

## Wonderful! 124: Oh Boy, Hoop and Stick!

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:** Hi! This is Rachel McElroy.

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

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful!

**Griffin:** [imitating crowds cheering in the distance]

**Rachel:** [making bird noises]

**Griffin:** [making fish/underwater noises: Blub-blubs]

[In a dramatic narration voice]

Oc-Ocean waves.

**Rachel:** Oh, this is recorded on the boat!

**Griffin:** [Imitating the sound the waves make]

**Rachel:** We're reporting from the boat.

**Griffin:** Hey everyone, this is Griffin and Rachel. We're reporting to you from the boat with all the hot—

**Rachel:** I'm an octopus!

**Griffin:** And this is a huge development, and a lot of people are talking about this—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** An octopus has found its way onto the cruise ship—

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

**Griffin:** That Rachel and I are on, and I don't want to scare anyone. I don't want anyone to freak out, because they look so weird because all the arms and the slime, and no bones, but um...

**Rachel:** You know what's great about an octopus, though?

**Griffin:** What's that?

**Rachel:** Four hugs.

**Griffin:** That's... True... Yeah. Or like eight Christian side-hugs.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Is one way of thinking about it, which would be totally dope if those Christian side-hugs were not pulling you towards that very large beak that it's got, where it's butt should be? Are you sure about this one, octopus? Okay. Who am I to tell you your business?

We're on a boat right now-

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** When you hear this. We're not like... When we record this, we're not on a boat right now, but when you hear this we should be on a boat. So just believe, make believe with us. In this space

What do you think we're doing, right now?

**Rachel:** Oh, like when this is actually—

**Griffin:** What are boat-us doing?

**Rachel:** "Boat-us"?

**Griffin:** What are boat-us doing?

**Rachel:** Uh, I mean I am probably eating ... You know, a French fry cause I'm bad.

**Griffin:** Rachel! McElroy!

**Rachel:** [laughs] I'm eating a French fry.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I'll probably have me a few French fries.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. [agreement]

**Griffin:** We are on the JoCo Cruise, the Jonathan Coulton Cruise, uh... To be specific. And just based on my experience, from doing it for the first time

last year, I'm probably um.... Just grabbing just too many desserts? They have a big open salad bar situation; they have a handful of different desserts. I don't want to miss out on one of them desserts, so I'll grab one!

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. [agreement]

**Griffin:** And then the other, and then the other. Lot of flan. Oh, boy!

**Rachel:** Is there?

**Griffin:** Oh, Rachel! Did you not find the flan bucket?

**Rachel:** I don't remember the flan bucket.

**Griffin:** Did you not open up the flan drawer? In the dessert cabinet?

**Rachel:** And the whole drawer just wiggled at me?

**Griffin:** It just wiggles right out of there. It's a weird ship, cool ship. Having a fun time, octopus notwithstanding, and—

**Rachel:** But we have a show to do, Griffin!

**Griffin:** Wish you were here! And... Living this dream with us, do you have any small wonders, Rachel?

**Rachel:** You know, I'm gonna say vanity license plates.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Rachel:** Sometimes it's just a treat.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Just like if you got like a couple initials together, and you just, you spend your time in traffic trying to figure out what they spell out, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sometimes it is sort of a fun little rebus—

**Rachel:** Yeah! Mm-hmm! [agreement]

**Griffin:** That it gives you, and I'm into that. Um... The best I—

I think the best I ever saw was still during Travis's bachelor party in Cincinnati when we were driving to the liquor store—

**Rachel:** Oh! What was that?

**Griffin:** "Hotboy"!

**Rachel:** [laughs] Hot boy.

**Griffin:** It was either "hotboy" or "hotboys".

**Rachel:** I feel like there was a "z".

**Griffin:** It may have been "hotboyz". Wow, that made us so excited. What does it—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I mean I know what it means, but could it possibly mean that? On your car?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's very confident of you. I have been talking, and I don't have, I don't think I have one. I don't think I have one.

**Rachel:** I mean, you can talk about frozen food.

**Griffin:** I... Why would I talk about frozen food?

**Rachel:** I mean, you like it.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I do like—

**Rachel:** It could be your small wonder.

**Griffin:** It's pretty small. It's nice to... It's nice when the food's frozen, and, because when you do that it sort of like fucking chrono-locks it—

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

**Griffin:** In like a little time cube!

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm! [affirmative]

**Griffin:** Like you have this, you know, some chicken thighs, and you just get them and they're in your fridge for a day—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And you're like "I'm not gonna have time to cook those this week! Let's lock them in the chrono-cube!"

**Rachel:** And then you can return to a time when they were not frozen, in the future.

**Griffin:** It's pretty amazing, if you really think about it.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Big bonus: We may have just gotten a new freezer, that we're both very excited about?

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** My plan is, I'm gonna start doing some sous vide bags, freeze them, and then during the week you just boop! Give them suckers a little bath. What's there waiting for ya?

**Rachel:** Listeners, hold him accountable to this plan, because I support it, and I want to see—

**Griffin:** I wish— I want you to join me in this fucking lifestyle!

**Rachel:** I want to see it happen.

**Griffin:** You want to know my theory? I think you're afraid of the vacuum sealer. I think you— I think you live in fear of the vacuum sealer.

**Rachel:** I mean yeah, a little bit. Sure. Sure.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Let's tap into that. What scares you about the vacuum sealer? Which is an important part in the sous vide process?

**Rachel:** Um... I— You know, I'm just worried that the bag, the bag's going to combust in on itself—

**Griffin:** Yup?

**Rachel:** Creating like a black hole in our kitchen.

**Griffin:** Well, the good news is if that happens, while it's in the sous vide bath, you're making soup!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You just pivot to soup!

**Rachel:** This is Griffin's new character "You're making soup" guy.

**Griffin:** It's a fun character.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm?

**Griffin:** I'm gonna start this week. I go first, this week.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** My first thing is—

I wrote this in my excitement, and it sort of changed the meaning of it, I wrote: Good-Ass packaging. Which could also read as "Good Ass-Packaging". Which I guess is like—

**Rachel:** Well, like a nice pair of pants?

**Griffin:** Like a nice pair of jeans that just frame your caboose pretty nicely.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, but no. I'm just talking about like good packaging—

Which is a shameful topic. Because I do not enjoy, um... Unnecessarily wasteful-ass packaging. Right?

**Rachel:** Oh, you should talk about the game "Splendor", that is so perfectly packaged.

**Griffin:** Oh babe, Splendor is for sure in my notes!

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** You know I'm gonna get to Splendor.

**Rachel:** Okay, good!

**Griffin:** It's a little spoiler, I guess. A little teaser. I'm gonna talk about Splendor here in a little bit.

Um... Yeah. There's enough trash in the word as it is, right? So I don't like, just when you open up a big thing and it's just got a little thing in it, and it's

like... Guys, come on. You can do better than this. Recyclable materials though? Those are, that's alright.

Like when it's like hey, we made this out of dirt— We made this out of dirty newspapers, and I'm like oh, cool! It doesn't smell bad. So that's good that you've done that.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, I guess honorable mention to like... Like consumer electronics that has good packaging and a fairly, like... Efficient way? I think Apple was probably the standard bearer, in this regard? Because Apple products are so like about the packaging. They're so like, about the experience of opening them up, and everything is like so thought out and considered—

**Rachel:** I will say, those ear buds could probably be in a smaller...

**Griffin:** You think the ear buds could be in a smaller?

**Rachel:** They could be in a little smaller guy! I mean they're really only like the size of like a... Like a half dollar.

**Griffin:** Yeah, but they come in a pretty small—

When you get them in a phone, they're like wrapped up sort of in the bottom of the box. I have for sure like accidentally thrown those away before, they're so little.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** So I don't know... But you get it! It's like the phones and it's little coffin, and you pop that out, and then there's a little hole you tuck your finger in and pull it, and then there's the instruction book right there, and the charger's in its own little cavity. Like it's all so, like... So thoroughly thoughtful and meticulously designed, and I dig that.

The um, the Oculus Quest, the headset that I got, the box it comes in is just gorge! Just this gorge, just slick black box, and you pop it out and it's got this little molded thing that looks exactly like the headset that it just slots right into, with like little holsters for the different controllers. That really does it for me! I like a good-ass package.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I don't—I think what makes me really savor the flavor of a good-ass package is how bad clamshell packages are?

**Rachel:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Anytime there's a clamshell package in my life, like I—

**Rachel:** Oh, I hate that!

**Griffin:** And it's become less... I don't think I get that many packages that are clamshell anymore? Like, I'm trying to think of the last time that I opened one, but—

**Rachel:** I mean, toys.

**Griffin:** Toys, yeah. Toys are like the last bastion. But even toys are like... Toys have these little, if you've not bought a toy for a child lately, like a lot of them have changed to sort of like cardboard-based solutions, and instead of having those annoying ass little twist ties or plastic wire wraps around the toys as like, you know, safety measures?

A lot of toys when you like buy them online and they don't have to worry about those safety measures, just have these little black circles on the back that you just kind of twist 90 degrees, and the toy just pops out. It is pretty rad, and they did not have that shit when I was a kid.

**Rachel:** [laughs] It's true.

**Griffin:** Uh, but clamshell packages are an absolute nightmare. In 2009, over six— This was a long time ago, but it was the most... Only thing I could find about it. Over Six thousand cases of people being admitted to emergency rooms or with cuts or puncture wounds from clamshell packages were reported.

**Rachel:** Oh my gosh!

**Griffin:** It's like, Christmas day is like a fucking blood bath, man!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Because of these bad packages that are just like designed to keep people from stealing shit in a store, but really like you just tuck the clamshell package under your jacket and go home, and cut your hand open, opening it. It still got stolen!



**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Like you've just, you know, hurt them or whatever.

Uh, as Rachel has suggested, for me the pinnacle of this is board game packaging. And boy howdy, you could do much worse than Splendor. Splendor's a game where you— I think we've talked about it on this show? It's you know, like a, um... It's like a monetary ladder-building game where you collect gems and buy cards to make it easier to buy more gems, and you win. And all the gems come in these like, these little tokens that have a nice heft, and each one has its own slot, like holster that they—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Everything just perfectly fits in. All the components, all feel really, really good!

**Rachel:** Cause you know, like when you get like a new board game, and then you put it back in the box, and it's just a mess? You know, like a game of Monopoly, where like—

**Griffin:** Monopoly, it— Yeah.

**Rachel:** The money and the cards are all over the place? This has like little slots for them!

**Griffin:** It's perfect, and like... Like clamshell packaging, like this... Did not used to be a thing. Like you said about Monopoly, Game of Life—

For me the worst was, we were obsessed with "Hero Quest" growing up, which was—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I think Milton Bradley's like, uh... Board game DnD take, from... Gosh. Probably the eighties, early nineties? And it had all these like little intricate components that you could punch out of cardboard? I loved that shit.

All the Flying Frog games? So like "Last Night on Earth" had those like nice thick cardboard sheets that you punch all the shit out of. Like I've always loved that.

But in Hero Quest, like they had one little flimsy cardboard divider you could use to keep things separate and it didn't even last like one game, and then it was just fucking, like... Nerd salad in there—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Like it's just a disaster in there, and it is completely inscrutable. The reason I thought about this, is because at my desk I got this RPG quest that our friend Chris Plant helped make, and it's just this slick black box—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** It doesn't need to be on my desk, like I should put it in our board game zone, but like it just looks— It just looks nice. You just open it, it's got some nice art on it, with all the cards that live in there. I just like a good box!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I like a good box that keeps the things—

I'm not even that organized a person, in real life. Which is maybe why I need my, you know... My—

The products I own to sort of take care of that for me.

**Rachel:** Yeah! It simplifies it for you. It's like "This goes here!"

**Griffin:** So like I like a package that serves as like an ongoing case, an ongoing sort of storage solution, instead of something you just like tear up and throw away.

Uh... But yeah. I appreciate a good package, especially when I think about how, just awful it used to be. I definitely remember one Christmas, I got a pair of headphones to go with my new CD player, that I listened to uh... The soundtrack to "Rent", and The Beatles' "1" compilation album—

**Rachel:** Oh, Griff.

**Griffin:** These were the only two CDs I owned. But I got a clamshell package with the headphones inside, and in opening it, I like cut through the cord with the scissors—

**Rachel:** Oh no! [laughs]

**Griffin:** And like RIP. That's it. That's it. Um, so again.

Hey, what's your first thing?

**Rachel:** My first thing is video rental stores!

**Griffin:** Okay! Wow.

**Rachel:** You know I used to work at a video rental store, right?

**Griffin:** I did not know that!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like an indie one?

**Rachel:** No, actually. I kinda thought it was, but I found out later it was not. Um—

**Griffin:** What was it?

**Rachel:** When I was in Chicago, in like around 2006/2007, while I was studying for the GRE, I worked at West Coast Video, which was on... It was like near Belmont and Broadway. Uh... In Chicago, and um... Apparently West Coast Video was like a chain.

**Griffin:** I've never heard of it before, but like—

**Rachel:** Um, they closed in—

**Griffin:** Yeah, probably—

**Rachel:** 2000... What do I want to... They closed in 2009. So I got in, in like their last three years of existence. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, yeah. Sure! [laughs] How many of those VHSs did you swipe there?

**Rachel:** I didn't, um... I didn't work there very long. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** I remember that um, I was actually— I was let go.

**Griffin:** Oh, babe.

**Rachel:** I requested a lot of personal time in the early months.

**Griffin:** That'll get you. Wait, was Tommy Smirl your boss?

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Ha ha ha, rip `emmmmm.

**Rachel:** No. No, I was like one of four employees and we all worked kind of by our self, and they didn't close until midnight, which was a little sketch?

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah!

**Rachel:** And occasionally the manager would work, and he would always grant me the time off. And then one time when I was out of town, he called me and left a voicemail, and was just like—

**Griffin:** Firing you?

**Rachel:** Yeah, just like "You're not present enough and we really need somebody who has more available time."

**Griffin:** Yowsa.

**Rachel:** "Make sure to return those videos you have checked out." [laughs]

**Griffin:** Woah! Like you can't even use their services anymore?

**Rachel:** Well when you're an employee, you could just like—

**Griffin:** Oh, right. Right—

**Rachel:** Just like take stuff out.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Um... But yeah. I enjoyed my short time there.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Um... We did have a room of pornography, which was a little uncomfortable for me.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Just working there by myself with people coming in.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** But uh... I was there when "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" with Johnny Depp came out on DVD. I put those on the shelves. That was me.

**Griffin:** That was— You did that?

**Rachel:** I did!

**Griffin:** Babe!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** You didn't throw them in the garbage?

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Where they belong—

**Rachel:** I feel like the DVD cases smelled like chocolate, and I don't know if I was just imagining that or not.

**Griffin:** I think you may have had a, sort of head—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Injury situation?

**Rachel:** But I have always—I have always liked a video rental store.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** Um... And it's obviously not something you see a lot of, anymore.

**Griffin:** No, sadly.

**Rachel:** But the ones that are still around are kind of like impressive places.

**Griffin:** Yeah, they're boutique-y and cool—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Like uh, what? "I Heart Video"? Here in—

**Rachel:** You know, it's actually called "I love Video", it's just they use a heart and so I always called it "I heart".

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Rachel:** “Vulcan Video” is another place, here in Austin.

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure. Justin worked at Blockbuster, for a while, and I famously talked about why he was let go—

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm?

**Griffin:** And the sort of dark deeds he got he got into? But it was like two blocks from our house. So just, I was—I went there every—

In the summer, went there every single day. I like really, really—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I really liked the Blockbuster Video.

**Rachel:** So I wanted to tell you a brief story about Blockbuster.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** Which is kind of just the origin of Blockbuster.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Which was, the first store opened in Dallas in 1985, with an inventory of 8,000 tapes. They started video game rental in 1987.

**Griffin:** Interesting! I did not think that it started that early.

**Rachel:** Yeah, so the year you were born. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Huh.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Um, shortly after that, Hollywood Video opened. Did you have a Hollywood Video in your town?

**Griffin:** Uh... We had one within like a stone’s throw of the town-- Like I definitely went to Hollywood Video to get— Yes, we did.

We definitely got some stuff. I think it was like on the way to church, there was a Hollywood Video. Kind of out of the way, and so like when Blockbuster didn’t have the tapes we craved—

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, there were also rental opportunities at like grocery stores. Do you remember this?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Did your grocery store—

**Griffin:** Yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

**Rachel:** Isn't that wild to think about now?

**Griffin:** It is strange to think about how they... I remember—

Oh actually, we got a copy of "Yoshi's Story" for the Nintendo 64 that we rented from a grocery store, and then they stopped doing rentals while we had it—

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** And it was like...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** So do we?

**Rachel:** Do we keep it?

**Griffin:** Do we own this now? And the answer to that was: They never came looking for it. So yes.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, so here's what's interesting about Hollywood Video. So in 1995, so less than 10 years after they opened, Blockbuster filed a lawsuit against Hollywood Entertainment for hiring five former Blockbuster employees that they alleged had trade secrets—

**Griffin:** Whoa!

**Rachel:** Which could be used to better their sales.

**Griffin:** Uh...

**Rachel:** [laughs] Isn't that crazy?

**Griffin:** That is pretty wild! I don't think... How are you gonna lock that down, Blockbuster? Like give these people some good insurance.

**Rachel:** Also at the time, Hollywood Video only had 117 stores, whereas Blockbuster had 2800.

**Griffin:** Well I mean, you can't, you gotta—If you see a pretender to the throne, you can't let them accrue power, hon. You gotta squish them down beneath your big Blockbuster boot.

**Rachel:** In May 1995, the judge ruled in favor of Hollywood Video, stating that Blockbuster failed to demonstrate irreparable harm, as a result of the hiring. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, what were the trade secrets that they could possibly—  
“Okay so we do them—”

**Rachel:** “We put them in a box.”

**Griffin:** “Well yeah?”

“And it— Does alphabetical order.”

**Rachel:** “There's a barcode on the box. You can scan the barcode to check out the tape. We copyrighted that.”

**Griffin:** “We encourage people to rewind the video cassettes.”

**Rachel:** [laughing] Here's another thing I didn't know. In 2000, Blockbuster turned down a chance to purchase Netflix for 50 million dollars.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Fucking goobers!

**Rachel:** [laughs] Netflix for a while like wasn't... Wasn't, you know, the big thing. And so I think Blockbuster was like “We're not gonna take a risk on Netflix, thank you.”

**Griffin:** Yeah. Well I imagine Blockbuster was just like, in this place where they're like “Well we'll just do a Netflix! That's easy!”

**Rachel:** Yeah, Blockbuster was gonna start their own—

**Griffin:** Yeah—

**Rachel:** Like rental streaming thing, and it just never took off.

**Griffin:** Yeah.



**Rachel:** At its peak in 2004, Blockbuster had more than 9000 stores. In 2004, also there was a hostile takeover attempt of Hollywood Video by Blockbuster.

**Griffin:** They were so— Okay, so that was it.

**Rachel:** They were so angry! [laughs]

**Griffin:** They were so— It's like Game of Thrones, like they were so fucking focused on like "The other kingdoms vying for the rental game throne" that they didn't notice the fucking Netflix dragons flying through the sky like—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "We're gonna eat your geese! We're gonna eat your sheep!" And shit.

**Rachel:** What I think is interesting is, Hollywood Video did eventually agree to a buyout by "Movie Gallery", which was actually a smaller—

**Griffin:** Oh, get fucking dunked on, Blockbuster!

**Rachel:** Right? Like "We don't want your money."

**Griffin:** What a petty little... Kingdom, they all had!

**Rachel:** [laughs] I know! Isn't that fascinating? I had no idea!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I had a friend that worked at Hollywood Video, and their big thing was that the employees dressed like ushers? Like they all wore like these white button down shirts, and black vests.

**Griffin:** Aw, that sucks. I mean if memory serves, Blockbuster had kind of a, like a Best Buy motif going, I feel like. Didn't—

I feel like Justin had to wear a blue shirt and khakis—

I don't remember—

**Rachel:** Yeah, no there definitely was that.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I thought so.

**Rachel:** Kind of like a Best Buy employee, almost.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So here's the thing. So Blockbuster closed remaining stores in 2013.

**Griffin:** Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

**Rachel:** Um... At this point, there were only... Four thousand rental stores in the country.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** Right now, there's only one video rental chain still around and that's Family Video.

**Griffin:** Family—

**Rachel:** Have you heard of Family Video?

**Griffin:** Of course I have not heard of Family Video.

**Rachel:** Oh! They had— So they have them mostly in the Midwest, and in rural areas.

**Griffin:** Family Video?

**Rachel:** There are some in Texas too, actually.

**Griffin:** Okay? Is it just like Blockbuster, or do they have mostly sort of like Kirk Cameron based affairs?

**Rachel:** Uh... I mean they have everything.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** They have 700 locations in the... In the country.

**Griffin:** What the fuck?

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Family Video.

**Rachel:** I mean again, mostly in Midwest and rural areas, so—

**Griffin:** What do they have that Netflix... Hasn't like—

**Rachel:** They have a lot of discounts. So like kids rentals are free, and they have certain days of the week where things are like a dollar.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Their whole thing is like, cost savings. So here's what's interesting about them still being around. Part of it is that they own their properties and they lease it out to other vendors.

**Griffin:** Huh?

**Rachel:** So you'll see a lot of Family Videos that also have third party tenants, including pizza places, fitness places, water vendors, wireless companies—

**Griffin:** Okay!

**Rachel:** They have licensed real estate to more than 500 third party tenants.

**Griffin:** That seems like a good little... Little scam they've got going on.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So what they would do, is they'd reduce in size as the demand went down, and lease out that space to another company.

**Griffin:** That's pretty good. Do it in like a car dealership— Or an auto body shop, and then people getting their oil changed, they have to sit there and chill for an hour and a half, and you're like "Hey! You seen Hancock?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "We got it on DVD for \$3.99!"

**Rachel:** Speaking of chilling?

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Rachel:** The new Family Video third party tenant venture is CBD.

**Griffin:** I was going to make a joke about that...

**Rachel:** So the president of Enterprise Development at Highland Ventures, which is Family Video's parent, like corporate parent?

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Said “There are a lot of people who use CBD to relax, and guess what? That’s what a lot of people use movies for.” [laughs]

**Griffin:** Cool! Yeah, sure! One of those I would say probably does the job.

**Rachel:** That same guy, that same um... President of Enterprise Developments said “They’re coming in to buy CBD, and then they go ‘I haven’t been in a video store in a long time!’ And then they set up an account.”

**Both:** [laugh]

**Rachel:** I love the gumption. Right?

**Griffin:** Sure, yeah.

**Rachel:** Like “We got to stay in business somehow. This is the new thing. We’re gonna be on top of it.”

**Griffin:** It doesn’t help that like if you do feel like doing something niche and renting a video, there are literal vending machines that do that shit outside of like every Walgreens, yeah.

**Rachel:** I know. With Redbox, yeah. I didn’t look into Redbox, but I mean that’s— That’s still definitely a thing.

**Griffin:** Right, yeah. It’s a huge thing.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. [agreement]

But you know, a lot of the articles I read—

And it’s true! Like, going into a video store is a real adventure in browsing.

**Griffin:** Oh yeah!

**Rachel:** You know? Like they made the point in the articles, like when you go to a streaming service, often you kind of have to know what you’re looking for. You know? Whereas if you go in a video store, you can see it’s like a bookstore. You see the cover, and you’re like “huh! Maybe I do want to see that.”

**Griffin:** It’s the whole argument for like specialty brick and mortars of like—

It's the record store argument, of like people enjoy this media, and there's a community around it. I think maybe movies are so amorphous, whereas vinyl has like, a scene around it? But this conversation right now is really pertinent to games, because GameStop is like really faltering, because everybody's moving to digital and everybody's buying their games online, but like there's still this community of people who just like going to a game store—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** And taking to other people about games and looking at them. So GameStop's trying to like pivot around that to stay alive?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So like in ten years, like who knows if... Everyone will have gone the way of Blockbuster.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't know. I don't know. I don't know, it happened with Toys R Us! It had it's own—

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah—

**Griffin:** Sort of follies, but like it fucking sucks that we cannot take—

**Rachel:** Our child to a large toy store—

**Griffin:** Henry to Toys R Us. I mean we have some cool toy stores, here in Austin but like... You know. Not ones that have a billion different spiders-men.

**Rachel:** Well you know like, Henry— Yeah. That's the thing. Henry likes those, those characters. Those brand characters. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Right, he's a— But we can be like "No! But this is um... This is the wooden walking dog!"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "And he's got little rubber feet and they slap against the ground as you push him down the sidewalk. Here's a— No, this is an artisanal hoop and stick."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "You're gonna love Hoop and Stick. You play with it—"

What's that?

**Rachel:** "It's red, like Spiderman!"

**Griffin:** "Oh, you've thrown Hoop and Stick into the street, where it was hit by a truck, and you're just screaming 'Paw Patrol' at us."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Well let's ask—"

[turns away from microphone, as though turning to talk to someone else]

"Excuse me, do you have 'Paw Patrol'?"

[turns back to the microphone]

"No, they have a doll that looks like Fredrick Nietzsche."

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** "Do you want that?"

[turns away from microphone]

"He doesn't want that."

**Rachel:** "But it sticks to your fridge!"

"Yeah I know, I understand. That's not the same as Marshall the Dalmatian with the fire hat."

**Griffin:** "Yeah."

[turns away from microphone, asking the "Shopkeeper" again]

"Do you have any Transformers?"

[turns back]

"Okay. They have a car made out of wood that was carved by an old, old man and then they have—"

[turns away again]

“And— What’s that?”

[turns back]

“An educational robot that teaches you Cantonese.”

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** “And he says if you play with them at the same time, it’s like a Transformer. Are you interested in that— You’ve left.”

Hey, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

[Griffin imitating the Home Improvement theme]

[ads play]

**Griffin:** Hey, here’s a Jumbotron. This one is for Colin, and it is from Abigail, who says:

“Dear Colin, this message is coming at ya via Wonderful! Because that’s exactly what you are. Life has been insane these past two years, and I wouldn’t have been able to face it with anyone else. You are the Griffin to my Rachel, the Barry to my Lup, and the Sam to my Frodo. I love you so much. Let’s go watch that Jonathon Frakes video again.”

Now. Which one is that? Uh, he... Do you know who Jonathon Frakes was?

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** He was Commander Riker on Star Trek: The Next Generation, but he also was the host of— Aw, shit! What was that show? Unexplained Mysteries? Oh god. If I show you a picture of this man, sitting at a table looking at like a skull or a old tome with a magnifying glass and also there’s fog behind him? You’ll be like “Oh! That there is a Jonathon Frakes.” He sits in the chair funny? Argh!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Argh!

**Rachel:** Does he turn around and sit backwards?

**Griffin:** No, he like throws his leg over it when he goes to sit down—

**Rachel:** No...

**Griffin:** And he's the Star Trek man who does that? He had a beard on the—Fuck. Beyond Belief? Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction!

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** Jonathon Frakes. This is Jonathon Frakes, I'm talking about. Do you see Jonathon Frakes?

**Rachel:** Oh! You know, I had a friend go as him for Halloween, one time.

**Griffin:** Not as Commander Riker, just as Jonathan Frakes?

**Rachel:** Well no, no! [laughs] As Commander Riker.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** He's a handsome man! Good looking dude, Jonathon Frakes!

**Rachel:** Not really my type.

**Griffin:** Okay. That's—

**Rachel:** I'm more into, um... Griffin McElroys.

**Griffin:** That's good to hear.

**Rachel:** And Scott Bakulas.

**Griffin:** Well that's... Less good to hear.

**Rachel:** Can I read the next message?

**Griffin:** Uh-huh! [affirmative]

**Rachel:** It is for Adam, it is from Cheryl-Lynn.

"Adam, these last ten years have been wonderful because of you. Thank you for being my rock, my foot warmer, and my best friend. Building a life together with you is the best adventure I've ever been on. You're a good egg. XOXO."



**Griffin:** What do you think that they censored there, at the end? Oh, wait!

**Rachel:** Hugs and kisses?

**Griffin:** Yeah, you know what babe?

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

**Griffin:** I was looking for my notes, because I had filled my computer with Jonathon Frakes, and so my mind didn't really put that together, and I thought that "XOXO" was um...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Like a cuss word—

**Rachel:** Redacted? [laughing]

**Griffin:** Well, I thought it was like a cuss word! [laughs] Where they do symbols, and—

I don't know. I don't know.

**Rachel:** No, a lot of people use that for "Hugs and kisses", Griff.

**Griffin:** Yeah, get it now.

[MaxFun ads play]

**Rachel:** Can I hear your next thing?

**Griffin:** My next thing? Yes. My next thing is uh, a bit more serious than "Good-Ass packaging". It is a book that is very important to me. It is a book by Dave Eggers called "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius". Have you read it?

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Yeah. I feel like it was a lot of folks in our generation like read it, because the year it came out it was like the hottest shit ever.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I read it a few years after it came out, but I... Aw, boy! That book really, really, really speaks to me. It is a memoir by Dave Eggers, who is a

very prolific writer. He's written a lot of— I've read a ton of his stuff like, um...

"You Shall Know Our Velocity" and "Zeitoun", and he wrote "The Circle", which they made a movie adaptation out of with Tom Hanks. I didn't see it, cause I read some of the book and didn't really... Click with it.

But he also was one of the founders of "McSweeney's" and 826 Valencia, which then became what is it? 826 Nationwide? It's like the kids writing, sort of workshop thing.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But this... Where I became familiar with his stuff, is "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius", and if you've not read it or heard of it, the book is a memoir about how in his early twenties, both of his parents died. They passed away due to cancer within like weeks of each other. I think 32 days of each other. Um... You know obviously completely unrelated, that's just like how it happened?

And at the time, he had other family. He had siblings, and his youngest brother, Christopher, who he calls Toph, was 8 years old. And so he becomes sort of like this de-facto caretaker for his brother, and they move to California and they stay in a series of kind of like rat-hole apartments with the inheritance that they get. And they just try to like put a life together following this pretty profound uprooting that their family all goes through together.

And I can tell you that description, if you haven't read the book, like you can probably write it in your head what that book looks like, and feels like, but the reason it is so special to me, and the reason it really resonated with me, is because like it was not that. It was not—

There is not like a lick of... Um, like self-indulgent melodrama to it?

**Rachel:** Yeah, it's very funny.

**Griffin:** It's a very funny book because he's a very, very funny writer... And that humor touches on the... One of the things that like really, really, meant a lot to me was like that it's not just sad, going through something like that. Like it is obviously heartbreaking and very, very difficult in that regard, but it's also like very, um... Confusing.

Like there's a lot of— There are a lot of feelings that sort of accompany a loss like that, and a lot of those feelings are... You know, complicated but they are also like wildly self-involved and guilt-inducing, and... He like doesn't shy away from that, in the book, and it is—

It lends to it a humor and also an authenticity that you just instantly buy. Like this is a real person, like writing about the real stuff that they were going through, because it is not played up for— For melodramatics.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And just to like really put a, like put a face on that, the rereleases of the books starts with like this forty page index, which you—

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** Like, is a... The version I read, had this huge index that is all written for laughs, and most of it is written for— Written about like the major themes of the book, and it's like peak Dave Egger's comedy shit. The very first theme he dives into— And steel yourself, because it sounds kind of terrible at first blush—Is what he calls "The Unspoken Magic of Parental Disappearance".

And like, I wanna read that explanation that he has in the book, but just to like cushion the blow a little bit, like in no way is the theme of this book or the book itself celebrating—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That his parents died, or like really making light of it at all? It's more of a recognition of like how profound and a change this is, unlike anything he had ever known before... And like very few things in your life ever will be.

So, I want to read that entry in the index, because it is, uh... Kind of incredible.

"The Unspoken Magic of Parental Disappearance."

"It is every child's and teen's dream. Sometimes it's born of bitterness, sometimes it's born of self-pity. Sometimes one wants attention, usually all

three factors play a part. The point is that everyone at one point or another daydreams about their parents dying, and about what it would be like to be an orphan, like Annie or Pippi Longstocking, or more recently, the beautiful tragic knaves of "Party of Five".

One picture in place of the love, perhaps unpredictably given and more often withheld by one's parents, that in their absence that love and attention would be lavished upon them.

That the townspeople, one's relatives, one's friends and teachers, the world around would suddenly be swept up in sympathy and fascination for the orphaned child. That his or her life would be one of celebrity mixed with pathos, fame sprung from tragedy. The best kind, by far.

Most daydream it, some live it, and this aspect of the book will intimate that it was just as it was in Pippi, it is in real life. Thus, an incomparable loss begets both constant struggle and heart hardening but also some unimpeachable rewards, starting with absolute freedom. Interpretable, and of use in a number of ways."

Uh, and then it goes on and says:

"That loss is accompanied by an undeniable, but then of course, guilt-inducing sense of mobility, of infinite possibility, having suddenly found oneself in a world with neither floor nor ceiling."

Uh, I—

**Rachel:** Wow, that's really well done!

**Griffin:** Yeah. It like walks a pretty fucking fine line, I feel like— [laughs]

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Of... Like exactly what I'm talking about. So I read this book like... Four months or so after my mom died, and I was— When that happened, I was like a couple months out from graduating high school. So that already is like a pretty fucking... Tumultuous time, right?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like it is arguably like the time where you're facing down, uh... The biggest sort of like, change in your life.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** You're facing down like—

And it's scary, but it is also like super exciting because your life has been this one thing this whole time, and now it's about to be this completely different thing.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And so like, I went through... I went through this while also going through that. And so like while it was such a like devastating time, I didn't really have anybody or anything that was telling me like "By the way, like you're gonna feel other shit too."

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like it is going to be, it's going to be confusing, and it's going to be, like—

There are going to be things about it that, there will be some sort of like... Excitement feels like a terrible way of putting it, but just like looking forward and having no idea what comes next, is like a thing where I think a part of your brain can't help but try and fill it in with like good shit, and positive shit.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, and... You know, I feel like leading up to that and during that, like a lot of people are just telling you like... You know. You're gonna dress in sackcloth and ashes, and be sad for the rest of your life—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And so when I read this book, and it had all of these like really genuinely entertaining, but also like super thought provoking things to say about these super confusing... Like yeah, selfish feelings, but they are universal feelings. Like, it made me—

It was an enormous step in like the grieving process for me, to like get this take from this book, that I had gotten from nowhere else.

And so like I have lots of books that I love, like I have lots of books that um... I would say are better books, like.... Books that I think are classics and

books that I reread from time to time, but like I've never had a book that like was that, like instrumental to me—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** At the point that I read it. And I've actually never gone back and reread it?

**Rachel:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** There's a part of me that is kind of—

**Rachel:** Scared to do it?

**Griffin:** I'm kind of scared to do it, right?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like I don't know if it aged well. I don't know if the tone of it aged well. I have like, I have some memory issues from like around that time, so like there are parts of it that I don't remember, but I think it is telling that like... There's a lot of stuff I don't remember from then, but I do actually remember a few excerpts from the book, like this thing about the unspoken magic of parental disappearance, or—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** There's like a weird third of the book then becomes— It's a memoir, but it dabbles into like magical realism from time to time, and also a third of the book is an interview that book Dave Eggers does, trying to get on the Real World?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And author Dave Eggers like speaks to him through the fourth wall—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** About like him being a selfish—

**Rachel:** I forgot about that—

**Griffin:** Like, dick and for being an exhibitionist. And the like opening, the new index kind of explains like “By the way, there’s gonna be a really extended segment-”

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** “Where he auditions for Real World and you kinda just gotta bear with it.”

Um, so... Yeah! It’s weird. I don’t— I say book, I can’t think of another piece of media that I hold in this like... Place?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That I hold this one, that I’m like kind of scared to go back to it—

**Rachel:** No, I understand that.

**Griffin:** Because I don’t wanna affect it, but uh, yeah. I just wanted to talk about that, because I don’t— I don’t think I talk about books very much on this show, and this is the one that is like for sure the most, sort of meaningful. To me.

**Rachel:** Yeah. No I remember when we were getting to know each other, you talked about that as the book that was the most significant to you.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah, for sure.

Uh, what’s your second thing? God, I hope it’s something like “Doritos!” just so you can go “Oh boy!”

**Rachel:** Sort of.

**Griffin:** “I want you to know what this feels like!”

**Rachel:** [laughing] Uh, so a previous show, we were talking about onomatopoeia—

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** And so I wanted to talk about that, but specifically in other languages.

**Griffin:** W-Whoa.

**Rachel:** So you know how there are certain words—

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Rachel:** We use for like noises? They use different words in other languages.

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** Uh, and I always think that's super interesting.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Okay!

**Rachel:** Just for like frame of reference, a word like "Achoo" for sneeze here in English, in Japanese is "Hakshon".

**Griffin:** Okay!

**Rachel:** And in German, is "Hatschi".

**Griffin:** Uh, that one's not— I think that—Okay. If I'm gonna rate them, the best actually like onomatopoeic interpretation, I think goes to Japan on this one. Cause that's—

**Rachel:** You don't think that "Hatshci" is a good one?

**Griffin:** Well I don't—

**Rachel:** It's kind of like "achoo".

**Griffin:** But I don't end it with, I don't go [imitates sneezing] "Hat-schi!"

I think my shit's more like [imitates sneezing] "Achoo!" Eh, I don't know.

**Rachel:** [laughs] So here's the thing, so... Uh, people that study, um... Linguistics talk a lot about this, because there's no clear reason why this happens? There's been no rigorous studies done on this across cultures, but a lot of people cite what they call "The bow-wow" theory. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** Which is that the idea that language has originated around the country, as an imitation of natural sounds. So depending on where you were in the world, you kind of build consensus around a particular—

**Griffin:** Interesting!—



**Rachel:** Word.

**Griffin:** Dogs don't— You're saying like dogs don't speak a different language, right? So that sound is fixed, in a way.

**Rachel:** Yeah— Well yeah, it's this idea of like you're in a region, and everybody just kind of agrees in that area, that this is how we articulate that sound, and then another part of the world people are doing the same thing.

**Griffin:** At some point in Germany though, somebody went like—

[pretends to sneeze]

And somebody went "Did you just say 'Hatschi'?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And is like "No?"

"This guy's saying 'Hatshci' over here!"

**Rachel:** So there's a really cool book. James Chapman, who completed his PHD, created a tumblr and then ended up releasing books, like illustrating this. So there is a guide to onomatopoeias around the world, and a web comic called "Soundimals", which is specific to animal noises and how they're articulated in other languages.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** So "Oink" here, in Germany is "Gruntz".

**Griffin:** "Gruntz"?

**Rachel:** G-R-U-N-T-Z.

**Griffin:** Fuck yeah!

**Rachel:** Isn't that great?

**Griffin:** That's really good!

**Rachel:** So he did a little like cartoons, just kind of imitating— Like here is a pig, and here's what the pig says in other countries.

**Griffin:** Gruntz is better!

**Rachel:** You like that?

**Griffin:** Yeah! Pigs don't say oink! Hey, I'm just not thinking about it. I've never heard a pig go "O-Oink"— Eh, Yeah, they kind of do...

**Rachel:** [laughs] So I have some other ones.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** "Knock-knock", which we would do here for like knocking on a door—

**Griffin:** Mm-hmm?

**Rachel:** In Polish is "Puk-Puk".

**Griffin:** Man, that's good too!

**Rachel:** Isn't this fun?

**Griffin:** It is fun!

**Rachel:** Um, "Ring-ring" for a phone, in Portuguese is "Trimm".

**Griffin:** Well that one's difficult, right? Because the sound of a receiver is different— Right? Like if you place a phone call to like somewhere in Europe, like the ringing noise that you hear is... That—

**Rachel:** But the actual phone itself in their home sounds the same as our phone, right?

**Griffin:** Maybe. I don't know. People make the bells and shit inside of phones, right? It's not like knocking on a piece of wood, like that's... That's like fixed in a way.

**Rachel:** True.

**Griffin:** That's interesting.

**Rachel:** Okay, so getting to the real like rich cartoon—

**Griffin:** Yeah, give me that good shit!

**Rachel:** Onomatopoeias. So, "bang" like if you were to shoot somebody in a comic strip, and it said "Bang!" in English, it would say "Pan" in French. P-A-N, which sounds a lot—

Both: Like “bread”!

**Rachel:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Griffin:** Bread! [imitates a gun going off rapidly, but just shouting “bread” in place of gunfire] Oh, god!

**Rachel:** “Bang” in Spanish is “Pum”, P-U-M.

**Griffin:** Okay, I can see that. Maybe with like a, you know, like a silencer or something.

**Rachel:** [laughs] So, yeah. If you look up James Chapman and either “Soundimals” or “Sounds All Around: A Guide to Onomatopoeias Around the World”, you’ll see some of these. And the illustrations are really cool!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Uh... I just, I’ve always thought that was interesting. Like when I was in French class, I remember like learning, you know, what different animals would say, and watching these little videos, and just being like “Oh, that’s funny!”

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like that’s not what we say.

**Griffin:** That’s delightful!

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** It’s so-- It’s really a part, it’s like a faucet of linguistics that I’ve never thought about before: Are the words we base on not concepts, but actual natural sort of... Things. Actual natural things.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like it’s akin to mathematics, in that, right? Like mathematics is set. There’s no difference in mathematics between languages, and there’s also no difference in... Do dogs make different noises in different countries?

**Rachel:** Well I read a lot about the different like—

We have a lot of different things here. Like we have like “ruff” and “bow-wow”.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Umm... And similarly across the globe, there's different things. Although, the one thing I noticed with cats, it's almost always a version of "meow".

**Griffin:** Well, cats have it locked, cats—

**Rachel:** It's cause they—

**Griffin:** Cats have it locked down. Cats know their sound.

**Rachel:** [laughs] But there was a suggestion that like depending on the like, deepness of the bark, you might see different words used for it.

**Griffin:** I saw a Tik-Tok today... I can't, this sentence—

**Rachel:** Are you on Tik-Tok?

**Griffin:** No, but I saw a Tik-Tok somebody posted on Facebook.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** So that's where I'm at. Uh, and—It's one of those of like "Hey look at what this cat is saying. It sounds like words", but I swear it sounded like the cat was saying umm... "I hurt my butthole".

**Rachel:** [laughs] Wow!

**Griffin:** The cat was saying like "I blew out my butthole." It was so fucking good.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I gotta show it to you.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I gotta show that to you next. I gotta show you that—

I have so many things! I feel like recently I've been like "Ooh, I gotta show you that!" And I never do. I gotta show you "Long, Long Man". We talked about that yesterday?

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** That's a small wonder, "Long, Long Man". It's good shit.

Um... Hey, do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

**Rachel:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Nicholas says "My small wonder is bringing in all the groceries in one trip. This always made me feel like some sort of powerful hero when I was little, and it still does today. Plus back then, the faster I helped get the groceries in, the faster I could get back to un-pausing whatever videogame I had paused to help."

**Rachel:** Do you ever like carry a bag in one finger?

**Griffin:** Ooh! I mean, yeah. I was very much in Nicholas's camp here, where—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You know, we were a family of five and so my mom would like bring home a bunch of groceries in plastic bags, and I would just fucking beast-mode... Beast-mode it out!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Because I didn't want to— I didn't want to do that. Like I didn't want to be doing chore, so I just like— [makes a noise indicating a fast motion] Like load it up, and totally—

**Rachel:** God, a family of five. I can't even imagine how much food you had in that house.

**Griffin:** We tore that shit down, man! We went wild on it.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Megan says "My wonderful thing is parking lot guardian angels. When you're scouting for parking in a crowded lot, and someone walking out to their car notices you and waves you over to take the spot they're about to leave? Warms my heart to see people help each other out, in such a simple yet beautiful way."

**Rachel:** Oh, that's so nice!

**Griffin:** It is nice. I love people just like doing a good deed in a parking lot.

**Rachel:** Or when somebody takes your grocery cart from you?

**Griffin:** Aww!

**Rachel:** Like you're walking towards the little corral and they're like "Here, I'll just take that cause I need one."

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** That's nice.

**Griffin:** This also makes me think about your dad, that time that we went to Trail of Lights, here in Austin?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And we waited on this one spot where somebody was like pulling out real slow, and someone tried to snipe that spot at the last second, and your mom and dad like jumped out of the car—

**Rachel:** They just didn't even say anything! They didn't talk to each other!

**Griffin:** They didn't say— They didn't fucking say anything! They both just jumped out of the car to like confront—

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** And if you knew Rachel's Parents, like... I do not think that they would be the first...

**Rachel:** It was like an "I am Spartacus" moment for my parents.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** It was like, no communication. They just both threw themselves in front of that spot.

**Griffin:** They were like "No I do not— I do not believe so. I do not believe so."

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. [agreement]

**Griffin:** Uh, thanks to Bo en and Augustus for the use for our theme song "Money Won't Pay". You can find a link to that in the episode description. And um... Thanks to Maximum Fun.

Hey! Guess what starts next week?

**Rachel:** Woo! MaxFun Drive!

**Griffin:** It's the MaxFun Drive. We're gonna tell you all about it when it kicks off, but uh, yeah. For the next two weeks starting next— What? Monday? We will be doing our annual pledge drive—

**Rachel:** And an I tell you like episodes that we put out during MaxFun Drive, they're like special-er? You know?

**Griffin:** They're— I mean, we haven't recorded ours yet, so let's see?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Let's not throw our hat over the fence. We'll try our best to make it special.

**Rachel:** I'm just saying, like a lot of people hear like "Pledge drive" and they think "Oh..." But it's actually really fun with MaxFun!

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's fun. And you know, we-- We have a lot of cool stuff for people—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Who join as members, or upgrade their—

**Rachel:** Super fun bonus stuff—

**Griffin:** Their levels. Yeah. We have fun bonus stuff, fun bonus episodes. Rachel played Animal Crossing, that she is still on that tip!

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Still on that tip!

**Rachel:** You got me in there!

**Griffin:** May have been, just opened up Club LOL. May have been working on that comedy club. May have been getting petition—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Signed by all the villagers. And I've never been more attracted to her, folks.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yes, that's true!

Uh, yeah. So we're gonna tell you all about that next week, but y'all have been so supportive of us in the past and we—

It means the world, and so, yeah. That'll be soon, and... Geez.

Anything else? Thank you all! I feel very, I feel very warm right now. I feel very, a lot of gratitude towards our friends at home. And—

**Rachel:** Oh yeah! And for those of you that um... Are looking for more of a wonderful community, I'm gonna encourage again our Facebook group.

**Griffin:** Oh yeah!

**Rachel:** Which is actually listed under "Rose Buddies Cast", because when we created it, we had a different show.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** But the folks in there a lot of times will share their reactions to the stuff we talk about, so if you have a particular video rental store that you enjoy—

**Griffin:** Sure?

**Rachel:** You know? That's a good place to talk about it, with other people that listen to this show.

**Griffin:** A lot of people have been asking us to come out of retirement for "Love is Blind", with Rose Buddies—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And I can't... I don't even know... I don't even know what that would fucking look like.

**Rachel:** I know!



**Griffin:** I don't even know where I would fucking begin, with that,

**Rachel:** Yeah. It's—

**Griffin:** She gave the dog her wine out of the cup she drinks from!

**Rachel:** [laughing] Yeah, there are when we watch that show and we have a lot of funny things to say to each other, and then there's always that sense of relief that we don't actually have to say them to each other in front of other people. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah! Boy howdy it's a trip though.

Anyway, I think that's it. You're doing— You're doing really well. And that idea you had today? You should fucking follow up on that.

**Rachel:** Yeah! Make a little note to yourself.

**Griffin:** Make a note to yourself to get that done!

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm! [agreement]

**Griffin:** Because I'm telling you, it's not like the other ideas. Some of your ideas are a little... Meh. They're stinkers. But this one? They're not stinkers, but they're just like... Intangible.

**Rachel:** Set a little reminder! Just a little reminder.

**Griffin:** Set a reminder on your watch. On your calendar.

**Rachel:** Say like "Hey! Come back to that idea!"

**Griffin:** Come back to that idea! Pursue it!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Make it real. I still have pictures of Jonathon Frakes open on my computer! [laughs]

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** I think I gave it a virus!

[theme music plays]

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