Wonderful! 88: Blast Off Boy

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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: Three, two, one, blast off. Where are we going? Planet uh, thankfulness.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: Come with me and Rachel, Captain Rachel, and put on the astronaut helmet, and get in the big ship, and we're gonna blast off. And we're gonna go to—

Rachel: That's my favorite Elton John song.

Griffin: The planet of thankfulness? Or...

Rachel: No, the lyrics you were just saying to Rocket Man.

Griffin: Oh, right, right. And it's like, [singing] I think we're blasting off to new, new lands, so hold my hand, and hold my other hand.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [singing] I don't think that you're holding hands at all. Oh, no, no, no. I'm a blast off boy.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Blast off boy!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [speaking] That's a pretty good one.

Rachel: What's great is, we already have the episode title.

Griffin: Yeah. It really can— and that's why we wrote this bit ahead of time.

So here's how this whole thing came together. Rachel and I, around ugh, what do you think, 6 o'clock, Henry was eating dinner, we were like, "We have a little bit of time." We got in the writer's room. We sat down with uh...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...Stefan, we sat down with uh, Daisy, and we were like, "Guys, put our heads together. We got to come up with a good bit that's gonna have a good name for it in the beginning of the episode."

And they were like, "What if you did, like, a Elton John thing, but you called it Blast Off Boy?"

And Rachel was like, "That's not gonna work."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But then she didn't come up with anything better.

Rachel: Yeah. No, that's usually how it goes down.

Griffin: Yeah. You got any small wonders?

Rachel: Your 2019 Stanley Cup Champions, St. Louis Blues!

Griffin: That's not even a small wonder, though. We need a new, like— we have wonders, and we have small wonders. We need, like, macro wonders.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: That can last, like, several...

Rachel: Eternal wonders.

Griffin: An eternal wonder. Holy crap, guys. This was the most exciting, like, sports thing I think I've ever witnessed.

Rachel: It was incredible.

Griffin: Game seven...

Rachel: Game seven.

Griffin: Against the Bruins. Took it to the limit.

Rachel: In Boston.

Griffin: In Boston. Really rubbed their noses in it. I know for a fact we have some Boston friends in the group...

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: ...so I don't want to rub your specific noses in it, but boy howdy, it felt good to just get one dunked right in there, huh?

Rachel: Yeah, that last game was incredible. It was just like everything was firing on all of the cylinders that there were.

Griffin: There were new— they found new cylinders!

Rachel: They found new cylinders they didn't know about.

Griffin: And fired on them shits. Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That was really good. I wanna do uh, Thai fish cakes. I think they're— it's called, I'm gonna butcher this, but it's tod mun pla. Uh, and I get them every that we have— well, a Thai restaurant that has them. I don't know how you feel about these little bad boys, but I think they're real good.

Rachel: I do like them. I mean, do I like them as much as the 2019 Stanley Cup Champions, St. Louis Blues? No.

Griffin: No, but what if they did fill the Stanley Cup up with that, like, dope dipping sauce that has all that spicy sediment sort of floating on the top of it...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...and then you can dip your tod mun pla right in there.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's fun.

Rachel: That is fun.

Griffin: I love all the cussing that the boys did. When they won the trophy?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: These boys got very excited when they won the trophy. They did a lot of cusses and— that did get on— that did get on TV. So that's a shame. They hate that, but...

Rachel: They were just real excited.

Griffin: And can you blame 'em?

Rachel: Mm. No.

Griffin: They won the Stanley Cup for the first time ever. Hey, guess what?

Rachel: What?

Griffin: You go first this week.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Hit me with it.

Rachel: Okay. Should I start out with my— my jammer, or should I start out with my slammer?

Griffin: Well, I have a jammer that I'm gonna do second, so maybe save your jammer for second too, and we can have our own little DJ block.

Rachel: Oh. It's not music. It's just, like, kinda the jam.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: You know?

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Like, a slammer is like um...

Griffin: This is a dichotomy that I did not know existed in this show.

Rachel: Yeah. No, so a slammer is just like, it's like a slam dunk. It's like, impressive from minute one.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And then a jammer is just, like, a really good one.

Griffin: Got a long tail, the jammer does, you're saying? No. I - baby, I'm still having trouble grasping this. A slammer is...

Rachel: A slammer is— it's like a fireworks display.

Griffin: Okay. And a jammer is...

Rachel: A jammer is just like a really good, solid, like...

Griffin: So it sounds to me that a slammer is better than a jammer.

Rachel: Uh, on the front end, yeah.

Griffin: But it has— you would say that the...

Rachel: The jammer has more substance.

Griffin: And it has a long tail, you would say? It's more enjoyable?

Rachel: A long tail, you're losing me with, a little bit.

Griffin: Like, it's enjoyable for longer?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, it sustains a little bit better.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. All right.

Rachel: So which - which one?

Griffin: Wow. Uh, I— you know, I would love to finish with the jammer, so let's give me that slammer. Things— this is wild, that you have categorized these this way.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But let's hear the slammer.

Rachel: Boaty McBoatface.

Griffin: Oh, man, I wish I could go with you.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Boy, I wish I could go with you. I love you more than anything in the whole world, and I wish I could go with you, but that boat...

Rachel: How about I make it more broad? Okay. What I'm really talking about is when the names of things get crowdsourced, and then they come up with amusing names.

Griffin: Yes. But is this because of the news story that came out today?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. I saw the news story, and it was like, well, that's great, we're making leaps and bounds in science, but when history writes about this great discovery, it's gonna remember internet irony. And that's a thing that I would love to leave behind. And like the aughts and ten— hey, what are we calling this decade? The tens? The teens? It's not the teens, 'cause 2012 wasn't a teen. What are we calling this year?

Rachel: Isn't that what you do on your other show?

Griffin: No. No, no, no. No, we do years. I'm talking about the decade. What do we call... The tens? When you say, like, "Oh, it was 1914," do you say the Roarin' Tens? What is it?

Rachel: Teens. I feel like teens.

Griffin: But 11's not a teen!

Rachel: No. That's true.

Griffin: Yeah! What the beans?

Rachel: Boaty McBoatface. So... it's March 2016, and there is an online poll to name a ship. This is an autonomous underwater vehicle used for scientific research. Uh, somebody apparently, on a BBC radio station, jokingly suggested Boaty McBoatface.

Griffin: Oh, a BBC person suggested this?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And the name apparently was an homage to Hooty McOwlface, an owl named through an adoptive bird program in 2012.

Griffin: Okay. I never knew that.

Rachel: Yeah. Uh, and so it has— the official name is the RRS Sir David Attenborough.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: But colloquially, it's called Boaty McBoatface.

Griffin: What's printed on the side of the fucking boat? Boaty McBoatface is. 'Cause I saw a picture of it today. Sorry, Sir Attenborough, but...

Rachel: So this spurred a naming convention that has since taken on new life.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: A team at Sydney's Warwick Farm Racecourse paid homage with Horsey McHorseface.

Griffin: Fantastic.

Rachel: Which got attention because it won a race in Australia.

Griffin: Okay. That one's in the history books, too. Cool.

Rachel: The Swedish transport company MTR Express conducted an online poll to name a new train on the Stockholm-Gothenburg line.

Griffin: Can I guess?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Trainy McTrainface.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: All right. I've got him.

Rachel: Yes, yes, yes. Uh, Sydney Ferries...

Griffin: Boaty Mc-

Rachel: A lot of this happens in Australia.

Griffin: But wait. There already is a Boaty— is it...

Rachel: I know. That's how—buckle up. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Sydney Ferries allowed the public to name its fleet of Emerald class ferries. The most popular name was Boaty McBoatface, but as it had already been taken, the judges opted to go instead for the second place, Ferry McFerryface.

Here's what's interesting. So the maritime union of Australia refused uh, to work on the vehicle if it was called Ferry McFerryface.

Griffin: Jeez.

Rachel: And then it later emerged that the name actually had fewer than 200 votes, but that the new South Wales transport minister just declared that it won out of his own preference for it. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Well, I mean, I guess that's the power you get. That's why you— that's why you reach for those political stars, you know?

Rachel: Would you like me to keep going?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Megabus United Kingdom hosted a Twitter poll in 2017 to name some of their new coaches Mega McMegaface.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: In March 2017, the Isle of Wight council, which operates a floating bridge, asked for suggestions. Despite council officials ruling out Floaty McFloatface, there was a petition that attracted over 2,000 signatures, and the council had to rescind and agree to name it that.

Griffin: How are— can I ask you something? How the fuck are people still falling for this?

Rachel: [laughing] I don't know.

Griffin: You can't let this happen.

Rachel: I don't know.

Griffin: That is the one blessed thing about Boaty McBoatface, is that when it saves all of us from climate change...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ...then people will be like, "Wow. And what was the boat's name again?"

[throaty] "Uh, we did it 'cause the internet decided what the name was."

"Oh, shit. I was about to open a new store for men's erotic wear, and I was gonna have the internet name it—"

"No, no, no, no, no. Do not. Do not do that."

Rachel: [laughs] Um, I've got a few more.

Griffin: [sucks air through teeth]

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, in December 2018— now, this was a choice. A Formula E team announced the name of their new car, which was called Electro McElectroface.

Griffin: Oh, that sucks.

Rachel: For their electric car.

Griffin: God, that sucks.

Rachel: Uh, in 2018, there was a naming contest for a sculpture of a musk ox in Canada. Uh, Musky McMuskoxface...

Griffin: Oh, that sucks!

Rachel: ...was in the running, but instead, Elon Muskox won.

Griffin: [laughs] I take it back. The internet can name some things.

Rachel: Um, San Diego was organizing people to bring a major league soccer team to the city, and they invited people to name the team.

Griffin: Yowza.

Rachel: Uh, Footy McFooty Face uh, received more votes as of the time I read the article. I'm not sure if it ended up winning. I think they disallowed that one.

Griffin: Footy's probably my least favorite name for um, football or soccer. When I hear people say "footy," it makes me so uncomfortable, because it's such a sweet little pet name. It would be like if I called baseball, like, "baseby."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "I wanna go down to the Red's field 'cause I'm gonna watch them play baseby!"

Rachel: "Baseby!"

Griffin: I take it back. That's wonderful. That's very good.

Rachel: Or it's like people saying "hock-ey..." Oh.

Griffin: Well.

Rachel: Well.

Griffin: Shoot. Do you think it's actually called, like, "hockin sockinah," but we shortened it?

Rachel: Hockin-Dazs is actually what it's called. They-

Griffin: Hockin-Dazs, yeah.

Rachel: There was some copyright issues. Uh, I think it's wonderful.

Griffin: I-

Rachel: I recognize that maybe, for posterity's sake, it's not great to give something an ironic, jokey name, but I really— I like the people coming

together across, you know, a large amount of communities to say, "Yes, Boaty McBoatface."

Griffin: It is innocuous enough. Do you remember the time that the NHL allowed uh, viewers to vote on a player that could get added to the all-star game, and they added... oh, God, I can't remember his name. Rory something-or-other? And he was not, like, an all-star player. He was not a very good player. They had like, added him to the roster to, like, troll him...

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: ...and troll the NHL by saying, like, "All right. You let us put in..."

And then he actually, like, held his own and he did all right.

Rachel: Oh, I don't know this story!

Griffin: Oh, okay. Well, I clearly don't either, but...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, do you want to know my first thing?

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: My first thing is the Dustbuster.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Or hand vacuum. I did not know this, though I really should have. Dustbuster is of course a brand name from Black & Decker. The little device, the cordless, handheld vacuum, is not called a Dustbuster. But much like Kleenex, Band-Aid, you know, whatever, I just called it Dustbuster.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because "cordless hand vacuum" does not— does not work for me.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: We have one of these. We live in the wilds of Austin, Texas, and that means we get bugs.

Rachel: Yeah, we have lots of bugs!

Griffin: We have so many freaking bugs, and I don't like 'em. Rachel loves these things. She Hakuna Matatas, eats 'em all up, but I don't like them.

Rachel: Griffin and I play this game that we haven't talked about, and maybe Griffin doesn't realize he's playing...

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: ...where I will see a bug corpse...

Griffin: Oh, in the morning, when you get up?

Rachel: ...and I'll just kind of leave it there.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel: 'Cause Griffin'll take care of it.

Griffin: If it makes it sound like me and Rachel are complete nastoids, I need you to understand that we've just grown so accustomed to having a dead bug somewhere, because they just crawl on our house, like, "Mm, sweet, is this air conditioning? Let me get out of the uh..."

Rachel: It's a problem in Texas generally.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Just because of the hot temperatures.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But...

Griffin: Little cockroaches like, "I might just chill in here for— oops, I died!" and then...

Rachel: We've got, like, millipedes, which is not something that has ever happened to me before.

Griffin: Now we have millipedes, which is not great. Anyway, gooshing them's not great. Whatever. Uh, especially the cockroaches. They're so big. There's a lot of goosh material in there.

Rachel: Very big.

Griffin: They're very— guys, they're [laughing] so fucking big. But scoop in there with a Dustybust, you suck 'em right up, and you...

Rachel: Don't call it Dustybust.

Griffin: And then you— yeah, that's not great. You suck it up, and then you take them outside, dump it, and then you're— you know, it's like they were never there. And you don't have to touch a bug, and that's my favorite thing about it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But there's all— I mean, this is our most common usage of it now. We literally just have it out of the cradle, like, chilling in the dining room, because it's so centrally located, so we can just like, rush and grab it. Um, and you know, we use it for messes, too. Henry generates a lot of um...

Rachel: Crumbles.

Griffin: ...muffin crumbles, let's call them, which you just gotta suck up. And I don't wanna go lug the big vacuum cleaner out every time I do that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I want my little — my little Dustbuster. I have always been a fan of these. We had a Dust Devil growing up.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Slick little red number uh...

Rachel: Dirt Devil?

Griffin: Was it Dirt Devil, or Dust Devil? Wait, a dust devil's like a small tornado, isn't it? Wait, hold on, let me... I just searched "Dirt Devin."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Now, hold on. This is...

Rachel: What did you find?

Griffin: Well, there's a guy named Devin Dirt, and he makes music. He's got a little uh, looks like a little MPC, maybe a little Launchpad. I bet he does some electronic stuff. Okay. I'm gonna have to— I'll check that out later. "Dirt Devin." [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Is it Dirt Devil? It is Dirt Devil. A dust devil's a small tornado. We had a Dirt Devil. We had one growing up. I think they're all red, actually.

Rachel: They were really— yeah, they were like little Corvettes.

Griffin: They were sleek, and we used it around the house. There were three, you know, rambunctious young boys. We made a lot of muffin crumbles as well. Don't want to touch the yucky mess, bustin' makes you feel good. Just get it right up in there.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, it's like a cool gun that you use to shoot messes, but the stuff goes inside of it, and it doesn't kill. It kills messes, I guess, and some bugs that are too small to survive the transportation process.

Um, and I did not know this, but um— uh, it started life not as, like, a household product like we use it today. Uh, Black & Decker made it, made the original. Uh, they released it on the market in 1979, it became like a household name, but it wasn't the first time that they kind of took a swing at the cordless handheld vacuum cleaner.

I thought this was interesting. So the cordless handheld vacuum cleaner was invented by Mark Proett and Carroll Gantz, and it was part of this series of battery-powered handheld tools called the Mod 4 series, which also included a shrub trimmer, a lantern, grass shear, drill, and what they called the Spot Vac, which was the original name for it.

And all of it shared one single, universal, rechargeable battery. Which I think is interesting, because that's how um, if you, you know, have a yard or whatever that needs tended, and you have electric tools to do so, it follows the same thing, right?

Like, we have a little uh, leaf blower and hedge trimmer and lawnmower and weed-whacker all that use the same sort of universal battery. And they were doing this back in, like, 1975 or something like that.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: So this project came out of the Apollo space mission, because NASA wanted a portable cordless drill that they could use to get core samples off the lunar surface without having a bunch of, you know, wires...

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: ...which makes sense, so Black & Decker took that contract, and worked on it, and came up with this Mod 4 series with the Spot Vac. And so it was like, framed as like a power tool that you could have at your workbench and suck up, I don't know, sawdust?

Rachel: That's so funny.

Griffin: Small bolts, or whatever the fuck?

Rachel: And now people use it to suck up kitty litter.

Griffin: Yeah, and big ol' cockroaches. Um, it was a flop when it first hit the market. Like, nobody bought the thing. But after doing some market research, they found that the— this is a quote, "The Spot Vac was popular with women who used it to clean up, like, spills and messes from around the house." They would yoink it, and just use it to clean up messes, because it's a fucking vacuum. I don't know how they whiffed so hard on this.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And so they redesigned it to make it look like less like a power tool, and more like an inviting home cleaning product. They called it the Dustbuster, and then it sold over a million units in the first year. Boo-yah.

Rachel: Yeah. 'Cause those old vacuums used to be really heavy.

Griffin: They were so freaking big.

Rachel: And this is like, a nice option if you don't want to do a whole room.

Griffin: I can't imagine my life without it. Literally can't.

Rachel: Wow. [laughs]

Griffin: I can't! I use it every day to get bugs out of the house. If I - if you and I - I'm worried if you and I, like, ever leave the house for like, two weeks, we would come back, and it would be like that scene in Temple of Doom when they find the secret passage, and they're walking, and they're like, "Ooh, it sounds like we're stepping on fortune cookies." And then they turn a light on, and it's bugs.

Rachel: Oof.

Griffin: I think about that scene all the freaking time.

Rachel: Oogh.

Griffin: When I found out we had millipedes, I thought of that scene, and I didn't sleep that night.

Rachel: [laughs] I'm sorry.

Griffin: Anyway, every time you use the Dustbuster from now on, just think about the fact that you're using, like, a moon-mining instrument.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: You're sucking up muffin jumbles? Well, guess what? Neil Armstrong was using that to get the precious lunar diamonds...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... off the surface of the moon, and then he used it...

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: Ooh.

Rachel: That'd be a great new Ocean's Eleven.

Griffin: Oh. Goin' on the moon.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Let's call it Ocean's Eleven again.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's fun.

Rachel: Ocean's Apollo 13. Apollo Ocean's 13.

Griffin: Oh, that's freaking good!

Rachel: I'm working on it.

Griffin: We could also do Apollo Ocean's 9 and get, you know, Sandy B and the rest of them in the mix.

Rachel: Oh. Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Griffin: And then Ocean's 10— here's the problem with Ocean's 8, the Sandy— the Sandy B one. They can only make 8, 9, 10— they can only make three of those. 'Cause then it gets back to 11, doesn't it?

Rachel: Right? Right? Well, they could reduce. [laughs]

Griffin: They could go backwards!

Rachel: Ocean's 7.

Griffin: Ocean's 7!

Rachel: Start cutting some mattresses.

Griffin: That's great!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Sorry, Mindy Kaling, you're done! You're cut! We don't need a jewel maker for this one. Bye!

Hey, can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ominous emergency-siren-in-the-fog kind of sound effect]

Griffin: Can I tell you about ZipRecruiter?

Rachel: Please do!

Griffin: They make the jobs, baby! That's the new tagline for them.

Rachel: Ooh, I like it!

Griffin: Yeah, if you need to fine-

Rachel: They make the jobs?

Griffin: "We make the jobs, baby!" And I don't think it's— I don't know that it's necessarily true; I think it is a really, really great way to find the job that you want. Uh, the job that you are— you know, have always dreamed of.

It's basically like your own personal recruiter that helps you find a better job, and they have all this great technology that just, like, matches you right up. Matchmaker, matchmaker, recruit me a zip, you know?

And you can download the ZipRecruiter app, and it lets you know what kind of jobs you're interested in, and it puts your profile in front of employers, and if they like your profile, ZipRecruiter lets you know, so if you're interested in the job, you can apply.

It's so sleek and streamlined, and technology is— I've been saying this for a long time. Internet? Technology? It's here to stay.

Rachel: You gave it a little a— you have a little Marty McFly there on the end.

Griffin: The technology?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Anyway, our listeners should down— it actually says "my." My listeners...

Rachel: Ooh. Mine should, too.

Griffin: Uh, yes. Rachel's should, as well. But uh, this one goes out to all the Griff-heads out there.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You should download the free number one rated ZipRecruiter job search app today, and let the power of technology work for you!

Rachel: Hey, can I tell you about our next sponsor?

Griffin: [claps] Yes!

Rachel: It is FabFitFun.

Griffin: FabFitFun.

Rachel: Okay. So FabFitFun. You've probably seen it on Instagram. Do you know an influencer? They're probably influencing you to purchase this. Because it is incredible.

Griffin: Well, I don't mean to brag, but I know Randy Coolburgers, so...

Rachel: Oh, yeah?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And what's uh... What's Randy's thing?

Griffin: Well, he does make burger-shaped puppets. And he takes them to, like, Burger King, McDonalds, and he does pranks with 'em. He like, goes up, and people are eating, and he hides under the table, and when they start eating the burger, he holds the puppet up and he's like, "Hey, give me a break!"

Rachel: Um, does he like beauty, fashion, home, fitness and wellness products delivered four times a year?

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, that's what he is always promoting on Instagram now.

Rachel: Well, then, FabFitFun, yeah. That's— I mean, that's a perfect fit for him.

Griffin: I know it is. He's already got the sponsorship, Rachel.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, FabFitFun is kind of incredible, because unlike a lot of other box services, you get full-sized products. You can get, like, little fancy home accessories. I have, like, really beautiful hair products and necklaces and lotions and face masks, and all this really great stuff now uh, that I got.

Griffin: You are so, like, soft and smooth these days.

Rachel: Oh, thank you!

Griffin: And I haven't been complimenting you on it, but it's just like you're always just like...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Just like a little bit just...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's no way to say— there's no adjective that means "nicely lotioned" that does not sound...

Rachel: Supple.

Griffin: That still sounds a little bit horny to me.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, maybe that says more about you than the word.

Griffin: Maybe it does.

Rachel: Okay. So if you are interested, sign up for FabFitFun today! These boxes always sell out. Use our code "wonderful" to get \$10 off your first box. Go to FabFitFun.com to sign up and start getting the box for life well-lived! Use promo code "wonderful" to get \$10 off your first box, that's over \$200 worth of products for only \$39.99. Go to FabFitFun.com and use my code "wonderful" to get \$10 off your first FabFitFun box.

Griffin: It's both our codes.

Rachel: Eh, it says "my."

Griffin: Griff-heads, you can get out there and do that damn thing too.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I have a personal message here. This one's for Marlowe, and it's from uh, Nyssa. Or Nissa? Nice. [clicks tongue] Noice. Have I shown you that video?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: I haven't shown you Hot Food?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Oh, man. Hot Food's my small wonder. I'll show you later.

Uh, anyway, "Marlowe, you are sort of a little cool. Thank you for getting me into making video games, buying junk from old and/or dead people, and slowly becoming D&D shopkeepers together. Although I love you deeply, I must now put you on blast for not liking Shrek, you uncultured fool. I hope we are friends forever, or rivals if that doesn't pan out."

You know, I think it's okay not to like Shrek... No, it's not. I said it out loud...

Rachel: I like Shrek.

Griffin: ...and it felt so filthy coming out of my mouth.

Rachel: We watched it not long ago, and I thought, "This is a pretty good film!"

Griffin: Uh, a listener whose name I do not have on hand sent us the children's book Shrek...

Rachel: Oh, that's true!

Griffin: ...which predates the movie, did not know this, and...

Rachel: Henry loves it.

Griffin: ...Henry's a big fan. He calls it 'mancha book,' which is very, very, very good.

Rachel: [laughs] Can I read the next one?

Griffin: Yep.

Rachel: It is a message for Ian. It is from Kristen. "Ian, thank you for introducing me to the best family in podcasting, those good, good, McElroys, and for being my wonderful thing every week. Here's to many more years of goofs, travels, less frequent moves, and those stupid, but adorable kitties. Love you always, Kristen."

Griffin: Hmm. I usually look at these messages like a little riddle box of how can I get in there and you know, poke a little— do some of my japes.

Rachel: Well, it's hard when it's so complimentary of us, right?

Griffin: I know. That's it. I can't really bust out my kind of South Park humor on this one. It's about me, you know?

Rachel: It's just too sweet.

Griffin: And I don't want to turn that South Park humor back inward towards myself, 'cause I may not like what I see in there.

Carrie: Hey, Max Fun listeners! Have you been listening to Max Fun for a while, and you've just been wondering, "Where's the new flat Earth podcast I keep hearing about?"

Ross: Well, here it is. We give you all the facts on NASA's lies and how we know that the Earth is actually flat.

Both: Just kidding!

Ross: This is Oh No Ross and Carrie, and we join fringe religious groups, we undergo alternative medical treatments...

Carrie: ...and we hang out with people like 9/11 truthers, flat Earthers. We find out, why do people believe strange things?

Ross: We join them, and we tell you all about it. We have a lot of fun, we make a lot of friends.

Carrie: Yeah, we do. We joined the Mormons. We joined the scientologists. We got acupunctured. We got fire cupped. We got ear candled. We've done it all, and we're gonna keep doing it all. Why don't you check out Oh No Ross and Carrie at MaximumFun.org?

[jazz outro]

Griffin: Hey, what's your second thing? Oh, this is gonna be the slammer, isn't it? Ooh, I'm ready.

Rachel: No, this is the jammer.

Griffin: Oh. Oh, right.

Rachel: You had me start with the slammer, which was Boaty McBoatface.

Griffin: Can I say something? It's a little anticlimactic. I should've saved the slammer. Oh, well. Let's hear your jammer.

Rachel: [laughs] Art museums.

Griffin: [singing] Come on and slam, and welcome to the jam! [spoken] Hell yeah. What's the best art museum?

Rachel: Hoo. Wow. You just went straight— I mean, the Louvre, of course.

Griffin: Okay, but not that one because everybody says that one, 'cause they like to be cool. What's the best one?

Rachel: The best one? I mean, The Art Institute in Chicago's really good.

Griffin: Yeah, baby! That's right.

Rachel: I figured that was the one you wanted me to say.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Follow your heart. Don't let me steer the conversation.

Rachel: Uh, so I love an art museum. I really do.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: I— I mean, not only like art, but a lot of what I like is just kind of the presence of being in this, like, big, temple-like museum, you know? And kind of feeling this voyeuristic feeling of like, you're in somebody's really fancy house...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ... just like walking around, looking at their stuff.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, it took me a while to get there. I never liked art museums. And we grew up with one in Huntington that was actually pretty nice.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I took you to it.

Rachel: Yeah, I like that one!

Griffin: It's like, mostly local art, and I— we did shows there, but it never like, really resonated with me and it really was not until The Art Institute. And I saw Nighthawks up on the wall, and I was like, "Oh, shit!" Like, "That's the..."

Rachel: Yeah, that's the one.

Griffin: "That's that one painting."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then I realize, like, "Wait a minute. All these paintings are old!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And now I really like art museums. Thanks, Nighthawks.

Rachel: Um, so scholars generally place the earliest museum in the 17th or 18th century Europe. Prior to museums as we know them today, there were places called Wunderkammers, or cabinets of wonders.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And so basically, rich people would get together and sometimes they were literal cabinets fitted with cupboards and drawers, and other rooms were stuffed with animal, mineral, vegetable and artistic treasures.

Griffin: [laughs] "Come in. Mm, I've got a new, delectable Monet that you simply must see. And then you must see my vegetables."

Rachel: It's vegetal. I mispronounced it.

Griffin: Still, it's pretty good.

Rachel: "Look at this eggplant."

Griffin: "You must look at this eggplant. It's so round and purple. It's like the most..."

Rachel: The most supple eggplant.

Griffin: "It's so supple and the hue is so deep and dark, like the night sky. Look at my— gaze upon my celery! I've hung it in front of the new Matisse."

Rachel: [laughing] Um...

Griffin: "Have you seen— don't even get me started on the minerals!"

Rachel: [laughs] Um, so the problem with Wunderkammers was that they were mostly for the wealthy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So it wasn't until the Enlightenment happened that we started seeing museums open to the public. So the first museum, as we understand them today, is the British Museum in London. It was founded in 1750 as a gift to the British nation.

Griffin: Hmm.

Rachel: Uh, its core collection consisted of specimens he acquired, this Sir Hans Sloane, when he was a medical doctor in a West Indian colony. So there were plants, birds, seashells, and objects he purchased from other explorers.

So when they started making these museums, the architectural reference to temples was intentional, symbolizing a space of protection and prestige. Uh, so most of the art museums you see, like, still have that look. And that was like a very European thing to do, of like signifying, like, "This is a great, important space."

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: You know, to make it look like a, you know, antique.

Griffin: Nobody touch the— it's basically that is the defining characteristic.

Rachel: Well, one thing I thought about too is interesting, so uh, there's something called the white cube approach, which is kind of what you see in museums where they minimize visual distraction. So it's like white walls...

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: You know, solid floors. That was like something actually started in the 1930s under the direction of Alfred Barr. Uh, was this idea of like, minimizing distractions. And that's at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Griffin: Before that, they just had like, wallpaper with like, wild neon lasers, like those old school photo backgrounds...

Rachel: Well, if you look at some of the older galleries, they used to put like, 50 paintings on a wall.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And they were just all right next to each other. And it was less about, like, zeroing in on one distinct piece.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It was more like, a whole wall packed in.

Griffin: And you got to throw a golf ball, and whichever one you hit, you took home.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: They had so much more fun back then.

Rachel: Well, what if you damage the painting? Why would you want it, when you threw the ball?

Griffin: No, you have to take it if you damage— you don't understand.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Okay. So the ball throwing is for what, then?

Griffin: Fun.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs] So are you thinking...

Griffin: It was the great...

Rachel: Are you thinking of the circus?

Griffin: I'm thinking of the gold fish game at the circus. Thank you, baby.

Rachel: Okay. Uh, I grew up with the Saint Louis Art Museum, which is really, really, incredible. They have more than 30,000 works, and the building they currently use was from the Louisiana Purchase in 1904, so the World's Fair. Uh, and so it's like a super old, incredible building that's been around since the World's Fair.

Griffin: I like, and I don't know that I've ever really been to one that I would classify as this, I really want to, like, those more modern like uh,

interactive, especially like digital art museums. What is the name of the one in New Mexico that you, like, climb down a washing machine to get to?

Rachel: You were the one that told me about it.

Griffin: Oh, shit. Okay, never mind. I'm gonna do a Wonderful! segment on this maybe next week.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: But the ones where— I see pictures, especially my friends who go to Japan, I feel like they have a lot of art exhibits.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, that's where you like go into the rooms that are like either mirrors like everywhere with lights and, you know, organized in a specific way to create these incredible patterns. Like, the shit you can get into, that looks really neat.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That looks really nice.

Rachel: Yeah, I— it's just a— it can be such a, like, a contemplative, calm space, you know?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: Or it can be, like, really super engaging if you go, like... I got to see a really great museum when I was in Atlanta. I went to the High Museum, I believe it's called? And it was so awesome.

Griffin: Um, I also like a history museum. I know that's a different thing. But like a lo— especially like a local history museum, where you can learn about like where you are. We did the one in Hong Kong, and it was like, "Oh, okay." **Rachel:** Yeah, that was really cool. That was something that we started doing when we went to Japan.

Griffin: That's right. Yeah, we went to the Ueno...

Rachel: And we did it when we went to Hong Kong, too.

Griffin: ...the Ueno Museum and, you know, we didn't really know anything about the local history, and so doing that on your first day really helps you get a feel for what the place is.

I gotta find the name of this museum. It's something Cat? Wolf. It's called Meow Wolf. The New Mexico one.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: It's so wild. This is a sneak preview. I'm totally gonna do this. I think there's a refrigerator door you can go into. I want to go there so bad. Anyway, I think there's...

Rachel: Let's take a trip!

Griffin: Okay. To- right now?

Rachel: Eh, not right now.

Griffin: Okay. Let's go to— I bet Henry would love it. We could...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...make a trip up to New Mexico.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: That's not too far, right?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: All right.

Griffin: It's a date!

Rachel: Let's do it!

Griffin: Uh, I wanna talk about my second thing.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: It's Elvis Costello, Rachel's very favorite musical artist.

Rachel: [laughs] Here's what I'll say about Elvis Costello.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: You know when you're listening to an Elvis Costello song.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: He was very uh, skillful at creating a sound that was very easily identifiable.

Griffin: In terms of his voice.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay. Not necessarily so much the song, because I would argue that he has like, gone through a few different genres at this point. Um...

Rachel: It's not that I dislike him; I just don't revere him.

Griffin: It's an acquired taste. I will give you that.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I enjoy his, like, music, right, like I think he has several songs that are both slammers and jammers, but I, like, what I revere is his songwriting ability. I think he's, like, probably the best living songwriter.

Uh, I... here's the other thing. Like, I know you're not a fan. I also, like, only ever get in moods where I really want to listen to Elvis Costello, and the rest of the time I could take or leave him, 'cause the truth about him is like, he has a lot of songs that I do not think are very good. But that's just because of just sort of law of large numbers; he has so many songs.

He has the most songs— what is it, so in 2013, ASCAP, which is the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, said that he had written 566 songs. Some of them are for other people, and a couple of them are translations and stuff. Also, that was six years ago, and he's released more music since then.

That is a truly, like, preposterous number of songs, when you think about like, how many songs The Beatles put out. How many songs, you know, Eric Clapton put out. 566 is like, a wild, wild, wild amount. He has 33 studio albums. 33 studio albums. He has six live albums and 16 compilation albums.

So like, he writes a ton of music. And some of it's, like, brilliant, beautiful, awesome music, and some of it I could take or leave. I didn't really get into Elvis Costello until I was in college. Justin's always been a pretty big fan of his. College seems like about the right time to start enjoying Elvis Costello's music. Because it can be kind of intimidating to, like, know where to jump in. Like, how to you get into somebody who has 566 songs?

Rachel: Yeah. That's a really good point.

Griffin: Um, and I mean, I found a way. I think the compilation albums are usually a pretty good bet. If you find an album called, The Best of Elvis Costello, then that's probably a pretty good, like, roadmap for how to get started.

And once you get into him, man, I think his lyrics are so, like, clever and playful, and really subtle, sometimes. Like, one of his best-known songs is

Radio, Radio. It is this, like, brutal takedown of the music industry when he first wrote it, I think it was late '70s or something like that.

Uh, and it's about like the commercialization of radio, and this is like, one of his most infamous stories, is during Saturday Night Live, he was the musical guest on Saturday Night Live back in the '70s, and um, he was playing one of his songs called Less Than Zero, and in the middle of it, he stopped doing that song and he debuted Radio, Radio. Which is just like, dragging the radio industry and they banned him from being on Saturday Night Live for 12 years.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: Uh, the song rules, and there's a lyric that goes, "Radio is a sound salvation. Radio is cleaning up the nation. They say you better listen to the voice of reason, but they don't give you any choice, 'cause they think that it's treason. So you better do as you are told, you better listen to the radio."

Um, one of like, his most famous songs, one of his rare actual like pop hits is Everyday I Write The Book, and it's about, you know, a relationship...

Rachel: I know that one.

Griffin: ...framed as a fiction novel. And I think it's the second verse that goes, "Chapter one, we didn't really get along. Chapter two, I think I fell in love with you. You said you'd stand by me in the middle of chapter three, but you were up to your old tricks in chapters four, five and six."

Like, the first time I heard that, I was like, "Oh, that's so..."

Rachel: Yeah. That was pretty great.

Griffin: That's really freaking good, and like, there's so many songs that have so many, like, great moments in it like that. Uh, sometimes, like, they reach into being kind of full-blown corny, 'cause it kind of just puts it all out there, but I don't know.

It's the fun thing about him, is that there's just so much. Some of it I don't like, some of it I love, but also like I've been listening to his music for, you know, a decade now, and there's still songs of his I haven't heard. Like, today, when I was prepping this segment, I heard new songs of his I had never heard, and I was like, "Oh, that's actually really good, too."

Rachel: Do you wanna play one of those new songs?

Griffin: Uh, I'm actually gonna start off with Veronica. 'Cause Veronica is maybe his— you don't know Veronica?

Rachel: No, I know that one.

Griffin: Okay. I was about to say. Um, it's off of his album, Spike. I forget when that one came out. And it's one of his best-known albums. Spike has a bunch of jammers on it. But this is Veronica.

[Veronica by Elvis Costello plays]

Griffin: This is like... This is the beauty of Elvis Costello. This song uh, rules. It's like this epic, upbeat rock song uh, and it's really catchy. It's his highest charting song in the US ever, and also it's a song about an older woman living with Alzheimer's. Didn't realize that until I...

Rachel: Oh, yeah. No.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, "Veronica sits in her favorite chair, and she sits very quiet and still. And they call her a name that they never get right, and if they don't, nobody else will. But she used to have a carefree mind of her own, with a devilish look in her eye, saying, 'You can call me anything you like, but my name is Veronica.'" Oh, my God, it's so fucking good.

Rachel: Wild.

Griffin: It's like a classic, and there's any number of other, like, classic Elvis Costello songs that I could play here, but what I also like about him is it's over— it's been almost two decades between Veronica and the next song

I wanna play, it's called Bedlam, and it came off a more recent album, I think 2005 or so, it was called The Delivery Man.

Uh, came out my freshman year of college, and it was like a big gateway for me. And it still sounds like classic Elvis Costello, but it also just fucking rules. This is Bedlam.

[Bedlam by Elvis Costello plays]

Griffin: I don't have much analysis for that song. I just think it rocks.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I just think it's a really good song. Um, I think even if you are not a fan of his voice, or a fan of his music, like, I think it is worth listening to some Elvis Costello just to realize what a tremendous impact he has had on so many artists throughout history. Some artists that quote him as being an influence, obviously They Might Be Giants.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I think if you are a fan of They Might Be Giants and you listen to Elvis Costello for the first time, you're like, "Oh, shit. That's where a lot of this sort of wry sad song disguised as an upbeat pop song comes from."

Uh, also though, Foo Fighters, Radiohead, Green Day, uh, and Prince always cited Elvis Costello as a big inspiration. So many artists, I think, when you—when you listen to how Elvis Costello writes songs, you will see traces of his influence just everywhere.

Rachel: That's so interesting, 'cause the music is always so solid that I've never really paid that much attention to the lyrics before.

Griffin: Um, there's some songs that don't have very solid music in it either.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: I mean, it was the '80s, and I feel like everybody who made music in the '70s and then the '80s and then continued making music in the '90s had one album in the '80s where they discovered, like, synthesizers...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...and you know, like, FM keyboards, and they were like, "Oh, this is gonna— this is the fucking future, pal!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And then you listen to those albums back, and it sounds like a fucking Sega Genesis game, and you're like, "Oof. Oofa doofa." Um, but yeah. He's, I think, the best living lyricist these days.

Rachel: Oof.

Griffin: And I would recommend going into his music and listening to it.

Rachel: Bold claim.

Griffin: Yeah, well, I mean... if you look at just raw, sheer tonnage of music written, I think he takes the cake.

Rachel: Well, I'll tell Paul McCartney and Bob Dylan that you say, "No thanks."

Griffin: I think Paul McCartney and Bob Dylan's hit rate is maybe even lower than Elvis Costello's. And maybe they're gonna put me in jail for saying that out loud. Uh, you wanna hear what our friends at home are excited about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Sarah says, "I love eating fruits and vegetables right out of the garden in the summer. My sister has a small garden, and every time I visit, I'm met with tomatoes and strawberries that are perfectly ripe and very good."

Rachel: Oh, that's so nice.

Griffin: I miss when we had— well, you had a garden.

Rachel: I did.

Griffin: You had a little square foot garden.

Rachel: But it's so much work.

Griffin: It is a lot of work. I got these three succulents on my desk, and they're already dyin'!

Rachel: Oh, no, Griffin!

Griffin: No, they're doing all right. They're just not gonna get any sun there. It's fine, I'll vacuum 'em up when they go.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, here's one from Isabel, who says, "My small wonder is that point in the summer where it's hot enough to wear a big shirt to bed as pajamas."

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: It's easy, and it keeps your downstairs breezy.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: This was my shit, like, in— growing up, up to like high school, every night, regardless if it was...

Rachel: Just a big shirt?

Griffin: Just a big old shirt. My dad got these, like, shitty big shirts from the radio station, and he'd bring them home, and I would be like, "Well, I

don't care too much about Travis Tritt, I guess, but I will wear his big shirt to sleep. Thank you, Dad."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You'll still do this sometimes, yeah?

Rachel: Yeah. No, I love it. I love it. Not as much as I used to. I mean, they used to design— I guess they were nightgowns. I guess, when I think about it, they were nightgowns.

Griffin: Just kinda nightgowns.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Alex says, "I really enjoy it when you're driving on a dark country road, and you see an oncoming driver switch off their brights in the distance." I like that too.

Rachel: It is nice. That's very courteous.

Griffin: Somebody's thinking of me. Somebody's thinking about me and my eyes, and my driving.

Rachel: And somebody knows the rules, too, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's like when it's raining out, and you see people that don't turn their headlights on, and you're like, "You don't know the rules."

Griffin: You don't know the rules. Unsa— I'll point at 'em. Unsafe!

Rachel: Unsafe.

Griffin: Everybody else rolls their windows down, and points. Unsafe!

Hey, thank you so much 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 Maximum...

Rachel: I mean, Maximum Fun.

Griffin: ... Maximum freaking Fun, dude!

Rachel: It's a great network that hosts a lot of great shows.

Griffin: Been trying to tell you. Stop Podcasting Yourself.

Rachel: Is a very good one.

Griffin: Switchblade Sisters?

Rachel: Yes. Bullseye with Jesse Thorn.

Griffin: [high pitched] Can I Pet Your Dog?

Rachel: [high pitched] Friendly Fire?

Griffin: [increasing in pitch] Bubble?

Rachel: Flophouse?

Griffin: Beef and Dairy Network?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [normally] And so many more at MaximumFun.org. We got other stuff at McElroy.family. Uh, we're gonna guest on Jordan, Jesse, Go! here in a couple weeks, here in Austin. So come see that. I think that's about it. I think that's gonna wrap it on up for us.

Rachel: I think— yeah.

Griffin: Tie it up in a nice little bow, and get it back to the barn before the hailstorm starts.

Rachel: I think so. Brown paper packages, you know, tied up.

Griffin: Tessie, did you get the— Tessie, did you get the hogs in before a hailstorm starts?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Slop 'em and flop 'em, Tessie. The hail's a-coming!

Rachel: ...Yes.

Griffin: Play with me!

Rachel: [laughs] No.

[theme music plays]

[Maximum Fun sting]

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[guitar music playing]

Speaker: Dead Pilots Society brings you exclusive readings of comedy pilots that were never made, featuring actors like Patton Oswalt...

Patton: So the vampire from the future sleeps in the dude's studio during the day, and they hunt monsters at night! It's Blade meets The Odd Couple!

Speaker: Adam Scott and Jane Levy.

Jane: Come on, Cory. She's too serious, too business-ey. She doesn't know the hokey pokey.

Adam: Well, she'll learn what it's all about.

Speaker: Busy Philipps and Dave Koechner.

Dave: Baby, this is family.

Busy: My uncle Tell, who showed his wiener to Cinderella at Disneyland, is family. Do you want him staying with us?

Dave: He did stay with us, for three months!

Busy: And he was a delight!

Speaker: A new pilot every month, only on Dead Pilots Society from Maximum Fun.