

Wonderful! 76: Shades

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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: And you know what else is wonderful? [singing] *Hey. Hey hey!
Baby you have our money! Don't you worry—It's MaxFunDrive time, and—*

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I thought that we could pitch that as the theme song to MaxFun, and see what they thought about it?

Rachel: Hey Griffin?

Griffin: Hey?

Rachel: You know what I heard?

Griffin: What?

Rachel: I heard it's the MaxFunDrive. Did you hear that?

Griffin: Bull shit!

Rachel: Oh, come on.

Griffin: That happens in... Jeb-uary.

Rachel: You're always a skeptic. But I promise, this is not a "boy who cried wolf" situation. This is a "girl who cried FunDrive", and it's true.

Griffin: I can't believe you called me a skeptic. Just cause I think that earth is...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Hollow. And I believe in a month called “Jebuary” that is a secret month between March and April. I cannot believe you just said that. On our love show, that we do. And people are like “You’re so in love!”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It is MaxFunDrive time though, and it’s the most wonderful time of year because you get to show your support for the stuff that you like, which hopefully if you’re listening to this show... you know, includes us.

And you can support us directly by going to maximumfun.org/donate, and giving an amount that you feel comfortable givin’ to us, monthly! And because of this support we’ve been doing—some version of McElroy shows have been on the network for eight years now. This is our eighth MaxFunDrive, which is wild!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And because of the support we’ve gotten, uh, you know, we’ve been able to turn this into full-time careers, so, um... Yeah. Your support has changed our lives, and if you are a new listener, or maybe you’re listening to more shows, you know... We hope you think about donating!

Rachel: For sure! It’s—it’s something that we don’t ask for most of the time, but once a year we designate a little time to say “Hey! Thanks for listening. Would you consider helping us out?”

Griffin: Yeah. So we’re gonna talk more about, like, the pledge gifts you can get, and all kinds of stuff a little bit later on. But before we get to that, hey! Rachel. You got any small wonders?

Uh-oh. I always see that there’s a look that Rachel gives me that I know she doesn’t have a small wonder.

Rachel: [laughing] Um... I did not plan one, but let me tell you what I am grateful for when I finish this sentence, and the end of the sentence is coming, so I'm gonna say sssss—

Griffin: Oh! Starts with an S!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: It definitely starts with an S, I can tell you that much for sure.

Rachel: [Still laughing] You go first!

Griffin: Okay, I got two. One, got some new key caps in for my keyboard.

Rachel: They're beautiful!

Griffin: They're beautiful. It's like a sunset gradient?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Going from the top keys to the space bar. It's beautiful! I'm wild about it. And number two, I got to go to FSU earlier this week, the week we're recording this—

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And do a lecture for the students there. And it, uh—it was really great! I've never done anything like that before, and, uh—

Rachel: That's so cool.

Griffin: —and there were some nice thoughtful questions, and it went—it went so good! And it was nice to, you know, talk to young—young folks. It was good, I liked it.

Rachel: Did it make you think that you talk to me all the time and I never pay you for it?

Griffin: I did actually have that talk, and I have an invoice—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: —that I've been meaning actually to send your way. Do you have a small wonder now, finally?

Rachel: I do, finally now. Our son has started to learn colors.

Griffin: Uh-huh?

Rachel: And a lot of times he just walks around pointing stuff out, and it's just like I'm watching the whole world in front of him, like, explode.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Because he's just like—He recognizes that things are things, and that they also have colors.

Griffin: And properties, yeah—

Rachel: So he'll point at stuff, and he'll be like "Green!" like it's just occurring to him. Like this is a thing, and also it has a color. And it's the best.

Griffin: That's rad. He's also learned recently, um, defiance.

Rachel: Well yeah, that—s not so wonderful.

Griffin: That part is rough!

Rachel: I came up with a name for it, though.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: "Post-Mickey Meltdown." [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah.

Rachel: It's a "PMM".

Griffin: Yeah. Can't wait to take him to Disney World for a week!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Let's see how that goes. Hey, what's your first thing though?

Rachel: My first thing... Is Missy Elliot.

Griffin: [Inhales deeply, exhales] Oh, yeah. God that's the good stuff right there.

Rachel: She has slowly over the past few years been reminding us that she is very much still a force.

Griffin: Oh, for sure!

Rachel: Cause her time period really peaked between, like, 1997 and 2005, and then she kind of went dark, and I feel like people kind of maybe forgot about Missy.

Griffin: Yeah. She had, uh, Graves disease? Is that what it's called?

Rachel: Yes, yes.

Griffin: And she sort of went in the background and was doing production stuff for a while, and then came back – Was the Super Bowl when she sort of like–

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Reared her head – God! That was so fucking good.

Rachel: Yes! Yes. Uh, so, Missy Elliot... I think—I don't know actually if this new generation really knew about her.

Griffin: Hmm. [Considering.]

Rachel: But I know she was very much a presence when we were growing up.

Griffin: Absolutely!

Rachel: Uh, so I had *So Addictive* which was her 2001 album, and that was the one that had "One Minute Man" and "Get Ur Freak On", like—

Griffin: [Exhales in awe/respect]

Rachel: Yeah. She was just inducted actually, last month into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame. Which is something you can only become eligible for after twenty years from your first commercial release.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: Uh, and so she is the first female rapper and the only other rapper besides Jay-Z to be inducted.

Griffin: That's kind of...

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: That's wild that there's not more rappers in the Songwriter's—

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: What the fuck else do you... Yeah, I don't know...

Rachel: I think it's the longevity that's required. The twenty year career—

Griffin: Yeah, maybe.

Rachel: Like you've got to keep active for a long time before they'll let you in.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true.

Rachel: So I didn't realize like—You know that Missy Elliot guests on a lot of other tracks?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: But I didn't realize that she has done a lot of writing for other artists? Including Destiny's Child, Mariah Carey, Monica, N-Sync, Whitney Houston... uh, Aliyah—

Griffin: Wow!

Rachel: Ciara, and Janet Jackson.

Griffin: Like yeah, I knew she collaborated and done some production work, I did not realize—

Rachel: Writer-producer.

Griffin: Yeah sure. That's wild!

Rachel: She made her debut in 1993 because she helped write Raven Simone's Debut single "That's What Little Girls Are Made Of". [laughing]

Griffin: [laughing] Okay! I haven't heard that—I haven't heard that track but I bet it slaps! For sure.

Rachel: She has written more than 500 songs, and has won 5 Grammy awards, and sold over 30 million records in the United States. Which according to Billboard in 2017, made her the best-selling female rapper. Ever.

Griffin: Uh. Wow, yeah. I never—I—yeah, I had never thought of it that way, but I don't know who would come close to competing with that—that body of work.

Rachel: Yeah, so she—I found this quote that I really liked from this story that they did on her in 2017 in Elle magazine.

It said "While other rappers were adversarial, making you feel broke or uncool, or backed up against despair, Missy was inviting us to join her party. Others insulted us for listening, told us about what we didn't have, didn't own, and couldn't brag about, whereas Missy said 'Forget who you are, forget what you heard, and come dance with me.'"

Which I just think is a really great way to summarize kind of her like...
Emergence, onto the scene.

Griffin: You know what I love the most about that?

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: Is that there are other artists who, like, I think conceptually try and do the same thing, and none of them are nearly as— like LMFAO, right? Is that—I mean the idea of—

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: I'm making a serious point here! Like, the idea of "Party Rock" and like, come on! Let's just get wild! And like a lot of the Black-Eyed Pea's stuff —

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Which is... fine. But like it is sort of her whole ethos? And also it's some of the best fucking, like, music ever.

Rachel: Yeah. And I think, part of what drew me back to her is just my interest in Lizzo. Like Lizzo is obviously—like, people have noticed...

Lately when we were talking about her, she was kind of like becoming really popular, and now it's just like every month she has a new incredible track out. And—

Griffin: Yeah. It's like this uplifting, like, positivity.

Rachel: Yeah! Exactly. And I just, I feel like Lizzo... probably owes a lot to Missy Elliot, for just bringing forward this, like, "female rapper who's just like positivity, party-starting." In a big way.

Griffin: Yeah. Lizzo is blowing up right now, and I could not be fucking happier to see it!

Rachel: [laughing] I know! I know.

Griffin: I feel like I've seen like 5 different Lizzo features come out in the last, like, two months.

Rachel: Yeah. So she started out in high school, and she just happened to know Timbaland and Pharrell Williams, growing up.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay!

Rachel: So they used to, like, get together, and start playing songs together—

Griffin: That's awesome!

Rachel: —when they were in high school. But yeah, as you mentioned, she had all of these great albums, *Supa Dupa Fly*, *Under Construction*—

Griffin: Which one had "Lose Control"?

Rachel: "Lose Control" was on *The Cookbook* in 2005.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And that was her last album that came out.

Griffin: Before she—Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. And I wanted to play a little bit of that.

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Rachel: [laughs]

[Audio clip from *The Cookbook* plays]

Rachel: After *The Cookbook* came out, she started to feel ill, and suffer dizzy spells, and have unexplained weight loss, which was a large part of her taking time off. And then she was diagnosed with the thyroid condition "Grave's Disease". Everyone was talking about how much weight she lost,

thinking it was some big, lik, fitness craze, and it's actually the result of this illness she had.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um... so what Griffin referenced is that in 2015 Katy Perry asked her to appear for two and a half minutes in the middle of the Super Bowl. And at that point she hadn't released an album since Cookbook, and she was super anxious. Apparently, she was, like, having a panic attack the night before, that required medical care—

Griffin: Oh shit.

Rachel: Cause she hadn't been out in front of people—

Griffin: Yeah! And then you're doing the Super Bowl!

Rachel: Yeah! Uh, but so she came out and sang samples of "Get Ur Freak On", "Work it", and "Lose Control". And then apparently 24 hours later, it was downloaded twenty thousand times, hitting the number one spot on iTunes.

Because everyone's like—You know, either they're like "Who is this person? This is incredible!" Or they're like "I haven't heard Missy Elliot in ten years and I super want to listen to her music again."

Uh, so I also wanted to play some of her recent stuff. So at this point, she's in her mid—forties, but she's slowly working her way back into the scene. In January 2017, she came out with a track "I'm Better", and before that she came out in 2015 with a single with Pharrell, called "WTF". So Griffin, I'll let you pick. [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, I'll play that "I'm Better" track. I'll listen to that today.

[“I'm Better” by Missy Elliot plays]

Rachel: So the other thing that was teased on her YouTube page in 2017, was a documentary about Missy Elliot.

Griffin: Yeah, I'm there.

Rachel: And they filmed some, like, testimonials from a lot of her collaborators, and so it looks like part of it has been filmed, but has not been released yet. I do not know when it's going to be released.

Griffin: Day one. Day one, I'm there, day one.

Rachel: [laughs] Oh, okay. I thought you were trying to give me a hint as to when it was going to be released.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: I was like "2020? January 20—"

Griffin: It's day one of the 2020 Olympics!

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, I don't actually know. But I'm very much looking forward to it. I just like... When I was listening to her music again, preparing to talk about her... There are no, like—there are disappointment tracks.

Griffin: No!

Rachel: Like, ever. She's incredible. I love her.

Griffin: And her—her, uh, aesthetic is like nothing else that I've ever seen before.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Her music videos are invariably... buck-wild, start to finish. Like, unforgettably, like... Unforgettably, like, strange? And almost like... What's the word I'm looking for? Not combative. There's an element of it that's just like "Wow you're really—you're comin' after me!"

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah!

Griffin: They all have that screen-shake, every time the beat really drops, where you're like "Whoa, damn!"

Rachel: And she has that, like... That, um... that growl she does on a lot of her tracks?

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: That just, like, always get me so—

Griffin: It's so fucking good! Yeah—

Rachel: So hype.

Griffin: Man I love Miss Elliot.

Rachel: Mm—hmm. [Agreement]

Griffin: Can I do my first thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My first thing is sectionals.

Rachel: Ohh!

Griffin: Sectionals sofas. I wanna talk about sectionals sofas though.

Rachel: Yes! Griffin and I...

Griffin: Go ahead and tell—go ahead and tell 'em!

Rachel: Okay. [laughs] So for years, we've been together. And we had not taken that step.

Griffin: [laughs] No.

Rachel: As a couple—

Griffin: [still laughing] No.

Rachel: And then just recently, we said “We’re ready. Let’s do it. Let’s pick out one.”

Griffin: [In a voice choked up with emotion] Big leap! A big leap.

Rachel: And...

Griffin: [regular voice] It’s good.

Rachel: It’s changed everything.

Griffin: It’s really, really good. I’m all about, like, peak functionality from the furniture that I own, and just, like, you can’t beat a sectional in that regard. Uh, and owning a sectional in my own house is very exciting to me because actually, uh, it’s been a while since I’ve been a part of the sectional team. We had one in the house growing up.

[Both gasp in awe]

Griffin: I know!

Rachel: Oh, so jealous!

Griffin: When I was in middle school, we had this, like, back storage room on the house and a backyard, and we tore that out and put in a basketball court and a family room, and in the family room we put a sectional sofa. And it was dope! It had so much stuff. It had, like, a lounge section, it had a fold down—

Rachel: Did it have the recliner?

Griffin: Yes! It had two recliners. It had a fold down tray with cup holders in it!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It was out of control, this sectional.

Rachel: It’s like having like a little Voltron in your house.

Griffin: It's like a little Voltron, and I don't know what we did before that—that—that furniture, because there were five of us!

Rachel: Yeah, that's enormous.

Griffin: So like the traditional two couch sort of structure is gonna be, you know kind of a tight—kind of a fit when we're all gathered up together watching *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* on the couch!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's got so much functionality, and I—I—I love it. And, um... so, they became in-fashion and more common in the mid-twentieth century, but sectionals as we know them now, there is evidence of them actually being around in the early nineteenth century.

Rachel: Really?

Griffin: Yeah. So, uh, there was a three—piece sectional found in Fredericksburg, Virginia that was dated back to 1820, that had, like, the metal hooks to hold it all together, and was obviously a custom job. So, a lot of these things could be found among wealthier households in the American south, and then during Civil War, a lot of them were destroyed and—

Rachel: Yeah, cause like you need enough space for a sectional.

Griffin: And enough money to have one custom built for you.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so these wealthy people who were entertaining guests and stuff got them made, but, you know, over time and during the Civil War, most of them were, uh, were destroyed.

But, uh, yeah. It's not like a super modern invention; it was very much like the same thing it is now. Just this like—

Sectionals are very much the Burger King of the furniture world, 'cause you can really have it your way, baby. Like, you can... When we—

Rachel: [laughing] Should we pause a minute for that great joke you just made?

Griffin: Yeah, I guess! [Sighs dramatically] Now I feel naked, I feel exposed!

Rachel: [laughing] Okay, continue!

Griffin: When we were shopping for our sectional, there's just a menu of things you can choose from! You can have, you know, sofa sections, you can have the lounge, the chaise lounge. You can have a lil loveseat section, you can have the corners.

Rachel: The corner piece is what does it.

Griffin: The corner piece!

Rachel: Like, without a corner piece, it is just two couches.

Griffin: Or it could—I mean the corner piece could also be like a little tray table. You know, a little tray with cup holders. It could be a little media console. I think Justin—Justin and Sydnee have one too, and it's got a little section—

Rachel: Theirs folds down.

Griffin: It folds down and there's a power outlet in it! What the fuck? It's a couch!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You can get the recliners. You can get whatever! Um... and yeah, in more recent years, that's when we get the tech, that's when we get the cup holders. That's when we get the—the cooled powered cup holders—

Rachel: Whoa!

Griffin: And the media stuff inside it. Um... I just, like—I enjoy getting a good lounge going. I enjoy making myself comfortable in the furniture that I know I'm gonna spend a lot of time with, and sectionals just allow me to approach that... grand quest in a different way every time I lie down on it!

Am I gonna, like, stretch out on that side of it, or that side of it? Or, like, curl up in the corner or, like, lean up against the armchairs?

Rachel: It really is like we have a new room within a room, in our house. I find myself a lot of times thinking like "I have all this space!"

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: "I have all this space now! What am I going to do?"

Griffin: It's so optimi—it's optimized for the space. It's optimized for our space, and we get more, just raw seating power—

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Out of the space that we already had because of that sweet corner section! It's just, it's all so good. It's, like, bringing me closer to my dream of just a room that is all couch. Where you just kind of step down into it, and you're just on the couch already.

And everybody can be on couch in the world. I wanna give the world a couch, and tell them to take a freaking load off for a bit.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: I almost actually accomplished this dream in my bedroom with super-bed, which I'm sure I've talked about before—

Rachel: Oh, super-bed...

Griffin: Which was two twin bed mattresses pushed together and wrapped in a California king sheet? And it was so big in, like, the very small rooms I was living in, in Batavia and Chicago. And I almost had that setup where you

could just step foot into bedroom, and you're in—you're in bed already! Can you imagine?! You're not as excited about this idea as I am.

Rachel: [laughing] Yeah.

Griffin: I just, I love it. I love a sectional. It does make me—It's bittersweet, because I feel like when I look at a sectional, I get this sense that humanity's, like, furniture evolution has really slowed to a halt? Because what kind of new stuff are we bringing to the table, post sectional? I don't know. I feel—

Rachel: I've seen sectionals where they do just what you're describing. They take what is basically like an ottoman piece—

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: And they put it right in the middle—

Griffin: That's great!

Rachel: So you got like a full...

Griffin: But that's still sectional, you know what I mean? Like I want new—I want a coffee table that, you know, also, you can...

Rachel: What if it was called "The Dimensional"?

Griffin: Oh shoot!

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: And it folded up, and you could have a bunk sectional?

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: That would be pretty cool! Yeah babe, that's badass.

Rachel: Alright. How about it? How about it, science?

Griffin: Yeah, come on science! Where's my hover—hover coffee table?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's what I want. Um, hey. Let's talk about Maximum Fun, and the drive that we do!

Rachel: Oh, please!

Griffin: I guess, but keeping it in fashion, I'm going to steal you away.

[*Home Improvement* theme plays normally, then in reverse]

Rachel: Can I tell you something unique about the MaxFun Drive opportunity?

Griffin: Please!

Rachel: It's not unusual, I would say, for a free program to say "Hey, please support our network."

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: But what we get to say is "Hey! Please support our show."

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: And other shows! And you get to choose which shows you're supporting.

Griffin: Yeah, it's a very direct way. Whenever you make your—uh, you set up your monthly donation, you choose the shows that you want to support and we get that money, like, directly. MaxFun takes a little portion of it to help us, you know, sell ads, and to do a ton of other things that we could not live without, um, but yeah, otherwise it goes directly to the shows you listen to.

And it's a great way to feel a sense of, like, belonging—Not belonging, like ownership of the—you know, these experiences that you enjoy.

Rachel: It really is a community. Like anybody that has been a part of any of the MaxFun events, or, um... you know, Reddit boards, or Facebook groups, will notice, like, there are a lot of like-minded folks that donate to MaxFun.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, also when you donate, you get badass gifts!

Rachel: Mm-hmm! [affirmative]

Griffin: At \$5 a month, you get all the bonus content. So for us, that includes the... [holding back laughter] the “Will Smith Spectacular” that we recorded this year. What did we do last year? Were we *Wonderful!* at this point, last year?

Rachel: Last year?

Griffin: Yeah we were.

Rachel: We were...

Griffin: I forget what we did. But I’m sure it was hee-sterical.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But it’s not just our show you get the bonus content for – oh, was it the—the interview with Jasmine? Was that last year?

Rachel: That was—no. That was *Rose Buddies*.

Griffin: Must’ve been the year before, yeah. Uh, anyway, this is—

Rachel: But you get all that!

Griffin: You get all that! You get everything that every show has done, like, throughout time. All the bonus content. And it’s like over a hundred hours! It’s like a ton of stuff to go listen to. And that’s just five bucks a month. And then ten bucks a month, you get this beautiful pen. Are you seein’ this pen?

Rachel: Okay, I’m seein’ this pen. It is—it is a hot dog.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Says “Small Wonders” above it.

Griffin: That’s good.

Rachel: Has little stars on it.

Griffin: It’s got little stars. Cause you got to. You get this and you get a MaxFun membership card, and you get the bonus episodes at \$10 a month. If you’re feeling frisky, how about this puzzle though? I’ve never seen—I’ve never seen so many dang pieces in one puzzle!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There’s a 550 piece puzzle that you get at \$20 a month. And the stuff that comes before it! You get the—you get the, um, you know, the pen and you get the card, and you get the episodes!

Rachel: Yeah, it’s a whole tiered system.

Griffin: Yeah, it’s a whole pyramid scheme—

Rachel: Everything comes along for the ride—

Griffin: I mean—Oh, shoot!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: They say specifically not to say—No, it’s not a pyramid scheme. It’s a way of supporting us that we really, really appreciate. You were a donor to the network before you had a show on the network, right?

Rachel: Oh, for sure! Yeah, I was a donor before we were even married!

Griffin: Whoa!

Rachel: Mm-hmm! [affirmative]

Griffin: That's true dedication to the cause! [laughs]

Rachel: Had to get that bonus content.

Griffin: Had to get it, yeah.

Rachel: I really wanted up in there.

Griffin: We've made some pretty buck-wild stuff, across all of our—our shows. Um, so yeah you can get some cool stuff but, you know, if that doesn't sound interesting to you, just the knowledge that you are helping us grow and, um, uh, try and do more stuff—Because again, everything we are doing now is because of the—because of the support you've shown us through the—over the past.

Rachel: Yeah! And I would encourage you, and this is something we talk about, if you, um, have been donating and have since, you know, increased your income level, and increased your enjoyment of other shows on the network, I would encourage you to consider upgrading.

Griffin: Yeah. Or, if you're a donor and maybe your credit card stuff has changed and your donation has lapsed, think about fixing that up. That's like a natural thing that happens for every sort of reoccurring donation thing like this.

Rachel: Mm-hmm [affirmative]

Griffin: Yeah, so we're trying to get up to 25,000 new or upgrading monthly members, and we need your help to match that goal. Um, so thank you all so much for considering it, thank you to all the donors who are already out there. And, um... uh, yeah. Should we get on—get on with the business?

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: What's your second thing?

Rachel: Second thing: Sunglasses!

Griffin: Hey, okay! These are the d—these are the dark glasses?

Rachel: These are the dark glasses you wear.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. They look pretty cool. They make you look like—You know who I always think of when I see the sunglasses?

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Terminator.

Rachel: Oh! See, I thought you were gonna say the Men in Black.

Griffin: Nope, the Terminator did it first. Terminator—Did you know this? *Terminator* came out before *Men in Black*. And he was the first one with sunglasses.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: They made 'em for that movie.

Rachel: [Still laughing] That's not what my notes say.

Griffin: Ah, well tear up your notes. I'm here to tell you the dang truth about it, and it's that the Terminator made the sunglasses, to protect his robot eyes.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, the very first sunglasses were created by the Inuit people as slices of walrus ivory cut with thin slits to keep out the sun.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So not glass—

Griffin: No?

Rachel: Like, just a circular piece of ivory that just has a little slit cut out in the middle.

Griffin: Can I say something? And this is not a joke? I bet those look fucking badass!

Rachel: Yeah, I bet they do too!

Griffin: I bet they look super, super cool.

Rachel: Glasses featuring dark lenses came about in 12th century China.

Griffin: Holy shit!

Rachel: Yeah. The glasses we know today that have, like, the different tints, like blue and green, different tints came out in the 18th century, and it was focused more on, um, elderly people, because it helped create contrast

—

Griffin: Interesting!

Rachel: So if your vision was failing, this was like a way to create contrast and make it easier to see where you were going.

Griffin: I always just thought it was like a stylistic choice.

Rachel: No, I actually have an even—uh, an even deeper cut here.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: Early tinted glasses were also used as an accessory for those who suffered from Syphilis.

Griffin: What?

Rachel: There were two telling symptoms of syphilis. One was light sensitivity, and the other was one's nose rotting off.

Griffin: Oh, god.

Rachel: So to fix this, there was a pair of round dark glasses that had a metal nose covering—

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: —that people would wear.

Griffin: I feel like I've seen these. I feel like I saw these in, like a museum or something.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a—that's a—that's a lil rough for me.

Rachel: To cover up your whole, your whole face that's falling apart.

Griffin: Your hole! Yeah, that's... Hey Rachel? Hey.

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: Hey. That's rough!

Rachel: [laughs] I know! I know, it's very rough.

Griffin: That one's rough.

Rachel: So when they became cool...

Griffin: Mm-hmm?

Rachel: Was when movies started.

Griffin: Well, hold on, hold on. Hold on. I would argue that from the moment that an Inuit person made these dope ass ivory slit sunglasses, they started being cool immediately right then.

Rachel: Yeah, but I guess you couldn't, like—you couldn't go to stores and choose from a selection of...

Griffin: Maybe you could've, you don't freaking know!

Rachel: Yeah, you know. I don't know! I don't know. We'll have to... we'll have to do, like, some kind of travel through time *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* to figure that one out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Not only were movie stars using them to disguise themselves, the lights used on film sets and cameras were extremely powerful and harsh flash bulbs even contained magnesium.

Griffin: Oh yeah. I know all about that.

Rachel: Those really hurt your eyes, out there on the—the red carpet.

Griffin: [sighs] When we were shooting the TV show, it was just like the bright lights were... I felt like a big moth or something.

Rachel: I thought it was weird that you were using 1920's cameras, but—

Griffin: [laughing]

Rachel: It really comes across, I think, in the final product?

Griffin: We wanted to be authentic, you know?

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: All this digital! When it's digital, you can't even fuckin' feel it.

Rachel: I know, I know. [laughs]

Griffin: I want that old dirty film!

Rachel: At the end of the 1920's, sunglasses became a full blown fashion accessory. Sam Foster created the first iteration of mass produced sunglasses as we know them today. And he started selling them out on the beach in Atlantic City.

Griffin: It really seems like somebody should've hopped on this one. If we were doing this shit back in like... 13th century, or 12th century, or whatever?

Rachel: Yeah, but it wasn't fashion, you know?

Griffin: I guess!

Rachel: Once it was fashion, people wanted a pair.

Griffin: I bet it was always fashion, but people were too scared to make it fashion.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You know what I mean? I bet there were people who were looking at these like dope ass syphilis nose glasses, and being like "They look so cool!"

Rachel: Yeah, but there's a stigma. I know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: In 1936—

Griffin: What if that stigma was still there and like—

[both laughing]

Griffin: The Terminator puts his sunglasses on, and people are like "Does he have syphilis? What's going on?"

Rachel: "Why would he do that?"

Griffin: "What was up?"

Rachel: In 1936, Edward Land was one of the founders of Polaroid, and he invented polarized glasses. And then Ray-Ban created the classic aviators, which gained infamy after being used by pilots who wore them during war time in the 1940's, which allowed sunglasses to cross over into men's wear.

Griffin: I've never understood—

Rachel: Isn't that interesting to think about though, like—

Griffin: It is, kind of.

Rachel: It was kind of—when all the female actresses were wearing it, they were like “Oh, it's like a woman's thing!” and then, um, all of a sudden—

Griffin: Big, big war, yeah—

Rachel: The pilots are wearing them, and men are all like “Oh cool, me too!”

Griffin: I mean, war did that for like—The two world wars did that for, like, so many things—

Rachel: Yeah, that's very true.

Griffin: Actually, a lot of things with fashion, like different textiles and stuff like that.

Rachel: But I think the great thing about sunglasses is that you can wear them and look cool, and they're also really important in protecting your eyes, 'cause the sun really can give you all sorts of damaging eye conditions.

Griffin: The sun... I like sun.

Rachel: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: I like sun. And I need sun to, you know, stay happy and keep my skin, uh... You know. Keep my skin looking fresh, I guess.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [Affirmative]

Griffin: You stay inside; you get that D deficiency, and the eczema. The eczema!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But the sun also can—[laughs] The sun will do some tricky shit from time to time!

Rachel: Yeah! It can really—you know, it can, like, degrade your vision, and give you, like, you know... tumors, and—

Griffin: Hurt the skin, yeah.

Rachel: Horrible things in there, so... Sunglasses—

Griffin: Mixed bag, the sun, I'd say.

Rachel: It's nice that sunglasses give you an option to like... Protect yourself and look cool doing it.

Griffin: Do you remember being young and having a pair of sunglasses that meant a lot to you? Oh, 'cause I've got a story.

Rachel: Oh. Um, I mean I had some of those John Lennon style sunglasses when I was in middle school that I was real excited about? Uh, but that's kind of the extent of my story.

Griffin: Okay. I have one. [laughs] I was at Centrifuge, which was a church camp I went to in, uh, North Carolina, I believe? What's up all my other 'Fugers? I was having a good time. I think I went there like three years in a row? Every time our church youth group went. And one year, I had a pair of sunglasses that I thought were so bad ass, um, that I wanted the nickname "Shades". And I wanted people to—

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: [Sighs, then laughs] And I think I had done that a previous year, but I wanted people—I wanted to try on "Andy" for size, since Andrew's my middle name. I just wanted to see what that felt like?

Rachel: Uh—huh. [affirmative]

Griffin: And that didn't catch on.

Rachel: Oh my gosh!

Griffin: And then I guess it was just my impression that going to church camp, I could be a new man, for the week that we were there—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And so I tried "Shades" on for size, and I think the bunk master or whoever, leader of the youth group that I was bunking with was like "You can't give yourself your own nickname, Griffin. That's not how that—Sorry, Shades! That's just not how that works!"

Rachel: I just—Your statement about being a new man just made me think of an idea and I want to get it out there, in case anyone does it?

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: A "Hamilton" parody based on church camp.

Griffin: Oh, okay!

Rachel: In church camp, you can be a new man.

Griffin: Yeah! That's really good!

Rachel: Just—just wanted to put that out in the world, in case anyone takes it. I want everyone to know, my idea first.

Griffin: Take it and run with it. Also sunglasses brought you and I together, and I think that that's the most important thing they've done.

Rachel: That's so true! Yeah, I gave you that pair of sunglasses at South by Southwest.

Griffin: Yup! The first time we met, Rachel—I didn't have any sunglasses and we were at I think Liberty Bar... Seeing Sandra Leche, I think at a concert?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And, uh, you had a pair of—

Rachel and Griffin: Mike's Hard lemonade-punch! Yeah!

Griffin: You actually offered me a red pair and an orange pair—

Rachel: Uh-huh, and you picked orange—

Griffin: And literally, first words you ever spoke to me, were offering me these sunglasses. And I took them.

Rachel: 'Cause you were squinting!

Griffin: I was squinting. And, uh, yeah. Those were special sunglasses that I lost during some move! [laughs] And I feel bad about that.

Rachel: I thought you were gonna talk about—When you said sunglasses, I thought you were gonna talk about the goggles you and Evan Minsker had, where you popped out one of the lenses.

Griffin: Those weren't sunglasses, so I'm not gonna embarrass myself twice on the same podcast—

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: But yes, I did have Hot Topic goggles. They were red, my friend Evan got a green pair, and then we popped a lense out of each—

Rachel: Do you want me to call you Shades, Griffin?

Griffin: I think I'd like that a lot.

Rachel: I can call you Shades.

Griffin: Shades. Try "Andy"?

Rachel: Andy?

Griffin: Ugh! No. Yuck!

Rachel: No, I don't like Andy. I don't like Andy for you, but I like Shades. And I think if your oldest brother Justin can go by Hoops, you can definitely go by Shades.

Griffin: Hoops, Shades, and then Travis is gonna need something.

Rachel: I mean he has "Scraps".

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, we all have our own family nicknames, but... Hey can I do my second thing?

Rachel: Yes, please.

Griffin: Weird. Al. Yankovic.

Rachel: Oh, good!

Griffin: I was—Yeah. Somebody needed to do it. [laughs]

Rachel: It's like—[laughs] It's like we have a closet in our house full of things that we love—

Griffin: Yes?

Rachel: —and there are certain things that... Really need to be mentioned.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And pulled out every once in a while of that closet, and Weird Al is one of them.

Griffin: And usually whenever we talk about a musician, like we play music —I don't think don't think I need to play music during this segment? Because A; I don't know how I would pick the song that I would play—

Rachel: Only if you can find like a lesser known Weird Al track. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, I don't know. And like if... I don't know. Everybody's already heard all of these songs. I just want to talk about Weird Al Yankovic cause I think he's the best. I've been listening to—there's an episode of "Hollywood Handbook" that just came out that he's the guest on—

Rachel: Oh, I heard!

Griffin: —and it was hysterically funny. And so, yeah. I love Weird Al Yankovic, just sort of his creative drive, and also ethos, and also music. When I was a kid—

Rachel: What's your first Weird Al exposure? 'Cause I remember mine.

Griffin: I mean... Holy shit. It was probably "Amish paradise"? Since like—I mean, no...

So my first exposure to Weird Al, and this is gonna sound like I'm trying to be a hipster, but it's not, because I grew up in a weird, like, comedy cult household? Uh, was Dr. Demento.

There was this radio show called "Dr. Demento" that was syndicated out of southern California where just this very eccentric man named Dr. Demento would just play weird shit on the radio.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I think we had them on cassette tape or something like that? And I don't know if my dad was the one who procured those, working at a radio station himself, but we would listen to them and they would play all kinds of weird stuff on it and then—

That's actually where Weird Al got his start. Dr Demento came to—It was like nineteen seventy—something, and Dr. Demento went to Weird Al's high school to do a talk, and—

Rachel: Oh my gosh!

Griffin: And Weird Al was like doing his thing already at the time, and he was, like, playing at coffee shops and stuff like that.

Rachel: I didn't know this story! Why isn't there a Weird Al documentary?

Griffin: There is, but it's like a parody documentary and they made it like twenty years ago.

Rachel: [groans, then laughs]

Griffin: So he came to Weird Al's school, and Weird Al gave him a tape of some of his original songs. And Dr. Demento liked them and started playing them on the air! Um, and so, like, he got a start like super, super young.

When he was in college, he had a radio show. I think he was studying architecture at the time? He had a radio show and people were already calling him Weird Al because—For obvious reasons? And so he used that as his like radio persona. And... Do you know what his first big hit was? Do you know what his first song to get released on an album was?

Rachel: Was it "Eat It"?

Griffin: No, long before "Eat It". The Knack came out with "My Sharona" and he did a cover of it called "My Bologna" that he sent to Dr. Demento, who loved it and started playing it all the time. And then, it was kismet, the lead singer for The Knack liked it. A lot.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: He heard the song and he liked it, and he sent it to Capital Records, who was their record label, and they actually signed Weird Al for six months and released "My Bologna" as a single.

Rachel: As, like, a kid. Yeah.

Griffin: I mean he was in college, but like he—

Rachel: Still!

Griffin: Still. He was pretty young. And then his shit just like took off! And it—he continued to just constantly crank stuff out for the next, you know,

three and a half decades! He's just been on his grind since the late 70's. That's *wild* to me, the consistency at which he's been able to do this! He did the AI TV specials for MTV—Did you ever watch any of those?

Rachel: I did, yeah.

Griffin: God those were so, so—I was obsessed with those. Um, he, you know, released a ton of albums. He's also won five Grammys. When I heard you say that about Missy Elliot, who also started in high school and won five Grammys, I was like, "Wow, that's wild!"

He won, actually, one this year. He released a compilation set called *Squeeze Box* and it won for, and I did not now this was a category, "Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package".

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: Which is amazing. He made *UHF*, the movie *UHF*, which I have not watched in quite some time, but was absolutely obsessed with when I was a little kid. He's written children's books? He has—

Rachel: Wow! We have to get some of those.

Griffin: I know! I think he's written like two children's books. He's done VO, and guest spots, and like a ton of different shows. He had his own kid's television show for a while that you can find episodes of online, that are so good.

Rachel: He was in the *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* show?

Griffin: Yeah, so like I am maybe biased of it?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Because he was on our TV show. Travis—This is a true story. We were filming the last episode and it was the last... like, it was the day before we recorded the live show, which was the last thing we shot. That was our—our "Champagne Shoot" as they call it in the industry.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, and Travis disappeared for a whole day, and we had no idea why until the live show, when he revealed that he had gone to, I believe Cincinnati? Where Weird Al was doing a show and got Weird Al to do a cameo.

And I was so pissed off!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Because I wanted to meet Weird Al, and I don't know why Travis got to do the segment and I didn't, but...

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: Yeah, he's been a director for music videos for a ton of different people. Like he did a video for Hanson, he did a video for Presidents of the United States of America, which is nice and cyclical because he did, um... He did Gump, which was a parody of "Lump".

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Uh, he did a video for Ben Folds. It might've been "Rockin the Suburbs", which he had a music video for?

Rachel: I just watched that video the other day.

Griffin: He's released over a hundred and fifty songs, both parody and original songs across his albums, and has sold over twelve million albums. I just like—

You have to appreciate his productivity, and um... I just feel like it's really remarkable. I feel like it's hard not to appreciate his body of work. Unless, you're one of the people who he parodied, and did not necessarily appreciate it.

The most high profile sort of issue, the most high profile tete a tete he ran into with this situation was with Coolio, after the release of "Amish Paradise"—

Rachel: Oh, forgot about that!

Griffin: Basically, the long story short, Coolio's record label that represented him when "Amish Paradise" came out, said that he was fine—Told Weird Al like "He's fine with you doing the parody song." And so he did "Amish Paradise" and it was this huge hit, and then Coolio claims that like "I never actually gave permission for this."

And luckily, no big legal—like, nasty legal battle happened, but they did start paying him royalty payments for the song. And then later on, they squashed the beef at CES 2006.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There was some event that they were at, where apparently they managed to get over it. And then in 2014 actually, Coolio was in an interview and they asked him about it, and he was actually like really remorseful. He was very like—

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: He was talking about how he was just you know, acting like a big shot, and how he was being like being really cocky when he should've just embraced it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And he said that actually he thought the song was, quote, "Funny as shit."

[both laughing]

Griffin: Which I really love! And other artists have just like flat out refused to give him permission to use their work. Like, uh, Prince? Like he kept

coming to Prince like "Please. God. I have a thing for 'Kiss', I have a thing for '1999'. Please, please, please!"

And Prince was like "No. No, you're not gonna do it."

Uh, there was Paul McCartney, of course. That was never really—And a lot of these people, like Paul McCartney was like "I'm a fan of Weird Al Yankovic, but I don't want him to touch my songs."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, ad Eminem. One time he got permission from James Blunt and his record label, Atlantic Records, to do a cover of "You're Beautiful", which was called "You're Pitiful". And he wrote it, and recorded it, and prepared to put it on an album, and then Atlantic Records rescinded their permission and said like "Nope. You, uh—you can't do it."

Rachel: Oh...

Griffin: But James Blunt was still cool with it, so he just started doing it at live shows—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And he released it on Myspace to get around it. There was a picture of him I found while researching this, playing a concert during that era. I think it was like 2000... Ah shit. I don't know when the song came out, but he's just wearing a bright yellow shirt that says "Atlantic Records Sucks!" on it.

[both laugh]

Griffin: Uh, which is pretty great. Um. I just... I don't know man. I admire like how much juice he's got. I admire how many different disciplines he's, like, tapped into, and his productivity. Like that is my absolute shit. Like that's the kind of thing I would really admire in an artist?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And also, like... He seems like the best dude. But also like nobody else has been able to write funny parody songs consistently—

Rachel: No, it's true!

Griffin: Like, he's the only—He's literally the only one out there who has made a career out of this thing that I can think of.

Rachel: I think it's like it seems deceptively easy. I think people... I think a lot of people, like, hear it and think "Oh, I could do that." But like no. There's no way! There's no way. [laughs]

Griffin: There's no way you can do that! Yeah.

Rachel: And to make it good? Like those songs stand on their own. That's what I think is kind of incredible. It's like a lot of people write parody songs that, like, are only really good if you know the source material?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But his songs stand on their own, as good songs. By themselves, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. There's a sense of—The sense of humor of those songs is not limited to "I'm going to write some.." His songs rarely make fun of the source material. Right?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Which I feel like a lot of parody, like people who try to write parody songs fall prey to. There's a joke that is its own thing that exists within the body of the work. And also, like, his, uh—his polka medleys? That—I loved his, like—his, uh, his parodies, but the polka medleys that he included on every album?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Like, that was my absolute shit!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I would listen to those so much. And then he actually just released a new one, either last year or the year before, of “Hamilton”. The Hamilton polka.

Rachel: Yeah, it’s so incredible.

Griffin: It’s just so incredibly good! Um, yeah. I don’t know. I just, uh... I do not—I don’t listen to his stuff as much anymore, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But it’s like so many things that we talk about on this show, but when you look back at the three and a half decades of work that he has done, and how much he has done, and how much quality he brought in being the only artist representing this entire genre in the universe? Like, I feel like his career is one of the most sort of spectacular of any musician.

Rachel: Yeah, well and the fact like how hard he must’ve worked. Because if you think about him sitting in a room with labels, and saying “Okay, so I have this thing that I do, and also I play the accordion on it.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: “And also I’m gonna keep wearing my hair like this, and keep wearing these glasses, and keep wearing these shirts, and there’s really nothing you can do about it.” [laughs]

Griffin: Well there was the big controversy. I think it was around the poodle hat? Or one of those early aughts Sort of late nineties albums, where he got LASIK surgery done, when LASIK was still, like, super early?

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: And so he lost the Coke—bottle glasses and shaved his mustache, and let his hair grow out super long, which is like his current look? And people freaked the fuck out!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: People lost their minds!

Rachel: Like when Dylan went electric. It's like "What is this? Who are you?" [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah! And he had this famous quote back then that was like "If Madonna's allowed to change her look every fifteen minutes, I think I'm allowed to change mine every twenty years!"

[both laugh]

Griffin: He's the best. He's the best. And... Yeah. I just—I really—I really admire Weird Al, and I know a lot of people who do, and there's a damn good reason for it.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Um, we want to talk about the MaxFun Drive just a little bit more before we let you go, and talk about our fan submissions from home. If you wouldn't mind us trying to make the hard sales pitch just one more time. I mean, MaxFun Drive's two weeks, so we're gonna talk about it next week too.

Rachel: Maybe we can do it in funny voices?

Griffin: Yeah! Like we'll do a Weird Al parody—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Because it's so easy! And we'll do it to the tune—What song is hot? We can do it to a Missy Elliot song.

So it'll be like, um, [singing] "You got money? We need money! Put your money down on... Maximum F..." Hmmm! We're close, we're really close!

Rachel: [laughing] We're so close!

Griffin: Um, yeah. I want to talk about some of the other pledge donation levels. Do you have them on your phone? Maybe you could put this down on the wax, as they say.

Rachel: Okay, so Griffin told you about the pin. He told you about the puzzle.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: What he didn't tell you... is the glass coffee mug.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: At \$35 a month, you get a glass coffee mug engraved with the MaxFun rocket logo.

Griffin: It's a dope logo. You also get the puzzle. You get the pin. You get the bonus content. You get the membership card. You get the satisfaction.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement] And I appreciate the glass coffee mug, because one year I think they did, um... Shot glasses? And I know not everybody enjoys a shot, but I don't know anyone that doesn't enjoy a hot beverage.

Griffin: I love shot glasses, and I have not done a shot since 2007.

Rachel: [laughs] If you are able to pledge at the \$50 a month level, you get a metal engraved Maximum membership card personalized with your name. In addition to the mug, the puzzle—

Griffin: You get everything.

Rachel: The pin.

Griffin: There's higher levels too, if you are really, uh, really feeling it and you have the means, but like whatever you are able to give— We hear from people sometimes who are like "Sorry, I could only do \$5 a month." And, like, you don't understand how... meaningful—

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: —your support is in any way, shape, or form. Um, we—we have been able to grow and do things with these shows that I don't think we ever thought we were gonna do. If it weren't for these shows, I don't know what the fuck I'd be doing.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Like... Well, I guess I'd still be, like... you know, writing video game news—which actually when I put it that way, you know either way would've been okay. But I like this version a lot more, I think. Cause I do it with my family.

Rachel: Yeah, but Griffin has nice equipment now, that gets you this great sound quality.

Griffin: Yeah. Got these *bright* ass key caps.

Rachel: He's got software that allows him to do the *Home Improvement* stingers that we all love so much. [laughs]

Griffin: That's pretty DIY. I wouldn't bring those up. I really scotch taped those together!

Rachel: [laughs] I got this nice metal folding chair that I sit on now.

Griffin: And that's—Oh! We got to talk about folding chair. That one cost me like \$9 at Target.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: No, some of this equipment is quite, quite expensive. The mics we use, and the sound interfaces—

Rachel: We couldn't do that without your support.

Griffin: Yeah. So... Your show has a—your—your support has a direct and material impact on these shows. So if these shows have meant something to

you over the years and you have the means, we would love your support at MaximumFun.org/donate. Help us hit that 25,000 new and upgrading member goal, and feel the sense of satisfaction that you get when you support the things you love. What's that link again, one more time?

Rachel: It's maximumfun.org/donate.

Griffin: It's a good web address that you can go to and help us. So, you want to hear some submissions from our friends at home?

Rachel: Yes, please!

Griffin: Okay. I got some good ones this week. Here's one from Beckett, who says "I work in an Air and Space museum, and a couple days a week I'm out on the floor with a table full of meteorites people can hold and learn about. My absolute favorite thing is watching people's faces when I hand them what looks like a regular old golf ball sized rock and telling them it's over 4.5 billion years old. The look of interest and awe in their faces makes me so happy, and a lot of the times, they'll start asking more and more questions about space and meteorites."

Rachel: That's so cool!

Griffin: Yeah! Yeah, I mean a lot of rocks are old, but apparently meteorites are the most-old rocks. And I like that.

Rachel: I like that too!

Griffin: Here's one from Lauren, who says "My wonderful thing is pinball. It's how me and my boyfriend met, and we play in a weekly league where we've met lots of amazing new friends who share our love of this cool and skillful game. You just can't beat that feeling of nailing a hard shot or beating your own high score on a machine."

Rachel: I love the idea of a pinball league.

Griffin: Yeah. I bet they exist all over. I bet there's one in Austin.

Rachel: There is so many, like, pinball things that I enjoy, but I have no idea like what techniques and tricks there are.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It would be awesome to have a group of people that, like, help you figure that stuff out!

Griffin: I'm so terrible. I'm so bad at pinball. I wish I was good at it.

Rachel: See, I don't think you're so bad, I just think you're used to being really good at games?

Griffin: That's maybe true!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's the last one from Kyle, who says "My small wonder is shuffling cards. I love the feeling of cards slipping into each other into my hands, and think the distinct snapping sound shuffling makes feels great to hear. Also, fun fact: 52 factorial is such an astronomically large number, that each time you pick up a deck of well shuffled cards, you are holding a unique combination that very likely never existed before, and will never exist again. Just one more wonderful thing about shuffling cards."

Rachel: That's the best!

Griffin: It's very good. I love my special cards.

Rachel: These are all so good!

Griffin: Club bangers, right?

Rachel: When people want to send submissions, where do they do it?

Griffin: They can do it at wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com, and, um... Yeah. We got lots of time because we're recording this like three weeks in advance, before we head out on the cruise. So get those in, get your donations in at maximumfun.org/donate.

Thanks to Bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song "Money Won't Pay". Find a link to that in the episode description. And do you want to talk about some of the shows you're listening to on the Maximum Fun network, as long as we're talking about 'em and supporting'em, and stuff?

Rachel: Yeah, of course! I want to mention ones that I haven't talked about a lot. *Friendly Fire* is a great one.

Griffin: It has John Roderick in it.

Rachel: Yeah. Let's say you like *The Flop House* because you like hearing people talk about movies? Well, *Friendly Fire* they do that, but explicitly with war movies, which I know a lot of people love.

Griffin: Yeah. Can I recommend *Beef and Dairy Network*?

Rachel: Please!

Griffin: I think that show is fucking hysterical. It is so funny. If you've never listened to it, try listening to one episode. It'll blow your mind. It is a very, very good show about secret beef innovations, uh, beef rumors, uh, d—uh, dairy secrets. Just a lot of really good stuff.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: In *Beef and Dairy Network*. It's hysterical. Yeah, there's a ton of shows on the network you can show your support to now, and, um... Yeah. Our website is Mcelroy.family. Got new stuff going up on there all the time, and, uh... That's it. You wanna take us out?

Rachel: [laughs] With... our signature farewell.

Griffin: Here it comes. From Rachel McElroy.

[pauses]

Rachel: Keep your toes... pointed forward.

Griffin: Oh? Okay.

Rachel: And your elbows—

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: Pointed back.

Griffin: Yeah. So I'm in this sort of diving position—

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: And now—now where am I supposed to go?

Rachel: And turn your head...

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: Towards the sky.

Griffin: Is this yoga?

Rachel: [laughing] Maybe it is yoga!

Griffin: I've never done it, but I feel like this—I you're making me do yoga.

Rachel: [still laughing]

Griffin: Okay, now what? Now I can't see what's coming in front of me, that my toes are looking at!

Rachel: And I'm gonna boop ya—

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: On the nose.

Griffin: Ow! *Ow!*

Rachel: Til next week!

Griffin: Why'd you do that?

Rachel: [laughs]

[Theme song fades in and concludes]

[chord plays]

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