

Wonderful! 76: Gonna Need Those Plums Back, Though.

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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: Yes— [laughs]

Bring it on in for the big hug, big guy. Come on in, let's get a good squeeze going!

[Hngh! Sound indicating a good hug]

Thanks, big guy.

Rachel: What about the little guy?

Griffin: I was talking to one specific big listener of ours! Isn't—

Rachel: Oh, okay. Well hey, I've got a hug for the little guy.

Griffin: Come here little guy.

Rachel: With a little squeeze.

Griffin: Uh— [laughs]

If there's a... A Davis out there... It says I got a hug for ya!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So bring that— Ooh! [indicating a good hug]

I'm gonna get two slaps.

[two slapping sounds]

That's on the back. That feels good, and that's how you know it's legit.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: And uh, is that everyone? Let me look at the list.

[whispers to self, checking the list]

Rachel: I mean, there's all of women, too.

Griffin: All the women, yeah. I mean for sure, for sure. For sure. Uh, so come on— Get on in here. Two on the back.

[two back slap sounds]

Alright, we're good to go. I think we've got them all.

Rachel: Alright.

Griffin: Oh! Gender nonconforming friends, come on in! Bring it on in. And—

[three back slap sounds]

You get three on the back, uh—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So this is *Wonderful!* It's a podcast where um, we... Hug, I guess? We're a hugging family, now.

Rachel: Well you know, we kind of hug, in a way if you think about it!

Griffin: [exhales contemplatively] I don't know, man. I still, um...

Rachel: We talk about things that we like—

Griffin: Oh, I thought you meant in real life, too, we hug.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I was gonna say we're not huge on it. I feel—

Rachel: I feel like we're pretty big on it!

Griffin: I like— I enjoy a hug, but when it's your group—

Rachel: I hug you multiple times a day, every day.

Griffin: You just hugged me, yes. Like seconds before we started recording.

Rachel: Uh-huh! [affirmative] What—

Griffin: But when we see our friends, I never know what the protocol is.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: Do you want a— Do you need a hug right now?

Rachel: We've talked about this, sweetheart.

Griffin: We sure have, so—

Rachel: I'm not a big hugger.

Griffin: Yeah, that's probably true. But uh, hopefully this podcast brings you the same comfort as a hug might do.

Hey, do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: I do!

Griffin: Well, what is it?

Rachel: I've been sending you— And I know you haven't had time—

Griffin: I just watched one of them.

Rachel: Um, John Mulaney was on Saturday Night Live, and I'm a big fan of John Mulaney's comedy. And him on Saturday Night Live is always a treat, because he used to work there, and there are some really great sketches. Did you watch the one of "What's your name"?

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, that is the one I watched, was "What's your name?"

Rachel: It's so good!

Griffin: It's extremely good. Yeah he's— God, he's so good. His stand up special, uh... The kid whatever—

Rachel: "Kid Gorgeous"?

Griffin: Yeah. It is uh... Probably the best stand up special I've seen in the last five years.

Rachel: And "The Comeback Kid", too was another one. Very good.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, yeah. He's fantastic. I'm gonna say uh, peacoats. Specifically my peacoat.

I had to buy a peacoat when I was in New Orleans cause it was much colder than I thought it was gonna be, and I was like "Well, this is a waste of money!" But then it's like thirty degrees today, and it was so nice to just have a big ol fashionable coat keeping me warm.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I sure do appreciate—I've always enjoyed a peacoat. I've never had one that fit me as well as this one does, so... I'm very excited about peacoats.

I think I go first this week?

Rachel: I think so, yeah.

Griffin: My first thing this week is a elephant. My first thing is elephant.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: My first thing is the elephant. The humble elephant. I feel like I haven't done an animal in a while.

Rachel: Yeah, I love the elephant!

Griffin: I love the elephant! Elephants are big friends, and I think they do a great job at fulfilling that role, and I feel like also I slept on elephants for a long time because like... They're big... They're big safari friend. And I would just see that, and I felt so detached—

Rachel: I—

Griffin: But now I love elephants!

Rachel: I'm so glad, because I've always wanted to know more about the elephant, and so I'm so glad you chose the elephant.

Griffin: Yeah. I think specifically, um... Raising, raising a two year old, like now we're seeing elephants through a child's eyes? And boy, they're just good animals, folks. Elephants are. Um, when we talk about loving elephants, really what are we talking about? Two main factors: Size and trunk. So let's just—

Rachel: Yeah, exactly. Exactly.

Griffin: Let's just get our hands dirty.

Rachel: Although I would argue, the ears are pretty great.

Griffin: The ears are fantastic. But mostly? I wanna talk about size and I wanna talk about trunk.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Cause folks? These boys are absolute units! They're the biggest land mammals that exist. Uh, which is just.... Just, you know. Laudable. I feel like they've done a good job with that.

Looking at a big elephant just like walking around, lumbering around, especially when you get a sense of scale, it looks like a, like an AT-AT from Star wars. The big robots that walk around. That's good.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And they got that little tail, that disproportionally little tail that swings in an offbeat tempo—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And they do have those big funnel cake ears that just wave when they need to wave, and I love all that.

Um... There are two main categories of elephant. African elephants are the bigger category. They can grow up to 13 feet high, and they can weigh up to 14,000 pounds. Asian elephants reach nearly ten feet and can grow up to 11,000 pounds. So a little-er guy, but I mean 11,000 pounds. That's a lot of just—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Pure elephant energy.

Rachel: I don't know if I would notice. You know, like "Oh—"

Griffin: If one sat on you, you wouldn't be like uh—

Rachel: "That one looks 200 pounds heavier."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: At that point, you know. You're kind of dealing in... Just uh, abstractness. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. The way that they get that big is because they eat, uh, up to 300 pounds of food every day.

Rachel: Woo!

Griffin: That's a good amount! That's— [laughs] I would say that's a full meal!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Uh, the babies. Babies. When babies are born.

Rachel: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: The babies are absolute units! First of all, they take twenty-two months to cook up and get out the, get out the oven.

Rachel: Oh man.

Griffin: Yeah, that's gonna be a rough... A rough load.

Rachel: Whew.

Griffin: Because uh, when they're born they can weigh 200 pounds.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So how's your day, mama elephant? Probably not very good, I bet.

Rachel: Oh, that's funny.

Griffin: Baby elephant, it's called a calf, and for every day up to it's first birthday, it's gonna be gaining two to three pounds. Every single day.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: Absolute monster, I love it!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: These absolute monster trucks. The size is fantastic. The size of these animals is very good. Um, the trunk though. [laughs] What's it even doing with that thing? Do you know why elephants have trunks?

Rachel: Oh god, that sounds like the start of a joke. Because if they didn't, where would you put your suitcase!

Griffin: No.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Not everything's a joke. Do you know why elephants have trunks?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: It's because they don't have glove compartments!

Rachel: Oh! Great—

Griffin: You didn't even— I can't believe you chomped my flavor like that!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: These trunks, they do everything. They are mostly, uh, used for sustenance reasons, grabbing reasons.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, the trunk—

Rachel: How will— I mean obviously their feet aren't great at grabbing.

Griffin: Their feet can't grab very good, and they got the mouth, is unfortunately tucked behind the trunk. I didn't actually realize it, the trunk is actually fused with their top lip. Like it's all sort of—

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Part of the same kind of mechanism, and it grabs the food and it brings it back to, you know mouth town. Uh, and that way the mouth can keep chewing, and keep eating, while the trunk is grabbing more food.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: So it's just this nonstop— It's like what's it called— Recursive breathing? Like it's just nonstop like... Food assembly line.

At the end of the snout, they have “fingers”... Uh, which I use in quotation marks cause it’s not fingers in the traditional sense, and these fingers can actually move super precisely. The whole thing about elephants eating peanuts, they can grab and like shuck a peanut with their trunk-finger—

Rachel: Whoa!

Griffin: And then get the sweet nut meat right into their mouth. Uh, one way you can tell the difference between Asian elephants and African elephants, is that Asian elephants just have one finger on the end of their trunk, and African elephants have two.

But uh, yeah. They can do really dexterous stuff with these little, little nubbins at the end of their trunks, and I love it.

Uh, obviously they can also use it to get water. They don’t drink the water straight through their trunks cause that would be wild, but um. They just, you know, suck it up and then blast it right in their mouth. Each snort full, they can get up to fourteen liters of water— [laughs] Into their mouth at one time.

Rachel: [laughs] That’s great!

Griffin: Uh, which is very good. So like that stuff I could’ve assumed is true. We’ve all seen that in action. These big noses are good for smelling, also. An elephant sense of smell is approximately four times stronger than a bloodhound’s. And they can also kind of like fucking—

Rachel: Woah!

Griffin: They can kind of periscope it, right? So they can like get all these tight angles—

Rachel: Why aren’t there crime elephants?

Griffin: Why isn’t—

Rachel: That are out there, helping us solve crimes?

Griffin: [laughs] I know! Balloon boy goes missing. Here’s his sock. Elephant points the trunk up, he’s like “There he goes!”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Do you think I'm the only one still making balloon boy references—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: In 2019?

Rachel: 100% yes.

Griffin: Okay. Um,—

Also I mean there's social functionality, right? You use it for, uh, you know the equivalent of like an elephant handshake, or hold onto the—

Rachel: Aww.

Griffin: You know, the tail of a little elephant, so you know they don't run off.

Rachel: Aww.

Griffin: Um... So, it's come to my attention that elephants are actually very cute and very very good. It took me a while to get there, cause they're just so big, but man those wrinkles and that big dopey face! You gotta love the elephant!

Rachel: You see those elephants painting?

Griffin: The elephants paint— Oh yeah, that's very good too!

Rachel: They hold the little brush in their trunk?

Griffin: And that's what makes the, like immeasurable, unthinkable mistreatment of elephants at the hands of humanity, is what makes it just so horrific—

Rachel: Oh, I know—

Griffin: And unpalatable, um... Because elephants are big and brassy and beautiful. They deserve, you know, protection from poaching and the destruction of their habitats— Every elephant does. Every animal does, rather, um...

But like elephants are just kind of front of mind for me, this week because of their size, and how good their... How good their trunks are! Let em roam free, let em, you know, let em do their thing.

Rachel: And also how when we watch Mickey Mouse Club, there's always an elephant.

Griffin: There's always an elephant in the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. He has these things called the "Mouseketools" that he uses to solve problems. One of them's always an elephant.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And usually, it's like [as Mickey Mouse] "I need to get a glass of water!" And like the elephant will just blast water into the cup, and it's like use a fucking faucet, and let that elephant outside to go play with it's family. Jesus, Mickey.

Rachel: Mmm.

Griffin: What's your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is chopsticks!

Griffin: Oh, wow!

Rachel: I prefer a chopstick to a fork. I think I've just decided. I think I... Am just firmly in favor of chopsticks.

Griffin: I want to hear the reason why, because I am too, but I think there's not a, not a... Obviously like it's culturally appropriate, but it's not like—

Rachel: It's the shoveling of the fork.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Rachel: It's the experience of— So even if I have uh, leftovers, for example. Um. Of, you know, Chinese food for example. I will still go find some chopsticks to eat those leftovers, even though the moment of initially eating has passed, because when you're shoveling food I feel like you're not really appreciating it?

Griffin: Interesting.

Rachel: But when I use a chopstick, I get like exactly the amount of food I want, and I place it into my mouth, and I chew it and it feels like I am really savoring and enjoying the experience.

Griffin: I like that. There's a mindfulness to it that I appreciate.

Rachel: Exactly!

Griffin: It's why I like eating crab legs so much, is because there's all of this ritual to it—

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: It takes a while, and then when you finally get that sweet meat, it's like "I fucking worked for this!"

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Yeah, I feel like it's... Mindfulness is a good, is a good example. Because I feel like I'm not zoning out, when I'm using chopsticks. You know? I'm focusing.

Griffin: You got to.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: You got to. There's a lot of manual dexterity involved.

Rachel: Uh, so it's not gonna surprise you that chopsticks have been around a long time?

Griffin: Yeah I guess, I could've probably seen that one coming.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Uh, the—

Griffin: Do they predate, do they predate forks? I guess it's hard to say.

Rachel: They do, but not, not by as much as you'd think.

Griffin: Oh okay.

Rachel: It's not like... Yeah. Cause I was all excited, like "Oh, yeah! Thousands of years before the fork!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: No, it's not that.

Griffin: I imagine somebody saw somebody using something to eat food with, except for that wasn't their hands and they were like "There's gotta be other... There's gotta be lots of different non-hand eating technology we can figure out."

Rachel: Uh, the earliest evidence that humanity has found of chopsticks, were chopsticks made of bronze that were ten inches long, and dated to 1200 B.C.E.

Griffin: It's always bronze!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: It's always bronze.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: Wood is what we use now, and now is certainly more plentiful back then.

Rachel: Well bronze holds up. I'm sure there were chopsticks that were... You know. Not made of bronze, but we lost those.

Griffin: That's a good point. We probably, termites would eat those right up, huh?

Rachel: [laughing] Uh—

Griffin: Freaking termites! How much more history would we know about, if it weren't for freaking termites? Probably...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: A lot more of it.

Rachel: Sounds like you've got a... Prime time children's show on your hands, right there.

Griffin: It's me and Carmen Sandiego going back in time to stop termites from eating... The crucifix. [laughs]

Rachel: What a Quantum Leap episode, that would be, by the way.

Griffin: Well, yeah. It would be a little bit outside his timeline, but—

Rachel: He leaps into a termite.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: Has to take out all of his brothers.

Griffin: Antz 2.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: TermiteZ.

[both laughing]

Rachel: Uh, so I didn't realize the English word "chopstick" may have derived from Chinese pidgin-English, when they first started trading with the English in the 17th century. Which could mean "Chop-chop" or "quickly".

Griffin: Hmm.

Rachel: Another possibility is that the term is derived from "Chow-chow", which is also a pidgin word stemming from southeast Asia meaning food, and those chopsticks would simply mean food sticks.

Griffin: Are pidgin words like the words that they used to like talk even though they didn't share the same language?

Rachel: Yeah, yeah. It was uh, when they started, uh, trading between the English and Chinese in the 17th century.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: And that was where, uh... Pidgin-English came from. So do you want to know some chopstick etiquette?

Griffin: Uh, yeah!

Rachel: This kind of stuff like cripples me when I'm like, when we travel and I'm trying to figure out where to put my chopsticks?

Griffin: I feel like I purposely learned some of this when we went to, uh, Japan—

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And some of it I remember, and some of it— Like I know you're not supposed to rub them together. That's like, bad.

Rachel: Well, and there's different chopstick etiquette depending on which country you're in, too.

Griffin: Almost certainly, yeah. For sure.

Rachel: So, uh... This is what I found online. In china, it is poor etiquette to point rested chopsticks towards others seated at the table.

Griffin: Hmm.

Rachel: Chopsticks should not be vertically stuck into a bowl of rice, because it resembles the ritual of incense burning, that symbolizes feeding the dead, and death in general. That's also true in South Korea, and Japan.

Griffin: But also... Just don't do that with fucking forks, like that's a wild—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Well, of course. [laughs]

Rachel: [laughing] That's a good point!

Griffin: Like if you're eating a steak, you don't fucking stab your fork into the steak and leave it there likes, like a... Radio antennae or something.

Rachel: Here's two other things that I found interesting. So in Japan, uh if you are eating out, you are supposed to put disposable chopsticks back in the wrapper at the end of a meal.

Griffin: Uh, okay! Yeah.

Rachel: Isn't that kind of clever?

Griffin: Well you don't want somebody to fucking touch your mouth grime.

Rachel: So the person doesn't have to handle it.

Griffin: That's a very polite thing to do.

Rachel: Also if there's no serving utensils, reversing the ends of the individual's chopsticks to the clean ends, can be used.

Griffin: Huh! Interesting.

Rachel: Who would have ever thought of that?

Griffin: We definitely fucked that up a couple times when we went to um— When we were in Japan, we went to a couple of like barbeque places, and

they have, you know, heavy metal chopsticks to touch the meat and put it on the thing.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But then you know, you have your own wood chopsticks for eating—

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Griffin: And we would definitely cross-contaminate and be bad uh, human beings in that situation.

Rachel: I also like, um— And this is not something I've done, but I like watching videos of people cooking with chopsticks?

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: It makes so much sense to me, to have that precision, instead of trying to like scoop with like a big old serving spoon.

Griffin: I bought some, and then the first time I use them they broke because they were [laughs] cheap and shitty—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And like I was trying to like stir, like a big thing of like heavy noodles and they just snap-snap! Uh, so...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I was put off by from the idea of doing it.

Rachel: Um... Yeah, I think, I think, yeah. I like the precision of it, I like the experience of really kind of thoughtfully selecting my food. Uh, and I really would like to use them for almost everything.

Griffin: I mean also like, uh I feel like... Eating a rice based meal or a noodle based meal is actually like, now that I've gotten like good with using chopsticks?

Rachel: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: Like I feel like it is just the tool that makes more sense to use it, right?

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Griffin: Cause with fork, you have to—With fork, you either gotta do like the spin-ny spin, and get like a big bundle of it, and then shovel that in your gob.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then like with a fork and rice, I mean—

Rachel: You always carefully balance it on the fork as you work your way up to your mouth.

Griffin: That's not good. That's no good. Chopsticks are good!

Rachel: Mm-hmm! [agreement]

Griffin: I got Rachel a bunch of chopsticks from a woodworking place in New Orleans that uh, we just—

Rachel: They're beautiful.

Griffin: They're beautiful, and we have so many of them now. It's very exciting!

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: Cause we would have to like constantly wash ours, every time we wanted to eat. I mean we still wash them—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But now we have like, backup. You know what I'm saying!

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Griffin: We're not that dirty.

Rachel: Mm-mm. [agreement]

Griffin: Or are we?

Meow? Can I steal you away?

Rachel: [laughs]

[music plays]

[ads play]

Rachel: Okay, this first message is for Jake. It is from Jeanette and Andy.

“Jake, happy approximately birthday! You are a fantastic DM, and you make us the coolest props. We can’t wait to start the next adventure that you bring, for the now misnamed Mouseguard. Between introducing us to the McElroys and your mad DM skills, you’ve played a big part in keeping us sane through the first year of new parenthood. We love you.”

Griffin: I wish I’d made props for the boys for TAZ.

Rachel: And so they’d stop spending hundreds of dollars on getting their own?

[both laugh]

Griffin: They really are, they’re bankrupting us. It’s a really serious problem.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: I know, I’m smiling when I say that, but it’s through the tears.

Rachel: [laughs] You wanna hear the next message?

Griffin: Yes please!

Rachel: It is for future-Daria from past-Daria. I love these, by the way.

Griffin: I know, I do too.

Rachel: These are among my favorite.

“Hey future-Daria, it’s you! Past-Daria. I know that those future months are kind of mysterious so here’s hoping you’re doing something wonderful. You’re amazing, and keep on chasing the dream. I love you.”

Griffin: It’s so good!

Rachel: I love those. See, you don’t need somebody else to buy a Jumbotron for you. You can buy your own.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. [agreement] And if you invest in a dream catcher, it's kind of like a trap for your dreams, so it makes it easier to chase it down.

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: That's a... That's probably not how it works.

Rachel: Is that your Shark Tank pitch? [laughs]

Griffin: Yes! [laughs] It's my very appropriate Shark Tank pitch.

[more ads play for podcasts]

Griffin: Uh, can I tell you about my second thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My second thing is weddings!

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: Weddings are so tight! Weddings are so good. Going to a wedding is very very good. I wanna focus on going to a wedding. Throwing a wedding was super good too, because you know, we got to throw this big righteous party. Uh, but this is a separate thing. This week I wanna talk about going to weddings.

Rachel: I have heard people say that they love weddings, and I get it. I don't know why I never really think about it as a thing I like to do. Like I always enjoy it when I go—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I never think like "You know what? I wish I could go to a wedding."

Griffin: Well in your defense, we have not been to one in a while.

Rachel: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: I feel like we— And this is not uncommon, like we had a season for a few years there, where just like most of our friends were getting married. And that season has more or less passed at this point, and so we have not been to one in a while.

But still, I would always enjoy going to a wedding. I didn't always enjoy like traveling with a newborn baby, when we had to go to a wedding. Like that part got less than ideal, but going to the wedding itself, uh, was pretty good.

Uh, even when we were going to them all the time, like I feel like I wasn't getting burnt out because weddings are so fun. Uh, it's basically if you think about it like just a big party that your friends threw—

Like I always get excited for those, so why wouldn't that be true for wedding? You get to see what your friend's think makes for a good time and if their idea matches yours, or it doesn't, it's still fun cause it's a wedding! There's free food. There's usually free drinks. I like what I'm hearing so far!

Rachel: Can I ask you a question? Did you ever go to weddings as a kid?

Griffin: Yeah! Yeah, yeah yeah.

Rachel: See, I didn't really go to... That— I think, I remember maybe one as a kid? I imagine as a kid, it's like maybe not as fun.

Griffin: Probably not as fun, yes. I went to a couple of them, and.... I mean the big thing is if you're a kid and you're going to like a family wedding, of like an older family member or something like that, you're not gonna know most of the people there.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I feel like that was true for a lot of the weddings that I went to. Um, and— Most of the entertainment is designed for adults, so it's usually not a, you know... A play-place.

Rachel: Were you ever a little ring bearer?

Griffin: Was I ever a little ring bearer? No I don't think so.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: No, I don't think I could be trusted with that, um, with that level of...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. I could keep a Gigapet alive for a little bit, but I couldn't, uh—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I couldn't hold this, this relic of matrimony for ten minutes without losing it.

Um, there's a quiet... Uh, there's a quiet kind of competition that happens also, when your friends are all getting married around the same period of time. And nobody would admit to it, but you feel like you as an attendee, are a part of like an unfilmed reality show that is happening all around you, all the time.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: like there's an invisible David Tutera just like watching from the wings—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like "Hmm, this is better than, you know, Melissa's wedding, don't you think? Uh, ooh! The canapés are so much better than Brian's wedding, don't you think? Hmm."

Rachel: Yeah, I mean it's true! If you are in a relationship and you are planning a wedding, every wedding you go to from there on out, you are watching and you are silently taking notes.

Griffin: But not in a shitty way, right?

Rachel: No!

Griffin: Like I was— I had fun at every wedding I ever went to for our friends, except for the one where I was horrifically, horrifically sick and even that one I had a good time at. Um... But you are sort of mentally taking notes on like how it compares to the other weddings that you've gone to.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: Um, and that can be fun. Like who had the best venue? Who had the best ceremony? Who had the best DJ? Who had the best speeches? Who had the best food and drinks? Let's go to the judges, and find out!

Rachel: Mm-hmm! [agreement]

Griffin: And then there's David Tutera, uh—

Rachel: Oh, that show “Four Weddings”, you remember that show?

Griffin: Oh, that show was so— Ah.

Rachel: Where people would judge each other’s weddings like incredibly harshly—

Griffin: So nasty!

Rachel: In the hopes that they would win? [laughs]

Griffin: We watched a lot of wedding television programming. Funnily enough, like that is the one genre that I feel like is designed for you to watch for like a year, and then never fucking watch it ever—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I’ve no interest in watching other people planning their weddings, ever, ever, ever again. Um, sometimes they have you do, like an organized choreographed dance, and that’s the toll that you pay for going to a wedding, and that’s fun.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That’s fine. Um... There’s certain things that weddings bring to the table that like, I only kind of got to experience, going to weddings. Like— I don’t go to dancing events anymore—

Rachel: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: But dancing with you at weddings is very good!

Rachel: I know! I was just thinking about that the other day. I was thinking about how I can’t remember the last time you and I danced together.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Oh you know when it may have been, was MaxFun Con.

Griffin: May have been MaxFun Con, and we have not been to MaxFun Con in a bit—

Rachel: Oh, I was pregnant.

Griffin: When you were pregnant, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um... Yeah, I mean you got the romance in the air during the dance part, you know and that can be just nice, just like siphoning off some of the latent love energies that are just kind of floating around in the air.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Um... And like also, if you're— If you're close to the people who are getting married, it's nice to see this little, like encapsulation of all the different people that they've—

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: Meant something to along the like, time that they've been with us. Um—

Rachel: Yeah! Those like elementary school friends that you've never met before.?

Griffin: And distant family members, and then hearing all of those people talk about how great your friends are from—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: A perspective that you've never had is like so, so wonderful! Um... And if the ceremony's like... You know, poignant enough, you might get a good cry going, and that's always good!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, man that's good stuff. Um, and sometimes like one of your friends will go like way outside the box. We have described, I feel like this whole segment, like the pretty traditional wedding, you know, ceremony, then reception structure.

Like obviously, it doesn't have to be like that. Anytime that you just get a bunch of people together to celebrate two people and their love, and then you know. The whole event is designed to have fun around that love? Like that's good stuff. It doesn't matter what shape you do it in.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But when your friends do like a really outside the box idea for their wedding, and it pays off, like, that's fucking super exciting!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's always really exciting, cause you know that they took a gamble for this thing, and it's great. Uh, and you just get to see all of this like important stuff in your life, through this new lens for one night only, um... Like I feel like we have made memories with our friends at weddings—

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: That like no other sort of events that we have done with them have ever really been able to capture. And that might just be because we had one wedding where everybody was the drunkest I've ever seen them before.
[laughing]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um... And also you get dressed up happy grandparents. Oh! Forget about it!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Dressed up happy grandparents is the best shit. Seeing my nonnie at our wedding? That was the best! That's good stuff.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Anytime you see a dressed up happy grandparent, I'm-I'm—
I'm here for it.

Um. Yeah. I just like it. I like everything that it kind of like... Stands for. Celebrating people you love, and their love, and then like... Literally celebrating with—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: With whatever you want to celebrate with. It is, it is, uh. It's good.

Rachel: I also like being in a wedding. I like – I... I feel like I'm kind of like... I'm part of the like, the crew? You know?

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Rachel: Like I know the behind the scenes, which is fun.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. [agreement] Yeah.

Rachel: Um... And you get all those nice pictures.

Griffin: The pictures are good also.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: And sometimes you get to do the, you get party favors.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: Like some Jordan almonds? When the fuck else are you going to eat Jordan almonds?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This is my only Jordan almond hookup.

Rachel: It's true! I wouldn't even know where to buy them.

Griffin: I don't know where you get— If—

Rachel: Not... Like a wedding supply store?

Griffin: Yeah, exactly.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: Uh, anyway. Hey, what's your second thing?

Rachel: My second thing is a return to the poetry corner.

Griffin: [singing] Let's strap on in, and put on our hats. The hat is a beret, and what's inside? It's a poem, in case you forget! The poem is written inside the hat. Don't let the teacher see!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [still singing] It's time for the poetry corner!

[snaps a couple times rhythmically]

Rachel: That may be my favorite one yet.

Griffin: Yeah, cause it encouraged you to cheat, in poetry class.

Rachel: Well it's like a— It's adventurous. It feels like I am about to watch a detective thriller, like of poetry.

Griffin: Oh! Only he takes his, you know, fedora off and what's inside there? It's the poem, in case he forgets it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Griffin: Who we dealing with this time?

Rachel: We are gonna go, like classic founding fathers... Uh, of Rachel's interest in poetry.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: William Carlos Williams.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: I'm talking about Billy Will.

Griffin: Billy Will, yeah. What's he uh... What's he bring to the table?

Rachel: You heard of uh, "Some Plums"?

Griffin: Oh! Those fricking plums, though! Yeah, of course.

Rachel: You heard of "A Wheelbarrow"?

Griffin: I don't think I've heard about the wheelbarrow.

Rachel: Alright, I'll do the wheelbarrow for ya.

Griffin: I'm uncultured. Oh you're gonna— Okay, so Rachel... Okay. She's kicked her feet up, and she wants me to hold the feet.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And she's running around, and—

[clapping noise]

She's jumping up with her arms and clapping in midair!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: This is incredible! And she's still got her microphone. She's laughing into it.

Rachel: Okay, so everyone is more familiar with William Carlos Williams lately, because there's that meme. The plums meme. Have you seen it—

Griffin: I ate your plums. I ate your plums, I'm so sorry.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Griffin: They were really good though.

Rachel: Well... But did you see people like re-crafting it, for like their own purposes?

Griffin: Yeah, but they'll do a meme in it— So it'll be like "I did your Fornite dance, and so—"

Rachel: Yeah. This is just to say I did your Fortnite dance.

Griffin: Yeah, and so like—

Rachel: It was so great—

Griffin: It was so delicious.

Rachel: And so hot.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Let me give you some source material for that one.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: "This is just to say", written in 1934.

"I have eaten the plums that were in the icebox, and what you were probably saving for breakfast. Forgive me, they were delicious, so sweet, and so cold."

Griffin: [whispering] That's really good.

Rachel: Isn't that nice?

Griffin: [regular volume] It's really nice. Is it supposed to be like deeply sexual?

Rachel: [laughs] I don't think so!

Griffin: No, okay yeah. I didn't wanna—

Rachel: I mean maybe, sure!

Griffin: No, maybe not.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "You know, I could eat a plum for hours... I could eat a plum for hours."

Rachel: Be real... Real messy. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] "That's the idea!"

Rachel: [laughs harder] Okay. So, William Carlos Williams grew up in Rutherford, New Jersey. Uh, and he was a doctor for more than forty years! The poem, the um... "The Red Wheelbarrow", the one I'm gonna next, he wrote when he was 60 years old.

Griffin: Holy shit!

Rachel: Yeah. Um... He wrote his poems— This is what I remember about him, and I couldn't find this but I had an instructor tell me this, that he used to write his little poems on little prescription pads in between clients.

Griffin: I like that! So he'd be like "Here's 10 ccs of 'I ate your plums'. Deal with it."

Rachel: [laughs] Um, he— I thought this was a really good description for him. So, he wrote these poems, that um... Feel very simplistic, but very like uh... Visceral. You know?

Griffin: Yeah, there's a— The imagery is very powerful.

Rachel: Randall Jarrell who was also a poet, said that his poems were often domestic in focus and "Remarkable for their empathy, sympathy, muscular and emotional identification with its subject. There is no optimistic blindness, though there is a fresh gaiety, a stubborn or invincible joyous-ness."

Which I love! I love thinking about that. It's not like he's like all, like raindrops and whiskers on kittens—

Griffin: Right?

Rachel: Where he's like, he's very like tuned in to what is interesting about something. Uh, and joyous about it.

Griffin: Uh, so let me hear this, lay this wheelbarrow on me.

Rachel: Okay, so "The Red Wheelbarrow".

"So much depends upon a red wheelbarrow. Glazed with rainwater, besides the white chickens."

Griffin: I have heard that before.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: It's nice!

Rachel: It's like, it's the kind of thing where people would be like, Oh I don't know, maybe your brothers would say "Oh, everything's a poem!" But I would say—

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That doesn't sound like my brothers! They're way more respectful of the arts than that!

Rachel: Except for your segment on MBMBAM that is always like, "Is this a poem?"

Griffin: I know, I was goofing!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Of course I know, they're fucking goblins.

Rachel: [still laughing] Um... But to just like... It creates such a picture.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Rachel: You know? And it makes it so accessible. It think for me, that was one of the exciting things, like... When I was in high school and thinking like "I'm gonna write poems!"

Griffin: Right?

Rachel: People like William Carlos Williams made it seem like yeah! Go for it! Like if you are able to capture something in a way that feels very precise and beautiful, you can do it too!

Griffin: Sure!

Rachel: You don't have to like, know all... All the, you know, forefathers of poetry to do it.

Griffin: You just have to describe something in a new and cool way.

Rachel: Exactly! Uh, so he was part of what was called the "Imagist movement", which was a reaction against the romantic or Victorian poetry. Imagists emphasized simplicity, clarity of expression, and precision through the use of exacting visual images. Uh, the forefather of this movement was Ezra Pound.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: Who actually went to college with Williams Carlos Williams. Williams Carlos Williams was there for medical school, Ezra Pound was pursuing a more like, uh—

Both: Liberal arts—

Rachel: Background—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But they were buds. Ezra Pound's poem— In 1913, so this is like ten, twenty years before William Carlos Williams was publishing, he wrote a poem called "In A Station of the Metro".

"The apparition of these faces in a crowd
petals on a wet, black bow."

Griffin: That's a tongue twister, huh?

Rachel: Uh-huh! [agreement]

Griffin: [laughs] It'll tie you up!

Rachel: But you can see how that inspired William Carlos Williams.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. I mean the imagist movement that I just learned about forty-five seconds ago is very aptly named!

Rachel: [laughs] And this was rooted in ideas developed by a philosopher and poet T.E Hulme, who in, as early as 1908 spoke of poetry based on an absolutely accurate presentation of it's subject with no excess verbiage.

I think when I first started writing poetry, I was very tapped into this.

Griffin: Mmm. [understanding]

Rachel: Like the more time I spent in academia, like in graduate school, like I started to get like a lot more complex? Which William Carlos Williams did too. His whole series of poems, through "Spring and All", um... There's a lot of lengthier, more complicated poetry. But like the stuff that really drew me in was those really like, little snapshot poems.

Griffin: I can see— I mean that sounds appealing to me too. [laughs]

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: I can see why it would be appealing to somebody who's like, uh... You know, learning about writing poetry.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Cause it's shorter, I mean. You can get in there and do it, and then go smoke weed and play Star Fox 64 or whatever.

Rachel: [laughing] Or you can fit it on the inside of a hat!

Griffin: Or yeah! Of course.

Rachel: Uh, so William Carlos Williams kind of experienced a resurgence. He died in 1963 and right around then was when beat poetry was becoming a big thing. So a lot of the beat poets were really inspired by William Carlos Williams, because of that really like precise, like... Emotional focus.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So that's my... That's my guy.

Griffin: That's a good one. Has anybody ever written a sequel to the plum, the plum poem? The pl-oem? The plum poem.

Rachel: I think that's what everybody's trying to do with their meme.

Griffin: Well, no, but I mean from the perspective of the person who bought the plums?

Rachel: Oh! "I came home, the plums were gone."

Griffin: "I came home—".

Yeah. Or just like "I saw your poem, and thank you for your honesty, but like the grocery store is around the corner and I expect you to put two new delicious—I know they were delicious, and cold because they were delicious when I bought them, and then I put them in the box that makes things cold. So just go to the grocery store and get me two new plums, I guess, whenever it's convenient for you, but ideally soon because I would like to enjoy some plums!"

Rachel: [laughing]

"And make them cold again, because that was the thing I was looking forward to."

Griffin: "Right? Even when you bring them home, I'm not going to be able to enjoy them straight away! They're going to need to sit in the icebox for a couple hours."

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: [speaking into phone] Hello?

[phone waiting music plays]

Rachel: Why would they call you to put you on hold?

Griffin: Why would somebody call me to put me on hold? This is my new, small wonder, is this tune.

[tune continues to play]

Griffin: [sings along to the tune after a bit]

Rachel: [laughs] If I were you, I would just hang up, I think.

Griffin: Well, nah— Somebody decided that I need to hear this song!

[song is still playing loudly]

Rachel: [laughs]

[A flute solo starts in the song]

Griffin: Ooh!

Rachel: [laughs harder]

Griffin: Are you hearing this pre-chorus?

[The flutist is going wild in the song]

Rachel: It's very lovely.

Griffin: Yeah! What a treat! I wish most phone calls were like this!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Let's do a wrap up, as we listen to this great tune!

Rachel: Do you think the end of the music will just be like "By Geico!"

[both laugh]

Griffin: So let's see, we got uh— I'm gonna hang up now.

[music stops as Griffin hangs up]

Griffin: We got uh... We got some submissions from our friends at home. Do you want to hear them?

Rachel: Yes, please!

Griffin: Uh, we have one here from Coral, who says "I'm drinking cold blueberry milk out of a glass bottle, and it's the most wonderful thing. Yum!"

Rachel: Whoa, blueberry milk?

Griffin: I've never heard of this. And also... I didn't know what your second thing was gonna be when I picked this for our submissions, but it sounds very much like another—

Rachel: It's very nice. I've heard of strawberry milk, though. So blueberry milk seems... Possible.

Griffin: Yeah, it's exciting! I enjoy both those things. Here's one from Bird, who says "My own personal wonder, is a nice warm steamed bun. Biting into a steamed bun with it's yeasty bread and the even warmer gooey center with some nice savory pork or whatever other filling, is the absolute slap!"

Rachel: Oh, gosh!

Griffin: "It's one of the world's most perfect snacks and always puts a huge smile on my face."

Rachel: Oh, I'm so hungry.

Griffin: Oh are— Did you not eat lunch before—

Rachel: I haven't eaten lunch yet.

Griffin: Oh, that's too bad. Yeah.

Rachel: Oh, but man that sounds good!

Griffin: Steamed buns are so freaking good!

Rachel: They're so good!

Griffin: They're everywhere, in like Tokyo. Every 7-11 you walk by, you're like "Let me just dip in there."

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [agreement]

Griffin: We just hit up this Lawson for a couple steamies.

Rachel: And we had those incredible steamed buns in Hong Kong.

Griffin: We did. We did. Man, steamed buns are very good.

Jess says "One very wonderful thing is when a character in a movie says the movie title. My husband and I always clap when we hear it—"

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: "When we're watching movies alone, and also one time when we saw Aquaman at one of those theaters where they serve you booze."

Rachel: [still laughing] I kind of love that!

Griffin: I do too. They also just sent along a compilation video that is just four minutes of exactly this, and it's sort of wild how it's in every movie.

Rachel: I would love to watch that video!

Griffin: Uh... Yeah. I forget what it's called. Google it, folks! You'll get there.

Uh hey, thanks for listening to our show. We really do appreciate it. We're getting, we're pretty far ahead of the curve on this one. This one episode, we're like, "It's not gonna come out for like two weeks." Or something like that?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Um—

Rachel: We're gonna, like a couple of weeks from now, we're gonna have people tweeting at us about wheelbarrows, and we'll be like "Why? Why? What?" [laughs]

Griffin: "Why? Why? What's going on?"

Um, yeah! Thank you all so much. 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.

Thank you to Maximum Fun. Hey! Next week, the Maximum Fun Drive is going to kick off!

Rachel: Yeah! And hey, um, you may have heard rumors of this, but donors... Get access to some exclusive content.

Griffin: Yes, we recorded a sort of celebration of Will Smith's career—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: That you can listen to. And uh, one of the donation levels, also a reward that you can get, is a drive exclusive enamel pin from Megan Lynn Kott.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Griffin: Ours is a little hot dog, and it says "Small Wonders" on it.

Rachel: Aww. See, we talk about hot dogs a lot.

Griffin: We do.

Rachel: MaxFun, the folks at MaxFun reached out and said “What should your pin be? Do you have any ideas?” And I literally just responded “We talk about hot dogs a lot.” [laughs]

Griffin: Yup.

Rachel: And so, here we are!

Griffin: You nailed it. Uh, so yeah, that’s next week. It really helps us out. You can support the other shows on the network. If the work we do is meaningful to you in any way, this is like the time of year to uh, to pay it forward. Or backward. Pay it— Just pay it, I guess. [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, yeah. So thank you all so much in advance—

Rachel: Uh, I also wanted to mention for those of you, um... That may not be familiar with the bonus content of me, Teresa, and Sydnee, we have recorded a second episode together. Just the three of us, uh and I think it would be exciting for you to listen to it, and enjoy it.

Griffin: I have not listened to it. I am excited to tune into that one. That is the MBMBAM bonus episode, but you get all of them when you donate even at like the lowest level, at \$5 a month.

Um, so yeah. That is going to be next week, and... Is that it? I think that’s it.

Rachel: I think that’s it!

Griffin: Well... [exhales]

Round—Round—

Round of applause.

[starts clapping]

Rachel: [laughs, and also starts clapping]

Both: Yay!

Griffin: Woo! They did it again!

[theme music fades in]

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