

## Wonderful! 119: Bergeron on my Mind

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:** Hello, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hey, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful!

**Griffin:** Pchooo! [explosion sounds] [helicopter sounds] That's us comin' in in the helicopter.

**Rachel:** Oh.

**Griffin:** Uh, we're landing. I thought I could do some more sound effects.

**Rachel:** Y'know, I do—I love it. I love your sound effects.

**Griffin:** I've been watching a lot of Michael Winslow movies. Which is a way of saying the Police Academy films.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Well, and that Shakespearian drama he did.

**Griffin:** He did a production of King Lear that I thought was moving.

**Rachel:** Yeah. What was crazy is there was no set. It was just him in front of a microphone...

**Griffin:** Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:** Opening doors. [door creak sound]

**Griffin:** [making random sound effects]

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [in a British accent] It's me, the king! [normally] I don't—I've never seen King Lear.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** [in a British accent] Oh, don't stab my... kids! [normally] 'Cause those usually...

**Rachel:** Yeah, there's something like that in there.

**Griffin:** In a lot of those plays, those old ones with kings and stuff, it's like, [in a British accent] "Oh, not me kids! Don't stab me kids, bruvva!" [normally] 'Cause it's their brother stabbing their kids. That's real fucked up.

Uh, this is Wonderful. A show that we like doing.

**Rachel:** And we talk about what we like on the show that we like doing.

**Griffin:** Like...

**Rachel:** In the hopes that you will like it...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** ... too.

**Griffin:** Uh, we got the MaxFunDrive comin' up. My small wonder is just sort of seeing what's been happening in the background, the behind the scenes of this, uh, bonus episode we're going to be doing for the MaxFunDrive that donors will be able to listen to.

**Rachel:** Yeah. We went to the Facebook group and did a poll...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** ... to get some feedback from our listeners as to what they would like to see for our bonus episode.

**Griffin:** Yes. By an enormous margin, people wanted to hear Rachel talk about her first experience playing Animal Crossing. So that's what you've been doing for the past week. Please don't say anything about it. Please save it for the pay wall.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** But holy shit, like, comin' home and like, seeing you with the 3DS out, and like, playing Animal Crossing? I don't—I didn't think it would like, excite me as much as it does. Not like, sexually. But maybe. And it just makes me so happy to see it.

**Rachel:** Sometimes—what I've really enjoyed is that Griffin will shoo our child away from me so that I can continue playing.

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Rachel:** He's like, "Hey, no no no, you come over here. Mommy's busy."

**Griffin:** And you get the visceral thrill of prioritizing a video game over your family, which I've been—babe, I've been doing that for decades!

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** It's so shit hot! Uh, no, just literally watching you play video games is a small wonder for me.

**Rachel:** Aww.

**Griffin:** It's a big wonder, but uh, it's a thing I really like. It's a thing I'm really passionate about, and so, watching you do it—

**Rachel:** Yeah, I feel like you've been lookin' for a while to find me something that I will enjoy.

**Griffin:** Yeah. And it's a good time, too, man. That new Animal Crossing comes out next month. [gasps] Ooh!

What's your small wonder? You got any?

**Rachel:** My small wonder is... fitness.

**Griffin:** Okay. Fitness whole pizza in my mouth.

**Rachel:** [laughs weakly]

**Griffin:** Have you heard that joke before?

**Rachel:** Y'know, I haven't.

**Griffin:** Oh, alright. It's like a—

**Rachel:** I've heard Namaste in bed.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's... problematic.

**Rachel:** Which is—seems similar.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Um... I... uhh... did fitness for a long time.

**Griffin:** Mmm.

**Rachel:** Uh, and then just stopped. Pretty much stopped entirely. And just last week, I said, "Y'know what? I'm gonna return to fitness. People talk about it. They say good things about it. Maybe I'll give it a shot again."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Uh, and turns out—

**Griffin:** Do you mean exercise?

**Rachel:** Does feel good. Yeah.

**Griffin:** Fitness feels like a weird way of saying—that feels like the...

**Rachel:** Well, exercise can be like, walkin' around the street. I see like, fitness as a like—

**Griffin:** Like crankin' it.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Turnin' it up and fuckin'—

**Rachel:** [laughing] I prefer you do not phrase it that way.

**Griffin:** Uh, no, I know what you're saying. Like, I—

**Rachel:** Like, I go to a gym.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** I walk into an establishment that is designed for people to exercise, and I do various exercises in that establishment.

**Griffin:** Yes. I—there is a, um, like... not, like, calorie-focused benefit that I get from riding the—like, if I wake up in the morning and take Henry to daycare, and then I ride our little stationary bike for like, a half hour or something, I feel pretty, like, pumped.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** It does—it releases some sort of like, y'know, good chemical, I think.

**Rachel:** For sure. For sure.

**Griffin:** That makes you feel like, I'm ready to take on the day.

**Rachel:** A lot of people talk about kind of the mental health benefits of exercise, and um... I have always known that to be true.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Did not make it easier for me to change...

**Griffin:** No, it still sucks so bad to do it.

**Rachel:** ... change out of my regular clothes into fitness clothes, and then, change back into my regular clothes. Like, that alone was enough to stop me for years.

**Griffin:** That's a exercise right there, really, if you think about it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, just like, taking clothes off and putting other clothes on.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Hey, uh—well, you wear huge JNCO jeans. Like, huge—the heaviest JNCOs I've ever seen in my life.

**Rachel:** Which—are you saying taking them off would be fitness?

**Griffin:** I'm saying that there is a lot of belt work that goes into removing your JNCOs. And there's a lot of navigation.

**Rachel:** I've got my wallet chain, I've got my phone chain, I've got my keys chain...

**Griffin:** Oh yeah. Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:** Lot of chains that I have to remove.

**Griffin:** Looks like your butt is some sort of wild dinosaur that um, they have to keep, y'know, safe.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** So it doesn't break out. Rachel's got that big, tall electric fence from Jurassic Park just wrapped around her butt, and it's attached to her keys and her wallet and her... mouth guard.

**Rachel:** That's how I keep you away.

**Griffin:** Hey now! [laughs] You know me, I'll be like that little kid that gets shocked and exploded and thrown.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Hey, it's you go first. What's your first, uh, big wonder? Huh?

**Rachel:** My first big wonder is when couples start to look like each other.

**Griffin:** Is this a... I didn't... is this a thing?

**Rachel:** You haven't heard this is a thing?

**Griffin:** I don't think so.

**Rachel:** When people start dating somebody, and then everyone's like, they're starting to look like each other? You haven't heard this and or noticed this phenomenon before?

**Griffin:** Is it happening with you and I?

**Rachel:** It did happen, yeah. Early in our relationship.

**Griffin:** What—how—what—how—I didn't even notice.

**Rachel:** Do you remember just, uh, kind of spontaneously, I needed glasses pretty soon after when we started dating? [laughs]

**Griffin:** Oh, you think it's... okay.

**Rachel:** I'm not saying that that was, um, based on any kind of affection we have for each other. It was just a weird coincidence that happened.

**Griffin:** No, I think it was! I think you were lookin' at my eyes—

**Rachel:** [laughs] You think my eyes got worse just to be closer to you?

**Griffin:** Yeah. I think your eyes looked at my eyes, and they were like, "Oh, those poor eyes. They shouldn't have to do it alone." And so, y'know... it's probably actually—y'know what it really is? You didn't own a TV before we started dating.

**Rachel:** Ohh.

**Griffin:** And then like, the first Christmas I think we were together, I got you like, a little LCD TV. Um, so we could have... *anything* to do at your place.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Hey, we had my laptop.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's true. But yeah, this was not a, uh, uh, a particularly principled—

**Rachel:** Suddenly, we both had glasses.

**Griffin:** Yes.



**Rachel:** And then you started dressin' a little better.

**Griffin:** Mmm, yeah.

**Rachel:** Uh, which I would like to think was rising up to my level.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** Um, and... I don't know. I just think we started kind of lookin' alike. And that's pretty common. Have you not heard this? Am I bringing this to you totally unaware?

**Griffin:** You are breaking this... I mean, I don't have much of an eye for fashion. Um, but I do... for me, it's less, like, acknowledging that couples look similar the longer they're together, and more that like, couples become, like, sort of universally, across the board, similar, the longer they're together.

**Rachel:** Yeah. And that is—that is what the science says.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** So I did some research on this phenomenon, thinking maybe I would find like, one study. Turns out, researchers have been talking about this for a very, very long time.

**Griffin:** Oh, interesting. Yeah, because there's probably like, at a cellular level, like a sort of, like, chameleon camouflage shit goin' on, right?

**Rachel:** Yeah. Well, I think, um... it's—so, some of it is just kind of like being attracted to like, y'know? You find people that either have similar temperament, or potentially like, similar backgrounds, y'know, to you. And then, it kind of merges over time.

But they did all sorts of studies, um, throughout time to kind of look at this. University of Michigan psychologists analyzed photographs of couples taken

when they were newlyweds, and photographs of the same couples 25 years later, and the results showed the couples had grown to look more like each other over time. And the happier that the couples said they were, the more likely that they were to have increased in their physical similarity.

**Griffin:** Yo, okay, hold on. Are we talking about like, face bones? Are we talking about face bones and skin motion? What are we talking about here?

**Rachel:** Well, so, some people talked about just like, the whole concept of like, laugh lines. Y'know? Of like, people that are like—y'know, they kind of wrinkle in the same way, because they're kind of smiling in the same way all the time.

**Griffin:** Okay, interesting! This I'm into.

**Rachel:** Yeah! Um...

**Griffin:** I thought you were saying just like... [laughs]

**Rachel:** The face morphs? Like a Transformer?

**Griffin:** I mean, it would be more slow, like American Werewolf in Paris. It wouldn't be like a... like, parts of my face fuckin' fold out and turn into wheels or whatever.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** "That's Griffin and Rachel. They've been in love for—married for 50 years, and they can turn into trucks, and it's so sweet."

**Rachel:** [laughs] Uh, in 2006, scientists asked participants in a study to view individual photos of men and women and judge their personalities. The participants did not know who in the photos were married to whom, but the couples that had been together the longest were judged to have more similar personalities.

**Griffin:** Huh.

**Rachel:** The researchers concluded that processing personality traits that are attractive may be causal in making a face attractive.

**Griffin:** That's a lot to unpack.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh. [laughs]

**Griffin:** You're sort of like, changing my whole sort of view on love and people in general.

**Rachel:** [laughs] It can, y'know, transform your body.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Okay. That's neat, I guess.

**Rachel:** Um, also... so, there was a study of twins. University of Western Ontario scientists found that not only did study participants tend to pick partners with similar genes, the spouses of identical twins were also more alike than the spouses of non-identical twins.

**Griffin:** That is wild!!

**Rachel:** Right? Isn't that fascinating, too?

**Griffin:** Okay, but we're getting into some like, nature versus nurture shit. I'm just like—

**Rachel:** I know. It's a little trippy.

**Griffin:** Maybe they just like, like, very similar—like, maybe your type is more sort of encoded than you would think. That is wild, though.

**Rachel:** So this is my favorite one. So I was reading a Time Magazine article about this. And so, there was a 2013 study where people were shown images of their romantic partner's face that had been digitally altered to include some features from another face. Either random other faces, or the

study participant's own face. Both male and female participants consistently rated the one that included their face as the most attractive.

**Griffin:** Okay. Well, that's... [laughs] That's less about—that's a thing you were—

**Rachel:** So they would take like, a photo of Griffin, and they would maybe insert, like, Tom Bergeron's features.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And I would say, "Eh. Okay."

**Griffin:** Hey, why'd you pick him?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** No, stop the podcast. Stop the—stop the recording. Edit this out. Stop it. Don't publish this part. [pause] Why'd you pick Tom Bergeron?

**Rachel:** Y'know, I feel like it's the same way that you and your brothers tend to consistently pick names like Jeremy.

**Griffin:** I was thinking Jeremy. Yeah.

**Rachel:** When I, uh, when I have to recall a famous person that's not too famous...

**Griffin:** Huh.

**Rachel:** It's Tom Bergeron.

**Griffin:** So it's just Tom... so you have got like, a little Tom Bergeron just kind of scamperin' about.

**Rachel:** Yeah, uh-huh.

**Griffin:** In that dome of yours.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Just like, looking at all your memories, and...

**Rachel:** Inserting himself as necessary.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Just hopping in, waiting for the synopsis between like, "I'm recording my podcast," and, "I need to say a celebrity." Tom Bergeron jumps up and grabs the—grabs `em.

**Rachel:** Sometimes if I can't remember what, like, my sixth grade gym teacher looks like...

**Griffin:** Bergeron will poke his head in and be like, "He looks like me!"

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um... okay, so, all that's to say, if I saw Griffin plus Tom Bergeron, and or Griffin plus Rachel, I would probably be more likely to pick Griffin plus Rachel.

**Griffin:** Well, you would see your own, y'know, beautiful pouty lips, and be like, "Ooh. Hello, gorgeous!"

**Rachel:** [laughs] [high-pitched] Hello, gorgeous!

**Griffin:** Uh, this is wild, babe.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. Um, and then, kind of what you were saying, um... lookalike partners may also be drawn to each other subliminally because of their genes. Plenty of studies have also found that spouses tend to be more genetically similar than strangers, sharing predictors of everything from height to educational attainment.

**Griffin:** Well, they've also kissed so much.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Right? That their DNA—

**Rachel:** That their genes...

**Griffin:** Their DNA and their genes have all sort of gotten... just one—

**Rachel:** Maybe that's why I needed the glasses!

**Griffin:** That's probably it, babe.

**Rachel:** I got some of your bad eye spit.

**Griffin:** Just—yeah. Just from all the kissing we had been doing. Um, because we weren't married yet. We hadn't done anything... [dissolves into laughter] We hadn't—guys—okay. Hey, cut this out, too. Like, Rachel's parents listen to the podcast, folks.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** They would be so disappointed.

**Rachel:** I'm finished.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Do you want to do your thing?

**Griffin:** I do. Mine's gonna be super fast.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Uhh... I'm talkin' about hot tubbin'.

**Rachel:** Ohh!

**Griffin:** [sings quietly] On a late niight...

**Rachel:** Griffin has an enthusiasm for hot tubs that I feel like is unmatched by anyone else I have met.

**Griffin:** Well, yes. And I also – and you can probably speak to this – have a strange sort of, um, preoccupation with hot tubs.

**Rachel:** And what hot tubs say.

**Griffin:** We have—we have kicked around the idea of owning a hot tub. Because like, it would be good to be inside that warmth. The warm water. I'm gonna talk about why it's great here in just a second. Um... but...

**Rachel:** And when you say 'we' have kicked around the idea, it's...

**Griffin:** You've gotten really enthusiastic about it, too.

**Rachel:** I have. It's taken me a lot longer than you, I think, to get enthusiastic.

**Griffin:** But, I have a fear, which is that none of our friends have hot tubs, and I feel like if you're the only friend in the friend group that has a hot tub, it's like you are... like... having a key party. It feels like, to me.

**Rachel:** Let's—let's practice this. Okay, so let's say it's a Friday, and we want to have people over.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** We happen to have a hot tub.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** How would you ask them to come over?

**Griffin:** Let's roleplay, and you can be like, one of our friends.

**Rachel:** Okay. Um, hey, Griffin, what are you up to this weekend?

**Griffin:** Oh, uh, well, Rachel and I just got a hot tub. And so like, I think on Friday night, we might just like, get in there and like, have some wine and just like, chill. Do you want to come hang out?

**Rachel:** Uh, makes me uncomfortable that you're suggesting this, that I'd get drunk—

**Griffin:** [impersonating Austin Powers] Yeah, baby!

**Rachel:** —that I'd get drunk in your hot tub with you

**Griffin:** Schwing! Like, that's the only way I feel like that conversa—and I don't want it to go Austin Powers.

**Rachel:** Can I tell you how it would really go? People would be like, "Oh, that sounds fun. I'm into it."

**Griffin:** Okay. Then why did you—

**Rachel:** They're not gonna be like, "Oh, so you want to get, um..."

**Griffin:** You want to get weird?

**Rachel:** "... partially nude and damp together?"

**Griffin:** Rrrrow! Like... yeah. Anyway. Gettin' all that out of the—get all that stigma out. Throw it away in the garbage can. Uh, hot tubbing is very good. Today, I was just—I think I was driving, and I went past like, a hot tub store. And I was like... I just reflected on—



**Rachel:** Maybe I'll impulse buy a hot tub on the way home? [laughs]

**Griffin:** No. [laughs] That's not something I would do. But but I did think about all my good hot tub times that I've had, and uh, it just—it just moved me to talk about it on this show. Every time I do see a hot tub, I'm in a place that has a hot tub in it, I do get pretty pumped. I do get pretty excited, and I do make a point of trying to get in that hot tub.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't care about anything fancy. I don't want, like—I don't care about Bluetooth speakers, and y'know, ground effects, and like, turbo jets and shit like that. I just want a nice, y'know, warm water, soakin' in there with my buds and some suds. Although, I'm not really a big beer drinker these days. Um, so it probably will be wine or a White Claw. And just like, fucking chilling and talking! Connecting! You're so close together! And you gotta talk about somethin'!

**Rachel:** I do like the idea of being able to sit with you in a body of water with no distractions. We just connect, y'know?

**Griffin:** And we just connect! We can't watch a—

**Rachel:** I like that.

**Griffin:** You can't just... boop boop boop boop boop boop boop! That's you playing Animal Crossing.[laughs] All day with this fucking—these millennials and their video games!

Uh, yeah. It's just—in college, me and my friends used to go to our friend, uh, Haley's parents' house, like, way out there in Ohio, right on the river, right on the Ohio River, and just like, chilling in that hot tub and havin' some... especially when it got cold and like, snowy? Chillin' in a hot tub, watchin' the barges go by? Sippin' some, y'know, mixed drinks? Like...

**Rachel:** Like the celebrities do.

**Griffin:** Just like the celebrities do, watching the coal barges go by on the Ohio River.

**Rachel:** [laughs] With their—what was your drink of choice, then?

**Griffin:** I did a lot of rum drinks. Uh, famously, the cocktail that like, for a whole summer, like, uh, y'know... every weekend or so, we would go out there, and I would do, uh, Sailor Jerry's spiced rum with, uh... it was like, Coca-Cola Summer Mix. And it was like—they only sold it, I think, that one summer.

**Rachel:** What? I don't even know what this is.

**Griffin:** It would've been probably like... Jesus, like, 2008 or so?

**Rachel:** Was it like, cherry Coke? Like...

**Griffin:** No, it was like, orange and lime and like...

**Rachel:** Eugh.

**Griffin:** It was like, tropical fruit flavored Coke. Yes, disgusting. I wouldn't drink it with my worst enemy's mouth.

**Rachel:** With rum. So sweet.

**Griffin:** But with spiced—yeah, I mean... that was me, though, wasn't it?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah. I just have that really fond memory. A lot of fond memories. One time, though, I was at a party at a hotel in middle school. I don't remember why it was there, but I sat in a hot tub for like, three hours. I got so sick. But I learned, you have to respect it, don't you? You gotta respect that hot little pool. Don't you?

**Rachel:** I think my first hot tub experience was when I was 18, and it was after prom, and I was at one of my friend's after prom parties. She had a hot tub, and we all got in it.

**Griffin:** The way you said hot tub just there...

**Rachel:** [pronounced awkwardly] Hot tub. [laughs]

**Griffin:** I really wish I could like, save it in a little bottle and open up that bottle and hear it whenever I want.

**Rachel:** [laughing] Um... And I thought it was pretty okay. I guess I don't—I enjoy it, but I don't crave it the way you do.

**Griffin:** Hm, interesting.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Can I tell you about the Jacuzzi family?

**Rachel:** Please.

**Griffin:** It's a real family. That's what the—the word 'jacuzzi' comes from a name. It was an Italian family. They were working on like, hydro pump technology in the early 1900s. And one of the Jacuzzis, like a kid, developed rheumatoid arthritis, and these brothers, uh, made a hydrotherapy pump called the J300, and it was just a pump that you could put into any tub and sort of add a jet to it.

And then, in 1968, Roy Jacuzzi created like an integrated sort of whirlpool bath that had like, the jets built into it, ready to go. It was called the Roman. And then, like, really quickly after that, they did like, an indoor-outdoor model, and that's... that is where the hot tub came from.

Uh, it's just... it's so chill. It's so chill and social, and...

**Rachel:** You think all their friends felt weird when they were like, "Hey, come over, I got this..."

**Griffin:** [laughs] "You want us to take a bath with you, Roy?"

**Rachel:** "I got this bubbly tub. You wanna come over?"

**Griffin:** "No no no no. You don't understand. It's a big bath, and it's got fun jets in it."

"Roy, it's still a big bath tub, Roy."

No, I mean like, communal bathing has been like, a thing. Right? Like... like... uhh...

**Rachel:** Yeah. But not usually like, at somebody's house. Usually it was like, a place where everybody went, right?

**Griffin:** Right, I guess that's fair. I guess saying like...

**Rachel:** This is like, hey, you want to come over to my house?

**Griffin:** But I think the Jacuzzi family had been developing bath technology, so if we had friends that I knew were high in like, the bath technology game, and they came over like, "Hey, you've gotta come try out my new bath." I'd be like, "I'm there in a fucking minute. What's the new... what's the new thing?"

**Rachel:** Okay. No, this brings up an interesting thing. So, if we were to get a Jacuzzi...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And we want to invite people over... maybe we pair it with something else, so it's not just about the tub. It's like, "Hey, do you want to come over and get in my hot tub, and also play checkers? Because that's a feature. And really, it's more about the checkers."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** "And we'll just happen to be..."

**Griffin:** Or would you just like, y'know, no need to ruin a checkers set. We could just say, hey, come on over. Um, hey, are you guys craving boiled eggs?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I'd fuckin' kill for some boiled eggs. Why don't we boil up some eggs, and get in the hot tub water?

**Rachel:** [laughing] With the eggs.

**Griffin:** With the eggs. Two birds, one egg! How'd they both fit in there? [laughs] That shouldn't be like that. Aww, it's cramped in that little egg, isn't it? Those two birds.

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

**Griffin:** Yeah.

[ad music plays]

[ad break]

**Griffin:** Got a couple jumbotrons here. Do you want me to read the first one?

**Rachel:** Sure.

**Griffin:** This one is for Grant, and it's from Delaney, who says, "Dear Grant, you are forever and always my first wonderful thing of the day. Thank you for all of the love and support you have shown me through the years. I

cannot wait to love you more and more each day. I'm so proud of all you have accomplished, and I hope that this made you smile at work. Your wife, Delaney. P.S. I can't wait to smooch ya."

**Rachel:** Aw, I love that P.S.!

**Griffin:** I love that P.S. And y'know, maybe it should've gone—I don't want to criticize this writer.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** But I think it's import—I think it should've been the subject of the email.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Like, "Re: Comin' to smooch ya!"

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** I've been working on a new Mask movie.

**Rachel:** Somebody smooch me!

**Griffin:** [laughs] I love we went the same... shit. Your whole first segment was like, so wicked on point.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** But now I just feel guilty, like I have poisoned—like I've put my poison in you.

**Rachel:** Oh no, you have.

**Griffin:** Okay. [laughing] Cool.

**Rachel:** [laughing] Can I read the next one?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** This is for Mike. It is from MB. "Hey, Mike! I hope you're having a good day at work, or a good drive in the car. You and Levi are my wonderful things."

**Griffin:** Just no matter what, though, Mike's not listenin' to this in the house. Which is important, because of... household accidents. It's a real issue, people. And you get us in your ear buds, you're not gonna be able to focus on the gutter you're cleaning.

**Rachel:** No, it's true.

**Griffin:** I've never cleaned a gutter once in my life. There's gotta be other household accidents, right?

**Rachel:** You never reached your paw in a gutter and scooped out some leaves?

**Griffin:** I did reach my hand up in a governor once.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Listen, it was Cecil Underwood. Former governor of West Virginia... we'll talk about it later.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

[Maximum Fun advertisement]

**Griffin:** Hey, what's your second thing?

**Rachel:** My second thing...

**Griffin:** Yes?

**Rachel:** Is a musical artist...

**Griffin:** Oh yeah!

**Rachel:** The group I'm referring to... Soccer Mommy.

**Griffin:** This is, I believe, the second band with 'mommy' in it that we've featured on this show. I talked about a mommy during my, uh, my lo-fi hip hop segment that I did.

**Rachel:** I don't remember this.

**Griffin:** That was my most listened to artist of 2019, according to Spotify, was Mommy. But 2020, it's gonna be Soccer Mommy, because *fuck*, this band is my jam!

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, I... so, Soccer Mommy has been putting out albums since, uh, 2016. I just got hip to it recently. So there's a new album coming out, end of February, called Color Theory. And I... happened upon it, and remembered some friends mentioning Soccer Mommy, and thought like, "Oh yeah, maybe this is good. I know we have some friends that like Soccer Mommy."

Uh... it is good.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** Turns out. Um, Sophie Allison, who is 22, she's from Nashville, and she puts together a lot of kind of lo-fi love-inspired songs.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** I read some interviews with her, and it's interesting, because part of the reason I liked her is that she's got kind of this like, grunge rock sound.



**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And she kind of references, y'know, bands like Sonic Youth and Nirvana as some of her favorites. But she also mentions Avril Lavigne and Taylor Swift.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Okay.

**Rachel:** Because she's 22 years old.

**Griffin:** Right. Yeah.

**Rachel:** And that's... about right. [laughs] Um, she has toured with a whole bunch of artists. So in the past few years, she's toured with Mitski, Kacey Musgraves, Phoebe Bridgers, Vampire Weekend, and Wilco.

**Griffin:** Fuck, that's a lot of really good bands!

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah. So she really put together—

**Griffin:** Have we talked about Phoebe Bridgers on the show before? That seems like a strange oversight.

**Rachel:** Yeah. You have with me. I don't know if you've brought it to the show before.

**Griffin:** Yeah, maybe not.

**Rachel:** Uh, so, she was going to school at NYU, and um, after completing her sophomore year, dropped out, because she was already like, in a successful band and touring.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Um, she worked with a producer that also produced, like, Deerhunter and War on Drugs, and put together a few albums. She said about this new album, quote, "I wanted the experience of listening to Color Theory," which is the name of the album, "to feel like finding a dusty old cassette tape that has become messed up over time, because that's what this album is – an expression of all the things that have slowly degraded me personally."

**Griffin:** Whoa! Okay!

**Rachel:** [laughs] "The production warps, the guitar solos occasionally glitch, the melodies can be poppy and deceptively cheerful. To me, it sounds like the music of my childhood, distressed, and in some instances, decaying."

**Griffin:** Should we play some of it?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** So I wanted to play, uh, the song that came out most recently, um, off this new album, called Circle the Drain.

[‘Circle the Drain’ by Soccer Mommy plays]

**Griffin:** I feel like if we don't talk about Snail Mail, people are gonna comment on it.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** ‘Cause it is, like—it is—

**Rachel:** I almost—I was telling Griffin, I almost didn't want to bring Soccer Mommy, because I thought, well... this feels a little like similar to Snail Mail. And some of the characteristics I like about Soccer Mommy, I also like about Snail Mail.

**Griffin:** As a like, y'know, as a—biographically speaking, I think, there's a lot of like, uh, comparisons that you could make very easily. And I think like, they are playing a sort of like, original indie-inspired lo-fi rock. But I really do think their like, sounds are pretty different. Like...

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah, I mean, it's like, y'know, similar age. Obviously, both women. Y'know, that kind of like, lo-fi, y'know, grungy sound a little bit.

**Griffin:** But her shit is less like, garage rocky, I would say, than, uh...

**Rachel:** Yeah. Way loose.

**Griffin:** Uh, Soccer Mommy is less garage rocky than Snail Mail. It's a little bit more like, I don't know, it's a little bit more... uhh... produced isn't the right word, but like, there's more sort of elements to it.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And there's more sort of... uh, I listened to a song today, uh, called Yellow is the Color of Her Eyes.

**Rachel:** Yeah! That's another one that's gonna be on the new album.

**Griffin:** It's like, seven and a half minutes long, and it is just this sweeping, like...

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And there's so much going on in that song. So like, I think that it's an obvious comparison, but I do think that there is like, enough sort of different between them.

**Rachel:** So the 2018 album, Clean, which was the last one that was released, was on a bunch of like, best of 2018 lists. Like Paced, Pitchfork, Rolling Stone, they all put Clean on their best of 2018 lists. So, we're a little, I think, late to the party on this one, but um... I was really excited.

**Griffin:** But this has been like, my day—like, this is the best shit about this show to me, is like, uh, you put new, awesome things into my world. Like, you do that, like, every day, just by being you.

**Rachel:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** But also like, I listened to this band today... I think I've talked about this experience. This may have been one of my segments, and I was like, "This is a fucking good band that I am now like, so into, and will be, y'know, for a long time." And that's cool that it just happened today.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean, that was kind of like Snail Mail and Sigrid. Like, we've had a lot of kind of good discoveries for this.

**Griffin:** Yeah! Hey, can I do my second thing?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** This one will probably be also pretty quick. I wanted to talk about... okay, this one's a two parter. So I need you to like, stick with me here.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Uh, first, I want to talk about Tom Noddy. That's N-O-D-D-Y, not, like, naughty. Tom Noddy was a magician, kind of, in the '80s. And he was like, the kind of professional magician who wasn't like, in Vegas, I don't think. He was doing like, TV circuits. He was doing like, late night shows. He did Letterman. He did Carson.

His shtick was so singular and so focused, it boggles my mind, because Tom Noddy was a bubble magician. He did magic... with bubbles. Like, soap bubbles. Like, that you get out the wand, and you blow it, and bubbles come out. He did magic with those. He was a bubblemancer.

And... he would just have like, a bubble wand in one hand, and usually, a cigarette in the other one.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** So he could like, take a drag and blow smoke into the bubble. He could do stuff with that. He could merge the bubbles. He could blow a bubble inside a bubble. And right now, your mind is thinking like, "How much fuckin' stuff can you do with bubbles?"

**Rachel:** [laughs] Also, how is this magic? Right? Like—

**Griffin:** Well, I want to show you, um... well, I'll get to the prestige here in a little bit.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Uh, he made a career out of this. He did a 'how to magic,' like, bubble book in 1988. It was about bubble magic. The book itself wasn't made out of bubbles. Maybe that technology, someday.

Uh, he created a bubble festival with a place in San Francisco called The Exploratorium that over 15,000 people went to in a weekend. Like... I guess this was a thing for a few people. He had this like, profoundly strange, very, like, explicitly focused career that I had never heard of. And how did I learn about Tom Noddy?

**Rachel:** Yeah, I was gonna ask. Didn't you bring bubbles one week?

**Griffin:** Oh, did I?

**Rachel:** I feel like you brought bubbles before, so it was—

**Griffin:** That's weird that I didn't, uh, bring Tom Noddy as part of it. But I hadn't seen a particular YouTube video that, uh, I'm gonna show you a little clip from. For everybody at home, this video is titled, "The Night Tom Noddy Forever Changed the World of Bubble Entertainment, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1983."

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** So Rachel is watching it now. I'm just givin' her a little slice. Tom Noddy is a fella. He's wearing... how would you describe the shirt he's wearing, hun?

**Rachel:** Kind of a velvety, velour kind of...

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Track suit, almost?

**Griffin:** But with, uh... a sort of festive, I would say, cuff on it. He's got a pretty tight ponytail. Like a pretty sick, sick ponytail.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Very long... ponytail. A big mustache.

**Griffin:** That kind of mustache that like, has, uh, a lot of... it's a strange mustache. It's an old, I would say, cowboy prospector mustache.

**Rachel:** Yeah. And he's got a bubble wand in one hand and a cigarette in the other. He is...

**Griffin:** Oh, he just blew a—look at this. He's just blowin' bubbles into bubbles.

**Rachel:** He's inserting... uh... smoke bubbles...

**Griffin:** And he's so fuckin' cool about it, right? He's so chill!

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah, I do kind of feel like he invited me over to his house for a party, and I'm his basement right now.

**Griffin:** He's very casual. He's just like—absolutely, we are in his basement. Like, I can smell it. I can smell Tom Noddy's basement.

**Rachel:** It's like I went over to my friend's slumber party, and she's like, "Oh yeah, my dad's in the basement. He does this stuff with bubbles." And I thought, oh... I guess I'll go downstairs. And now I'm transfixed.

**Griffin:** That's just a little joke he does about the inside out bubble. Anyway.

**Rachel:** So what—how did he transform? What?

**Griffin:** Well, he forever changed the world of bubble entertainment. This was January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1983. I believe he was on Carson when he did this. Uh, and after this, the landscape of bubble entertainment was changed. The second thing I'm going to talk about... is why I watched this video. And the reason I watched this video is because YouTube decided that I should watch it.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Based on your viewing history?

**Griffin:** I—so, YouTube's like, suggested video algorithm is so fucked up. And so occasionally deeply, like, hilarious. Uh, and I think it's the kind of thing that you only really get the full benefit of if you do watch a lot of YouTube, which like, I watch a lot of YouTube videos.

And, to be fair to this algorithm, they have really nailed me from time to time. I found Kiwami Japan through this, the Japanese artist who like, makes knives out of all kinds of wild shit. I found Baumgartner Art Restoration through this. Like, sometimes, like, they got me, right?

But sometimes, it puts up such a fucking weird brick, that like, I can't stop, like, trying to unravel backwards the steps it took to get me to The Night Tom Noddy Forever Changed the World of Bubble Entertainment, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1983. I can't think—can you—you know me.

**Rachel:** Yes I do.

**Griffin:** You are me, apparently.

**Rachel:** Yes. [laughs]

**Griffin:** What of my interests would I have watched YouTube videos about that would've gotten me to The Night Tom Noddy Forever Changed the World of Bubble Entertainment, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1983?

**Rachel:** Well, I mentioned that I think that you have talked about bubbles on this podcast before.

**Griffin:** But I never got on YouTube and was like...

**Rachel:** To look at bubbles?

**Griffin:** Y'know why? Because they're bubbles. Like, I'm pretty sure I know how they do what they do. And also, I talked about bubbles a long time ago. I've watched a lot of other shit on YouTube. But like—

**Rachel:** Have you thought about growing a very big mustache or a very long ponytail?

**Griffin:** I've been looking into velvet wear.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I was about to like, research this, right? Because I decided I wanted to talk about this after being—after watching this video this morning. And so, I hopped back along, like, later in the day, and the first video that it served to me was called “Wow! Is this an axe or a laser beam?” And this is just a big wood cutter man who uses like, an axe, like a wood cutting axe, to cut wood, and he's—

**Rachel:** This reminds me...

**Griffin:** And he's reviewing an axe.

**Rachel:** Remember the slow motion explosion thing that you watched for a while?



**Griffin:** Okay, yeah. Like, slo-mo videos, I get. I get like, we watched some hydraulic press videos. I don't see how YouTube gets me from that, to a big burly man, outside of his cabin, surrounded by defiled logs, just like, doing his YouTube axe reviews.

**Rachel:** The knife videos.

**Griffin:** Because they're bladed obj—maybe. You could make a case for that, I think.

**Rachel:** The bubbles, I'll give you. That's kind of strange.

**Griffin:** But like, it's not just—this is not my own personal conspiracy theory, because my absolutely favorite thing... and these are just two examples of... every day. Every time I log onto the website, at least one of the little thumbnails, like, visible to me from the jump is like, some nonsense shit.

A lot of the times, it sucks shit. Like, a lot of the times, it's like, "You want to watch this Logan Paul video." And it's like, nooo, YouTube, I don't. Uh, but sometimes, it's like, "Do you want to watch this mustachioed man do bubble magic on Carson?" And I'm like, "Yeah, I guess I do!"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And the most amazing thing is every comment on those videos, which have million—that video has millions of views. Every comment is like, "What the fuck am I doing here?" Every comment is like, "I wasn't—I didn't want to watch this. But here I am. YouTube said I should watch this, so I'm watching this." Every one of them! Which means that there's like, a library of like, weird garbage that YouTube, like a fuckin' proud cat dragging a dead bird into the house, like... you want Tom Noddy? You want Tom Noddy? I didn't ask for Tom Noddy.

**Rachel:** It makes me wonder if he has like, a group of lobbyists who are like, slowly upping the algorithm of like, "Okay, are you trying to install a bathroom sink? Alright, let's just throw in this video right after this."

**Griffin:** Right. Uh, it is... genuinely, I don't get a lot—I don't derive a lot of like, pleasure from, uh, online interactions in general. But this is the purest, like, form of comradery that I feel, where like, it is hard for me not to get self-conscious after I've watched the entirety of the Tom Noddy changes bubble entertainment, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1983.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, I feel guilty, 'cause it's like, what the fuck am I—like, what am I doing with my life?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And then, seeing literally thousands of people saying the exact same thing, like... it makes me feel a connection to...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** This is a—I'm being serious. It makes me feel a connection to those people, and it makes them more, like, real than a lot of like, online interactions I have, because I know that they literally did the exact same thing as me for the exact same reason I did it, and feel the exact same way about that afterwards. And I feel like a genuine kinship with those folks in that moment.

**Rachel:** It does make me wonder if there are like, a series of like, counterparts to you out there that have watched the exact same videos you have watched, and are now on this path that you are on, as well.

**Griffin:** Oh, interesting.

**Rachel:** And so like, tomorrow, when you get pushed, like, here's a hula hoop, but it's covered in peanut butter. Watch this dog lick the whole thing.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Somebody else somewhere is also watching that video, because they are on your path.

**Griffin:** Well, it's like an infinite monkeys typing Hamlet thing, right?

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** Where like, that video you just described probably does exist somewhere. And some weirdo is watching it. But I don't think that person... I'm not married to them, so like, they're not that much like me, I guess, is the thing I took away from the first segment.

Um, hey, can I tell you what our friends at home are talking about?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Here's a submission from Griffin. Not me. Another Griffin.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** There's not that many of us. This is a precious gift, so really listen to it and treasure it.

**Rachel:** Okay. I'm gonna wonder if this is something you also like.

**Griffin:** No. "Hi, Rachel and Griffin. My wonder this week is the feeling of freshly brushed teeth. It's so clean and smooth. I love it!"

**Rachel:** You don't like that?

**Griffin:** I mean, I like it. I wouldn't write into a podcast about it. But today, I did go to the dentist for a cleaning. I like—I do like that.

**Rachel:** Oh yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** That's the only time I feel like my teeth are like, "Mm, damn."

**Rachel:** I know. You're like, "Whoa, this feels—oh! Is that tooth always like that?"

**Griffin:** Yeah, I got gaps in there that I didn't even know about. That's neat. It's like my teeth just got a haircut.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Gretchen says, "Something I think is wonderful is when you're putting away laundry, and you're hanging up the last shirt, and you realize the bunch of hangers you grabbed at the beginning was the exact right number you needed for the laundry you had."

**Rachel:** Oh, that is nice!

**Griffin:** Ooh, that's good shit.

**Rachel:** Man, people write stuff like this in, and I think, like, they maybe should be doing our show for us. 'Cause that kind of precise look at your daily life...

**Griffin:** It's good.

**Rachel:** That's good. It's a good way to live.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It's measuring your life and love.

**Rachel:** And hangers.

**Griffin:** And hangers. I wanted to—I don't know if I was quoting Rent or MBMBaM, then. I've crossed the streams, like, way fuckin' too far.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, hey, 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 thank you to Maximum Fun.

**Rachel:** Yeah, thank you Maximum Fun, for hosting our show, and for hosting a lot of other delightful shows. Um, if you haven't listened to the Jackie and Laurie show, and you like funny ladies, that's a good place to go!

**Griffin:** Go check that out. Go check out Judge John Hodgman, and Story Break, and a whole lot more at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

Go to [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family), 'cause we have a lot of fuckin' podcasts.

**Rachel:** We got a pin!

**Griffin:** We got a pin of the Boogercat!

**Rachel:** We got a new pin! Yeah!

**Griffin:** It is a delightful pin of the Boogercat.

**Rachel:** If you haven't listened to our Huntington live show, this pin is based off of that very show.

**Griffin:** Yes. We talk about the Wayne County Boogercat, my new favorite cryptid. My new favorite pin. Uh, you're gonna love it. There's a Ja'am pin, too, from uh, Monster Factory that I'm very excited about. A lot of cryptid work that we have this month for you.

Yeah, and I think that's it, so like... I think, like... it's like, whatever, man.

**Rachel:** No. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Y'know?

**Rachel:** You want to do some bubble tricks for me?

**Griffin:** Yeah. So go ahead and describe what I'm doing.

**Rachel:** Okay, so he's dipping the wand in the bubbles. Oh, and he's—oh, he's doing some kind of tongue... technique... uh, the bubble... with the bubble... is in the shape ooof... Tom Bergeron! Whoa, that's incredible! Thank you!

**Griffin:** [muffled] I love you!

**Rachel:** I love you, too.

**Griffin:** [muffled] No, that was Tom.

**Rachel:** Oh. [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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