

Wonderful! 91: A Nice, Oaky Greg

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel Celia McElroy!

Griffin: What? What?! What are we doing?

Rachel: I just thought I'd bring my middle name.

Griffin: What?! This is 'Grahamfrin'. And that's my real first name, and I've been waiting to—

Rachel: 'Grayafin'.

Griffin: This is 'Gryfin' Andrew McElroy—

Together: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: I thought I'd do—say it this time. As long as we're fuckin' choppin' and screwin' it and throwin' out the rule book.

Rachel: I just—I like my middle name, and I never get to say it.

Griffin: Welcome to Griffin's Poetry Corner!

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: This week I'm gonna do—

Rachel: [groans] "My tummy hurts 'cause I ate too much!"

Griffin: Oh, that's fun!

Rachel: That's your segment. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing] Okay, yeah, that's cool. [mockingly] "Uh, I'm, uh, so pretty and competent and—"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [mockingly] "—I'm really smart and funny!" Aaaaaaaaaaaaa! [blows a raspberry] That's you. It ended with you h—rippin' a big one.

Rachel: Yeah? Okay.

Griffin: 'Cause you're always doin' that while you're bein' f—smunny and... smunny and fart? Oops! [laughs]

Rachel: What's goin' on over there?

Griffin: Ahh, you know?

Rachel: You're loosey goosey!

Griffin: Case of the Mondays, I guess! I had a few, uh, Starburst Jellybeans that I snuck while I was hi—in the kitchen.

Rachel: Hey, how old...

Griffin: Easter!

Rachel: ... Okay.

Griffin: They're fucking jellybeans, though!

Rachel: All right.

Griffin: They're wrapped in a candy coating that I don't think mold is, you know, remotely, uh, a problem for, is it? So yeah, I'm a little fuckin' jacked, baby! On Easter candy!

Rachel: [laughing] Okay. Do you have any small wonders, besides Easter jellybeans?

Griffin: I mean, I assume that you're gonna mention Stranger Things Season Three.

Rachel: I am not, so go right ahead.

Griffin: Oh, okay. It's frickin' good, man! I feel like, uh, my interest in it was minimal, 'cause I just kind of liked season two, and, you know, I am plugged in to certain entertainment outlets and saw some sort of lukewarm reviews of season three, but man, I like it a lot!

Rachel: Yeah! It—there is so much action!

Griffin: There's a lot of action. It's moving at a like, wild clip for this show.

Rachel: And everybody's gettin' really good performance opportunities, you know?

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Like, all the characters really have a chance to shine.

Griffin: It's super well written, and like, my shit—like, they are on some full blown, like, Thing level, uh—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: —like, grotesque gore horror, and—

Rachel: A lot of tributes to, uh, great films.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, that's been true of the whole thing. Uh, the—the whole series, arguably, but this one they wear it right on the sleeve. Like, they're doin' some Red Dawn shit, they are doing, uh... they're doing some—

Rachel: Terminator.

Griffin: —Thing stuff. Oh, God, they're doin' some Terminator stuff. But like, I am so into the old—

Rachel: I feel like there's some Alien stuff there, too!

Griffin: I think so. I think Thing is probably the more sort of...

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Because Thing is very much about like, people melting into monsters.

Rachel: We're not finished yet. Maybe...

Griffin: Maybe an alien bursts out.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, I guess there is some sort of face hugger comparisons. I love that era of like, old practical effects horror movies.

Rachel: Yes! Me too.

Griffin: Like, I am obsessed with them. Um, and I don't know. They're leaning into it in a way—it's TV-14, which I cannot believe, because of the level of—

Rachel: Yeah, it is gruesome.

Griffin: Like, I understand that this is like, not people's thing, but it is wicked my thing, and like, they are going so hard in the paint this season.

Rachel: Hey, what's my small wonder?

Griffin: I was just about to ask you, jeesh!

Rachel: [laughs] I'm trying to keep this one, uh—

Griffin: Keep it tight?

Rachel: Keep it tight.

Griffin: I also wanted to say, Super Mario Maker 2 is really fun. I just published my first level, check it out. Pubbed it on Ins—

Rachel: Yeah, I saw that!

Griffin: It's on Insta. Check out the deets on Insta and hit it up. Uh, what's your small wonder, though?

Rachel: My small wonder—did you see what University of Texas Austin announced today?

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Starting Fall 2020, if your family's income is 65,000 or under, you can go to college for all four years at UT for free!

Griffin: That is so wild. I assume you still have to like, uh, you know. Apply for the school and make it in.

Rachel: Of course, yes.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, but all your tuition and fees are taken care of.

Griffin: That is—that is so buck wild.

Rachel: They said that's a significant portion of UT's population, too.

Griffin: I don't doubt it! Like, I don't understand, uh... people always talked about the Promise Scholarship as being a... which was a thing in West Virginia. I went to—well, I went to Martial. I got in on a really big, super nice scholarship that I lost instantly, and luckily had the Promise Scholarship to fall back on. But it was like, if you maintain a 3.0 GPA, you got to go to any school in West Virginia for free.

Rachel: That's incredible.

Griffin: If you were a West Virginia resident. But then like, after I had it, the like, State Congress was talking about like, "Well, this is not sustainable." So I don't know how UT could go about doing that. That's so wild.

Rachel: What I read is they have a bunch of oil money. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, okay! Well, that makes sense!

Rachel: And I imagine they have a, a vested interest in increasing like, the diversity of their campus.

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Rachel: And this is a really good way to do it.

Griffin: I didn't mean to make it sound like I was against this. I think it's a great thing, it's just like—it's, uh—

Rachel: No, it seems like it would be hard to sustain, but—

Griffin: I know, it's—

Rachel: —here we go!

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, I go first this week.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My first thing is really tough, because I could not think of a name for it, and after much googling, I could not like, find a name for it, which I thought was weird, 'cause it seems like a fairly common thing, but maybe I just wasn't searching the right terms.

But, as far as I can tell—I'm calling it like, sympathetic effort response reflex... thing. And it's where your, uh... we were watching American Ninja Warrior, as we are wont to do, as we were just doing before we came to record the podcast. It's our inscrutable guilty pleasure, and I will not hear you judge us for it.

Rachel: It's the perfect eating dinner television program.

Griffin: Yeah. It doesn't take much, uh, attention from you. You can just watch people do stunts. But! Sometimes when you're really rootin' for someone on Ninja Warrior and they're about to go for a big jump, I, as they jump, will jerk my leg up.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Or I will, uh... you know, I—watching the Olympics was just like, this all over, where you're watching like, the ski jump, and you see somebody go over the big jump, and you like, lift your body up out of the chair as they jump.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know what the name of this is! And I googled everything from like, people move p—moving when see people do sports. Move—

Rachel: You know what it makes me think of?

Griffin: What's that?

Rachel: A lot of people do that during video games.

Griffin: So that—yeah, I was gonna mention that, too. That is probably—that is the most sort of widely observed, like, uh, portion of this phenomenon. And you mostly see it on, like, exaggerated in movies and TV shows where they have to show somebody playing a video game.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: And I—that— I think that shit is so hysterical. First of all, like, um, mostly the sound effects that people who make TV shows who don't know what video games are, like, that they put on a video game. You'll see somebody like, playing a game on PlayStation 4, [laughing] and the game will sound like, [high pitched] "Beep boop! Beedee-beep-beep!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And it's like, dog, games haven't sounded like that for a really long time.

Rachel: This is one of my favorite things to do with you, is when we're watching a program and there is a video game on it, I just turn to Griffin and I say, "What is that game? Is it real?" And usually within a few seconds, he can identify it. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, I do not sweat. I know a lot of—I know a lot of games by, uh, a blurry, uh, distant shot of their user interface. That's my cross to bear.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: So yeah, it happens during video games. I still couldn't find it. I would google, you know, "Why you—why do you move when you play video games? Why do—" 'cause that's a super common thing, especially when you're playing like, an intense, uh, first person shooter.

I play a lot of a game called Destiny 2, and sometimes in that game, like, you're in these really high stress, like, platforming things, where you have to like, jump from thing to thing, and if you die, like, it's super, super bad. And when I get in that stressful environment and I have to like, do one of those platforming segments, when I jump I like, tense up and I lift my torso like, up and out of the chair—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: —and I won't release that position until I have safely landed.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I don't know why that is, and googling gave me nothing.

Rachel: Yeah, it's a hard thing to google.

Griffin: It is a hard thing to google, because I don't think anybody has a name for it. I thought something like sympathetic reflex, right? Because it's your brain watching something happening and then your brain going like, "Oh shit, we're about to jump over a big Ninja Warrior stunt! You better jerk your leg up," and then it realizes like, what it has done wrong, and it feels embarrassed, I imagine, in that moment. Or thinks like, "Oh no, Master Chief! You gotta jump 'cause the Flood are comin'! Oh, jump, jump! Oh, shit, wait. That's a video game."

Because it makes sense, right? Like, we spend a lot of time moving around the physical world with our bodies, and so like, our body knows what moving feels like, and if we get so like, uh... I am pulling this out of my ass, but it's like, the only thing I can think that makes sense is like, our brains see this movement, reflected either on a TV show or in some sort of virtual environment, and if you like, catch it off guard, your brain will like, try to mimic the physical response of the thing that you are seeing.

Rachel: You know what it made me think of when you said "sympathetic?" Is it reminded me of when you are watching somebody perform and you are nervous for them, and you start sweating while you are watching them perform.

Griffin: Sure. That's more of an emotional—I—I don't know, I guess it's—

Rachel: Yeah, that's why I think the word "sympathetic" is maybe a little misleading, because it—because you... your body is like, kind of like, thrusting in the direction of what you want to accomplish.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Which feels more like, literally physical, you know?

Griffin: Yes. Also, there is already a thing called sympathetic, uh, reflexive disorder, something like that. So it's—it's not this.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, so yeah. I don't know what it's called. It's weird to me... uh, and again, couching this saying that like, maybe I just googled the wrong stuff, but this is—do you—you do this, right? Like...

Rachel: I—when you—when you were talking about video games I was thinking of like, car games where you're driving and you're trying to like, go around a turn. I feel like I will like, physically move my body into the turn. And I know... I know I get physically active when I am watching sports. Uh, I don't know that I do anything with my body that correlates to what needs to be done—

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: —on the playing field. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, I wondered about this too. I know I did it for games, but then like, when I did this watching Ninja Warrior the other day, I was like, "Well that's—why did I do that? That's—that's pretty—that's pretty strange."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, I don't know, man. Reflexes in general I think are cool, and also kind of like, weird and scary. Like, that our, uh... obviously we have a lot of autonomous functions that like, gets me real weirded out when I think about like, all the things your body does while you—that you don't have to think about.

Uh, and then like, your—your more front of mind reflexes I think are like, neat and interesting that your body will just decide to do stuff when presented with certain stimuli, and this seems like such a wild sort of innocuous harmless one, and I don't know why I couldn't find a name for it, but again, that might just be my... my failing. And also, I gotta say that it does lead to some pretty good episodes of Law and Order SVU, of just like, gamer—gamer murderers.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And the—the brand new, apparently like, Pac-Man game that they're playing in 2019. Uh, yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Hey, what's your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing came from a real place of nostalgia.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Which is sometimes the best—the best thing to bring.

Griffin: A common vein, I would say, for this program.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Craigslist.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Now, admittedly, I don't use Craigslist today.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: But when I think about what I have achieved from Craigslist—

Griffin: I can't wait to hear this.

Rachel: —it's substantial!

Griffin: Okay!

Rachel: Uh, from Craigslist, I have not only purchased furniture, and a bicycle, uh, I believe... yeah, it's where I got my first cat. Um—

Griffin: Through—h—what?!

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: H—through—

Rachel: There's a pet section.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Uh, and when I was in Chicago and decided I wanted to get a cat, just went on Craigslist, 'cause that's where I got my bike, so I thought, why not get a cat? [laughs]

Griffin: Interesting!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Do you think you could find a, you know, a date on Crai—you can!

Rachel: Yeah, you definitely can! It's also like, when I was job searching in Chicago, it's what I used. Like, I used it all the time.

Griffin: Shit. Okay, I think I—I... I remained ignorant of Craigslist—I think I sold—when I was living in Chicago, I sold a drum set and a poker table there, 'cause I did not wanna move those down to Austin, but I did not use it for literally anything else. So I guess—I guess I do know that it's like, basically the personal ads of the internet, but I just—I never used it.

Rachel: Yeah, I also used to spend a little time on missed connections, just lookin' to see if anybody happened to see me doin' something. [laughs]

Griffin: That always seemed so—the—the odds of that seem—even in like, when I was living in Batavia, Ohio, the odds of like, that actually happening seem so astronomically low.

Rachel: You'd see that a lot after like, music festivals and shows and stuff.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel: I would get on and be like—and search like, Lollapalooza, and see like, what's goin' on?

Griffin: [hisses] Damn, I wish I lived in Manchester, Tennessee, right after Bonnaroo rolled out of town and you just hop in the Craigslist and be like, "You were very dirty, and your butt was dirty, and my butt was dirty too, and your hair was really dirty. Anyway, was that you? I love you."

Rachel: [laughs] So, Craigslist is now in like, 700-some cities and 70+ countries.

Griffin: Okay. Is it—are people still like—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: I went on today just to make sure it was still happenin', and it is still poppin' off. It's actually a really good place to buy baby stuff too, if you are looking for like...

Griffin: Oh, that makes sense.

Rachel: A lot of times this stuff happens on Facebook now, but for a lot of folks that are still using Craigslist, like, it's a really great place to sell stuff that you used for like, a week.

Griffin: Baby stuff's wild, y'all.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: You will—you will like, pass the point of relevance for like, developmental baby toys in the span of a month.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It is like, that wild.

Rachel: For sure.

Griffin: And then it's like, "Well, what do I do with it now?"

Rachel: Uh-huh, and a lot of people don't use Facebook for that purpose, and so Craigslist is a really good option, especially if you're doin' stuff locally, you know? Like, a lot of times people will put stuff on eBay to ship stuff out, but if you think somebody, you know, three blocks away might want your stuff, this is a great way to facilitate it.

Griffin: I lied. I sold a mattress on Craigslist. You remember that?

Rachel: Oh, you did! I remember.

Griffin: When I moved here to Austin and I sold it to, uh, a recently divorced woman who came in and sort of told me what was—what was up, and that she needed a bed, and I was like, "Oh, that's—that's—" but she like, walked into my bedroom and like, sat down on the bed, and was like, really getting comfortable in it, and I was getting really *un-comfortable*—

Rachel: Talking about her divorce, yeah. I remember you telling me—

Griffin: It was—yeah, it was—

Rachel: To me, you were like, "Wha—what's—is something happening?"

Griffin: I mean, it wasn't like I was like, running through my own penthouse letters in my mind, but like, I'm an uncomfortable person around strangers to begin with, let alone ones that I've just let in my home, let alone ones that have come into my bedroom and like, rolled around in my bed while talking about their recent divorce.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That was a precarious situation for the G-man.

Rachel: Do you think she looked at a lot of the mattresses and—and just tried that out, just to see like, "Is this a good line? Am I gettin' somewhere with this?"

Griffin: If memory serves, she bought—she did buy my mattress, and she got the price down to something preposterous.

Rachel: That was Bed Zeppelin.

Griffin: That was Bed Zeppelin, oh shit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, so it was two beds that I had pushed together and wrapped up in a huge—

Rachel: No.

Griffin: No?

Rachel: No, you bought a mattress.

Griffin: You just waved your finger at me—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing] -like—wh—

Rachel: "No, no, no!"

Griffin: You just waved your finger at me like you were Dikembe Mutombo! What was that?

Rachel: Because this is—this is an instrumental part of our relationship!

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: You bought a coupon for a mattress—

Griffin: Oh, that's right.

Rachel: —before you moved here.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It was like, a Groupon, and you purchase a mattress, but then when we decided to move in together, we kept my mattress, 'cause we decided it was better.

Griffin: It was, yeah. This was not a very good mattress. But I—

Rachel: So I was shaking my finger sayin'—

Griffin: Yeah, you—it was really wild.

Rachel: —this is historically important to the foundation of who we are as a couple.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So, how dare you? [laughs]

Griffin: It was a filthy—it was a filthy bed. Anyway, uh, that was a long, long story of the last time I used Craigslist.

Rachel: Yeah. Okay. [laughs] So, I think part of the reason I was using Craigslist so much in Chicago was that it was 2004.

Griffin: And it was hot then? It was—

Rachel: It was pretty hot. So, Craigslist started in, uh, actually started in 1995.

Griffin: Wow, okay.

Rachel: Which is wild to me, 'cause I had no awareness, but it started in San Francisco.

Griffin: I was gonna say probably—

Rachel: Specifically San Francisco Bay, and it was Craig Newmark. He had just recently gotten laid off from Charles Schwab, and had some programming... knowledge?

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And so he decided he was gonna start this real casual, like, email chain about local events. Uh, and then it kind of turned into a Listserv as more people requested like, "Oh, I would love to get on your email list!" And so then it became a Listserv—

Griffin: God, I love old internet.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: It's so good.

Rachel: Uh, and so then, at the end of 1997, he turned it into a website, uh, and then a company in early 1999. Um, but he said that he was getting volunteer help in the beginning of it. It was like, '97, '98. Uh, and he was still working like, a full time job. And it was just growing and growing and growing, and so in 1999, when he was 42, he just started this website, and it looks pretty much the same as when he started it.

Griffin: Yeah, I was gonna say. This—this thing has not gone through a lot of changes, I'm assuming.

Rachel: He said that they like, did outreach to figure out what people wanted, and people were like, "We don't really want anything fancy, we just wanna be able to click on something."

Griffin: It is so viciously functional.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It is like, so—I remember the first time I used it was to sell one of those big, big things in Chicago, and I put it off 'cause I didn't know what to do and eBay really stressed me out, but it's literally like—

Rachel: So easy.

Griffin: You type in what you want, you click the link, and you get a email, and that's like, it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Now, Craigslist is, uh, a pretty successful company.

Griffin: Yeah, I would assume.

Rachel: Uh, even if you're not somebody that's using it currently, Newmark, while he doesn't have an active role, still owns 42% of the company. Uh, and that company is estimated—Forbes estimated that it is worth at least 3 billion dollars.

Griffin: Holy shit!

Rachel: And so at 40% of the company, he owns at least—or he's worth at least 1.3 billion.

Griffin: Damn.

Rachel: Just for this like, little website where he said like, "Hey, you wanna advertise your job?"

Griffin: That could buy you a lot of old, beat-up-ass bicycles on Craigslist.

Rachel: [laughs] Part of it is that they started charging for job postings. Uh, or for like, very high traffic, you know, revenue-based opportunities. So like, New York City apartments, you have to pay, too.

Uh, when it began in 1998, they charged \$25 for job postings to cover costs. Um, and they also charged for things like ticket sales and automobiles, stuff that are like, high revenue, high traffic items.

Um, but I—I don't know! I think it's great. I think it's great that it still exists. I think it's great that it's all over the place. I know when I moved, um, to Columbia, Missouri, briefly after Chicago, um, I was still using—I mean, it's like it's a—if you

move to a new city and you don't know kind of what the regional job search engines are, Craigslist is a great place to—to get your toes wet.

Griffin: Yeah, it filled the need, I would say, in the early... what I would be curious—I don't wanna take it to a bumper place, but I would be curious to hear like, how Craigslist and its development affected, uh... which is to say like, devastated the like, actual print, uh, like, personal ad, uh, industry. Like, I have to imagine it just des—just took it out.

Rachel: I mean, to be honest, the internet in general...

Griffin: Yeah, I guess that's fair.

Rachel: ... strongly impacted the print industry. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, I guess in every conceivable way, that's true.

Rachel: I don't think you can blame Craig on that.

Griffin: Uh, I'll brame—blame Craig for whatever I want. Uh—

Rachel: Do you know any Craigs in your life, by the way?

Griffin: Hmm, do I know any—see, I'm gonna say know, and then I'mma get a email from like, my best friend Craig, and he'll be like, "What the fuck, man?"

Rachel: I knew exactly one Craig in high school.

Griffin: You know what I'm struggling with, is I keep thinking of them and then I realize they're Gregs.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I say something? I know a lot of badass Gregs. I know a lot of really, really, really good Gregs.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I think I only knew one Greg growing up. He was okay.

Griffin: Uh, yeah. I've—as I've put away my childish things—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: —I've sort of grown a mature nose, a mature taste for a nice Greg.

Rachel: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm, a nice Greg.

Griffin: A nice, heady, oaky Greg.

Rachel: A nice 2003 Greg.

Griffin: Mmm, from—yes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: From the southern California vineyard.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: This is Greg.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You're going to love him. Smell him first. Smell Greg first. Do you wanna smell Greg's cork? Yes? Yes.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: What is the cork?

Griffin: [sniffs] The—it's a cork.

Rachel: Oh, okay, good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: He just pops it out of his mouth. [popping noise] Lemme smell that. [sniffs] All right! Yeah, I'll take this Greg.

Rachel: [laughs] Hey, can I steal you away?

[the Home Improvement theme plays, but every beat is accompanied by a popping noise]

Rachel: Hey, Griffin, did you know we have some sponsors this week?

Griffin: I sure hope so. [sighs] Money. Need... money.

Rachel: What's happening to you? [laughs]

Griffin: Ugh... eugh... bills.

Rachel: Uh, our first sponsor's Third Love!

Griffin: All right!

Rachel: Are you familiar with Third Love?

Griffin: I am... yes, very familiar with Third Love.

Rachel: If I opened my drawer..

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ... could you pick out what Third Love bras, uh, are in there? Just on sight alone?

Griffin: Uhh, well, first of all, you know, if I see that stuff, I'm gonna get really horny, and not be able to think straight.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [snorts]

Rachel: Just in the drawer? [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, man. If I see these things and I know what they're used for—

Rachel: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Griffin: —I'm just gonna go—I'm gonna go horny crazy.

Rachel: [laughing] Okay.

Griffin: And I won't be able to think right, and so I won't—you won't be able to get me to, you know, do anything for you then.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, you should—you should recognize Third Love bras, because they are incredibly comfortable. They have tagless labels, they won't slip, they're lightweight, and they have memory foam cups.

Griffin: Hey!

Rachel: These are some clues, in the future. Uh, you should also know that, um, you can find your perfect size online, and that's easy, because there are more than 70 sizes.

Griffin: [softly] Wow.

Rachel: Yeah, it's incredible. Uh, Third Love knows that there's a perfect bra for everyone, so right now they are offering listeners 15% off your first order! Go to Thirdlove.com/wonderful now to find your perfect fitting bra and get 15% off your first purchase. That's Thirdlove.com/wonderful, for 15% off today.

Griffin: Hey baby, what's a Rothy's?

Rachel: A Rothy's is a shoe!

Griffin: Ohh.

Rachel: I have—

Griffin: The fo—the foot bra! [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Man, I bet you that that is like, a search term you can plug into YouTube—

Rachel: Oh...

Griffin: —and just get a lot of—

Rachel: I would love to go to a shoe store and ask that question.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "Where do you keep your foot bras?"

Griffin: "Yeah, please."

Rachel: Uh, Rothys are stylish, sustainable and comfortable enough for everyday wear. They are made from recycled plastic water bottles, and they're machine washable! Uh, I have a pair of Rothys in red and a pair in blue, uh, and I could wear them honestly every day. Um, they're super comfortable and they match almost anything.

Griffin: Well, I mean, if you wore 'em everyday you'd have to pick... which one—the red or the blue one, and so now imagine me, and it's like a Matrix joke, and I'm holdin' 'em out to you.

Rachel: [laughs] So I wear—I wear red with a—with a black, uh, clothing item, or—

Griffin: Like a tr—black trench coat?

Rachel: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah. With some black sunglasses.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [laughs] Uh, check out all the amazing styles available right now at [Rothys.com/wonderful](https://www.rothys.com/wonderful). Go to [Rothys.com/wonderful](https://www.rothys.com/wonderful) to get your new favorite flats! They also have kids' shoes now, by the way.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Comfort, style, and sustainability: these are the shoes you've been waiting for. Head to Rothys.com/wonderful today!

Griffin: Uh, got a couple Jumbotrons. Before we get to them, uh, we have an important announcement.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Yes. Jumbotron spots—

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: —uh, for the rest of—

Rachel: Starting today! Listeners can head to Maximumfun.org to enter the draw—

Griffin: Oh, okay. I thought it was like a real quick thing, but no, it's—I'll take—

Rachel: Yeah, no, you've got some time. But, you know, if you know you wanna get in there, you can start today!

Griffin: Get in there. Starting today, you can head to Maximumfun.org/jumbotrongrawing and you can enter a drawing to purchase one of the limited Jumbotron spots on Wonderful.

Just to say that again, because I think at first glance it's kind of strange, but you enter a drawing to purchase one of spots. Usually the—you know, we only do two of these a show and we do, what, 52 episodes a year? So there's not a ton of availability for these, so this is how we—we manage it.

Uh, and the drawing closes on July 24th, so... we're only accepting personal messages from now on, uh, if you haven't picked up on that, so no more business messages. But if you have a shout out that you want for, uh, a buddy, a loved one, whoever, uh, you—you should enter this drawing! Uh, also the air date that you pick is estimated, not guaranteed, because again it's real, real tight out here, so

for all the details go the Maximumfun.org/jumbotrongrawing, uh, or you can email Daniel@Maximumfun.org if you have any other questions, but—

Rachel: It closes on July 24th. Did we say that?

Griffin: I think th—I think that's the third time.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: But people know for damn sure what day this thing is over. Uh, here's a Jumbotron for Mike, and it's from Maggie, who says:

"I wanted to get you a regularly scheduled D&D game for Christmas, but instead I got you a few seconds of McElroys. Happy f—" should we like, prolong... just get him a few extra seconds? Like, [speaks slowly] ooh, happy four year... anni... versary?

Rachel: [speaks slowly] Mi-i-ike?

Griffin: [speaks slowly] Mike? [normal speed] "To a kick butt partner, friend, and co-dog parent. Piglet and I both love you very much, even when you eat cheese. Here is your forever reminder that sharks aren't mammals, and crabs are definitely not fish."

Jury's still out on the last two sentences in this—in this Jumbotron.

Rachel: Yeah. Sharks... sharks are mammals, right?

Griffin: Sharks are mammals, because they blast 'em out, no eggs, right? They just blast 'em out?

Rachel: Mm-hmm. What about crabs, though?

Griffin: Crab's a fish. It lives in the water forever.

Rachel: Is crab a fish?

Griffin: Crab—well, crab comes—

Rachel: Crustacean is like a thing.

Griffin: Shit, shit.

Rachel: Crustacean's a thing.

Griffin: Crab come out of the water though, doesn't it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Well piss, I don't know anymore.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's one, uh, for Delaney Bloomquist, and it's from Hannah, who says:

"Dear friend, you may be in Chicago by now. I tried over and over to write you a suitable ode for Villanelle—Villanelle? Viyaney?"

Rachel: [laughs] Viyaneya.

Griffin: You know about word—like, writings.

Rachel: It's—it's Villanelle.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I'm pretty sure.

Griffin: Viyanelle? Viya—I'm gonna just take all possible permutations of it real fast. Villanelle, Viyanelle, Villaneu, Viyaneu—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I'll just edit in the one that's right. It's almost certainly not Viyaneu. But anyway, "I am limited by words and word count, so I will just say that we/you/I miss/missed/will miss you/us/me. Write me a letter! Or just yell real loud. I'll keep my ears open. Give me love to tomorrow, I'm sure I'll see you there."

Aw, that's nice and beautiful and I feel bad for... just takin' so many swings at that one word.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But that's what you get when you step to us with these messages, assuming that we're smart and gonna read 'em good, 'cause guess what, folks? Only one of us is.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And it's not me.

[music plays]

Janet: Hey! I'm Janet Varney. And like many of you, some more recent than others, I used to be a teenager. In fact, just about all of my friends were too, including wonderful women like Alison Brie.

Alison: I'm dead center on the balance beam. And this is like, a big gym. All the kids' parents are there, watching. I have to stop, like when you have to pee so bad and you can't even move, and then I just go.

Janet: Oh, no. [laughs]

Alison: I just pee right in the middle of the high balance beam.

Janet: So join me every week on the JV Club podcast, where I speak with complicated, funny, messy humans as we reminisce about our adolescences and how they led us to becoming who we are. Find it every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[music plays]

Griffin: Hey, wanna know about my second thing?

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Get it. Check it. Ready? Bubbles.

Rachel: Ohh, good.

Griffin: And this is not a thing of me like, infantilizing myself for comedic effect. Uh, Henry is really into bubbles right now, and—

Rachel: Oh my gosh, yes.

Griffin: —it's a nice phase. I get it, like, I've always gotten it. They float and that's fun.

Rachel: You say right now, but he's pretty much always been into bubbles.

Griffin: He's always been into bubbles, that's fine. This past weekend you got a new bubble blower, and I really looked at these bubbles, 'cause—

Rachel: It's called Fubbles.

Griffin: It's called Fubbles, and it blows a f—I think it's called that because it blows a fuck-ton of bubbles.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I think they originally were gonna call it Fuck-ton of Bubbles, but they changed it to just Fubbles. And I was lookin' at these bubbles, and man, these things look cool.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: They look really neat! Like, the colors of 'em, and the way that they swirl around and stuff?

Rachel: Yes. Griffin and I had like, a real moment of appreciation where we realized we knew nothing about bubbles and how they work. [laughs]

Griffin: And I have had lots of opportunities to learn about bubbles and how they work. I have been to many children's science museums, and just—I guess it's been in one ear and out the other.

Rachel: Have you stood inside a bubble? That's always a thing.

Griffin: I haven't stood outside the b—inside a bubble. Uh, Co-Sci had the thing that I think every children's science museum... that's the Columbus Science Institute or whatever. Uh, the thing where you like, drop the rope in the bubble fluid and you lift it up and it makes like, a huge-ass bubble.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's my jam. I love that. Um, so yeah. I never, I guess, really paid attention in bubble class, but here's how bubbles work: a bubble is just air, and it's trapped in a soapy film.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And you probably knew that much already—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: —but did you know, it's actually two layers of soapy film? There's an interior layer and an exterior layer, and they are sandwiching a—another layer of water. So it's two—it's technically two layers of soap that are sort of containing a water layer, and when that water layer evaporates, which can happen, you know, just naturally, or if you poke it and break the seal it'll evaporate very, very quickly, that's what causes the bubble to pop.

Rachel: Ohh.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: That explains why if you've got like, a soapy hand, they don't pop right away.

Griffin: If you have a soapy hand and they won't pop, yeah, hardly at all, because when you stick your finger in there, you are just forming a new seal of the—of the bubble stuff.

Um, bubbles are round because a—a sphere is the shape with the smallest surface area possible, which is I guess what air likes to—likes to hop into. Um, but when you blow, you know, two bubbles into each other, they will fuse, because now they can just share one—one wall, and you can form like, a hexagon of, uh, of bubbles fairly easily.

Rachel: That's so romantic.

Griffin: It is so...

Rachel: Griffin?

Griffin: They get the—they get horny power, just like bras. It's just like, and then they go for it.

Rachel: Griffin, you're my bubble.

Griffin: Aww, baby!

Rachel: And together we're one bubble.

Griffin: Well... two—

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: —two bubbles sharing a common wall.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: That sounds actually really bad, so we're not bubbles at all, okay?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We're one big bubble.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Uh, so, the color. The color of these bad boys.

Rachel: Yeah, how does that work?

Griffin: Uh, it's—it is an effect like—it looks like some Labyrinth shit, and it—it's so good. It's an effect of water refracting off both layers of film on this thing. Off the like, external layer of film and the internal layer of film, and the water sort of swirling around through it.

So when you look at a bubble and you see like, the color like, moving and morphing like, around the surface of the bubble, it is an effect of essentially like, three different things kind of moving around and refracting light.

Rachel: Do you remember that time where you blew smoke into a bubble?

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: And then you popped the bubble and the smoke would just...

Griffin: Yeah, we had a hookah at a, uh, like, lake house weekend, and also bubbles, for some reason.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This was—this was a long time ago, back when we used to like, go to lake houses and just fuck them up.

Rachel: And we would still buy frivolous purchases.

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, God.

Rachel: And—and not functional sandwich bread.

Griffin: And smoke a hookah without, you know, death. Without dying instantly. Um, and so, bubbles are also reflective. They not only refract light, they will reflect, like—if you get real close to them, you see all these cool, moving around colors, and then you also see your own face, and that's nice.

Bubbles are just cool, man! I don't—I don't necessarily—I don't enjoy blowin' a bubble very much, because I'm very inconsistent with it, and I feel like every bubble brand you buy, their wands are different, and some wands are just bullshit, and there's no way that you can generate a good—like, I never know when I've done a good enough job.

But we have machines for that, and that's really nice, and Henry will just lose his mind as he dances around in thousands of bubbles.

Rachel: Oh my gosh, he likes, uh, fighting the bubbles, which is just wonderful to watch.

Griffin: Well, yeah. I don't know that it's a good in—he's very into superheroes, which is a lot of punching and kicking, except for PJ Masks, which is bo-o-ring! I got to watch Spider-man and I'm like, "Does he have to punch so much?"

Rachel: Spider-man... well, Spider-man, though... Henry has picked up on, on the web slinger function.

Griffin: Oh my God.

Rachel: And so he'll stick his hand out and say "Sticky web."

Griffin: Oh, he says "Ticky web." And then he also makes a, no joke, pitch perfect Sp—

Rachel: A really great noise!

Griffin: Like, [imitates web slinger]. I can't even do it with my mouth. He's better than I am, but it sounds just like "thwip." Uh, but anyway, bubbles are cool. I got some bubble records here for you. You wanna know some bubble records?

Rachel: Oh, like—like bubble high water marks? [laughs]

Griffin: Yes. Uh, this is from the, uh, Guinness World Records site. Uh, and it's amazing for so many reasons, the most of which being the names of, uh, uh... okay, I think I only have one in here, um, but there are certain like, bubbles teams. There are like, bubbles events, and like, bubbles brands, like you might find in like, the skateboards industry.

Rachel: Ohh.

Griffin: So there's a—a John Erck of Extreme—capital X-treme Bubbles—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Who, in October 9th, 2005, blew the Guinness World Record largest free-floating soap bubble. It was 105.4 cubic feet in size. That's nearly three cubic

meters. If the bubble were filled with water, it would hold 788 gallons and weigh 3.2 tons. To give you another idea of its size, 13,627 baseballs would fit inside it.

Rachel: Phew!

Griffin: Pretty big-ass bubble.

Rachel: I gotta—I gotta check this out on YouTube. Can we do that tonight?

Griffin: So, there's a website that the Guinness tr—tried to redirect me to called something like Worldsbiggestbubble.com, and it did not load.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: They have not re-upped their domain purchase.

Rachel: But we can find it.

Griffin: Hopefully. Uh, Alan McKay of Wellington, New Zealand created a 105 foot long bubble on August 9th, 1996. he use a bubble wand, dish washing liquid, glycerin, and water. Uh, and I saw a picture of this bad boy. This is a big motherf—you—105 feet is so big, and this is just one continuous, huge, long, proud bubble member.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, and then one last one. Uh, Ray Macaraeg of San Jose, California, uh, blew 119 soap bubbles from a standard child's soap bubble container in 30 seconds—

Rachel: Oh my gosh.

Griffin: —on September 5th, in 2001, on the set of L'Émission des Records in Paris, France, while having a live tarantula in his mouth.

[extended pause]

Griffin: [loudly and distantly] The twist ending on this record. [normally] The twist—Shyamalan-esque twist ending on this record.

Rachel: Yeah! Does that mean... that there's another record out there that's like, "He blew this bubble while having a garden snake in his mouth."

Griffin: Yeah. Maybe.

Rachel: "And he blew this bubble... [hesitantly] while having a small child's toy in his mouth."

Griffin: Yeah. Couldn't think of a small child's toy, which is wild, 'cause we have so many of them.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm gonna call bullshit on this though, 'cause there's no way that tarantula wasn't helping out. If that's tarantula was—

Rachel: Oh, you think it was like, blowing a little bit too?

Griffin: I think if you're a tarantula and you're in some dude's mouth, that's not a good situation for you, but if you see the cameras and you know the Guinness people are there and you know he's trying to blow a bunch of bubbles, you're gonna put a little bit of back into it, I think.

Rachel: Well, and you also have to imagine this tarantula has been training with this man, too.

Griffin: Oh, I don't think this was a lark.

Rachel: So like, there's gotta be a reward system associated with this.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: Like, if you do good I'm gonna—

Griffin: Let you out of my—my human mouth.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's not where spiders like to be.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Hey, what's your second thing?

Rachel: My second thing is The Wonder Years.

Griffin: The TV show!

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Not the... years themselves.

Rachel: The TV show.

Griffin: Okay. The wonder years were like... I would say like... '98 to 2002? Had some pretty good times in there.

Rachel: [laughing] Oh yeah? Okay.

Griffin: I don't know this show at all, so that's—that's literally all of my input on this segment.

Rachel: So I've kind of touched on this a little bit. So way back in episode 7, I talked about how I like TV shows with narrators.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Uh, but I—and I've also, um, probably mentioned it casually because it was such a huge show for me when I was growing up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I love it so much.

Griffin: And also you wanna french Fred Savage.

Rachel: [pauses] So—

Griffin: You wanna french Fred Savage, it's fi—like, it's fine. You've always wanted to—

Rachel: The only fan letter I've ever written was to Fred Savage.

Griffin: Uh-huh? Uh-huh?

Rachel: When I was a small child.

Griffin: Yeah. Do you remember any of the details?

Rachel: No, I don't I just know that I got the address from the back of a book at the library.

Griffin: Nice.

Rachel: Um, I have seen a lot of Fred Savage vehicles, by the way.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: I was reading about *The Wonder Years*, and I have seen movies like *The Boy Who Could Fly*, and *Vice Versa* was another Fred Savage—

Griffin: Didn't see that one.

Rachel: And—and, you know—

Together: The Wizard.

Griffin: Of course.

Rachel: Yeah, of course. So wh—

Griffin: And, Grinder. Ohh, Grinder!

Rachel: Oh, The Grinder.

Griffin: Pour one out for Grinder, my sweet shadow boys.

Rachel: [laughs] So, *The Wonder Years* was on ABC from 1988 to '93, 115 episodes, so it hit that hundred mark that gets them syndication.

Griffin: Gets that sweet syndication, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. Uh, Fred Savage played Kevin Arnold, which was a, uh, adolescent boy growing up in 1968. So it was great, because it was something my parents were interested in, and me too, because it kind of reflected their childhood, and it was also interesting to me, because it was very relatable.

Griffin: [under his breath] And you wanna french Fred Savage.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's fine. Like, you gr—I think you've grandfathered in Fred Savage. Like, you've wanted to french him for so long.

Rachel: You're—you're just wild about this. I'm just gonna s—skirt right past this... jealousy you have for Fred Savage.

Griffin: [laughs quietly] It's not jealousy! It's complete understanding.

Rachel: Well, I mean, you were a Winnie Cooper fan, right?

Griffin: I didn't watch the show.

Rachel: Have you—you've seen it though, right?

Griffin: I have, yeah, but I wasn't—i—it—you—

Rachel: Oh, Griffin...

Griffin: You would be more—you're talking about the wrong Savage to this kid. If you wanna talk about Topanga—

Rachel: Oh, you're Ben.

Griffin: That's fine.

Rachel: You're Ben Savage.

Griffin: Seen every episode of that show. Love the shit out of it.

Rachel: That is the easiest way to describe so many differences between us.

Griffin: It really is the perfect, literal perfect like—

Rachel: Are you Fred Savage or Ben Savage?

Griffin: —bellwether, yeah.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [laughs] Uh, so Fred Savage, uh, was the youngest person to ever be nominated for Outstanding Lead Actor in a comedy series. After the show had only aired for six episodes, it was nominated for an Emmy Award.

Griffin: Holy shit.

Rachel: In 1990—or, sorry, 1988. So what was kind of remarkable about the show, um, was that it was a single camera setup, uh, used a narrator, and didn't have a laugh track. So for some context, the top shows in this time period were Cosby Show, Rosanne, A Different World, Cheers, uh, which all had either a laugh track or a studio audience.

Griffin: Huh. And this—it was nominated for comedy series, so that's what they—it never hit me as like, a come—it hit me as a comedy series in the same way that like, kind of Freaks and Geeks did, where it's like, this isn't laugh out loud funny, but it's a nice—

Rachel: Yeah, it's like what people would call dramedy.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. That's so interesting, because I feel like, uh... I forget what I was watching, but Malcolm in the Middle kind of did the same thing in the 90's.

Rachel: Exactly!

Griffin: Where it was like, everything was sitcom, multi-cam, live studio audience, or some approximation of it, and then Malcolm in the Middle came out and was like, "Actually, we can do a single camera comedy, uh, and have it have the production values of a drama." Yeah.

Rachel: I feel like... and that's—that's the thing that kind of brought me back to The Wonder Years, is I feel like it was so, um, motivating for shows like My So Called Life, Freaks and Geeks, How I Met Your Mother, Malcolm in the Middle. This

idea of a—of a narrator that is kind of telling you a story, um, while still being like, kind of an active participant in the show, you know?

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Um, and I feel like... the thing I really liked about Wonder Years was that if you think about the time period, again, it was like, shows like Full House and Home Improvement, you know? Of like, these quirky, goofy families, you know, and everybody was kind of a specific kind of character. Um, and it didn't reflect a lot of depth. It was more about like, kind of what was happening on the show than who—what the characters were experiencing, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, Home Improvement had layers. I'm not gonna listen—
[laughs quietly]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I can't talk about that without thinking about that clip from the—the, uh—oh, shit, what was the Hulu documentary about the...

Rachel: Ohh, Dana Carvey.

Griffin: Dana Carvey show.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [laughs]

Griffin: Where the had the—[laughs] the Dana Carvey show was like, complete nonsense, wild, inscrutable humor, and they had a commercial showing like, some really, really, like, stupid thing that they were doing—

Rachel: Like a very special episode of Home Improvement.

Griffin: —following the—the episode of Home Improvement where, I think like, they'd found out that Mark might have cancer or something like that?

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: And then they showed that clip in the documentary of their like, wild, like—

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: Just—just—

Rachel: Stephen Colbert just like, cracks up.

Griffin: And—and then they show this Home Improvement commercial—oh my God, it was so funny.

Rachel: It's very good. So there was a lot of depth to *The Wonder Years*, and the narration I feel like was... I don't know, just so beautiful and poetic, and so I wanted to read you a little example from some of the narration.

So, the big thing with *The Wonder Years* is that they make a big deal out of taking place in the suburbs, because in the early to mid 60's, suburbs were relatively a new thing. In 1950, it was the first year that people lived in the suburbs more than anywhere else. Um, and it's a big—it's a big thing for the show, so here's some narration from the show:

"There was a time when the world was enormous, spanning the vast, almost infinite boundaries of your neighborhood. The place where you grew up, where you didn't think twice about playing on someone else's lawn. The street was your territory, and occasionally got invaded by a passing car. It was where you didn't get called home until after it was dark, and all the people and all the houses that surrounded you were as familiar as the things in your own room."

Isn't that beautiful?

Griffin: Yeah, that's really nice.

Rachel: And that's just like, the narration on the show! Like, that was like, every episode had this very like, beautiful, like, nostalgic but precise way of kind of addressing that time. Uh, and the pilot—

Griffin: The pilot's great. The pilot's the only thing I ever watched. I watched it with you, like, a few years ago.

Rachel: So it starts the summer before Kevin enters junior high, uh, and so you meet his family and his friends and his school, and you get a sense of the time period. Um, it's also where they, um—Kevin and Winnie have their first kiss, and

it was also the actors' first kiss, 'cause Kevin, as I mentioned, was played by Fred Savage, who was only 13 years old.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Um, and it's also—and this is—I guess this is a spoiler, but not really a spoiler?

Griffin: It's the pilot.

Rachel: Um, but Winnie's older brother, uh, they find out he has died in the Vietnam war, um, on that first episode. And it's—and it's really heavy. It reminds me a lot of that first episode of Friday Night Lights.

Griffin: Yup!

Rachel: Where you just kind of swing for the fence and say, "Hey, this is the reality we're creating, and there's this horrible thing that happens episode one, uh, that kind of informs a lot of the show."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, so yeah. Anyway... I could talk about this show a lot. I feel like it—it had a huge impact on me, to see characters on television that I felt like were smart and complex, and, you know, episodes where it wasn't like, "Oh, this week there's a monkey!" [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: [laughing] You know? That time period that was pretty rare.

Griffin: Just really goin' for Friends right now, how?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Friends had layers, too.

Rachel: No, that's—I was actually referencing an episode of Full House.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. There—I guess they did have some monkey.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Some monkey action in that one. Do you wanna know what our friends at home are talkin' about this week?

Rachel: Yes, please!

Griffin: Uh, GR says, "Microscopes are wonderful. What an intricate and beautiful world we live in. what wonderful things exist beyond what we can see through the naked eye."

Microscopes are very good.

Rachel: I was just thinkin' about microscopes recently!

Griffin: Cool.

Rachel: I think it was 'cause I was watching something with Henry, and they were talkin' about microscopes.

Griffin: Uh, well we watched that, uh, Kiwami Japan knife video where he was using the electronic microscope.

Rachel: Ohh, that's what it was. [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, here's one from Marica? I probably pronounced that wrong, sorry.

"My wonderful thing is going back to your hotel room after a long, busy day of vacation. I'm all about sightseeing when I travel, but there's nothing better than crawling into a fresh hotel bed at the end of the night with your partner and watching something on TV. It's the ultimate vacation chill time."

Fuck. Yes.

Rachel: Yes. Yes, yes, yes. [laughs]

Griffin: I will never forget the time when we were on our honeymoon in Japan and we were in Hakone, and we had just done the whole like, free pass loop, which is this huge circuit of different public transportation options all around the

entire city, and we got back to our hotel room and we were so tired. And we just laid in bed for like, six hours, and we watched that fucking horrible Passengers movie with Anne Hathaway?

Rachel: Oh yeah!

Griffin: We just wanted to watch something, and it was like, we just turned it on and just refused to turn it off.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It was just so nice to not be on our feet.

Rachel: It's one of those movies you figure out kind of in the first seven minutes.

Griffin: In the first seven minutes, you know exactly what is happening, and then they like, coyly like, "Is it—do they— Ooh!"

Rachel: "Hmm? Hmm?"

Griffin: Don't—don't watch it. It sucks. Don't—sometimes I hear people talk about the twist endings of bad movies and I'm like, "Ooh, I gotta know what that's all a—" don't. It's not good. Please.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, and last one here. This one is from, uh, Cheyenne, who says, "My small wonder is heat lightning. I love seeing the whole sky light up for a brief moment with that signature faint orange or pink glow, especially at night! It happens pretty often around here, but it never fails to leave me awestruck."

Yeah. Texas. Nonstop. Get that heat lightning all the time.

Rachel: It's so great! I didn't know that was a thing, I think, until I moved to Texas.

Griffin: We—I definitely saw it sometimes in—in West Virginia, but Te—I mean, Texas is like, you know, big sky country, gets hot and then it'll get weirdly wet very quickly, and then it just is heat lightning city. That's what they call Austin sometimes, is Lightning—

Rachel: Heat Lightning City.

Griffin: Heat City or Lightning City, something like—yeah, we have a lot of names.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. Uh, Maximum Fun! Maximumfun.org! Hey!

Rachel: It is just a superior place to find incredible podcasts. I would recommend, if you haven't gone to Maximumfun.org and just kind of browsed around, I am 100% sure you will find another show that you like as much as this one.

Griffin: Poke some links, man! JV Club, Janet Varney? Check it out!

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It's good stuff!

Rachel: Did you know, Sydnee, Teresa, and me have all been on it now.

Griffin: Oh, really?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That's great, yeah. It's a very, very good show. Um, yeah, but they have a lot of good shows, all at Maximumfun.org. We have other stuff at mcelroy.family. Um, hey! Buy my book!

Rachel: [laughs] You know you guys made that same joke?

Griffin: Buy my book!

Rachel: On MBMBaM?

Griffin: Probably, yeah. We're hacks. But, uh, our second graphic novel for The Adventure Zone comes out next Tuesday, July 16th.

Rachel: It's gonna be so good you guys, I'm really excited about it.

Griffin: I hope y'all like it. It's—it was a lot of work, but it's, uh—

Rachel: It's Murder on the Rockport Limited?

Griffin: It's Rockport, yeah. So it's a murder mystery, it's—

Rachel: Such a good story.

Griffin: —it's a lot of fun, and, uh—

Rachel: Griffin—this is where Griffin really hits his stride.

Griffin: Well thank you, baby. I appreciate that. I would argue that mid-Petals is where things start to pick up—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, but yeah. It comes out next Tuesday. I would really appreciate your support. You can preorder it now at theadventurezonecomic.com.

Rachel: Who's that character with the bow tie? Jamison?

Griffin: Uhh, Jenkins.

Rachel: Jenkins.

Griffin: Jamison's a good name, though. I'll save that.

Rachel: Jenkins is a great character.

Griffin: [audibly smiling] Thank you, I appreciate it.

Yeah, we're also gonna be doing some live shows for—not live shows, uh, like book tour stops where we're gonna do some Q&A with a moderator, and we're gonna do some live readings, uh—

Rachel: Yeah, special guests!

Griffin: We got special guests, yeah, doing the live readings. I'm very, very excited, uh—

Rachel: Do you know who your special guests are in Austin, Texas?

Griffin: Uh, we're getting some help from the, uh, from the Rooster Teeth squad.

Rachel: Oh, cool!

Griffin: Uh, yeah. They were—they were kind enough to come out and help us out. Uh, so yeah, you can find links to like, those, at mcelroy.family too. We're gonna be... Justin and I, uh, are gonna be in New York with Carey, the artist on the book, Carey Pietsch.

And then we're coming to Austin the day after that, and then, uh, Dad and Travis are gonna be doing Portland and Los Angeles, and then we're all regrouping in San Diego for Comic Con, to do our last stop, and then the day after that we're gonna be doing a live Adventure Zone episode of Dadlands, the game that we made up during the last Max Fun Drive.

Rachel: Oh my gosh. That's gonna be so good.

Griffin: It's gonna be very good. We have a special guest DM, where it's gonna be—it's gonna be a real hoot. We're really lookin' forward to it. All that's at mcelroy.family. Thank you all so much for indulging me for that. I'm not good at promoting [laughs] our work.

Rachel: You are not, actually.

Griffin: No, I am not.

Rachel: I will—I will confirm that.

Griffin: But here's something I'm gonna promote: I'm gonna... [wrestler voice] end the podcast so we can go watch the finale of Stranger Things, and I'm gonna eat a dilly bar!

Rachel: Who's this character?

Griffin: [wrestler voice] This is dilly bar Dave.

Rachel: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: [wrestler voice] He's gonna go—[laughs] downstairs and watch him a Netflix spooky drama.

Rachel: Is he a professional wrestler as well?

Griffin: [wrestler voice] Used to be! [whispers] In a past life...

Rachel: [laughs] Spooky.

Griffin: [wrestler voice] Do you—do you believe in reincarnation, ma'am?

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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April: Listen. We already know that you love genre movies, film craft, and female filmmakers. So, if you love all those things, then by transitive property, you love my podcast, Switchblade Sisters.

Hi, I'm film critic April Wolfe. Every week, I have a conversation with a different female filmmaker about their favorite genre film. Each episode covers the film making process, working in the film industry, and just like, general geeking out about awesome movies.

I've had such great guests, like The Big Sick writer Emily Gordon.

Emily Gordon: To me, indie movies as of late have come to be a catch all term for a movie that kind of defies genre.

April: Billy Madison and Half Baked director, Tamra Davis.

Tamra Davis: When a comedian comes and enters on to my set, they're—they're just there to be funny, and we're all ready and waiting for them to be funny.

April: Horror industry veteran and actor Barbara Crampton.

Barbara Crampton: That's where real drama lies, for me. What's—what's between you and I, speaking right now? Where are we meeting, and what's the energy that we create between us?

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