

Wonderful! 77: Whistlin' Bulbasaur

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay" by bo en and Augustus, plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, what's up? This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: Do you like how I slipped in that casual salutation?

Rachel: I thought maybe you were accidentally gonna slide into one of your other podcasts.

Griffin: Oh, sure. So I could be like, "I'm your 30 Under 30. [chuckles]"

Every ti—Rachel's never seen me do that before, but every time I do a [laughs] jerk-off motion with my hands, um, 'cause it's—it's all just labels, man.

Rachel: But the motion he does is not the one you'd expect.

Griffin: No. It's um, I do sort of a figure eight.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I make sort of a superhero mask.

But anyway, this is *Wonderful!*, and this is a show where we talk about things that are good, and things that we think are good, and things that we like...

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: ... and are good.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Let's start out with some free advertising. Rachel and I are wearing matching MeUndies onesies right now, covered in some springtime strawberries.

Rachel: Yeah, I got home, immediately put it on, and then we proceeded with our evening, and then when I came back from putting Henry down, Griffin was like, "I'm gonna put on my pajamas."

Griffin: Slipped right into something more... comfortable.

Rachel: Same thing, guys.

Griffin: And um, the erotic energy that it creates...

Rachel: Can we also talk about how we're both having a glass of chardonnay? [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Listen, Rachel and I are going through a change. A metamorphosis that—

Rachel: We're becoming 70-year-old women.

Griffin: Couples in their 30s sometimes go through, and it can be very exciting for some, and not exciting for pretty much everyone else, most of them. But for me and Rachel, it's just a lot of just kinetic...

Rachel: We've never been, like, a matchy-matchy couple.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: ... intentionally.

Griffin: Intentionally.

Rachel: I think sometimes we accidentally do it...

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: ... but we've never, like, intentionally bought the same ensemble before.

Griffin: This is true. One other thing that we do have in common right now is that we're both excited that the Maximum Fun Drive is still kicking, still rocking.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: You still can't put this one back in—can't put Max Fun Drive in the corner!

Rachel: We had to record our previous Max Fun Drive episode before the Drive had started.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And so the enthusiasm level was a little doctored.

Griffin: Well, yeah. And now you know the phony, sort of, weather-works...

Rachel: [laughs] But this one... is real.

Griffin: This one's real-deal holyfield. Also...

Rachel: We are in the thick of it.

Griffin: Also, we haven't recorded this show in nearly three weeks.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: As opposed to recording three episodes of this show in about one week.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So we're gonna get just a lot of gratitude, I think. Especially towards those who go to MaximumFun.org/donate, and help us uh, meet our goal of 25,000 new and upgrading members. Just a couple up—just a couple days left until the drive is ended, and so this is the right time for you to hop on and support us in any way that you can.

There's a whole bunch of different donation levels, and a bunch of great rewards you can get for each one, and we're gonna talk about those later, but it really means the world to us. We have been getting a lot of support in this drive, and we have in previous years too, and especially after we changed topics pretty drastically, the support y'all have shown us has been really fantastic, and really meaningful to Rachel and I.

It's just a good way to sort of, like, endorse the stuff that you want to be in the world by uh, supporting us super directly through the Max Fun Drive.

Rachel: It's really validating, because it's just me and Griffin talking about things we like.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Rachel: And so to get support for that is maybe the most rewarding thing in my professional life.

Griffin: Yeah, Rachel and I were both donors to the network before we even joined it a very long time ago, and Rachel, before we started doing *Rose Buddies*, and uh, yeah, it just means a lot, and again, it's MaximumFun.org/donate, there's cool rewards and we're gonna talk about those later, but first, do we have any small wonders, though?

Rachel: I wanted to bring up...

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: ... the rose quartz face roller that you got me...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ... several months ago.

Griffin: Yes. This is an object that is heavily featured in *Terrace House*, and so I figured it would be a good gift.

Rachel: A lot of times, on *Terrace House*, they're made of jade.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: But it almost looks like a long paint roller you'd use on a wall...

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: ... except it's about the size of your hand, and you rub it on your face.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And you know, there's supposed to be all these purported benefits to it. I don't know if any of those are true, but it's nice and cool.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It just feels good to rub my face.

Griffin: Gooshes the toxins out, I think, is what they are purporting.

Uh, yeah, I tried using it on my face, and my stubble gets caught in the mechanisms, and it hurts... a lot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So it's weird, because for me, it has the literal exact opposite effect, where it doesn't de-stress me: it hurts me, physically.

Rachel: I also like to just use it while I'm watching *Terrace House*, and I just feel, like, really...

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: ... really tapping into the moment and the culture.

Griffin: Yeah. Boy howdy, I wish we had some sort of avenue to discuss *Terrace House* and the ending of *Opening New Doors*. We're one episode from finishing it, and holy shit, it is a wild ride.

Rachel: Maybe that should be a stretch goal.

Griffin: Maybe, yeah. [laughs]

Rachel: If we can hit 25,000, we will do...

Griffin: We will do our—I don't even know that I would enjoy...

Rachel: ... a bonus episode where we just...

Griffin: We just, like—a support group would be a better, sort of, name for it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, I wanted to bring the um—God, I just watched some old, uh, like, late-night sketches today. I was inspired—they—I think, um, Splitsider or somebody wrote about the Slipnutz sketch that Conan did, where three of his writers...

Rachel: Do you know why they're writing about it?

Griffin: Because they're, like, putting all those old sketches up.

Rachel: Yeah. It's that he just got, like, access to share all that stuff.

Griffin: And the Slipnutz sketch is just three Conan writers, and it's like a classic sketch, uh, one of whom is Jon Glaser from *Parks and Rec*, he plays the councilman who was—

Rachel: Jamm?

Griffin: Jeremy Jamm, yeah. He also has, I think, a show about tech. He's very funny, but these three [laughs] writers form a comedy group called Slipnutz, and they just appear on the same show that Slipknot is performing on...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... and then they did a follow-up sketch where they literally, actually, opened for a concert for Slipknot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And the whole thing is just they're three guys wearing red vests, slipping on nuts. I watched that, and I was so entertained, and then I watched the Dave Letterman "How many Spider-Men can we fit inside a Jamba Juice?" which is probably the best...

Rachel: Oh, it's so good.

Griffin: If you've never seen that, just google "Spider-Man Jamba Juice," and it's my favorite, like, eight minutes of late-night comedy ever.

Rachel: Yeah, there's a lot of folks, and it makes sense to me, in the younger generation that don't understand the appeal of David Letterman and watching sketches like that really gives you a taste.

Griffin: Uh, spoiler alert, they get a lot of Spider-Men in Jamba Juice.

Rachel: [laughs] Yes.

Griffin: Um...

Rachel: There's a lot that I want to discuss about that, but...

Griffin: Yeah, but it's a s—

Rachel: ... it's better if you leave it a surprise.

Griffin: Go in unspoiled. I've also been playing a Switch game called *Baba is You* that's really good, and I won't go like, super in-depth, it's just a recommendation. It's like a puzzle game, and you're a little dog named Baba, and then there's, like, you know, walls and rocks and a flag, and you have to touch the flag to win, and you can push the rocks around, but the puzzle mechanic is that there's also words on the screen that you can also push around to, like, change the rules of the game.

So there's one that'll say, like, "Baba is you," but you can push "rock" into that sentence, and now "rock is you," and now you're the rock.

Rachel: Wow, that's clever!

Griffin: Or you can say, like, "Wall is you," and now you're all the walls in the level, and you just have to, like, get one of them to the flag.

Rachel: That's a Switch game?

Griffin: Yeah, it's a Switch game, and it's so fucking hard. It's so hard, it makes me feel like a total dingus. But it's really, really good. Really, really clever game. Uh, I go first this week.

Rachel: Cool!

Griffin: My first thing is... I forget. I forget, 'cause my computer went to sleep. The buffet!

Rachel: Oh! Just the concept?

Griffin: The buffet! The concept of buffet serving. I'm not talking about one specific buffet. But I just—I do enjoy a buffet. There was plenty of buffet opportunities for us while we were on the cruise. Uh, which was a—

Rachel: And also at Disney.

Griffin: And at Disney, yeah. We had a good old time at both places. So many people came up to Rachel and I to tell us about *Wonderful!*

Rachel: Gosh, it was unbelievable.

Griffin: It was really, really remarkable, and that was very special. But the buffet!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The buffet, what I love about the buffet is that you can win and lose at the buffet.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: It's possible to do a buffet wrong.

Rachel: Oh, you mean, like—like, there are optimum choices, and you have to seek them out?

Griffin: Yes. There are optimum choices, both sort of like good-food wise, and also feeling-good-afterwards wise. And it's really—

Rachel: Interesting.

Griffin: It's actually kind of hard to split the uprights—in fact, I would say I love the buffet, but I am very bad at successfully doing the buffet.

Rachel: I'm kind of fascinated, so do you do like a mental calculus when you look at food in the buffet?

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Say, like, "This is gonna be beneficial for me, this will not play out well"?

Griffin: No. I don't do that with any food, basically, at all.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: I've gotten better at seeing foods as dangers, and thinking, like, "That will hurt me if I eat too much of that or too spicy of that," or whatever. "Too dairy of that."

Rachel: Mm-hm. [laughs]

Griffin: But no, when I'm at the buffet table, walking down the line, it's full-blown fucking muscle reflex, primitive...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... animal instinct where it says, like—and that's what I like about it. Is that you can surprise yourself at buffet. Or you're walking down buffet, and you're like, "I did not know that I wanted rib roast, but there's rib roast, and there's something in my fucking soul, in my DNA..."

Rachel: No, that's true.

Griffin: "... that wants that rib roast. I'll have it."

Rachel: That's true. Sometimes, if you see something on a menu, you're like, "I don't know that that's what I want," but if you can look at it...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ... and really smell it...

Griffin: Those like, twice-baked potatoes that's like, half a potato skin and then they've like, mulched up the potato meat inside and then mixed it with stuff and then baked it back into the original skin?

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: I only fucking see those at the buffet. I never see that on a menu, and I'm like, "Let me get one of tho—" but I see that at the buffet, I'm like, "What's going on in that little boat?"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then I'll consume it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And that's fun too. I just—I also, the desserts. I always—I am not a big dessert person, just sort of—I mean, I like sweet gummy candies, and you know this to be true...

Rachel: I do.

Griffin: ... but like, I'm not like a—I don't know. I'm 50/50 when we go to a restaurant about whether or not I actually want dessert. But if I go down a buffet, where there's 15 different desserts, I'm gonna have to try pretty much all of 'em, because I do wanna know, like, what's going on with that whole thing.

And they're usually so bite-sized that you can kind of fool yourself into thinking um—just, I'm pretty good. I've gotten better at dietary, like, moderation, but when I see desserts, man, I just wanna—[sighs] ack, right?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, and there's just no other experience where you get to scratch so many different food itches at the same time, which I really like. Like...

Rachel: The buffet, I don't know if this is part of your segment, but I just wanna give a shoutout to the buffet at the Crystal Palace Magic Kingdom.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: It was so good.

Griffin: It was fucking great. It was like 60 dollars a person, which is obviously not ideal, but you get to rub shoulders with the fucking stars. By shoulders, I mean elbows, but I don't think Eeyore has elbows.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And the stars, I mean, are the Winnie-the-Pooh-iverse.

Rachel: I'm talking specifically about the uh, the items that were featured, including like, a jambalaya, which I've never seen at a buffet before? And then like a cornbread spoonbread situation?

Griffin: They had a spoonbread, it was fantastic. Thank you, Walt, for your great breads.

For me, growing up, we had a lot of buffet opportunities, including the Golden Corral, which I have talked about at length.

Rachel: Yeah. You know what, I've never been to one.

Griffin: You really have not been to a Golden Corral?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: It's a trip, man. [laughs] You've got it all, man.

Rachel: I've been to a Luvies, like, once.

Griffin: That's alright. But it's no Golden Corral.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Uh, for me, the place we went the most was up by the mall. It was called Super China Buffet. And it was one of, like, three Chinese buffets in Huntington, which is amazing.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And Super China Buffet had uh, frog legs on it.

Rachel: Woah!

Griffin: Yeah. And it also had uh, crab legs. So for me...

Rachel: Oh, wow.

Griffin: ... and my needs—and they were *not* good crab legs, but baby, it's still crab.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And so I would go there and just mow down crab legs, and it would be bad.

Rachel: That explains—you have such a strong affection for crab legs, and I thought, like, "Where are you getting these crab legs in Huntington, West Virginia?"

Griffin: Well, the origins of that is mostly from going to the Carolinas and Florida with my dad, who is a wild Kodiak bear...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] ... sometimes. So I looked up the origins, uh, the—the origins, it's tough to say. Mostly, it's from the—you're familiar with the term smorgasbord? It's of Swedish origin, smorgasbord?

Rachel: I am, but I kind of want to pretend that I'm not, so that you'll say it a few more times.

Griffin: Okay. I'm gonna say it bad, like the kid in the commercial, and embarrass myself.

Rachel: Oh, what about the Swedish Chef? Will you say it like he does?

Griffin: [Swedish Chef impression] Smorgasbord.

Rachel: Oh, God, that's good.

Griffin: Thank you. Um, this was a meal where folks had uh, a pre-dinner drink, typically. And this is, we're talking about, like 1600s, but as time went on, especially in like the 1800s, it started to sort of fall more along the lines of the modern buffet, and the Swedes showed off this technique on a global scale in 1939 at the New York World Fair, where they showed it off as a way to feed lots of people very quickly, which I appreciate.

The word "buffet" is French, and it describes the type of furniture that this type of food was served on.

Rachel: Oh, yeah, of course!

Griffin: And in fact, the buffet sort of dining experience is categorized as "service a la francaise," which means "in the French style..."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... which could be its own thing. Um, and it basically describes a meal where everything is served all at once, so it doesn't have to necessarily be a buffet, but a buffet is technically served in the French style.

Rachel: Kind of like family style.

Griffin: Right. As opposed to in the Russian style, which is more like, just one—one thing at a time, building.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And a little bit more history, there's a 1922 housekeeping book called *How to Prepare and Serve a Meal*, and it describes the—the concept of eating a buffet was popularized in 17th century France. This is from this excerpt.

"Gentleman callers would arrive at the homes of ladies they wanted to woo unexpectedly. The surprise arrival would throw the kitchen staff into a

panic, and the only food that could be served was a selection of what was found in the cold room."

Those horny dudes were just like, "What's up? Hey, what's up? You up?" And then the whole staff would be like, "Oh, shit. What do we got in the fridge?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Jerry's back."

Apparently, the knife was taboo at the buffet lunch. You were not supposed to use a knife, so it was like, food that can be eaten with a fork or a spoon or your fingers.

Rachel: Huh.

Griffin: Yes. The following dishes cover the essentials of a buffet luncheon, as it was known back then: beverages, punch, coffee, chocolate poured from urn or filled cups from pantry on tray. Hey, what's up? Hey, 17th century France, y'all just had urns of chocolate lying around?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm here for that. Hot entrees of various sorts served from chafing dish or platter, proceeded by hot bouillon, cold entrees, salads, lobster, potatoes, chicken, shrimp with heavy dressings, hot rolls, wafer-cut sandwiches, small cakes, frozen creams and ices. That's a pretty opulent buffet for this horny dude that just rolled up.

Rachel: It is. I mean, there's something really excessive and like, gluttonous about a buffet just in its very nature.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Like, "We are gonna sit out more food than you could want, and we're just gonna leave it there, and if you don't take it, we'll probably have to throw it away."

Griffin: Right. Which brings us to the actual—the terminology, "All you can eat."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Which uh, is attributed to a guy named Herb McDonald, who was an entertainment manager in Las Vegas in the '40s.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: And he sort of, like, introduced the idea of "All you can eat," although I'm sure that this, like—he introduced the phrase, not necessarily the idea.

Rachel: Yeah, it makes sense that it would start in Vegas, 'cause I feel like that's a big deal.

Griffin: Yeah, of course.

Uh, these days, it's actually becoming more increasingly common to see the phrase "All you care to eat," which is, like, a way of softening the language and encouraging—I saw that at all the places at Disney, and I think on the cruise as well. As if to say, like, "Listen, I don't want you to hurt yourself." Like, eat all you want...

Rachel: [laughs] We're not trying to break any records here.

Griffin: Exactly. And in fact, there's a lot of science into how much people decide to eat at a buffet, based on certain environmental factors.

Rachel: Yeah. I could imagine, like the plate size, for example.

Griffin: That's one thing, but also, in 2011, MIT conducted a study on how the prices of buffets changed how much people ate at those buffets. This is the abstract from that study: "A field experiment at an all-you-can-eat pizza restaurant—" Cicis, right? Like, what the fuck else is it?

Rachel: Yeah. No, that's gotta be it.

Griffin: Uh, "... shows that a 50 percent discount on the price of the meal led customers to consume 27.9 percent less pizza. 2.95 versus 4.09 slices. A second analysis indicated that individual taste ratings of this pizza tended to be inversely related to how much is consumed." This is fantastic.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: It's basically saying if you pay less for the all-you-can-eat buffet, you will eat less, but if you pay more...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... you will eat a lot more, and then you're gonna feel like such shit at the end of it, that you're gonna be like, "That was terrible." [laughs]

Rachel: Yeah. 'Cause if a buffet cost 40 dollars, I'll be like, "Well, I wanna eat 40 dollars worth of food, so I feel like I really cash in."

Griffin: Yes. For me, I paid 60 dollars, and I had an incredible rib roast and those weird potatoes, and some, like, barbecue wings? All at the same time, thank you Disneyworld. And I was like, "I need to go back and eat more and more and more, because it doesn't feel like I've gotten my money's worth." And then Piglet rolled up. And I was like, "Never mind!"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Ironically, Piglet, you have kept me from overconsuming at this buffet. Thank you for your service.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What's your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is also a tribute to our travels.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: It's mallorcas.

Griffin: Oh, yes!

Rachel: Yes, those little sandwiches we had in San Juan!

Griffin: Ooh, yes! This is a new passion of mine.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Ooh, mallorcas. It's fun to say; even more fun to eat. It's fun to look at and fantasize about.

Rachel: So we had never been to Puerto Rico.

Griffin: This is true.

Rachel: And I want to provide a small disclaimer, which is that we went there on a cruise ship, and spent all of maybe four hours there.

Griffin: If that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We spent maybe two hours there before we had to go back and take a nap, and then we went outside for another 45 minutes where we got caught on the rain, and had to go back to the boat. But we had a fucking great time in that very limited timespan.

Rachel: Uh-huh. We did.

Griffin: But I would not say—I would say—argue maybe that we still have not been to Puerto Rico.

Rachel: Yeah. So we were in Old San Juan, and uh, one of the things you can find there is mallorcas, which actually—so that's named after the

Spanish island where they originated. In Mallorca, the actual region, they call it uh, ensaimada.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Uh, which is a pastry product. It is a sweet-soft bun that is in a kind of uh, a spiral shape?

Griffin: Yeah, it's—imagine sort of a laminated um, almost like—what's the—like, it was crispy, almost like a crispy croissant, like a thin, crispy croissant with uh, with cool stuff inside.

Rachel: Yeah, exactly. So the restaurant we went to was Bombonera. Which there's an article in the New York Times from 2013 all about that restaurant.

Griffin: Oh, really?

Rachel: Yeah. It closed briefly. This woman wrote about it because she grew up going there, and then when it closed, she talks about trying to create her own replication of their dish.

Griffin: Oh, wow. Huge thanks to Lin for this suggestion on that, 'cause otherwise we would not have known where to go at all.

Rachel: Yeah. So the coiled bun is uh, buttered and uh, pressed flat with a griddle, and then sprinkled with confectioner's sugar.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: We had been on sandwich—like, in a sandwich setup.

Griffin: In sandwich form, yes.

Rachel: But you can also get them filled with custard cream or almond puree or ice cream, chocolate, apricots.

Griffin: Yes. It's very *Choose Your Own Adventure*. It's very much like kolaches for—well, I mean, they're different in substance, but they are similar in freedom.

Rachel: So the first written reference to this pastry was back in the 17th century. Um, at that time, although wheat flour was mainly used for making bread, there's evidence that this pastry product was made for festivals and celebrations.

Griffin: I imagine it's very difficult to make these.

Rachel: Yeah, so the article talks about this recipe you can find on a website called The Noshery, tells you how to make them in your own oven.

Griffin: Yeah. Oh...

Rachel: And the reviews, I guess, are relatively positive as far as taste goes, but the person that wrote the article said they kind of ballooned to a out-of-control size when she made them herself.

Griffin: Well, I mean, any kind of like, laminated pastry like this is such a pain in the ass to make. And that is why I think they're miraculous.

Rachel: It's just got flour, water, sugar, eggs, um, but the—whether you use lard or vegetable shortening and how much kind of makes the difference.

Griffin: Yeah. I'm looking at this recipe now, that you were talking about, and they say, "Get ready to set aside your entire day for this." Which makes sense, 'cause we were at the place, and we kept ordering things, and they were like, "We don't have that anymore. We don't have that anymore."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It was 11 o'clock and they were almost entirely out of these mallorcas.

Rachel: So I read that if you're gonna make this, like, at a bakery, you get up at 4:00 AM to do it.

Griffin: Ooh, damn!

Rachel: It's just like most bakeries do with their breads and pastries.

So apparently, there's a place, and I didn't do a lot of research on this, but the article I read said that there's a—and I apologize, I don't speak Spanish, but Panificadora Pepin is a bread company in San Juan that takes mail orders.

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Rachel: And so apparently it arrives in a sheet of dough divided into tear-off buns and a packet of confectioner's sugar. And then you bake it in your own oven.

Griffin: Oh, that's very good!

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: That's very exciting for me on a personal, irresponsible level.

Rachel: [laughs] But yeah, this was just a new, exciting thing for me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's not anything—apparently, like, Starbucks sells a version of it, but they don't heat it up, and it just doesn't taste at all the same.

Griffin: Huh. We had them with egg and serrano ham, and...

Rachel: I had mine with ham and cheese.

Griffin: Okay. I had mine with egg and ham and cheese.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But with the confectioner's sugar, it's a very much—have you ever had a Montecristo? It's very much—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It was reminiscent of a Montecristo in the savory and sweet and also there's fucking powdered sugar for some reason that I'm not complaining about?

Rachel: Yeah, and buttery, and oh, it's so good.

Griffin: Oh, they were so good.

Rachel: So good. It was so exciting to know that I only had a few hours in a place, and I got to have something that was actually, like, traditional in that area.

Griffin: Yeah. It was—we had a great time on the cruise, but that was like, the most dense, good two hours, 'cause we like, walked around, what was it, the fort—the San Cristobal.

Rachel: The castle, yeah.

Griffin: And the—you had, like, a coconut ice cream while sitting in, like, a park, and then went and had these tasty little sandwiches. It was like, the best time.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Hey, let's talk some more about the Maximum Fun Drive and really start diving down into those donation levels. You wanna start by talking about the 5 dollar a month level?

Rachel: I would like to. So—and as somebody who's stopped to do the research to how many hours of bonus content, and it's well over 200 hours of bonus content.

Griffin: It's a tremendous number.

Rachel: So if you donate 5 dollars a month, you will get access to every piece of bonus content that has ever gone up on the website.

Griffin: For any show.

Rachel: And every year, shows are charged with putting at least one piece of content up there, so again, over 200 hours.

Griffin: We have our most recent episode, where we did a sort of career retrospective with Will Smith.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: *About* Will Smith; not with him.

Rachel: Yeah, you say with Will Smith, that might be overselling it.

Griffin: We didn't ask, and it never hurts to ask.

Rachel: That's true. We need to ask.

Griffin: Um, we did an episode with Jasmine Lorimer, who was the Bachelorette Canada, which was fantastic.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Still miss watching that show. Not necessarily the American version. And yeah, we got a bunch of stuff that I bet you're just gonna absolutely love. And yeah, it's a ton of stuff. We get a lot of people, like, tweets from people, saying, like, "Sorry, I can only donate at 5 dollars a month," but like, that means a lot. That level of support, you know, 5 bucks a month, I know that's not nothing, and it is a way to directly support us.

Whenever you donate at MaximumFun.org/donate, you get to choose where your money—which shows get your donation. So 10 dollars a month, we get

this pin. The pin is very good. The pin has a hot dog on it, and it says, "small wonders." And Megan Lynn Kott designed it.

Now, wait. You can pick whatever show's pin you want.

Rachel: Yes, of course.

Griffin: I made it sound like you have to pick ours. But...

Rachel: Yeah, you don't.

Griffin: But come on.

Rachel: I think what is so perfect about it being a pin with a hot dog on it, is I feel like the hot dog is so emblematic of our show, because the hot dog is something that Griffin and I casually, like, over the years of our relationship, have revealed to each other, is like a genuine piece of enthusiasm for us.

Griffin: Well, you don't wanna show that hand day one.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: 'Cause what if they think a hot dog is nasty?

Rachel: Yeah. It was just kind of casually, Griffin and I realized that we were both real devotees of the hot dog.

Griffin: Yeah. Also, you get a Maximum Fun membership card. 20 dollars a month, you get the 550-piece Maximum Fun puzzle uh, that it uh, looks like a person with headphones looking out of the window to Max Fun HQ Office. It's a very nice puzzle, and you can listen to our show while you do it, or you can do anything else while doing the puzzle. I'm not—

Rachel: [laughs] Not all the puzzles can guarantee you that.

Griffin: That is true.

Rachel: Sometimes, you buy a puzzle, and it tells you exactly what you have to do while you're putting it together. Not this puzzle.

Griffin: Not this puzzle. 35 dollars a month, you get a glass coffee mug that is engraved with the Max Fun rocket logo. And every time you move up a level, you get everything in the previous things.

These are for new donors, but also if you're an existing member of the network, you can upgrade your membership to one of these new levels, and you'll be eligible for these rewards, and that is obviously very helpful for us too, because we're trying to get to 25,000 new and upgrading members. As of right now, I think we're a little over 12,500? So we're over halfway, which is awesome, but we also—no?

Rachel: We're almost at 18,000.

Griffin: Oh, damn!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Well, that's way better.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But we're still not at that goal, and we need to get to that 25,000. And yeah, you all have been so supportive of us. This is my full-time job. It's like, Justin and Travis and Dad's too, and that's only because of the support you've been able to show us over the years, and the support you've shown me and Rachel has been really fantastic, and...

Rachel: Can I address something that was...

Griffin: Please.

Rachel: ... indicated on Twitter?

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Rachel: People started suggesting that if they gave more donations, that I could get a nicer chair. [laughs] And then your brother, Justin, was like, "Rachel, I will buy you a chair, with your permission." And I didn't address it.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So I wanted to talk it over with you.

Griffin: No, I want you to have a nice chair. Can I—sorry. I didn't know the chair you had now is not nice.

Rachel: It's just you're sitting in this really beautiful, sleek office chair.

Griffin: This was like a 90-dollar Office Depot chair.

Rachel: Well—mm? How much was my folding chair?

Griffin: Eh, 15.

Rachel: [laughs] Is that—

Griffin: But listen!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Listen here, hotshot! I've been at this game for a decade or so now.

Rachel: So you're saying, after 10 years, I can get an upgrade? [laughs]

Griffin: You're at a quarter of the podcasting experience that I bring to the table, and so you're working your—you're working your way up, hotshot. This is like *Cars 3* all over again.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I have not seen *Cars 3*. I apologize for conjuring its name.

I want you to have a nice chair. I don't want my brother to have to get you a nice chair. That makes me feel bad. [laughs]

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: That makes me feel bad as a husband, and as a cohost and a collaborator.

Anyway, help Rachel get a nice chair. Go to MaximumFun.org/donate, support the things you care about, and put good stuff back into the world with your support. And we thank you very much.

Do you wanna know about my second thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My second thing is introspection.

Rachel: Oh! So this is interesting.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: Because... I know that you're not a person that meditates.

Griffin: Or am I? Have I been secret—no, I'm not.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I downloaded the Headspace app, which seems good, and I did like, four three-minute-long sessions, and on the fourth one, like, I kept trying to do it over the course of like, three days, 'cause I kept getting distracted or bored.

Rachel: That's how meditation starts, though.

Griffin: I'm sure it is, yes.

Rachel: Just you gotta have that discipline and push through.

Griffin: For sure. But the two things are not exactly the same, right? The Venn diagram is, I think, meditation is an incredible way of being introspective and sort of looking inward with a different perspective, but it's not necessarily the only—the only way.

Rachel: No, that's true. I think introspection, though, can also cause uh, anxious thoughts, depending on how you approach it.

Griffin: I think so, for sure, as well. Um, but I also think that it's a tool for growth that I am of kind of in—I'm in my feels right now.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: I'm in a period of being in my feels, as um, as they say.

Rachel: I need clarification on what that means, I think.

Griffin: In my feelings.

Rachel: ... Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: Sort of just taking the deep, hard look at that dark, truthful mirror. Um...

Rachel: Oh, okay. Is this like when you would sit out, and look at the ocean, when we were on the cruise?

Griffin: The cruise was vital for this movement in my—the era that I find myself in. I am—I am not a very, sort of, introspective person, generally speaking, and this is gonna sound shitty, but just because, like, I never really had time for it, or rather I never really made time for it.

Rachel: Yeah, I think making time for it is what—is worth emphasizing.

Griffin: Yeah. Um...

Rachel: Because I feel like I have always been a very introspective person, but that kind of comes with the territory when you're an only child. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] I guess that's true.

Rachel: Just you and your thoughts.

Griffin: Me, I was too busy dodging baseball bats that my brothers were throwing at me. And then more recently, you know, I was working a lot for the last few years, and kept myself so busy during the days that I just wasn't really taking care of myself from a—from an introspective, you know, way of thinking.

But going on that cruise – and you know, you don't have to go on a *cruise* to have this experience, but the only times in my life where I've gotten some perspective on how I think about stuff and how I actually spend my days and the patterns I live in only came after removing myself from those patterns for a long time, right?

So I don't meditate, but going out on the ocean where I don't have internet access, and I am not on my phone, and I'm not at work, and I'm not in my office, and instead I'm just like spending time with my family for two straight weeks? Like, that's the time for me to take a look at the way that I spend the other 50 weeks of the year, and say, like, "Oh, okay, this is how I'm actually living, and I don't realize when I'm living in it."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I've had a few times like that, like our trip to Japan for our honeymoon was like, similarly like, breaking me out of the patterns that I was living in, and I think that's like, the only times that I really am able to get that perspective.

Rachel: I think that's kind of like a lowkey reason why people love travel so much.

Griffin: I think—for me, it's my favorite reason why I love travel.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because I think introspection is, like, a valuable activity for, like, improving—improving yourself as a human being, right? Like, uh, I think that uh, I have a lot of bad habits, and I really—it is hard for me when I'm, like, mired in them, to really figure out which ones are bad habits and which things I would be happier without until I sort of take a look inward, and that is a super tough thing to do.

The dictionary definition of introspection, just so people have a specific not sort of wavering thing I'm talking about, is "the examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes." The dictionary provides a synonym, which is just "soul-searching," which is nice.

But I think it can go further than that. Like, I think it can be about your behaviors and habits and your actions and the way that you, like, spend your time, and I think any time where you are able to see a clear picture, a holistic picture of how you live from like the outside uh, in, is like a really, really valuable moment. And I feel like I just got a nice glimpse of that while we were on the cruise, and it made me think about how grateful I was that we were able to do that.

Obviously, it's an important concept across all kinds of different philosophical and religious practices, but I also think it's just like a good thing to try and do for yourself, like, during everyday living.

I think we've talked about journaling before?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Which I think is another great way to handle this. And I fell off. We were—I was doing some journaling, like, actually around the time when we started doing this show, and I fell off, and then I just started again, because I was like, "You know, this is valuable. This is a valuable way for me to categorize how I'm actually thinking and doing."

And then I went back and read what I wrote back in late 2017, and then I was like, "Oh, shit. I was like a different... person."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, a year and a half ago, the things I was really worried about and the things that I was like, I spent all of my time thinking about are *nothing* to me now.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's nice to be able to like, get that perspective also on your past... self? And say, like, "Oh, well, if I wasn't—if I'm not worried about that shit anymore, then like, why am I so bogged down with the stuff I'm in now?"

Rachel: It is interesting to journal, because part of you, like—it's inevitable that part of you is thinking about future you as you're writing it, you know?

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Like, I feel like any time I've journaled, I've always thought, like, "This is gonna be a little time capsule for me."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so it's you're writing to yourself, a little bit, as an audience, and it's a very, like, wild experience to do that.

Griffin: I'm bad about when I'm journaling, like writing to an audience? I can literally, like—I don't—and maybe this is like a good, sort of, McElroy observation, but like, I can't not?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I find myself, like, not being able to just like, write without thinking about syntax and like, uh, wit and stuff like that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I feel so self-conscious about that, but then going back and reading what I wrote in 2017, being like, "Ah, I appreciate that this is readable in some way."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: If not, like, weirdly harsh. Like, "What were you—what was up back then? Geez, bud."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, I don't know. I realize this is, like, a strange thing to talk about on the show, but it's a really rare thing for me, and it shouldn't be, right? Like, I should be more sort of keyed in to what I'm feeling, what I'm thinking about.

Rachel: Yeah, it's interesting that—it surprises me that you haven't identified as being an introspective person because I see you as like, a very sensitive, thoughtful person? But so—if you're not being introspective, what do you—what's going on in there? [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, I'm a thoughtful person in like, the things that I make and the way—

Rachel: Yeah. Is that what your brain's spinning around most of the time?

Griffin: Most of the time, like, it's about getting stuff done, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's about getting stuff done, and it's about getting it done well, and it's about trying to be a good, you know, husband and dad and, you know, brother and son and all that stuff. But I'm not really thinking about, like, uh...

Rachel: Like, why do I do the things I do?

Griffin: Right. And I'm not even—this isn't necessarily explicitly mental health stuff, because you know, I'm—see a therapist, and I'm doing all kinds of stuff for that. It's like a—it's like a more holistic, like, "What am I doing—" like, "What am I doing? What am I really doing?"

And this ties back into like, there are times where I feel like I am bad at actually knowing how hard I'm working? So I'll be like, "Oh, God, I'm really putting my nose to the grindstone. I'm so beat down." And it's like, you played *Baba is You* for three hours today. Like, you're not...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Or it can be like, "Oh, man, I need to really put my nose to the grindstone, and really grind this out," and it's like, you stayed up until 1:00 last night, like, writing music. Like, you are already working.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's that kind of stuff when you're, like, in it, that it's really hard to like, take a look at the 24 hours that you just had and say, like, "Oh, this is the way I was."

Rachel: Yeah, you know what? It *does* seem like journaling would be good for you.

Griffin: Yeah. That's why I'm...

Rachel: Keep it up!

Griffin: That's why I'm doing it. Thanks, pal.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So yeah, introspection, you know? Take a breath, defuse some fucking oils, you know?

Rachel: In uh, in the whole meditation culture, they call that mindfulness.

Griffin: Sure. There's a lot of different wonderful synonyms for it. Whatever you gotta do, contemplate your shit, and just take a look! Take a look.

Rachel: It's in a book.

Griffin: It's in a book.

Rachel: *Reading Rainbow.*

Griffin: It's not—no, stop! It's not in a book. It's in you.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If you read a book, you're not—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Unless it's a book about introspection. Mm!

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: Ah!

Rachel: If you wrote that book, would it just be like, "Hey, put this down"?

Griffin: "Put this down." It'd be one page. "Put this down."

Rachel: "Hey! Hey. Put this down."

Griffin: "Put this down. Think about yourself. Think about it."

Rachel: "Pick it up."

Griffin: "Pick it up."

Rachel: "No. Put it back down."

Griffin: "Oh, wait, pick it up, pick it up. Think about yourself. Okay, put it back down."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "I'll see you in the sequel, *For Real, Think About Yourself*."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What's your second thing?

Rachel: My second thing... it's difficult to, like, fully articulate, but the best way I can think to do it is... the rite of passage that is the first kiss.

Griffin: Oh, my God!

Rachel: Not the first kiss, typically. It's not a—first kisses are not typically wonderful.

Griffin: Do you remember yours?

Rachel: Yes! And that's the thing, this is what occurred to me, is that I feel like everybody has a first kiss story, and it is always delightful to hear.

Griffin: Oh, is it?

Rachel: I—

Griffin: Is it delightful to—

Rachel: I just—

Griffin: [astounded] Is it delightful!?

Rachel: [laughs] I—I feel like it's a really—it's a story that I always enjoy hearing from somebody, because it is almost always terrible, but in a very entertaining-detail way. Like, people that are not storytellers, people that

are like, "Oh, I can't tell jokes," or "Oh, I'm a horrible storyteller," are usually pretty good at telling their first kiss story.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And I love that.

Griffin: We can't not—you know we can't not tell ours.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: Mine's kind of a bummer!

Rachel: I don't know—when I was writing this, I don't know that I—you have told me stories about your...

Griffin: I don't think I've told you this story.

Rachel: ...your youthful dating, but I don't know if I know your first kiss story.

Griffin: But this isn't dating, right? This isn't—my first, like, "girlfriend" or whatever was probably, like, high school, right? Or middle school, going into high school. And I think I've talked about that.

Rachel: Oh, is that like, the party game story?

Griffin: There was a—yeah, okay. So we were playing—this was like, 5th grade, though. This was like 5th grade and we were playing truth or dare, and—I was about to say her name, and I'm almost certain she doesn't listen to this show, but just in case I don't wanna put her on blast, but it was like, she was cool, she was like on the...

Rachel: I think I do know this story.

Griffin: ...basketball team, and there were like, a bunch of cool kids at this party, but it's still like, it's like 5th grade, right? So you're about to hit that middle school divide where everybody gets separated off and a lot of your

friends in elementary school are now cool and you are not, so you'll never talk to them again.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And this was, like, the last party before that happened. And we were in her basement, playing truth or dare. I think it was her birthday party. And uh—or spin the bottle. It was one of those two, but anyway, we were supposed to kiss?

Rachel: In 5th grade, you're playing spin the bottle?

Griffin: Listen, we're advanced in West Virginia.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We're—we're a loving people. And she super didn't want—she was, like, embarrassed, but everybody was goading her on, and I was wicked uncomfortable too, so we were in her basement, and we walked behind a sheet that separated the party room from the washer and dryer, and she kissed me back there, just like a quick peck, and then everybody back out at the party was looking through the sheets and started laughing at us. Like, laughing at me. And I was like, "Oh. Cool. It was, like, a gross dare. Anyway, see you guys! Uh..."

Rachel: [laughs] Aw.

Griffin: "See you guys—maybe we'll meet back up in high school, when everybody gets uh—oh, no? Not in high school either? Okay. It's been fun."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "It's been fun, but let's all think about the good four square we've played on the 5th grade playground. Alright, bye forever!"

Rachel: I researched spin the bottle, because I figured that was when a lot of people got their first kisses.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: And the earliest, like, notation of spin the bottle as a concept was like, 1925.

Griffin: Y—ooh, wow.

Rachel: It was not in the kissing sense, though. It was a game that involved spinning a bottle, and then it was the first time the phrase had been in print.

Griffin: Huh.

Rachel: But it wasn't, like, a kissing thing. It was just like a game thing.

Griffin: You had to say a fun limerick about the governor.

Rachel: [laughs] The chant, if I remember, was something like, "Spin the bottle to find who likes butter better."

Griffin: That's... way sexier than uh...

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah. Uh...

Griffin: What was your first kiss story?

Rachel: My first kiss, I believe I told you, was in 7th grade.

Griffin: Was our wedding nigh—what?

Rachel: [laughs] I was in 7th grade at a YMCA teen night.

Griffin: Woah.

Rachel: Uh, my friend was dating the twin of the guy that I kissed.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: I know. This is real; I'm not making this up. It was twin boys; they were a year younger. So I was in 7th grade, they were in 6th grade. One of them had long hair, one of them had short hair. The long-hair one was set up with me by my friend, 'cause she was like, "Oh, you should date my best friend."

So we were at a YMCA teen night. Uh, the whole night, we were around each other, but not really, you know, interacting much. And then the end of the night was coming, and I realized, like, "I'm supposed to kiss this guy."

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Rachel: So we go up to the track, and we're sitting on the track, and I like, don't know how to do anything, you know. And he apparently had dated people already. He was, like, hot stuff.

Griffin: Oh, woah.

Rachel: And he goes, "You're not prude, are you?"

Griffin: [sarcastically] Cool.

Rachel: I know, right? And I was like, "No!" [laughs] Uh, and then it's like, time to go, and my friend is, like, leaving, and we get to the stairwell, and I just, like, close my eyes and start walking towards him. And uh, and we kiss.

Griffin: I have to kick this dude's ass.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: No, the tragic part—here's the sad part of the story.

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Rachel: Is that years and years later, like in high school, him and his brother were like, in our friend group again.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I'd always kind of like, joked around with him, thinking like, he was aware of our shared history. And then finally, he was just like, "Why are you always like—like, teasing me or whatever?" And he did not remember that we had kissed.

Griffin: Oh! N—well, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Did you get *Parent Trap*-ped?

Rachel: [laughs] No.

Griffin: You gotta always keep your head on a fucking swivel.

Rachel: No, no. I was like—I was like, "Do you not remember that we dated briefly?"

And he was like, "No!"

And I was like, "You were my first kiss."

And he was like, "Oh, my God." He was like, "I do not remember this." It was like, cool, dude.

Griffin: That is rough.

Rachel: Real cool.

Griffin: That is rough stuff. So everybody's is probably pretty bad, huh?

Rachel: [laughs] It is. It is. But there's such like, tremendous detail associated with those stories. Uh, you—you didn't provide as much detail, I think, as I was hoping for.

Griffin: I don't know how much—I mean, I didn't want to say the person's name. I got laughed out of the room.

Rachel: Like, what you were wearing, who else was there...

Griffin: I mean, it was 5th grade, so it was almost certainly a windbreaker suit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It was almost definitely a windbreaker suit with a turtleneck on underneath it, of course. What else would it have been?

Rachel: Um, so here's the thing. So there is an author of a book, *The Science of Kissing*, named Sheril Kirshenbaum. She said, "Anticipating a kiss can fire up your brain's reward pathways. The more anticipation you feel leading up to a kiss, the greater the dopamine spike," referring to the pleasure hormone your brain produces.

"Dopamine energizes your brain and senses and prepares them to fully absorb new experiences and sensory information. Dopamine is also associated with addiction and habit-forming behaviors. Dopamine can also wipe out your appetite, and make it hard to sleep, research shows.

"Studies have shown that kissing triggers the release of the neurotransmitter serotonin, which causes feelings of obsession."

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Rachel: "And another hormone, oxytocin, also spikes during and after your kiss. This fosters feeling affection and closeness, so it keeps you coming back for more even after the initial high has worn off." So all of that kind of explains to me, like, why people remember it, you know? Is the anticipation.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like, you spend all this time thinking, like, "What's my first kiss gonna be like? Who's this gonna be with? Like, am I gonna do it right? Are they gonna do it right?" And then that experience of that releases so many hormones, and like, makes your senses so heightened, I feel like everybody has these great first kiss stories.

Griffin: But I feel like we are reaching an age where just none of 'em are gonna be like, "I was in love with this boy..."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "...in 3rd grade, and we had a beautiful uh—a beautiful romance, and he walked me through a path of roses." It's always gonna be like, "Somebody dared me to do it. The whims of fate..."

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: "...brought me to kiss him, and then a thousand people laughed at me."

Rachel: So there was a recent study done at the University of Connecticut, and when I say recent I mean 2018, that decided to explore kissing as a reflection of personality. Uh, the researchers um, wanted to determine the motivational and demographic predictors of the age of first kiss using a sample of 738 undergraduates who agreed to participate.

The researchers asked participants to complete measures of religiosity, academic performance, closeness and autonomy in their relationships with their mothers, use of alcohol, body mass index, and self-esteem.

Griffin: [sarcastically] The usual stuff.

Rachel: As of these undergraduates, only 14 percent had never kissed a partner on the lips.

Griffin: W—in college?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Compared to their peers—

Griffin: I did not mean to sound judgmental when I said that. That was unintentional.

Rachel: [laughs] "Compared to their peers, adults who had never kissed were more likely to be in the honors college..."

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: None of this is gonna be a surprise. "... less likely to be in a romantic relationship, less extroverted, drank alcohol less frequently." Um... so not any, like, groundbreaking information in that study.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: But I think it's interesting—I couldn't find what the average age was in the study...

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: ... without downloading the whole thing.

Griffin: Nice try, Nexus Lexus. We're not gonna fucking pay for a subscription.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What are we, in college?

Rachel: [laughs] But I think it's interesting that, just as of 2018, people are just like, starting to study, like, "What does this mean, exactly, about people, and why do some people get that experience earlier than others?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And why is it always so terrible?

Griffin: [laughs] No, it's—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's because of—it is because of... there was so much pressure...

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: ... around that age to *kiss*. To kiss.

Rachel: I like—I—thinking about spin the bottle, so I actually did play spin the bottle when I was in 6th grade, but at that age, I just had to kiss somebody on the cheek.

Griffin: Ah.

Rachel: Um, but the thought of kissing anybody made me so uncomfortable for a very, very long time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Well into my teens.

Griffin: Yeah. 'Cause you're not gonna be good at it.

Rachel: No. And then they can tell people. That's what I was always so nervous about.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: 'Cause they could say, like...

Griffin: But here's the—

Rachel: ... how terrible you are. [chuckles]

Griffin: They're also going to be quite bad. It's, like, a new mouth activity. I didn't start—the first time somebody was like, "Hey, whistle," it wasn't like, I was like, [whistles confidently]. No. It was a new mouth thing I had never done before.

Rachel: Do you know—and I hadn't thought about this, and it's obvious when I'm saying it, but humans are the only species that have protruding lips.

Griffin: Hmm. Hmm! Alright.

Rachel: Which maybe—I don't know if that explains why we kiss or not, but I find that interesting.

Griffin: Well, I mean, most of the other ones just nuzzle, which I'll enjoy that as well.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Do you think the problem with my first kiss is that I did try to whistle into her mouth?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I thought that that was an element of it. I thought you were supposed to make a musical sound inside the mouth of your partner. [pause] No?

Rachel: What was the—what was the musical sound, do you remember?

Griffin: It was the *Pokémon* theme song.

Rachel: Yeah! That's a long song!

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, she was pa—she stood there while I did the whole thing.

Rachel: [laughs] That was nice.

Griffin: Yeah, I did the whole theme song, and then I did the "Pokérap," just...

Rachel: That's probably why they were laughing, Griffin!

Griffin: ... Maybe, because whistling the "Pokérap" is tough, because it's mostly sort of, uh, you know, not—not musical, just sort of...

Rachel: How would you whistle Bulbasaur?

Griffin: [shakily whistles four notes]

Rachel: Pikachu?

Griffin: [confidently whistles three notes]

Rachel: You're really good at this.

Griffin: Thanks. Yeah. Um... yeah.

Rachel: Real Andrew Bird over there.

Griffin: Well, you know, I've had lots of practice. [clicks tongue]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: A lot of whistling... into your mouth, over these...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... these wonderful years we've spent together.

Uh, hey. Hey. Let's talk about the Max Fun Drive just one last time, and then we'll let you get back to it.

Rachel: Are we gonna read listeners?

Griffin: We will, but maybe we'll do that after, if they stick around.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: You know, we've gotta give them something to stick around for. Maybe your submission—let me guarantee, your submission made it on this time. So listen to us ask you for your support one last time.

Go to MaximumFun.org/donate, become a—a member of the network, and choose to support the shows that you want to listen to. Which, if you're listening to this, I hope includes us. Um...

Rachel: And tweet about it, using the hashtag #MaxFunDrive.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, we are honored to be a part of this network. It is such an incredible community, so much so that I talked about them during a break. Did I do it during last Max Fun Drive? I don't remember. That would've been awfully sycophantic.

Rachel: No, it was before. It was before, yeah.

Griffin: Okay. And uh, yeah, because of the Max Fun Network, we've been able to turn this into a career. They support us in a bunch of ways, and you can show your support, too, by going to MaximumFun.org/donate.

Rachel: I would encourage people that donate to really um, share their enthusiasm with other people, and encourage other people to donate too. I think a lot of times, pledge drives become, kind of, something that you share accountability with others?

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Rachel: But I think, you know, what really makes a difference is those people that want to put their dollars towards something they believe in.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, and again, it's super direct. You pick the shows that you wanna support, and a small chunk of that goes to Maximum Fun to help

us out with the things they help us out with, and the rest just goes directly to the shows that you pick.

You get the great pledge gifts, you get all the bonus content at 5 dollars a month, you get the pin of your choice as well as the membership card at 10 dollars a month, you get the puzzle and everything that comes before it at 20 dollars a month. There's a bunch of different donation levels; whatever you are comfortable with, whatever your means will allow, uh, we just really appreciate you showing your support in such a direct and genuinely life-changing way.

Like, my life has changed because of this network, and because of the people who have come out to say that they like the stuff that we make, and we will forever be indebted to you.

If you are already a member, and you're listening to more shows and you have more means this year, maybe think about bumping up your donation. In any regards, maybe take a look at your donation information and make sure that your credit cards haven't expired...

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: ... because that's actually a huge thing for a network like ours that depends on those recurring, sort of, donations. Yeah, whatever you can do. MaximumFun.org/donate. This is the last time we're gonna ask you about it; the next episode you hear of this show will not be in the drive anymore, so uh, just do it now if you're thinking about it. Don't give yourself time to forget. MaximumFun.org/donate.

Rachel: And what day does the drive end?

Griffin: Well, the finale is gonna be on the 29th, which is going to be Rachel's birthday!

Rachel: That is true, guys.

Griffin: [mimics celebratory airhorn]

Rachel: I am not shy about saying that I am turning 37 on Wednesday.

Griffin: [mimics celebratory airhorn]

Rachel: It is not an easy age to turn, so it would be helpful to me...
[laughs]

Griffin: [continues celebratory airhorn]

Rachel: [laughs] ... in addition to Griffin's airhorn noise, if you would donate.

Griffin: That was not an airhorn.

Rachel: Oh, no?

Griffin: That was a flugelhorn.

Rachel: ... Flugelhorn?

Griffin: A flugberhorn.

Rachel: Can you spell that for me?

Griffin: Flugble... H-O-R-N.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Hey, can I tell you what our friends at home are very, very excited about these days?

Rachel: Yes, please!

Griffin: Lucy says, "I think stale marshmallows are wonderful. Peeps season is here again, but—" [bursts into laughter]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Peeps season is here again."

Rachel: How is the harvest this year?

Griffin: "But I personally find that marshmallows are not ripe until they've sat out for a bit and gotten a nice crust on their outside. The added texture makes them even more delicious."

Rachel: Oh, my gosh. I love the idea of walking into a house, and there's, like, a cooling rack just with Peeps lined up on it.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Rachel: Getting that nice crisp.

Griffin: "[haughtily] Nice, crispy, barrel-aged... "

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "... barrel-aged marshmallow Peeps."

Michael says, "Something I find wonderful," and he's bolded "wonderful" to show us that's the name of the show...

Rachel: Oh, hey! Good.

Griffin: "... is storing the scoresheets of old tabletop or board game experiences along with their box. It makes for a heartwarming reminder of those past games with family and friends every time you open it up, and it can even be a fun conversation starter with those you play with next."

I like this. We used to do this with Balderdash whenever we would—we played Balderdash, like, once a year, and so every time we opened up the box, we would, like, look at our stupid jokes from the previous year that we had played it...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... and usually it is very [crosstalk]."

Rachel: We'd do this a lot with the game Things... remember?

Griffin: Oh, Things... Holy shit.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I still remember some of, like, the really, really funny answers.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Things... is a game where you get a prompt, and it's like, "Things you—" the one I will never forget is when I was playing Things... with, I think it was my friends in Chicago who introduced me to it. And one of the prompts was "Things you'd like to do with chocolate," and somebody wrote, "Kick its ass."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I always thought that was the funniest thing I'd ever heard. And yeah, I like looking back through stuff like that, as well. As well as, like, old Hero Quest character sheets. If we still had our childhood copy, God, I would kill for that, just to see what kind of cool names I gave the barbarians back then.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, Alex says, "Something I think is wonderful is the small fences they put around individual trees to keep them safe and help them grow. It always makes me laugh a little."

Rachel: That is nice!

Griffin: It's nice. It's a little prison for this nasty tree.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This nasty tree, we can't—it's not ready to be back out in the general sort of—

Rachel: I wonder if dogs respect that, if they're like, "Oh, you know what, guys? Don't pee on this one."

Griffin: "It's a keeper."

Rachel: "There's a fence there."

Griffin: "There's a fence there. Fences are here for a reason." You know dogs are like, "I bet I could still get a—I could still get on that, no problem."

Birds are like, "Whatever. We're up. Fence don't go up."

Uh, thank you all so much for listening to all of our shenanigans these past two weeks.

Rachel: Thank you. Oh, and thanks to those of you that watched the live poetry corner I did in the Facebook group.

Griffin: Yes! You did such a good job. The Facebook platform was not especially conducive to your art...

Rachel: Yeah, I apologize. I'd never used it before; I didn't realize how twitchy it was.

Griffin: Yes. But still a few days left. We could hop on [awkward pronunciation] YouTube and...

Rachel: Yeah. Let's say, if we get to 20,000...

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: ... I'll do one on the YouTube.

Griffin: Okay. And do you have enough poems for that? I don't know how many poems there are.

Rachel: [through laughter] Do I have enough poems?

Griffin: Oh, shit! Okay.

Rachel: Yes. Yes, I do.

Griffin: Okay, good. So yes, that's our show. MaximumFun.org/donate, one last time, is the link to go support us. 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.

And again, thanks to everybody at the JoCo Cruise who came up and said hi. It was really, really great getting to meet y'all. We had a great time, and hopefully we'll see you there same time next year.

Anything else we should say? Guess not! What about um... tomorrow's lotto numbers? Just let everybody know that. Use your psychic powers to provide money for our friends.

Rachel: Alright. I'm gonna start.

Griffin: But then you give us some of it in the Maximum Fun Drive.

Rachel: I'll do one, and then you'll do one, okay?

Griffin: Okay, okay.

Rachel: 4.

Griffin: 4. Can you do the same number twice? Probably not. I don't think they have infinite balls bouncing around.

Rachel: I can't believe I said 4, and you didn't say...

Griffin: 20?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Or wait, what was the *Lost*... shit.

Rachel: [laughs] Oh, gosh, I'm never gonna remember that.

Griffin: 4, 8, 15, 16... 32... shit, I almost had it!

Rachel: Did that end up meaning anything?

Griffin: Did anything on that show mean anything?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Please don't go buy lottery tickets because of us. Bye!

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music, "Money Won't Pay" by bo en and Augustus, plays and ends]

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