to graduate with two years of college credit when they finish high school.

Griffin: Yeah. And I feel—

Rachel: Which is incredible.

Griffin: And when you're in high school, and like, everybody is talking about college, it is still such an abstraction...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...and that makes it really tough to kind of get excited or know what to expect. So I feel like knowing what to expect is also like an enormous benefit.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Well, and here's the thing, too. So I don't know if this is true everywhere, but in Texas, this is free. So the students that are at these early college high school are getting college credit for free. And they're getting it from Austin Community College, which is how I know about it!

Griffin: That's so good.

Rachel: Isn't it incredible?

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Yeah. Uh, so the students are receiving this college credit while they're high school students. So they're getting support from both the high school and the college.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: You know, they're getting their traditional advising support on their high school campus, but then they also have access to all the college resources as well, which is kind of incredible.

Griffin: Is this— different countries do different sort of arrangements of school schedule. Like, there's some where high school is, like, a longer stint than four years, and there's no middle school, or...

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: ...there's, you know, you go to college ear— like, I feel like this is kind of becoming that conversation a little bit. About, like, is K-12 and then college...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...the right— we've been doing it that way for a very long time, obviously. Like, is it still the right way to do it?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because as you talk about stuff like this, and as you talk about stuff like AP classes in high school, which I took...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...that I got college credit for, like, why am I not just in college at this point? Which I know is maybe, like, a snooty thing to say, but like, why am I not learning this in a college atmosphere? Why did we decide that I have to, you know, take 12 years of undergrad school?

Rachel: Yeah. I think— well, there's just a lot of emphasis now on like, building on the strengths of existing structures in the world that we live in.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know, like distance learning is a big thing. One thing that we talk a lot about is competency-based learning, so the idea that if you are taking IT...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...you know, certificate courses, and you have the ability to progress through that faster, why shouldn't you be able to do that?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, so there's a lot of kind of different models out there now.

Griffin: I think the thing I was suggesting was maybe to exist in a utopian world where college is free.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: Because obviously, K-12, you can go through that.

Rachel: And there have been politicians that have proposed that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, but you know, we'll see if that ever happens.

Griffin: God, it would be cool.

Rachel: But yeah, this is just this incredible thing. I get to, in my job, work with the people that manage this program on our side, and it's just really inspiring. And it takes a lot of work and a lot of financial burden from a lot of people to make it happen, because just because you give students access to do a college class doesn't mean that they're ready to do it.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: You know? I think, you know, if you think about yourself in high school, this idea that you could just go home and be done for the day does not work...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...with college-credit classes, and so there's a lot of additional support that needs to be provided. And you're sending these kids home without the resources, necessarily, to really, like, do all the research that's required to write a paper.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So it takes a lot of work, but it's really an incredible model, and it's just an awesome opportunity for students, and it think it's cool.

Griffin: I think it's cool, too.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Thank you, Bill. Thank you, Melinda.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Thank you for this. Thank you for cool, new toilets. And thank you for computers.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you for computers. Everybody, thank Bill and Melinda for the toilets, and the computers, and this. Say it now, thank him and her.

Rachel: I don't know about these toilets.

Griffin: They...

Rachel: I'm not sure I wanna know.

Griffin: No, they're cool, new toilets that are designed for impoverished areas that are cleaner. They help support hygiene better. They're good toilets. I made fun of them on Twitter once, and then I felt very bad about it.

Rachel: Do you have, like, a toilet alert in your Google?

Griffin: I do have a Google toilet alert, yes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, don't judge me. Do you want to hear some submissions from our friends at home?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Our first one was from Macy, who was talking about the Met Gala. I think we have that covered in our intro, but yes, it was very good fashions.

Uh, Charles says, "One thing I love is half-size carts at grocery stores. I live alone, and just shop for myself, so the half-size cart is a perfect compromise between the carrying capacity of a big cart and the maneuverability of a basket."

Rachel: Oh, I love this!

Griffin: It's really good. I love the half-size cart as well. It's pretty much all I go for, at this point.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Unless I'm doing, like, a Costco, big-boy, like, load up.

Rachel: You got, like, the upper and the lower, so you can really diversify your grocery items.

Griffin: And you can drift. You can do cool stunts with it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It's much easier. Uh, one more here from Samantha, who says, "I think homemade whipped cream is wonderful, and my favorite part is when I put the bowl and the whisks in the freezer before I start. There's something so wonderfully silly about putting an empty bowl in the freezer that makes me grin every time."

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: I did not know that this was part of the whipping process.

Rachel: I didn't know that this was a thing. But I did know our friend Johnny, that makes a great biscuit, says that he just puts everything in the freezer before he starts, so everything's ice-cold.

Griffin: Yeah, cookware, utensils, ingredients...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...everything. Yeah.

Rachel: Love it.

Griffin: Love it. So thank you for listening. Deeply, from my heart, I thank you. I thank thee, Bill and Melinda and everybody listening...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...and 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. Um, what do you want to talk about?

Rachel: I want to thank MaximumFun.org for hosting our show.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Encourage folks to listen to really stellar programming, like Minority Korner!

Griffin: Mm-hmm. Or uh...

Rachel: Heat Rocks.

Griffin: Heat Rocks, or Switchblade Sisters.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Or Mission to Zyxx, or anything on the MaximumFun.org network. We have other stuff at McElroy.shows— McElroy.family.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] And um, yeah, we have a pin, the Rachel's Poetry Corner pin, up now in the merch store.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And we're working on getting more stuff up.

Rachel: Some folks have just started getting theirs in the mail, and they have been posting pictures, and I appreciate it.

Griffin: Yeah. And there's, like, tour dates and stuff. We still have some shows available. Cleveland— please. Cleveland. Cleveland...

Rachel: Please, Cleveland!

Griffin: Cleveland, come on. And that's it! We're gonna end it, 'cause Rachel's hungry. What are you gonna snack down on, do you think?

Rachel: We got leftover pot pie.

Griffin: Leftover pot pie! [mimics airhorns]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Pot bye!

[theme music plays]

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[gavel bangs]

Jesse: I'm bailiff Jesse Thorn, and justice is within your reach.

Speaker 1: My mom refuses to take my phone calls.

Speaker 2: My boyfriend says I should take our cats with me to graduate school, but I think he should keep them.

Jesse: In the court of Judge John Hodgman, justice rules!

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John: I'm Judge John Hodgman. I'm tough, but fair.

[echoing] Tough, but fair!

I'll bring you justice, and I'm only a click away.

Jesse: Tipping.

[gavel bangs]

Jesse: Automotive etiquette.

[gavel bangs]

Jesse: Siblings.

[gavel bangs]

Jesse: Roommates.

[gavel bangs]

Jesse: If you've got a case, go to MaximumFun.org/JJHO. Judge John Hodgman is tough, but fair.

John: [echoing] Tough, but fair!

Jesse: Subscribe to the podcast today.

John: Judge John Hodgman rules.

[gavel bangs three times]

That is all.