

Wonderful! 111: Tiger's Gotta Scratch

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, this is Griffin.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful.

Griffin: Feelin' punk rock this episode. How 'bout you?

Rachel: I could tell. You just threw the lid of your water bottle on the ground.

Griffin: I threw it down to the—yeah, I threw it down to the ground. Y'know, I felt like, in that moment, it was kind of... the system. And I said, "I'd rather not today." And so, I put it down. I guess I'm just not feeling up to putting up to any guff from anyone or any entity this evening, as I record this show with you.

Rachel: I am starting to wonder if there is a waxing or a waning moon, or if there is something in our third house, or... y'know? You and I, I think, are experiencing a similar, um, fog.

Griffin: A fog, if you will.

Rachel: And you know, we are the same astrological sign.

Griffin: Mercury's in retrograde.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: There's drops of Jupiter.

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: In her hair. Ay ay yaaa. And that always gets me down. Always gets me low. Yeah, who knows? Who knows? Sometimes, y'know, you're on the downswing. But it can only get, uh, go up from here. Boy, it's been a long day.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's been a long day of uh, of uh, three-year-old check in doctor appointments with shots and everything.

Rachel: Ugh.

Griffin: Full-blown, ballistic meltdowns, and just a cavalcade. A cavalcade of—

Rachel: Y'know, I like to get that first in the morning appointment, but I waited too long to book it, and so, we had to do the like, 9:40 appointment, which turned into to—

Griffin: Ugh, you hate to get shots at 9:40.

Rachel: —me getting to work at almost noon. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. But we filled our child with the good poison.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's gonna keep him so safe.

Rachel: True.

Griffin: And uh, yeah. It was worth it, I guess. But do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: I do. I wanted to give a um, a tip of the hat...

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: To the new Mike Birbiglia special.

Griffin: Oh yes.

Rachel: We watched it last night.

Griffin: The New One.

Rachel: It's literally called The New One. It's on Netflix, and it made me laugh and cry.

Griffin: Yeah. It's a uh... it's real talk. Real talk stuff. Baby stuff, mostly. And it uh, it re-awakened some memories from that first year of childhood that were...

Rachel: I think—I think the ideal viewer, um, feels very close to an infant in their life, because there's a lot of discussion of uh, of infants and being around them and how they impact your life.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it's a very funny... very funny take.

Griffin: Funny, but actually funny. Not funny in like a 'Kids Say the Darndest Things' funny.

Rachel: Yeah. Not like, uh...

Griffin: Real adult jokes with cussing and everything.

Rachel: Not like a Home Improvement, let's say.

Griffin: You watch it. You're on thin ice.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm gonna say Trader Joe's broccoli and kale slaw. Boy, it takes me there every time we have it. Ooh, it's good. It's a little chopped salad, and uh, no scrambled eggs required. It's got like a sweet dressing on it with little dried blueberries—

Rachel: There's like, a poppy seed...

Griffin: —and some uh, what are those little guys? Those pepitas. What do you call them? Anyway, they're good as hell. Little crunch'ems. Love it. Love this salad.

Rachel: Think it might be a pine nut.

Griffin: Might be some sort of pine nut. No one's quite sure. Trader Joe himself doesn't know. I'll say Trader Joe's in general. I want to get there. And you've done Trader Joe's on the show, I feel like, before. I just want to eat those little chocolate cat cookies all day and night.

Rachel: Yeah. Should I be buying those more than I do?

Griffin: Um, yeah.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah. And I meant—I know we're gonna—now we're gonna have an argument about it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Now we gonna have a big fight about it, I guess.

Rachel: I thought you were gonna say your small wonder was that our anniversary is coming up.

Griffin: No, I wasn't gonna say that.

Rachel: And that you were so excited about it. Because it's—

Griffin: I'll talk about it next week if it goes well.

Rachel: Oh! [laughs]

Griffin: Y'know? But I don't want to like... I don't want to hype it up too much.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: You do that to movies all the time, and I—y'know, it would make the movie bad. I don't want to do that with our anniversary.

Rachel: Oh, we saw some good movies, too!

Griffin: Hell yeah we diiid. In fact, I'm gonna start my first wonder.

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: My first wonder is the mighty voice of Idina Menzel.

Rachel: Ooooooh!

Griffin: My first wonder. It's a big wonder, and it's Idina Menzel's impossibly powerful throat sounds that she can make with her voice.

Rachel: It is really incredible.

Griffin: It's a very—it's a wild voice, and it's wild how much stuff she has done with it. How many like, big roles of like, women vocalists who are characters in movies and plays that is her.

Rachel: Oh! I forgot she was in Rent, right?

Griffin: She was Maureen in the original cast of Rent. This was in 1996. And that's really where she made like, her first big break. If you don't know, uh, she's Elsa. Princess Elsa. She's from Frozen.

Rachel: She does the Frozen.

Griffin: She does the Frozen. She is Elsa. Uh, but she's done a lot of other stuff, too, including Maureen in Rent. She uh, opened up with the show in 1996, and made a huge splash. Got a Tony nomination for her performances in that one. And uh, was only in it for a year.

I think a lot of the like, OG cast that kind of like, really defined the show, were only in it for... well, to varying degrees, but like, it was a short run. But that's always the cast that I think of, mostly because also, they got a lot of them back in the movie of Rent, which was... eh. It was so-so. But Idina Menzel was in it, and she did a great job.

So that was '96. She started puttin' out solo albums after that. Uh, just doin' a ton of stuff. And then, she blew up again in 2003. You know what she was in next?

Rachel: I don't.

Griffin: Wicked!

Rachel: Ohh!

Griffin: She was Elphaba in Wicked. And in 2003, like, I feel like 2003 to 2005, all my theater friends—'cause this was back in the day. I was still doing theater. They were like, obsessed with Wicked. And I feel like the cool

thing, then, and probably is still now, to some extent, is if all of your theater friends like a show, you don't like it, because of how commercial—

Rachel: Oh yeah? [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. I feel like... yeah. Everybody... I don't know. I wanted to be on some hipster bullshit. Like, "Oh, yeah, I guess *Wicked* is good, but have you read—"

Rachel: So what was your theatrical go-to, then?

Griffin: I didn't have—I think for me, it was mostly my punk rock music, and y'know, David Mamet. Smart shit, y'know? For smarties.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Edward Albee.

Griffin: But then I went and saw... I went and saw *Wicked*, on like an off Broadway—or uh, a touring production in Cleveland. Or Columbus. One of those C cities. I loved it. I had a good time with it.

Rachel: Y'know, we both saw it, except when I saw it, it was a bootleg DVD that was purchased off eBay. [laughs]

Griffin: Your dad... your dad should be in jail. Your dad should go to federal prison for how many bootleg, uh, theatrical—my dad should—they should share a cell.

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: They should share a cell together.

Rachel: Don't ask, um, Griffin's dad or my dad to unzip their coat, because inside, you'll see just a rack of DVDs.

Griffin: Just full of... full of DVDs. Uh, I'm going to play very short clips, because I don't want the Disney company to sue us.

Rachel: Yeahhh.

Griffin: I mostly want to highlight just sort of individual notes, because she has a great voice, it's very versatile, she can do, uh, a more sort of like, coquettish, just soft, gentle voice. And then, can also just like, fucking come at you with a fist of a note. Just a big swinging haymaker of a note. Uh, there's a note at the end of Defying Gravity, which is sort of the big anthem from Wicked, uh, that she hits, that just completely floors me in a wild way. I'm gonna play just a short bit of that now.

[‘Defying Gravity’ from Wicked plays]

Griffin: She just... she's got a great voice. But these like, soaring notes that she just fuckin' blasts. Like, it is violent in a way. She just sends them packing. And that's the power I'm talking about. The power of her voice, like, it is a very tangible thing, and I can only think of a few singers that are like this, where there are notes that she sings, and there are songs that she sings that like, actually give me chills, just with the delivery of those songs.

2013, or 2014, is when Frozen came out. Obviously, Let it Go was the biggest song ever. Uh, it won—it won an Oscar, it won a Grammy, and it was nominated for a Golden Globe. Uh, so y'know, I think she has the—probably one of the most famous singing voices on the planet, just for Let it Go alone.

That's also when we got the Adele Dazeem era. Choppy waters. They squashed the beef, though. Um... I didn't realize in the following Oscars, they presented together, and she referred to him as Glom Gazingo. That's funny. They have fun with it, see?

Rachel: [laughs] That is fun.

Griffin: So, Frozen 2, Rachel and I just saw in theaters. I thought the music was even better.

Rachel: Yeah, I think so too.

Griffin: Uh, and I missed some of the movie, because of—we went with Henry, and there were interruptions, let's say, that made me miss some key plot points. But the songs were so good, and again, I'm only gonna play about four seconds of Into the Unknown now, because there's a note she hits that's just like, what?

[‘Into the Unknown’ from Frozen 2 plays]

Griffin: Do you know what portamento is? You did some band stuff.

Rachel: Yeah, but I don't know that.

Griffin: It's like, uh, when notes glide together. It is like, the quality of the glide between notes.

Rachel: Ohh.

Griffin: She hits that, uh, a lot in her singing voice. But when she does Into the Unknown, it's all over that song. And especially in the chorus, which is essentially like, y'know, three long notes, where she goes, [sings badly] “Into the unknowooo—” Like, that glide up into it is like...

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: It sounds like she's just launching that shit at you like, from a trebuchet. It is wild. It's so good. I don't have anything erudite to add about Idina Menzel's like, incredible voice, but I think it's very unique. I love a good singer. Like, I talk about that on this show all the time, but there is—this is a different—it's a different metric, I feel like.

Rachel: It's like... it feels—more than most people singing, it feels like she has a superpower.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Y'know? Like, a lot of people are talented singers, and you hear them, and you think, "Oh, that's somebody who has really honed their craft." She seems like maybe she was born with this gift that also could overturn a car.

Griffin: Yeah! It's like the opera singer singing loud enough to shatter a glass thing. But instead of that, it just makes me go like, kind of like, "Whoa!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like, literally. "Oh! Whoa! That was weird! That was interesting!"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, I apologize for even singing two notes of Into the Unknown just now. I can't do it. It's way out of my register. Let me work on it, though. I'm going to classes. Y'know, polishing the instrument.

Rachel: We should mention, a while back, I had a conversation with Griffin where I asked him if he thought, if somebody that was less talented could go to enough vocal classes, that they would become a superstar.

Griffin: Idina Menzel.

Rachel: Yeah. 'Cause I thought, is this really something that you can, y'know, Gladwell through and become an expert? And Griffin indicated that he thought it—some people just were born with exceptional talent, and other people would have to, y'know... never get there. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Well... I mean, I am not trying to go fuckin'... I'm not trying to make an Ayn Rand stand here on our podcast together.

Rachel: [laughs] I just, y'know... some people have super great pipes, and maybe like, it—

Griffin: I'm thinkin' about the throat meat. I was born with a certain kind of throat meat that gives—because it gives you a certain quality, right? Like, uh, I—we are talking so far out of our asses right now. But like, uh, if she—if she's like a... what, like an alto? Then can you be a soprano also?

Rachel: Yeah, good point.

Griffin: Like, if I have a deep baritone voice, like, then I don't know that I could train myself up to a tenor voice. I feel like you're talking about a certain physiological element.

Rachel: I guess what I'm asking is, if I start taking vocal lessons, could I be really, really good?

Griffin: Yeah, baby. Of course you could. You have a beautiful voice already. It's mellifluous.

Rachel: I'm just terrified, I think, that I would do it for a long time, and I would never get anywhere.

Griffin: Well, I mean, that's why you go on American Idol. You go on The Voice, and you find out if you've made it.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: That's why people go on those shows, is to find out whether the investment of time that they put in their entire lives...

Rachel: Right. Like, I'm thinking about taking voice lessons. Let me see if I have to.

Griffin: Yes. Exactly. That's a good point. Go on now to get a baseline, and it'll be so inspiring when like, y'know, six or seven years later, you come back on, and they're like, "I remember this punk. Go ahead and give us—give us that stink voice." And then you blast them with some Menzel shit. Hey, what's your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is birth control.

Griffin: Heyyy!

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Alright.

Rachel: I'm not gonna get real detailed here. I just—I like, uh... I like that it exists.

Griffin: Yeah, it's great stuff.

Rachel: I feel like it gave people a lot of freedom. Um, in their lives. And it gave a lot of recognition to the idea of sex for pleasure, and I think it deserves to be a wonderful thing.

Griffin: Are you talking about pills in particular? Are you talking about just sort of contraception...

Rachel: No, I'm talking about just contraception. Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

Griffin: Hell yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, because everything—I mean, like, any drug, or any, y'know, like, medical method, there are side effects and pitfalls.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I'm not gonna say like, this is the one, guys. Like, if you're gonna protect yourself, this is the guy. I'm not here to do that.

Griffin: Right. Yeah.

Rachel: This is something that I started taking in college, and I thought it was the most magical, wonderful thing ever. Because at the time, not only

did it help protect me from becoming pregnant, but it also cleared up my skin. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Isn't that amazing?

Griffin: It is wild. But that's not like, a super uncommon thing, right? There's like, hormonal reasons why it does the shit it does.

Rachel: Yeah. Levels you right out. Y'know?

Griffin: Yeah. You need a nice—you need a nice indica birth control pill to just give you the nice head high, and really—I can't start my day without...

Rachel: [laughs] That would be really incredible if there were dispensaries.

Griffin: Just edibles that also didn't—they kept you from getting pregnant?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah, that would be cool. God, we sound like total fuckin' old cops.

Rachel: [laughs] So, um, I wanted to start with the condom.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Because condoms have been around since 3,000 BC.

Griffin: That makes sense that dudes would be like, "Me first! Do mine first!"

Rachel: [laughs] Condoms made from such materials as fish bladders, linen sheets, and animal intestines were around in 3,000 BC.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That's, uh... hey. Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry. That's fuckin' gross.

Rachel: I know! I know. I like thinkin', though, like, let's say somebody's sittin' there, and they're cuttin' apart, y'know, a creature, and they're looking, and they're pulling out the stuff they don't want to eat, and then they think, "Hey, wait a minute..."

Griffin: Hmm. Do you think it started with, "I can put that on my dick, and then it'll catch all the stuff, and so, I won't get them pregnant."? Or do you think it started with like, "I'm gonna put my dick in that." And then like, the hundredth time they did it, they were like, "Hey, I actually have a good idea for—"

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Or somebody caught them. And they're like, "Hey, um, what you're doing right now is, uh, awful." And they're like, "O-F-F-A-L?"

Rachel: "I'm a scientist."

Griffin: Yes. "Excuse me. How dare you."

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: "I'm having sex with this sheep stomach for science. Thank you."

Rachel: Um, so they didn't—you didn't see condoms made out of rubber until 1838. Before that, you could see like, linen sheets, and animals, and yeah. It was...

Griffin: Let me know the effectiveness rate of your linen sheet condom. 'Cause I bet it's...

Rachel: [laughs] Well, so, in 1500, they identified the first spermicides, and would soak the linen sheets in the spermicide and let it dry.

Griffin: Ohh! Awful. Oh, even worse! Good, it's getting worse!

Rachel: [laughing] And then put that stiff, y'know...

Griffin: Cord wood-like material. Wrap it around your member. And then... have sex, I guess?

Rachel: Here is something I didn't know about until I was doing research. Were you familiar with the Comstock act?

Griffin: Mmm... god, that sounds familiar, but it might just be because it sounds like a Bioshock thing.

Rachel: [laughs] In 1873, this act was passed in the United States, and it prohibited advertisements, information, and distribution of birth control, and allowing the postal service to confiscate birth control sold through the mail.

Griffin: Whaaat?

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: That's bad. That doesn't seem like it should be anything.

Rachel: Terrible and crazy.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I didn't do a lot of research on kind of how this movement started, but obviously, it was kind of a huge setback for the advancement there for a little while.

Griffin: What, that the post office could be like, "Nope!" Yeah, I think that's probably a...

Rachel: Well, also that you couldn't even advertise or distribute information.

Griffin: Yeah. How do you get it? How did you get it? I guess you gotta know a guy.

Rachel: It's terrible.

Griffin: Yeah, it's not great.

Rachel: Uh, so, 1916 is where you saw the first birth control clinic in the United States. This was Margaret Sanger. Not a great lady.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Her reasons behind birth control were not ideal.

Griffin: She was on some eugenics shit, yes?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Not ideal. I think we can all agree.

Rachel: Yes. She, though, did kind of blaze a trail, because she was challenging, um, y'know, the opposition against this. And so, she went to jail a few times. Uh, and then, finally, in 1938, in a case involving her, a judge lifted the federal ban on birth control.

Griffin: In 19... sorry?

Rachel: 1938.

Griffin: That's not that long ago, it feels like.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Well, you want to know something even crazier?

Griffin: What's that?

Rachel: So, it wasn't until 1972 that the Supreme Court legalized birth control for all citizens of the country.

Griffin: What, was it a state by state thing at that point?

Rachel: Yeah, so it was kind of a weird thing. This is what I didn't realize. Uh, in 1965, the Supreme Court gave married couples the right to use birth control.

Griffin: Oh, fuck off.

Rachel: Ruling that it was protected in the Constitution as a right to privacy.

Griffin: But only for marrieds? That doesn't make any sense.

Rachel: Yeah. Millions of unmarried women in 26 states were still denied birth control.

Griffin: That sucks so bad.

Rachel: I'm guessing that was probably the only way they could get it through, right? Was that like, this idea that we don't want to encourage you to have sex, but I guess if you're married, then you should be able to, so maybe we can say it's alright for you not to get pregnant. I don't know.

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: It's a really strange, terrible reason.

Griffin: Wouldn't it want to be—sorry, government, from 1965. Wouldn't you want it to be the other way around? Where the people who—

Rachel: I know. You'd think so, right?

Griffin: Right? Isn't that kind of like your whole fuckin' setup in your brain?

Rachel: I think it's still this idea that like, maybe if we pretend that people don't want to have sex, they won't have sex.

Griffin: [sighs]

Rachel: And so, if we make it seem like it's remotely okay, then it's us saying it's okay, and we don't want to be the people to say it's okay.

Griffin: It's wild. If they had allowed advertisements back when it was this, y'know, spermicide soaked cardboard material that you wrapped around your penis, I think that this whole movement would've died on the vine. But instead, they had to make it this exotic thing.

Rachel: Also, we haven't—we haven't really talked about STIs, but obviously, this is—

Griffin: Yeah, dude.

Rachel: Condoms in particular are like a huge windfall for avoiding...

Griffin: Yes, absolutely.

Rachel: Yeah. One more thing I'll say about Margaret Sanger. In 1950, while she was in her 80s, she underwrote the research necessary to create the first human birth control pill.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And so, in 1960, that was when the first pill was approved by the FDA as contraception. That's another kind of huge...

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Huge step for the movement, and that's, y'know, kind of where I come into the picture.

Griffin: 1963, detective Rachel McElroy!

Rachel: [laughs] I leaped, is what I did.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Ultimately.

Griffin: Sure. Little bit outside of your own timeline, but I'll allow it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Well, my guide. It was within my guide's timeline.

Griffin: Ohh. And your guide was...?

Rachel: Val.

Griffin: Val.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. She's kind of a spicy broad.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, but she was—she was born in the '50s, so I was able to leap, because there was a lightning strike, and then I was able to leap in her—

Griffin: Hey, do you have a spec script somewhere, sitting around, for Quantum Leap: The New Class?

Rachel: [laughs] Y'know, I just think they should bring it back, and I think they should put some women in some roles.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Spice it up. Modernize it.

Griffin: It's long overdue.

Rachel: The world's ready. Uh, that's—I mean, that's all. There's all sorts of touch points, obviously. Different evolutions of the types of birth control. Uh, I... I've always been very grateful for it. I think it's an incredible thing. I think it has so many benefits beyond just preventing people from pregnancy, uh, that I think it's very important, and um, I wanted to talk about it.

Griffin: Yeah. It's a good thing to talk about, 'cause it's a good thing in general. And the fact that there's any sort of contention about that at all in any sector is...

Rachel: Hey. Hey, prudes? People are gonna...

Griffin: People gonna do it.

Rachel: People are gonna have sex.

Griffin: Can't stop them. Can't stop me. I bone every night. I am such a—

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: I'm doin' it every night. I'm gettin' it so, just, wild up in here. You can't tell me to put that tiger back in the cave!

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Or the cage. Or I keep the cage in the cave. It's a secret tiger, but when I let—tell them, babe. When I let it out... when the tiger come out?

Rachel: Yeah. Kitty likes to scratch.

Griffin: Kitty likes to scratch. Better hide them steaks.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm smashin' the window to the steak shop every night.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: All night long.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Tell them!

Rachel: Yeah. Um... r... roar.

Griffin: That's the noise I like to make! You know! They know! Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes. [laughs]

[ad break music plays, but transitions into 'Into the Unknown']

Rachel: Can I tell you about our first sponsor?

Griffin: Um... yes.

Rachel: It's not a bird. It's Flamingo.

Griffin: Uh-huh. Were you trying to cut me off at the pass there?

Rachel: Uh-huh, I was. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, yeah. No, this is the razor company, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Grar! Oh, who's that? Just came in the studio. It's their mascot.

Rachel: Uh oh.

Griffin: Flammy. Come here, Flammy. "Shwamp!" You want shrimp? "Yes!" So, go ahead and tell us—I'm gonna shave the bird while you, uh... I'm going to use a Flamingo razor to shave the flamingo. It says here in the copy points to do it, so you go ahead and talk about it and I'll shave him.

Rachel: I'm gonna encourage people to check out Flamingo. They make body care for women with hair. A razor, shave gel, body lotion, the works. Here's what I'll say. In the wintertime, it becomes tempting not to shave.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: You're wearing those long sleeves and those long pants, and you're thinkin', "I don't want to shave."

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Get a nice pair of pajama pants. Super soft. Shave those legs.

Griffin: [gasps]

Rachel: Put on the lotion. Feels real good on that soft, soft pant.

Griffin: Wow, babe.

Rachel: Did I paint a picture for you?

Griffin: You panted a picture for me.

Rachel: [laughs] Um, I love Flamingo. I think it's—I mean, it's a super great value. It's a \$22 value if you get the \$16 set, which includes free shipping and contains a razor, cartridges, body lotion, shave gel, and more.

Uh, I think their razors are great. I think their shave gel is great. I've also used—they've got some uh, some wax strips in there.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: You really—you just rip that hair right out.

Griffin: Get out of there, hair!

Rachel: Right at home. Uh, you probably spend more than \$16 on razors and blades already. With the Flamingo shave set, you can upgrade for less, or the same as you're paying now. Get your Flamingo shave set for just \$16 with free shipping today when you visit ShopFlamingo.com/Wonderful. That's ShopFlamingo.com/Wonderful.

Griffin: Get out of here, bird. That's how smooth these razors are. I shaved a whole flamingo. You didn't hear it because of how smooth and pleasurable it was.

Rachel: Wow. [laughs]

Griffin: For the flamingo. Not for me. I don't do that. I don't do that. But y'know—

Rachel: But it's okay if you do.

Griffin: No. That one's, I'm pretty sure, illegal. But anyway, do you know what is as difficult as shaving a flamingo in complete silence?

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: Planning a wedding.

Rachel: Yes! Yeah, exactly.

Griffin: Lot of plates in the air. A lot of blades in the feathers, uh, when you're planning a wedding. You gotta get cake. You gotta get dance. You gotta get parent. You gotta get... decoration. Dress.

Rachel: Food, sometimes.

Griffin: Shoe.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Runners. Table runners.

Rachel: Flowers.

Griffin: Flowers.

Rachel: Paper. Paper.

Griffin: So much fucking paper!

Rachel: So much paper.

Griffin: And it's a lot of things to keep track of. So what if I told you that Zola was here, and you can put all your worries back in the toilet that you fished them out of, because Zola is a website. It's a platform. It's an experience that uh, has just all the tools that you need to plan a freaking wedding.

Rachel: And not just plan a wedding – you can also register for honeymoon funds there, too.

Griffin: Yes. Uh, you set up your wedding registry. You can, uh... you can set up like, y'know, invites and stuff like that. It's—you build just this whole sort of suite of features at Zola, from save the dates to invites and uh, y'know, thank you cards, and day of programs or whatever. You do all that at Zola. Just don't worry about tracking down all this stuff. Zola's right there. It's the wedding vault where all your treasures are kept.

Anyway, if you want to start your free wedding website, and also get \$50 off your registry on Zola, go to Zola.com/Wonderful.

Rachel: Can I read this first personal message?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: It is for Ryan. It is from Alex. "Hey honey! By the time you hear this, we will be married. My wiiife."

Griffin: Ohh, you really needed to take a running start at that one.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh...

Griffin: You want to try again? I don't want people to get upset.

Rachel: [laughing] "My wiiife."

Griffin: You said it the exact way that you just said it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I've never been so heartbroken.

Rachel: Do you want to...

Griffin: No!

Rachel: [laughs] Okay. Well, this is a change of pace.

Griffin: 32 year old...

Rachel: "I'll have finished my..." Okay, let me just—y'know what? Let me just start over. "Hey honey, by the time you hear this, we will be married. My wiiife. I'll have finish my master's, and who knows what other crazy

things we'll have gotten up to. Remember that the most wonderful thing in my life is you. I love you, I like you, and I can't wait to listen to this with you. Signed, your pickle sweet potato muffin pancake."

Griffin: [laughs] I just had an extremely powerful thought. And I need everybody to do it in their brains. And I may need to—we may need to take a little break after, just, what I'm about to say, because it's—I'm not gonna be able to say or think of anything else.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But what do you think it would sound like if Idina Menzel sang her Borat impression, doing "my wife"?

Rachel: [laughs] Ohh.

Griffin: It would be strong. It would be a strong song.

Rachel: I feel like the word 'wife' would last for three minutes.

Griffin: Yeah. She would slide up into it, and then like, blast it in like, uh, octaves unknown.

Rachel: See, I've got Into the Unknown stuck in my head now, and so, I'm thinking of wife, just hitting that—

Griffin: [sings] My wiiiife! But good and loud and powerful and strong. But still fuckin' funny.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I have a personal message here. This one's for Michael, and it's from Kirsten, who says, "My darling Michael. You inspire me every day, and I am so proud of you. Keep working hard to be the best therapist ever. I'm so happy that we are now engaged and can now actively work on our plans for a bright future full of cuddles, academic achievements, and eventual global domination. I love you so much, mon chevalier." Chevalier?

Rachel: Chevalier.

Griffin: Really?

Rachel: I don't know. That's what the... that's what the singer. I think. I think that was a singer.

Griffin: Named Chevalier?

Rachel: Yeah, I think so. There's a Marx Brothers reference to it.

Griffin: Every time we do the jumbotrons, we are absolutely the Clampetts.

Rachel: [laughs]

[music plays]

Mark: We interrupt the podcast you're listening to to tell you about another podcast. That's right – We Got This with Mark and Hal.

Hal: That's correct, Mark. This is Hal. We do the hard work for you – settling all of the meaningless arguments you have with your friends.

Mark: So tune in every week on the Maximum Fun network for We Got This with Mark and Hal, and all your questions will be asked and answered.

Hal: You're welcome.

Mark: Alright, that's enough of that.

Griffin: Do you want to know my second thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: [sings] Holiday inflatables! Biiig holiday inflate—

Rachel: Ohh. Don't...

Griffin: This is gonna be our most contentious subject to date.

Rachel: Are you gonna tell our dark secret?

Griffin: That we bought a holiday inflatable?

Rachel: That's the one.

Griffin: That's not an especially dark secret, I feel like.

Rachel: It feels like it to me.

Griffin: Rachel doesn't love these guys, I think. And I do, now.

Rachel: I like—okay, let me paint a picture of a tasteful Christmas in my head. I like a white light.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I like some—maybe some pine needles. Like, a red ribbon.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Y'know? I like a—like, a classy Christmas, y'know?

Griffin: I do too. I do too.

Rachel: And I feel like a big, inflatable Minion is not that.

Griffin: Well, okay. Sure. A big, inflatable nude penis would be bad, too. A bid, inflatable murder scene would be bad to have in your front yard. I agree, Rachel. Um, but—

Rachel: You think our seven foot tall Mickey is tasteful?

Griffin: More tasteful than the things just listed, including a Minion, by an enormous factor. Yes, I would say so.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I have experienced a number of personal changes over the last few years that have made me sort of more enthusiastic about the holiday inflatable zeitgeist. Uh, and the biggest thing is that decorating the outside of a house sucks shit. And uh, is not—decorating inside—we did tree decoration, y'know, black Friday. We got that shit out. We were enthusiastic about the tree décor.

Rachel: Yeah, Griffin basically did it by himself in like, 15 minutes.

Griffin: Interior décor? All about it, all about it, all about it.

Rachel: Yeah yeah yeah.

Griffin: Climbing on a ladder to strap lights onto some shit? No. No, that part is bad, actually. That part's really, really rough. Trying to wrap those horrible let lights around like a box hedge is a fucking nightmare! It sucks so bad!

Rachel: Also, and this is the thing that they—they haven't really figured out a solution for, is that you'll get all those things out of the box, and then you have to put them back in the box when the season is ended, and it is impossible.

Griffin: I want compostable Christmas lights that I can just leave on there until little birds come and turn it into nests or whatever compost is.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, holiday inflatable? No problem. You run an extension cord, you flip a switch, and poof, there it is. Woomp, there it is. I'm also—you—there

but for the grace of god go you, because I'm about to get into like, those like, laser snowflake projectors that just go on your—

Rachel: [sighs]

Griffin: No lights required! It's fuckin' light, baby!

Rachel: Griffin tried to sneak this in when we went and bought our inflatable. He was like, "Hey, look at that! Henry would probably like that." And I was like, "But it's on the outside of our house. He'd never see it."

Griffin: That's true.

Rachel: That was sneaky.

Griffin: That's true. Uh, it's just... it's so—the appeal of the inflatable is so seductive to me. And I will also say, there is a Pringles effect, where we have the one.

Rachel: [laughs] No no no no no no no.

Griffin: Well, no. No no no no. When you look at our front yard, and it's just got the one inflatable, that looks ridiculous.

Rachel: [laughing] You—see, mmm...

Griffin: Don't you think that looks silly, just having—what kind of house would have no other decorations, and just one inflatable? The person who lives in that house is dangerous.

Rachel: It's just 'cause we don't have any lights on our house. That's what it is.

Griffin: Yes! That's what I'm saying. We have no lights, and just one inflatable. Who's in that house, and what are they fuckin' planning?

Rachel: That does explain why every person I know that has bought one inflatable somehow now also has five or more.

Griffin: Yes! That's what I'm—

Rachel: No. No. No. I'm not on board.

Griffin: Well, we'll do one a year. We'll get one new one a year.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I think that's what we'll... uhh, I—we got it because we wanted a fun afternoon activity with Henry. We knew he'd be really into it. They had a Snoopy at his school that he was a big fan of. Uh, we'd just walk by and boop it every morning. He was a big fan. And now, we have a big seven and a half foot tall Mickey friend in the front yard, and just having this ever-present guardian, this illuminated sentry at our front door, uh, is very—it makes you feel safe. Makes you feel warm.

Also helps get the child out the door every morning, 'cause he sees a huge Mickey in the front yard. All of a sudden, he doesn't want to be in the house, arguing about which shoes he wants to wear. Now he wants to be out there with the rat and partying with him.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, another great thing that I really love is the comedic element of one, what it looks like when you turn it off.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: When you turn it off, when you turn our Mickey off, he just very gently passes away into the bushes. He very—he falls backwards perfectly every time, and then just kind of dies.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's very gentle, and very peaceful, and uh, kind of sweet. But then, when the nighttime comes, and I turn it back on again, he springs up like he is a teenager who was masturbating in his room, and I walked in on him, and he's—"Dad!! Knock!!" That's really good to me, and I think it's funny, and I like it a lot, and I want to have a whole secret garden of inflatables with some of my favorite—Pikachu will be there. Hank Hill. A Hank Hill inflatable.

Rachel: Oh, that's fun.

Griffin: A Hank Hill inflatable, but he's like, lying down on his belly, with his chin resting on his hands, just kind of like, sitting there. And he's also 30 feet long.

Rachel: Will you do your Hank Hill? I love it so much.

Griffin: [impersonating Hank Hill] Bobby...

Rachel: Oh god, it's so good. I love it. [laughing]

Griffin: [impersonating Hank Hill] Damn it, Bobby. [normally] That wasn't bad!

Rachel: You're really good at it!

Griffin: I'm dialing it in. Anyway, uh, I love these guys. No one can change my mind. What's your second thing?

Rachel: My second thing... is what everybody's workin' for.

Griffin: The weekend?

Rachel: It is the weekend.

Griffin: Oh, god. Okay. [laughs] I didn't think that that was it.

Rachel: Not the band. I think about that a lot, about what it took to get that weekend. Y'know?

Griffin: A lot of—a lot of uh, unionization and fighting from labor movements, from what I understand.

Rachel: A lot of work. Yeah. Um, I think—I mean, a lot of peopllle... want a two day work week. And I don't think that's reasonable.

Griffin: Who are these—who's saying that?

Rachel: A lot of peopllle... want a three day work week. And I don't think so.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Five feels right to me.

Griffin: Okay. Hey, listen to me. Hey, this is Griffin. Four feels right to me. Now who's your favorite member of the podcast?

Rachel: Whoa. [laughs]

Griffin: I'm also a staunch supporter of the \$15 minimum wage. In fact, I think it should be much, much higher than that. Rachel's not always on that boat, are ya?

Rachel: You're gonna announce your candidacy for president.

Griffin: She likes a six dollar minimum—anyway, I was waiting for Kamala to go, and...

Rachel: Bunch of people to drop out.

Griffin: Once the thin—Beto? Is Beto out? Beto's out, right?

Rachel: Oh, he's been out.

Griffin: Beto. I needed Beto and Kamala. Together, they were enough to topple me. But now—

Rachel: Castro's out.

Griffin: Castro's out. It's just gonna be me and Blumberg fuckin' dukin' it out at the top.

Rachel: [laughs] Can I tell you about the history of weekends?

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: Uh, 1870s, Industrial Revolution, people are working ten to 16 hour days, seven days a week. And when I say people, I mean men, women, and children.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Rough times.

Griffin: Not great.

Rachel: Uh, here is something I didn't realize.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So, getting Sunday off for worship was relatively easy. A lot of employers were like, "Alright, Sundays. You can have Sunday." Saturday was a struggle, particularly for the Jewish people.

Griffin: Yeah, that's wild! I was just about to say. That's Sabbath.

Rachel: There was kind of a huge immigration, as you might remember, of Jewish people. Uh, and they wanted the Sabbath off on Saturday. And I was

reading this article from, uh, it was like a Marketplace news story. And they were like, "Hey, if the Sabbath had been on Wednesday, we might not have a weekend." [laughs] 'Cause a big motivator...

Griffin: Wow, yeah.

Rachel: A big motivator was, y'know, Jewish people didn't want to work on Saturday.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: And then, obviously, a lot of labor organizers. This was literal police gunning down protestors. Men being hanged. It was a very violent, rough struggle.

Griffin: It was a nightmare. They were on some fuckin' legit Peaky Blinders shit. It's not great.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Um, people started the five day work week kind of in fits and starts around the United States. In 1908, the first five day work week was instituted by a New England cotton mill. And this was specifically so Jewish workers would not have to work on the Sabbath.

In 1926, Henry Ford began shutting down his automotive factories for all of Saturday and Sunday. And this is interesting. I didn't think about this at the time, 'cause it sounds a little altruistic. Like, oh, how nice that he was like, taking care of his workers. But then they made the suggestion... this enabled the road trip. Like, the weekend road trip.

Griffin: Ohh!

Rachel: Dudes trying to sell cars. How are people gonna go out on these long drives in their cars if they don't have two days off?

Griffin: If they work every waking hour of the week. Yeah.

Rachel: I thought that was interesting. I wouldn't have even thought of that. Okay, so in 1929, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America union was the first union to demand and receive a five day work week. And then, there was kind of a slow build, and then, finally, in 1940, a provision of Fair Labor Standards Act mandated a maximum 40 hour work week, and the two day weekend was adopted nationwide.

The Fair Labor Standards Act is kind of incredible, because not only does it bring the weekend, it creates a right to minimum wage and time and a half overtime pay, and prohibits employment of minors and oppressive child labor.

Griffin: That's one act?

Rachel: That's one act, dude.

Griffin: That's a huge act!

Rachel: There's a lot of stuff in there.

Griffin: It's wild to me that there are people alive still today who were there when an act got—obviously, this is not the only thing in the, y'know, the lifetime of people living today that was huge, but like, that's so much shit that defines, like, eeverything now. Like, the tempo at which we live out our weeks was determined by this act. That's wild.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah. I know a lot of people end up working more than 40 hours. Y'know, and they end up working on the weekend. But people worked real hard to get us the right to a weekend, and that's important, I think.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I think that's all I want to say about that. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay! Folks, these are two good days! You know them! You know Saturday! You know Sunday!

Rachel: I know. And I like them both for very specific reasons, I think. I mean, Saturday is obviously fun, 'cause you're just—you're getting started, right? Maybe you got to sleep in a little bit. Y'know, you got to wear your pajamas a little longer, and you're excited about your Saturday night activities. Sunday's kind of the day where you get your stuff done.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You do your laundry. Maybe you make sure you have your groceries. You think about your week. You get ready for it.

Griffin: Yeah. I had a different relationship with it, I feel like, when we were going to church every morning.

Rachel: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: 'Cause we did Sunday school, and y'know, proper service, like, every Sunday. Uh, and when you sort of have half your day spoken for on a weekend, like, it feels like the other half, you're like, "Well, I may as well, y'know, finish reading that book that I need to read for school," or, "I may as well clean my room now."

Rachel: Yeah. I like—I like making a big meal on Sunday, y'know?

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Rachel: That you can have going into your week.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Y'know, that's a nice one. And then, if you do do something fun, it feels like a little bonus.

Griffin: Little bonus!

Rachel: Like hey, I had a fun thing on a Sunday?

Griffin: Yeah! And then, forget it when you have a long weekend. Psh.

Rachel: And you're like, "What day is it?"

Griffin: And you're like, "What day even is it?"

Rachel: And then you go back to work, and you're like, "It's Monday—wait, no! It's Tuesday! Whaaat?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And you're like, "Ugh. I need a—" And you say stuff like, "I need a vacation from my vacation."

Rachel: [whispers] Oh yeah.

Griffin: You say shit like that.

Rachel: [whispers] Yeah, I love it.

Griffin: Uhh... any big Christmas plans?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uhhhh... uhhhh... coffee maker broke again.

Rachel: Also, you're kind of mentioning the flipside of it. But on Fridays, right? Everybody's like—

Griffin: Ohh, Fridays, though! Holy shit!

Rachel: Everybody's like, "It's almost the weekend!"

Griffin: Thursday, too. You're already sliding down the—like, you're getting momentum on Thursday. You're like, sliding down the hill, and you're like, "Here we go, here we go, here we go!" And you're like, at work, and you're like, [sniffs] "What's that? It's Friday. Comin' tomorrow."

Rachel: How long do you think people had to have weekends before they were like, "Ugh, I gotta go back to work." Y'know, like... y'know how like, they probably fought super hard to get the weekend, and then probably after a few months, they were just like, "Only two days? What?" Y'know?

Griffin: I doubt that's true. [laughs] I think that's probably a horrible thing to say. No, I think five days, I think they were like, "We got it. We got it. Five days is right." 'Cause it gives you Monday, where you're like, "Ugh, Monday." And Tuesday, where you're like, "Ugh, it's only Tuesday?" And then Wednesday, where you're like, "Hump day!"

Rachel: Hump day.

Griffin: And then Thursday, you're like, "What's that smell? It's Friday around the corner!" And then Friday, you're like, "Here we gooo! Any big Christmas plans?" That's all the things that you need to say to your coworkers at the office. This act figured that out for you!

Rachel: [laughing] Have I ruined our podcast?

Griffin: You did, a little bit. Uh, hey, can I tell you what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Please!

Griffin: Danielle says, "Got a dutch oven for half price at TJ Maxx."

Rachel: [laughs] This... this is everything. This is big mood for me.

Griffin: It's a big, big mood, Danielle. Uh, Danielle adds, "This little dutch boy can handle anything you throw at him. Stovetop. Boiling. Frying. Baking."

Don't worry about it, he's a true wunderkind. He can do it all. Love him so much." We need a dutch oven, though.

Rachel: We do! I always see those things, especially like, when they make them in a bright color, and I think, "That looks nice."

Griffin: Mm-hmm. Looks very, very good. Uh, Levi says, "My wonderful thing is winter candles with scents like candy cane, gingerbread, and hot cocoa. It triggers a memory of the holiday season, and more recently of when I met my wiiife."

Rachel: [laughs] See, you got it in there.

Griffin: It was bad. That one caught me by surprise. I like, didn't know that I was in it until I was like, halfway through 'my.' But anyway, yeah, Rachel got a Christmas tree candle that is really doin' it for me.

Rachel: Yes. I—man, you gotta get on that. Especially if you purchase an artificial tree like we do.

Griffin: Mmm.

Rachel: It's good to get that real slash also artificial—

Griffin: Don't narc on our artificial tree.

Rachel: I mean, it's practical, y'know? It's a cost savings, and...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Y'know...

Griffin: And they didn't have to cut down a tree to do it.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, so really, right?

Griffin: There's another tree out there alive, and our tree was made out of recycled...

Rachel: Uh-huh. Water bottles.

Griffin: Soda can holders, and water bottles.

Rachel: Yeah. So we're the heroes, if you think about it.

Griffin: And guns. They melted them down to make our tree. And I think that's pretty cool. I don't know, I guess that's just me. Uh, but 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 uh, hey, thanks to MaximumFun.org. What's that? Tip a tap, tip tap, click click click. That's a good lookin' website.

Rachel: Yeah, it's even more good lookin' now than it used to be!

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. You don't have to neg their old website.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But it looks good. They both looked good. This one looks very, very good. Uh, new website. Same stuff that you love. Love to talk about. Share with your friends. Very social. Very viral. Uh, thank you to MaximumFun.org.

And uh, we got other stuff at McElroy.family. Bunch of merch. Fanny packs back in stock. I know people want that fanny pack. It's a good holiday present.

Rachel: Yeah, y'know? Yeah, right? The holidays are coming up, and you got—let's say you got a coworker—

Griffin: Who likes Pogs, but doesn't have anywhere to keep them!

Rachel: [laughs] Or likes some McElroy product, and that's what you guys talk about instead of Mondays on Monday.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Y'know? And you can get them something from this...

Griffin: You still talk about Monday. Like, you talk about both things, but you gotta say, "Ugh, Monday." You gotta say something like—it's in the act.

Rachel: Can I ask you, since you work with your family, and you all work remotely? On Mondays, are you guys like, "Ugh." Do you like, just fulfill that requirement as a...

Griffin: If we don't, we get yelled at by the boss.

Rachel: [laughs] Alright, we're gonna set aside seven minutes on this Skype call to just talk about Mondays.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Rachel: Gotta talk about Toby's sweater and how he pretty much wears it every Monday.

Griffin: Yeah. There isn't even a Toby, but Travis dresses up like Dilbert, 'cause he loves Dilbert and thinks it's so funny and loves Scott Adams. Bye!
[laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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