

Wonderful! 70: Throwing a Tooth Into the Sun

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, it's Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

[pause]

Griffin: Just wanted to start the show off with a little ceremony. Um, just a little remembrance.

[‘Angel’ by Sarah McLachlan plays in the background]

Griffin: That's a little loud, Sarah. You're coming in a little hot. Uh, we lost a good friend, the Wonderful.fyi website. Uh, maybe it's just gone. Maybe it's sick in a website hospital. I don't know if that's a thing that exists, but um, just want to start the show out with like, a little prayer. We could maybe talk about our favorite—

Rachel: Maybe it'll be up by the time this episode is posted.

Griffin: Maybe it'll be up, and this isn't gonna make any sense. But right now... I mean, I been checkin'. I been keepin' vigil all fuckin' day, and so, I'm scared that we're gonna do a repeat. A do-over. We have no way of knowing without this precious website that some stranger—

Rachel: This website that we had nothing to do with, that has guided our entire show.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Ever since its creation.

Griffin: I don't know who the fuck goes first this week. It's, uh... it's a tough... tough putt. And so, if you're out there, Wonderful.fyi website... the creator of it, specifically, 'cause websites aren't sentient. Oh, that's my favorite part. My favorite part is when she sings 'in the arms of an angel.'

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If you're out there, and you need any sort of assistance, I would die for this website. Thank you.

[Sarah McLachlan stops]

Griffin: It's a good song, huh? A lot of people—

Rachel: Yeah, it's a very good song.

Griffin: A lot of people like to make jokes about it, like me, 15 seconds ago.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: But it's a nice song. And it's actually my first thing of the week. My small wonder is the Wonderful.fyi website – come back, please – and then, also, that one song by Sarah McLachlan, that I always think is called Arms of an Angel, but it's just called Angel.

Rachel: Oh, really? I didn't know that.

Griffin: Yeah. Do you think that people, when they work out and they get big strong biceps, they like, refer to themselves as having arms of an angel? Because of how beautiful their arms are? I've never had a bicep, so I wouldn't—I don't know how these people talk about it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: On this show, we talk about things we like. Do you got any small wonders?

Rachel: You go first.

Griffin: Uh, my first small wonder this week, actually, is um... a real one. I mean, the other two things I talked about are good, but um... queso. Have we talked about queso before? I'm almost certain we have.

Rachel: I'm almost certain we have, too.

Griffin: I made it myself here for, um, the big game. The big, bad, boring, awful awful awful game.

Rachel: Yeah, it was really a terrible game.

Griffin: This is maybe only the third time on this show that we've said something is bad, and so, I think that that should tell you something about the quality of the game. But the quality of the queso is undeniable, and also, I made like, four gallons of it. And that was a bad mistake.

Rachel: Oh, I have a wonderful thing!

Griffin: Okay, what is it?

Rachel: Uh, just meal delivery apps.

Griffin: Okay!

Rachel: Griffin's getting ready to leave town to go on tour.

Griffin: True.

Rachel: And normally, I would be scrambling to try and put groceries together. But it had occurred to me...

Griffin: Meal delivery apps!

Rachel: Yeah! I don't have to worry about it.

Griffin: Yeah, there's so many—there's so many of 'em. Bless it. You got a fave? You a DoorDasher? You a...

Rachel: I don't want to buzz market!

Griffin: No, let's buzz it! I mean, we get lots of... favorite. Let's not say the name, but people do *favours* for us when they *dash* to our door, and... YUM Express is my new one that I'm launching with Jeff. Bezos. We're working on it together. He's working on a competing one to Amazon Restaurants with me, and it's called YUM Express.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What does YUM stand for? I'm glad you asked. Yummy... uhh... meals. So, yummy is in the acronym itself.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: I think you go first this week.

Rachel: Are you...

Griffin: But, we have no fucking way of knowing for sure, because the world is a cruel and random place.

Rachel: Well, we can look at the episode description last week.

Griffin: Nooo. Who's got the time?

Rachel: My first thing...

Griffin: Yes?

Rachel: Tooth fairy.

Griffin: Hey, okay!

Rachel: Y'know?

Griffin: I've heard of them. Uh, been a loong time since I've gotten a visit from this ol' partner, though.

Rachel: I am curious what your tooth fairy experience was like growing up.

Griffin: I mean, the question is the exchange rate, right? The question is the exchange rate.

Rachel: No, not necessarily. There are a lot of different ways that a fairy delivers teeth. Uh...

Griffin: *Delivers* teeth?!

Rachel: Sorry.

Griffin: What—hold on! What was your tooth fairy experience?!

Rachel: I misspoke. A lot of ways that a fairy picks up teeth.

Griffin: Right, yes.

Rachel: And I was curious what yours were. Do you remember?

Griffin: Can I—can I say something?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I remember... getting a dollar. Per tooth. That was the rate.

Rachel: Yeah, me too.

Griffin: Um, which, I never thought was especially bougie, but apparently, like, a lot of my friends had quarters, and that's fine. But like... I mean... you spend the quarter on a gumball, and now, all of a sudden, you got 75 cents, because it pulls—

Rachel: Quarter might be easier to get under a pillow.

Griffin: That might be what it is, is just non-discreet, not stealthy parents. Um, the—

Rachel: There was a point in my life where the tooth fairy didn't go under my pillow any longer, but went on my nightstand.

Griffin: That's insulting, isn't it? Tooth fairy is like, "Yeah, had a great time."

Rachel: [laughs] "Not gettin' under there."

Griffin: No, I was saying—I was doing it like, you and the tooth fairy had a...

Rachel: Oh, Griffin, no!

Griffin: Well, yeah! Listen, tooth fairy fucks, probably!

Rachel: Okay... [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know if that's true or not. But yeah, y'know what's messed up? I'm a 31 year old, full grown man, and I don't actually know how my parents got the dollar under my pillow. 'Cause did they come in, literally,

while I was asleep, and put their hand under the weight of my head, which is a fucking—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You made a face way too fast at that!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: You made a face way too fast at that. You made a face—it was—y'all couldn't see it, 'cause you're not in the studio, but like, like, four nanoseconds before I made it clear that that was gonna be a funny joke, Rachel made a face like, "Oh no!"

Rachel: Well, I was just picturing it. It was a two person job. So like, one of them had to hold the pillow...

Griffin: [snorts] Needed a winch to get in there.

Rachel: [laughs] And the other one slid it in.

Griffin: Yeah. I don't know what that magic was. I'll have to ask, uh, y'know, Daddy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But yeah, I would lose a tooth, and then I would get a dollar, and then, um... I had more than one day when I was a kid where I lost more than one tooth in a day. But I still think I only got a dollar for those teeth.

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: I had one day when we were on a winter retreat with my church's youth group, where I lost—

Rachel: Oh no!

Griffin: I lost three fuckin' baby teeth in a day.

Rachel: Oh, Jesus Griffin, what happened?

Griffin: And my—like, my parents, like—by the time I got the third one out, like, it wasn't even—I didn't even—I don't even think I told them about it. I think there was just like, a third tooth that I was just like, holding. And they're like, "What the—why is there—there's a third one?"

Rachel: [laughing] Oh, that's grotesque.

Griffin: It's weird to think about, but I—before I got braces, I got teeth pulled to like, make room, 'cause my—

Rachel: Yeah, me too!

Griffin: My—oh my god, my job was so fucked up.

Rachel: My teeth wouldn't fall out on their own. Like, the permanent teeth would start coming in over them.

Griffin: Oh, yeah yeah. It's so gnarly, it's upsetting to talk about, I'm sure. But I got five teeth pulled to get ready for the operation.

Rachel: I think I got four.

Griffin: Which makes me think that I just lost my teeth in like, four lump sums. I was like... like, I was a snake or a tarantula molting. It's like...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, but yeah, so... a dollar. A dollar per tooth, and I do not know how the fuck they got it in there. But we didn't have an allowance, so it was pretty fucking sick when I lost a tooth.

Rachel: Oh, so you just did chores for the sake of chores?

Griffin: We did chores to live in the house.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] We got to—we got free room and board, and uh, did chores for it. Or else, our parents were very disappointed in us.

Rachel: So there is a lot of stuff around the world about losing baby teeth.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: There's a lot of like, rituals associated with the loss of teeth. Nobody's just like, "Oh, a tooth," in the way that people are about like, y'know, fingernails.

Griffin: Hair. Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Yeah. So, uh, there is actually somebody, a researcher, named B.R. Townsend that distilled the rituals down to nine forms. One, the tooth was thrown into the sun.

Griffin: Hold on, hold on, hold on, hold on, hold on. [laughing] We're talking about like, throughout time and across the globe, these are—

Rachel: Yes, yes.

Griffin: Okay. So the tooth was thrown into the sun?

Rachel: Thrown into the sun, number one.

Griffin: By who? By who? By the tooth fairy?

Rachel: I don't—this is a distillation of all the rituals. This is not detail.

Griffin: I get that, but you can't just say something like 'the tooth was thrown into the sun'—

Rachel: The tooth fairy is a relatively new creation. The tooth fairy came around in the 1920s.

Griffin: Okay. But... here's the two situations I'm trying to decide. And I'm not gonna do this for all nine of these, I promise.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: 'The tooth was thrown into the sun.' Does that mean—

Rachel: Yeah, I imagine—

Griffin: The kid wakes up, and the parent is like, "A guy came and threw your tooth into the sun."

Rachel: I imagine the child was taught to go outside and throw it into the sun.

Griffin: That's the second scenario, and that one's way wilder, because how strong is this kid?

Rachel: [laughs] In the direction of the sun. I don't think they expected—

Griffin: Still, I don't care like, when this was or where this was. They probably had neighbors. That's rude, folks.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, it wasn't necessary to make it to the sun, because number two on the list of rituals is thrown into the fire.

Griffin: Okay. Now we're getting somewhere.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Good, that's good eatin', cooked tooth.

Rachel: Number three, throw 'em between the legs.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: So y'know, like a football. You bend down. You hike that tooth.

Griffin: It's not like a football. Don't try and rationalize this.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Somebody—do the—are you—are there booths? Private booths for you to do this in? I don't want to see you huck a fuckin' tooth between your legs!

Rachel: Well, have you ever like, spit out your gum while you were walking around, or like, a pumpkin seed? Or...

Griffin: I wouldn't spit my gum out while I'm walking. What the—spit my gum out while I'm walking?

Rachel: Okay. Okay, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Like a—

Griffin: Am I deranged murderer?

Rachel: Like a sunflower seed shell, or a peanut shell?

Griffin: I still feel guilt—I will only do that at a baseball game or a Texas Roadhouse.

Rachel: [pause] You want to know number four?

Griffin: Do you think you're allowed to throw whatever the fuck you want? If you bring sunflower seeds into the Texas Roadhouse, can you put that on the floor?

Rachel: [laughs] I feel like this was an actual question on MBMBaM.

Griffin: Maybe. If I bring a whole watermelon in there, and just like, start cutting it up, can I just drop the rind on the ground?

Rachel: [laughs] And then like, dirty diapers, and...

Griffin: Uh-huh. [laughs] So, this is amazing—

Rachel: Clip your fingernails.

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

Rachel: Do you want to know all of them, or no?

Griffin: So badly! Are you kidding me?

Rachel: Okay. Number four, thrown onto or over the roof of a house, often with an invocation to some animal or individual.

Griffin: Okay. [sighs] That one I—can I say something as a double standard? That one, I'm super into.

Rachel: Yeah, 'cause I mean, if you can get it over the roof, like...

Griffin: You get ten points.

Rachel: More power to you.

Griffin: But also, you shout, like, "This one's for you, Mr. Owl." I love it. That's fucking great.

Rachel: [laughs] Number five, placed in a mouse hole near the stove or hearth, or offered to some other animal.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean... whatever goes in that mouse hole, you're never gonna see again.

Rachel: Well, and I just kind of like the idea, like... oh, what would that be for a mouse? That would be like, a little button its jacket?

Griffin: Yeah, or like, a little poof that guests can sit on whenever, uh, they have friends over for a big party.

Rachel: Yeah! Oh, that's nice. Like a little TV tray.

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, alternatively, the mouse could be like, "Hey, guys?"

Rachel: [laughs] "No, I don't want this!"

Griffin: "I don't want your big tooth!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "I'm little! This is big to me!"

Rachel: Well, it's a baby—it's a baby tooth.

Griffin: It's still—they're mice, Rachel!

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, number six, buried. Which, like, makes the most sense to me.

Griffin: [laughs] I guess in the sort of waste disposal sense.

Rachel: Maybe—maybe a little tooth tree grows out.

Griffin: Aw, that's great, baby.

Rachel: Isn't that nice?

Griffin: Actually, y'know what? That's scary as fuck. A tree made out of teeth coming out of the ground?

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, that's pretty scary.

Griffin: Who knows what that thing's gonna be eating?

Rachel: Or like a—like a sentient tree that has eyes, nose, and a mouth.

Griffin: I'm into this, now! Okay! Oh, wait, no, I'm not. I lost attention for a second. I'm not into that. That's—that sucks. That's scary and bad.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, number six, uh... oh, number six is buried. I already said number six. Number seven... hidden where animals could not get it.

Griffin: So we're either giving it directly to animals while invoking their name, or making sure they could never get their fucking grubby, filthy paws on it.

Rachel: Placed in a tree or on a wall.

Griffin: That one's quaint.

Rachel: Or number nine, swallowed by the mother, child, or animal.

Griffin: Stop it! Stop it! The mother, child, or animal?

Rachel: Yes. Those are the three options.

Griffin: Those are three options, okay. Um... yeah, that sucks.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Ranking them. Throwing it on the roof while yelling an animal name is obviously the best one, and I'm gonna make—my presidential platform is gonna be making that normal again.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, last place is probably definitely swallowing it.

Rachel: Can you imagine cleaning out your gutters at the end of the year?
[laughs]

Griffin: At the end of the year? How many fucking people live in your house that are losing all these teeth?

Rachel: I mean, people had a lot more kids back then to like, till the fields.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true.

Rachel: And so, their gutters would just be full of teeth.

Griffin: Okay. I noticed that one of those wasn't stolen by a parent and replaced with cold, hard cash.

Rachel: No. So, in the 1920s, the first print appearance of the tooth fairy was in an eight-page playlet for children.

Griffin: Uhh...

Rachel: Which is like a three act... like a little short play for kids.

Griffin: Okay. Was this published in something? [laughs] It's just—

Rachel: I don't know.

Griffin: How—this must've been a pretty fucking dope tooth fairy play for it to like, spread across the—

Rachel: Well, you know—you know how it is where like, a mythos starts, and then they go back to try and find the first evidence in print of it?

Griffin: Uh—

Rachel: That's what this is. This isn't like...

Griffin: I may be talking about that in about eight minutes for a different thing.

Rachel: Okay. Uh, so, 19—late 1920s is around the time where Disney started to like, really popularizing the whole—the whole fairy thing, with like, Pinocchio and Cinderella.

Griffin: Interesting! And—

Rachel: So this like, whole fairy idea was like, taking off in the U.S.

Griffin: Was Sleeping Beauty the one with the three fairies who had like, the different colored clothes?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: I've never seen Sleeping Beauty before. I'm only familiar with her work through the lens of Kingdom Hearts.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Which, god, it sucks I don't talk about—write about video games anymore, 'cause folks, I got some thoughts. Not the time. Not appropriate. Not the time or place.

Rachel: Every week, you've been talking about that Kingdom Hearts, I've noticed.

Griffin: Yeah. But this is not the time, not the place.

Rachel: Okay. So, there is, uh, a number of people that have studied this whole phenomenon.

Griffin: I would hope so!

Rachel: Where they talk about kind of the rites of passage, and the role the tooth fairy plays among your rites of passage growing up.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So, uh, according to somebody named Arnold van Gennep, there are three stages in a rite of passage that mirror closely the whole experience of tooth loss and tooth fairy.

So, first, there is separation. Which is, the tooth falls out, and then the child leaves the tooth under the pillow.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Transition, which is the gap in the teeth, and the uh, the child going to sleep that night.

Griffin: What are we talk—what are we talk—what are we talking about?

Rachel: We're talking about rites of passage. The three stages associated with every rite of passage.

Griffin: Yes. So this is a symbolic... thing.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: He's talking about how the experience of losing a tooth, leaving it out for the tooth fairy, and then receiving compensation—

Griffin: I see, yes yes yes! I see.

Rachel: —mirrors the experience. And then, the final is incorporation, which is where the new tooth grows in, and the child wakes to the gift of money.

Griffin: See, I don't even—I don't even think the money, you need. 'Cause the gift you get is a bigger, stronger tooth that you're gonna have soon. Y'know? Why can't that be reward enough? It's not all about the money, folks.

Rachel: Do you want to know—so, in 2014, researchers at Visa did a study to find out what the average amount was.

Griffin: Is it gonna make me upset?

Rachel: Probably not.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Three dollars and 70 cents.

Griffin: Yeah, you're right. That's fine. Y'know what that is? That's—that is a, uh... a median sort of leaning upwards, trending way upwards, actually, between the parents who leave one dollar and the parents who leave five dollars.

Rachel: Exactly.

Griffin: The five dollar parents... by which I mean, Bill and Melinda Gates...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't want to be five dollar parents. That's wild.

Rachel: Yeah, no, I don't think we need to be.

Griffin: How many baby teeth do you get? How many baby teeth do you have, like 26 or something?

Rachel: Uh, yeah, something like that.

Griffin: I want to give Henry, first time he loses a tooth, a debit card with \$26 on it. And just say like, "And now it's your responsibility."

Rachel: [laughs] We should at least put it in a savings account so he can earn some pennies there on that money.

Griffin: Yeah. Or maybe just, y'know... a Target gift card. 'Cause he is a child.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And children fucking love Isaac Mizrahi, and all of his great designs.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I tell you about my first thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My first thing is... gachapon. Or, capsule toy machines.

Rachel: I mean, I enjoyed them when we were in Japan, I guess.

Griffin: Did you not use like, capsule toy machines when you were like, a little kid? This was not a thing? Capsule toy machines in like, every single grocery store in the history of mankind? You wouldn't see those things and just go like, "Mm!"

Rachel: Yeah, but when I hear capsule toy, I think more specifically of... the Japanese phenomenon. I don't—well, what I think of is like, the little machines at grocery stores. The like, little gumball machines.

Griffin: Well, they have gumball machines. They have—

Rachel: I guess they had Li'l Homies.

Griffin: Li'l Homies was a thing, and then there was sticky hands, and y'know, balls. Super balls, and...

Rachel: Oh, sticky hands. You're right.

Griffin: And there's like, the fake jewelry, and—you gotta open your mind up!

Rachel: Yeah, right.

Griffin: You gotta open your mind up! It's not all just about—and in Japan, it's obviously like, its own thing. And I'm gonna talk about that. Because I think that that is also pretty buckwild and cool. But when I was a little kid, man, and like, going to—it's all—they're almost always positioned at places that I don't want to be at as a five year old through, y'know, 11 year old.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so seeing like, well, there's some toys in there. I mean, we're gonna walk around the Kroger for an hour pickin' out our stuff, but... why don't I go crack over there and get myself a little toy? And then we'll uh, we'll get right back to it. Whaddya say?

Rachel: Now, that's something that hasn't really gone up in price.

Griffin: Um... not entirely true. I remember sort of the, uh—the addition of—I remember the first time I saw a 50 cent capsule toy machine, and I was like, "Pfft, that's half a tooth."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's definitely like, one dollar ones. And in Japan, like, gachapon machines can run from like, the average is probably like 100 to 500 yen, which is roughly one to five dollars. So that's like, one tooth, or one rich person's tooth.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And... but obviously, like, it has a sort of a different thing there. It has more of a collector vibe. The toys are like, kind of nicer.

Rachel: That's true.

Griffin: Uh, when I was researching this, apparently there's like a uh, a brand of like, Gundam toys. Like the big mech anime, uh, that have like, light up LED components to them.

Rachel: Whoa!

Griffin: Big, fancy toys. Um, so, I think the whole thing is... super neat, uh, and I was trying to learn a little bit about it. Uh, weirdly enough, like, there's not a great source on like, who was exactly the first one to do this, because uh, vending machines, especially like, bulk vending machines, which is what sort of gumball machines and stuff like that sort of used to be categorized as, were... I mean, a thing long before they were specifically this thing. Before they were, y'know, toys sold in capsules.

Um, apparently, there used to be machines that would just have sort of, uh, toys and candy just kind of all mixed up, floating around in there.

Rachel: Whoa, that's weird.

Griffin: It's weird, and I'm kind of into it? Because I like—I do like both those things.

Rachel: But it would be hard, 'cause candy eventually goes bad. It would be hard to kind of keep your hands on that inventory.

Griffin: A bunch of loose candy. My library, of course, had uh... not capsule toy machines, but like, candy vending machines by the front.

Rachel: Wait, your—your public library?

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah.

Rachel: Aw, jeeze.

Griffin: And one of them was Runts. We've been talking—Runts is getting a lot of fuckin' free air on this show. But I remember that the level of the Runts never changed, 'cause nobody ever bought these Runts. And I always wondered, like... these Runts are probably no bueno.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, so, anyway, this is what I found out. In 1936, there was this dude named Samuel Eppy, which is fun. Uh, and he helped sort of push the uh, invention of bulk vending machines forward. He was working on a project for a company whose name was literally... Gum Inc. Gum Incorporated.

Rachel: Oh, that's fun.

Griffin: Uh, they made school supply products! No. They made gum for you to chew on. And Samuel Eppy was trying to sort of invent clever new ways of getting that food—that food. Gum is food. In kids' hands. Uh, and so, he made these little plastic charms that could be encased with each sort of piece of gum that could be sold in these bulk vending machines.

Rachel: Wait a minute. So people would have to chew the gum to get to the toy?

Griffin: I mean, this is the same as like, opening the pack of baseball cards just to get to the gum.

Rachel: Yeah, but you put the toy in your—

Griffin: It's not in the gum.

Rachel: Oh, okay. [laughs]

Griffin: It all was sort of in one sort of capsule. Uh, and so, this—this idea was a big failure, but he kept sort of trying it, and then sort of that is kind of attributed as like, the first capsule toy thing.

Um, but really, the idea of like, gachapon, which is sort of the Japanese word for it, which I never... uh, obviously, like, my Japanese vocabulary is limited to stuff they say on Terrace House, and stuff I've needed to know how to say in Japan to like, get seats at restaurants and stuff.

Uh, gachapon is actually onomatopoeic, where 'gacha' is the sound of the like, mechanism turning in the machine, and 'pon' is the sound of the capsule hitting the...

Rachel: Oh, that's delightful!

Griffin: I think that's great! I think that that—that sort of, uh, is worth the price of admission, I feel like, for this segment on Wonderful. Like, that fact alone was really great for me.

Um, so, there was this guy in Japan in 1965 whose name was Ryuzo Shigeta, who um, was an exporter. And he exported sort of like, cheap goods to the U.S., and one of his clients there sent him a bulk vending machine.

And he kind of thought that the idea of like, candy and toys being sold in these things was kind of gross, so he started to explore like, "Well, what if we just sold toys in it for like, ten yen a pop?" And started selling that

outside of his store. And that is sort of attributed as being like, where it took off in Japan for the first time.

And then, he kept like, pushing things forward more and more. In 1977, a company called Bandai, which holds a lot of like, huge licenses today, uh, they started sort of selling their own gachapon, which, they actually trademarked the word 'gachapon.' And they priced them at more sort of premium prices, so instead of ten yen, it's... y'know, getting around that 100 yen price point. And now it's stuff like, for big manga, and anime, and game series, like Gundam and Ultra Man and other big stuff like that.

And so, like, that's sort of why it's a different thing there than it is here, where there, you, y'know, buy these figurines for these different licenses, these different franchises that you really like, while here, it's like, well, there's a sticky hand that I want to be able to play with for eight minutes before it gets too much stuff on it.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: And there have been like, weird booms in the gachapon market in Japan. There was a thing – and I actually remember these? They must have come stateside in some degree. Uh, in 1983, they were introduced to gachapon machines in Japan.

They are called Kinnikuman Keshigomu, and they are like, uh... they made a bunch of different types of them. Like, hundreds of different types of them. And they were just little rubber dudes, uh, often sort of like, big, burly strong men who were just made out of rubber, and you could use them as erasers. And they were all different colors.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: And there were so many different kinds, and people just went fucking ballistic about them. They sold 180 million units of these little eraser men, which I think is very, very good. And I don't know how I know about these, because I wasn't even born yet, and obviously...

Rachel: Yeah, that's interesting! Like, it's a great idea.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, and so then, in the mid-'90s, they sort of—the price point sort of escalated again, and that's how you get to that like, 100 to 500 yen price point. And now, like, y'know, Neon Genesis Evangelion, and like, all of these different like, huge franchises are selling sets of toys that now you have to, y'know, press your luck to try and complete the whole set. People are selling the different pieces, like, wholesale, like rarer finds, and there starts to be a second hand market.

And then, recently, in 2014 – I didn't even know about this, uh, and I've played the game before. There's this thing called Yo-Kai Watch, which is, uh, sort of new Pokémon, kind of, except it's like, ghosts, sort of. Uh, and that has like, led to, uh, a very recent boom in the market.

For me, I just like—I don't know. I was obsessed with putting a quarter in a machine and getting a random toy out of it. Uh, because boy, I could really make those things last a long time.

I remember, there were these little plastic ninjas that were probably like, three quarters of an inch high, and they were different colors and different poses, and they would have different weapons, and they were super, super cheap.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: But I was like, obsessed with them. I had dozens, and maybe even hundreds of them, and I would make my own little plastic ninja army. They had them in the machine at my Blockbuster like, down the street, and I remember just going in there and just like, dropping 50 cents in and getting two new ninjas for my army.

Rachel: Did every location you went to have these vending machines?

Griffin: I'm just now thinking about it. Maybe it was a distinctly Huntington thing, but pretty much everywhere I went would have these things.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, I'm surprised my church didn't have them. Um, so these days... I never thought about this through this lens, but these days, like, the gachapon market has been largely supplanted by blind bags. Which is functionally the same fucking thing!

Rachel: Oh yeah!

Griffin: If you don't have a child in your life in some way, like... everyone's just buying these bags that are gonna have a random toy in it, and that's like, the whole thing! That's like, all they—that's all that kids like at all.

Rachel: Yeah, like the LOL...

Griffin: The LOL dolls, and there's so many different ones.

Rachel: Well, also, like, if you get like, a cereal or a Happy Meal, you get the same kind of...

Griffin: Kinda? You could—that was always my experience, that you could kind of juice it. God, that's its own fucking segment. God, there were so many good Happy Meal toys. The whole Power Rangers one, where you could get different discs to put inside the thing that you hold out?

Rachel: Too old.

Griffin: God, Rachel!! Um, also, these days, like, gachapon sort of mechanics are huge, in like, mobile games. Like, the only successful mobile games that come out are ones where like... I'm actually really into one called Fire Emblem: Heroes, where you like, use orbs to get new units for your like, fighting squad. And that can be a pretty, um... uh, money-sucking way. It's gambling. I mean, all we're talking about here for this whole segment is just like, kid gambling. Which is what—I'm very into that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Hey, can I steal you away?

[ad break stinger plays]

[advertisements play]

Rachel: Do you want to hear some personal messages?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: This one is for Kendall. It is from Dan.

Griffin: Nice.

Rachel: “Beeb! Turns out, I lied to you when I said I didn’t get the jumbotron. Whoops! Sorry for being a liar. I hope you're having fun with the Latin classes you're teaching this year. I can't wait to see you tonight, and hear about all the weird things your students said today, and tell you about what mine said. I love you. Love, Beeb.”

Griffin: I'm about student-teacher confidentiality. I told my teachers—

Rachel: What about the fact that both of them are named Beeb?

Griffin: That’s great, and I like that. But this makes me scared, ‘cause I told my teachers everything. They were my best friends.

Rachel: Oh, were they?

Griffin: They were my best friends.

Rachel: Tell me two of your teachers’ names.

Griffin: Mrs. Norris, and Mrs. Fortner. That was grade two and grade four.

Rachel: What were their first names?

Griffin: Uh... misses?

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh. Okay.

Griffin: I don't know! I don't know! Does anybody know? Well, your mom was a teacher. That's—your parents are teachers. That's fucking cheating. 'Cause that's your—I know my dad's coworkers' full names.

Rachel: I can—[laughs] I can go first and last name on pretty much every teacher I've ever had.

Griffin: Okay. Well. Okay. It's not a contest.

Rachel: [laughs] This next message is for Kate. It is from Craig. "Kate! It's been a wonderful 11 years, whenever this comes out, with our trips to Italy and France, a long D&D campaign, bus rides to family, and now exploring 14th century reenactment and week-long camping trips without modern gear. I'm so glad to have you by my side. Here's to more adventure, more art, and more hats for shrew. Love you. Craig."

Griffin: Um, this is a great message. I think that when they said 11 years, whenever this comes out, they've actually only known each other for two years. They just sort of...

Rachel: Aww.

Griffin: ... are banking on us goofing up. And also, camping without modern gear? Why deny yourself all that tech? Get out there! Get you a hatchet with a laser pointer on it! Get you a tent made out of Flant!

Rachel: Oh, or like, one of those hammers that we watch in the art restoration that has the magnet on one side, and the little nail sticks to it?

Griffin: I'll find a use for that for camping!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Y'know, bludgeon a... a bear and eat it.

Rachel: Or tack up a list of meals you're having.

Griffin: Or bludgeon a wolf that attacks my family.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Both of those.

Griffin: One of those has definitely happened to me.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I like the laid back vibe of this episode. [laughs]

[Maximum Fun advertisement plays]

Griffin: Hey, what's your second thing?

Rachel: My second thing, and this has probably come up from a listener submission, but I wanted to explore it a little deeper, and that is the smell of cut grass.

Griffin: Okay!

Rachel: Big fan.

Griffin: You're big into smells, I've noticed!

Rachel: I really love the smell of cut grass. Hey, you were the one that loves... no, maybe that was me.

Griffin: Book smell? That was you, my love.

Rachel: Book smell, and also sun tan lotion smell.

Griffin: Yeah, I think these have all been you.

Rachel: I'm big on smells, I guess!

Griffin: You are! I wonder if my olfactory senses are—I mean, I'm a supertaster, but maybe I make up for that by not having good smell.

Rachel: I don't think you can be both. [laughs]

Griffin: That's true.

Rachel: I think it's all connected up there.

Griffin: Anyway, tell me about this.

Rachel: Uh, so the smell of cut grass is a mix of oxygenated hydrocarbons that include methanol, ethanol, acetaldehyde...

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Rachel: ... acetone. Uh, all those together are called 'green leaf volatiles.'

Griffin: Okay. So these are things that—these are chemicals that live in leaves.

Rachel: Yes. Not leaves. Grass.

Griffin: Just waiting—well, it's probably in leaves, too.

Rachel: Probably in leaves, too.

Griffin: And it's just waiting for you to butcher them so you can create these good smells.

Rachel: Yeah, so here's the thing! So, the smell isn't just an accidental byproduct of the cut grass. Uh, there is evidence that the smell that is emitted, uh, is a like, a distress...

Griffin: Come on!! Why do you keep doing this?!

Rachel: I'm sorry.

Griffin: You're like, "When the leaves change colors, that's great." And I'm like, "Yeah! That's great!" And you're like, "That's a tree crying because of its death." And now you're like, "Oh, you like that good grass smell?"

"Yeah!"

"That's a grass begging for its life."

Rachel: [laughs] Well, if you think about it...

Griffin: I don't!!

Rachel: [laughs] They actually—there was this study done in Northwestern, where they looked at the difference in the smell of grass due to mechanical damage, versus wounding from herbivores.

Griffin: So...

Rachel: So like, the mechanical process of cutting grass actually emits significantly more and different smell than like, y'know, if a little bunny is just snippin' away.

Griffin: Oh, that's good. I mean, I'm a blade of grass, right? And then, a big—a small, cute bunny comes along and bites my... entire body off. I'm thinkin'... not great.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But, this is how it's supposed to be. A big sort of, uh, y'know, mech monster comes and kills me and everybody in a, y'know, a hundred yard radius... that's—that's—that'll mess you up as a blade of grass.

Rachel: Here's what I'll say, though. Okay, so, I saw that, too. I saw the like, the concerns of the plant.

Griffin: The protest that I'm going to lead against the big lawnmower companies tomorrow.

Rachel: Yeah. But it also serves a purpose of alerting other organisms...

Griffin: [laughs] I thought you were gonna say other grass! "Get out of here, guys! He's got a lawnmower!"

Rachel: I mean, kind of! Kind of! Like, who knows—but... [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing]

Rachel: Okay. Sorry, I've gotta slow down a little bit. I'm excited.

So, there's the idea that other insects, and like, animals can get this scent, and then, know that like, there's something significant happening.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So it like, helps them.

Griffin: Interesting!

Rachel: And then, I think it's possible, the plants are also... letting other plants know.

Griffin: To what end, I ask?

Rachel: I don't know. It's not like they can get away.

Griffin: [laughs] That's exactly right! If I see a fuckin' like, tulip, like, using its leaves to like... thwoomp! Uuugh! Trying to drag itself down the street, I'm gonna know there's some of my neighbors cutting their lawn.

This is wild, to me. The smell of cut grass is grass telling other plants to get the fuck out of there, so other plants smell the smell of cut grass and think, "This is horrible, this is the worst thing that's ever happened, why do humans do this to us?" When humans smell it, they're like, "Fuck yeah. We're doing this to plants."

Rachel: There's another thing.

Griffin: Alright.

Rachel: I mean, I do love the smell.

Griffin: Yeah, it's good!

Rachel: So I have to lean into the fact that I am supporting this carnage. But with wild tobacco plants, for example, they only emit that kind of— what's called the green leaf volatiles, the GLV, when they are being grazed by caterpillars. And this acts as a signal to attract nearby bugs that prey on caterpillars. So it's like saying, "Hey, I'm under attack. Here's a smell that will attract *your* predator, so you'll stop eating me."

Griffin: And this is tobacco that does this?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Is—what—has tobacco ever done anything good?!

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: For anyone?!

Rachel: Uh, it's kind of incredible, right?

Griffin: Where's that—where's that Truth commercial? Where's that Truth campaign? "Tobacco sets honey pot traps for sweet caterpillars. Like in the Eric Carle book. Can you believe these fucking guys? Don't smoke, 15-year-olds."

Rachel: I... I found this very fascinating. So, I—I looked it up, because I just like—I love—I love that smell. Like, for a while, Gap put out a perfume called Grass, and I was all over it. Super great smell.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so, I just kind of innocently said, "Smell of cut grass!" And then, I just found this like... battle that exists, and the like, the smell that goes out, and the impact it has on the creatures around it? It's fascinating!

Griffin: Sure. I mean, you seen Fern Gully?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I haven't.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Wasn't the think about book smell that it was the smell of the pages sort of rotting away?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Alright.

Rachel: Apparently, I just like the smell of rot.

Griffin: [laughs] I get a scent of decay! Where is that fucking candle, Erica? Let's get that one—let's get that one going.

Rachel: [laughing]

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

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My second thing is groundhog day. Now, I know you're wondering. Am I about to listen to Griffin talk about this fucking movie again for like the 80th time on some podcast? I want to talk about the event itself.

There's a lot of great stuff about groundhog day that I wasn't aware of until I started looking into it. Which, I don't need to say that. That's all we do here on this show. It's redundant. Groundhog day has, um, has a history—

Rachel: Oh, is this where they like, look back to find the first instance of it?

Griffin: Yes. So, um... first of all, it's just groundhog day. I've been fucking that up. I do—I intermittently call it groundhogs day, which is—I've seriously been doing that my entire life, and when I think about it—

Rachel: It's a day that belongs to a...

Griffin: It's like, let's all celebrate groundhogs. But that is kind of what we do. Um, so, it's—it's mostly just a North American thing. Mostly just sort of... and really, it's mostly Pennsylvania and like, ten other places. Uh, and it's—

Rachel: And Al Roker.

Griffin: And Al Roker. Uh, its origins, like, as we know it, like as the event is, is mostly sort of Pennsylvania Dutch superstition. But that even came from like, uh, European lore. Namely, there is a uh, like a German weather lore that actually uses a badger. But it's basically the same thing.

And weather lore, like, stretches back throughout like, y'know, prerecorded history of—

Rachel: To when weather started.

Griffin: To when weather probably—or when the first person was like, “Have you all ever noticed?”

Rachel: 1927...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Weather started.

Griffin: I think it was a bit before that.

Rachel: 1926.

Griffin: That was it! And so, like, it’s hard to tell like, where the actual, like... true root of animal-based weather lore was, but that’s sort of the closest etymology we got. Pennsylvania Dutch to like, European folklore.

Uh, so, the first groundhog day, as we know it, was in 1886 in Punxsutawney. Which is in Pennsylvania. Uh, that is just... y'know, groundhog day HQ. That’s where—that’s where they do it. And you may be wondering, why do they do it there?

Rachel: Yes, I am!

Griffin: Uh, it was reported in the Punxsutawney newspaper in 1886, this first year that it was sort of like, reported. Uh, and they reported that quote, “Up to the time of going to press, the beast has not seen its shadow.” Which I think is a very good way of referring to a groundhog.

Rachel: It be a beast to a mouse, huh?

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, or a ant, or a blade of grass that uh, scent screamed as it was eaten by... I don't know what groundhogs eat. Um, so, that report was from one Clymer H. Freas, who was the city editor for the Punxsutawney newspaper. Uh, and Mr. Clymer just kind of decided that groundhog day... is gonna be Punxsutawney's thing.

Rachel: Interesting!

Griffin: I can't—I can't... there's so much conflicting... like, uh—there's so many conflicting stories about like, the true, like, first groundhog day, and how it sort of spun off to become its own thing. Uh, there was a local Elk's Lodge. Like, the very first sort of connection to groundhogs and Punxsutawney is, there was an Elk's Lodge that hunted groundhogs for meat. And they would just eat that, I guess.

So they had like, a groundhog hunting club, and I guess Mr. Clymer was just like, "That's pretty cool. What if we celebrated this uh, this Pennsylvania Dutch tradition? And not only celebrated it, but made it the only thing that anybody in the entire world knows about our city."

And the—I love the sort of enterprising idea of like, "We gotta have a thing, guys."

Rachel: I know. Well, it's like, New York has Times Square where the ball drops every year at midnight.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And Punxsutawney has groundhog day.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: One to one.

Griffin: It's basically one to one. It works, partially because the dude like, works for the newspaper, but also because like, the lore of Punxsutawney

Griffin: By the way, Phil? He wasn't even—they didn't even think to name—this is their whole shit. They didn't even think to name the fucking groundhog until 1961.

Rachel: Aww.

Griffin: They've been doing it nearly a century before they decided to assign the animal a title. Uh, so, they just keep doing it, and uh, the groundhog keeps doing a very bad job.

Uh, but then, other cities just like kind of also start—they want to get in on the action.

Rachel: Oh, yeah yeah.

Griffin: And a lot of it's just sort of like, "Oh, they look like they're having fun. We're gonna have fun, too." There's the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge, uh, which I don't know... I didn't write down where that is. But that's a fun name for a place. In 1907, they started doing their thing with a taxidermy woodchuck. So, good try.

Rachel: Aww... aww...

Griffin: Your name is the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge, and you use a fucking stuffed woodchuck, so that's—that's wild. Anyway.

Uh, Raleigh, in Raleigh, North Carolina, at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, they still do an observation here. Only, their groundhog's name is Sir Walter Wally, and this dude's right 58% of the time.

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: That's impressive! It should be around 50%, I believe, right? And Phil—

Rachel: Oh, gosh, I wouldn't even know how to start that calculation.

Griffin: I wouldn't either. So, Phil has actually been right 39%, according to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, which has receipts on your ass, Phil.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, the best, though... the best city that is taking a swing at the throne is Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. It's a city in Wisconsin that um, basically, not long after the Punxsutawney sort of observations began, and it began to be like, recognized as the spot... uh, Sun Prairie was like, "Well, we're gonna do that. We would like to be the groundhog day city. Why can't—why not us?"

And this ignited a horrible feud between the two cities. Thousands of lives lost.

Rachel: [laughs] Oh, god.

Griffin: In this conflict. Uh, the Punxsutawney Newspaper actually burned Sun Prairie in the paper, like, writing about them trying to steal the throne. They said that it is a, quote, "remote two-cow village, buried somewhere in the wilderness." And in response, Sun Prairie started calling the next year's groundhog day observation, uh, quote, "The groundhog day capital of the world!" Fuck you, Punxsutawney!

So, this—this feud kind of simmered. And then, in 2015... just a few years ago... disaster struck. The—the groundhog in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, was a little dude named Jimmy, which is very good. Which is, we're starting off very, very good with this little story.

So—

Rachel: Did he get caught doing drugs?

Griffin: He did 100 drugs. Groundhog drugs, too, which is the most powerful drugs known to man. During the part of the ceremony where

Jimmy is supposed to whisper the results into the mayor's ear, Mayor Freund, uh... Jimmy bit him.

Rachel: Oh my gosh!

Griffin: Jimmy bit him on the ear. It was—there's video of it. I watched it today, and fucking cackled, because I love seeing sort of like, the underdog take a swing at the man. And you don't get much better than this, this tiny little... uh, well, this big rat sort of biting the—the city leader, I think, is extremely good.

It was scandalous. It made headlines across the globe. The next day, Freund... and this is a pretty good move... issued a mayoral pardon for his groundhog assault.

Rachel: [laughs] That's nice.

Griffin: However... and this is like, the moral of the stor—the rest of the story that happened, uh, the year following, after like, the meme had died down. Uh, the bite got the attention of the US Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, uh, who found that they didn't have the necessary licenses required to exhibit an animal, which you would need for this exact kind of sort of event. And so, Jimmy had to be released into a field the following year.

Rachel: Oh my gosh.

Griffin: There's lots of ways of looking at that story. I look at it like, Jimmy, a captive to guess the weather incorrectly year after year, took a fateful hunk out of the mayor's ear, and earned his fucking—the keys to his captivity.

Rachel: Yeah! Or he like—it was his plan all along, of like, this is the year I get out. And here's how I'm gonna do it.

Griffin: And then, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin... they had to just close the whole town. Because they fucking lost. In the game of groundhog day, you win or you die.

Rachel: The ear biting capital of the world.

Griffin: You stepped to Punxsutawney, and now you're the goofballs who got your ear bit. Uh, we may have listeners in Sun Prairie. It was worth the effort. You're the second best groundhog day city in the world, and there's lots of cities, so you gotta take that one.

Rachel: Where do you think Austin is on that list of groundhog day cities?

Griffin: I don't even think we do it. Do we do it?

Rachel: No, I don't think so.

Griffin: Again, there's not that many places that do it. And yet... this one shows up on every calendar. I love that. There's lots of holidays that I don't celebrate, even ones that I used to celebrate.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Groundhog day, I've never—has never really... groundhog day, I never remember that it's happening until I see that like, groundhog day is on TBS.

Rachel: I remember—I remember when I was at school, if I like, missed the notification, I'd be like, asking around at the end of the day like, "Hey, do we know? Did the groundhog see its shadow? Do we know what happened with that?"

Griffin: And yet, it's still on every calendar that gets printed! And I love that, and it's just because of these enterprising individuals who were like, "Groundhog day is my thing." I just like that. I like that a lot.

Rachel: Yeah. It's nice.

Griffin: And I like the event. I like that everybody looks at a animal to decide if it's gonna be cold or not tomorrow.

Uh, I got some submissions here from our friends. You wanna hear them?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Sarah says, "The Thermos is very good." Sarah is sick right now, but uh, says, "I use my travel Thermos to make a second batch of tea that I can sip throughout the day as I sleep and recover. It keeps that good, good tea hot like it was just out of the kettle." Mm! I love insulated cup... devices.

Rachel: Yeah, we have a lot of them. I feel like you're... you've really been on a quest.

Griffin: Well, my nonny got our whole family hooked on Tervis Tumblers, which are like, those vacuum sealed, like, see-through cups, and they were basically the only types of cups that we had at our house growing up because of that. So I just got spoiled. I love my beverages to stay the same temperature for as long as possible. I got a... what, it's that Yeti thing?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Little Yeti tumbler that I hold much coffee in, and it keeps it hot through lunch time!

Uh, Hannah says, "My rediscovered wonder is geocaching. It's so fun to tromp around your city and find little treasures and see who else has visited. It's exhilarating when you find an especially tricky one."

Rachel: Oh, I can't wait 'til Henry's old enough for you to get him into that.

Griffin: I can't wait either! That, Pokémon Go? We'll do both. I'll have two phones out. One's got Pokémon on it, and one's got a little secret mazes and riddles on it!

And here's one from Nicole who says, "My small wonder is laser tag. Winter can be a bumper season, so I got a big group of friends together recently to play. It was so fun to run around, sweat, and embrace my inner child." Key word there for me is sweat.

Rachel: Yeah. We did this not long ago for a friend's birthday.

Griffin: At a place called Blazer Tag here in Austin, which is great, and I was so excited to go. And then, as soon as the match was over, I thought I might actually have a big heart attack and pass away to heaven.

Rachel: Hey, can I thank some listeners for gifts?

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: Uh, so we finally went to our P.O. box.

Griffin: Don't say finally! We said we'd go monthly, and we did!

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, I wanted to thank Julia for the uh, Sandra Boynton book for Henry. I wanted to thank Jackie for the Into the Spiderverse soundtrack.

Griffin: I want to thank—I want to jump in here and thank Crafty Tibbles for the little doll of me and my hat.

Rachel: Oh, the little crochet doll!

Griffin: It's very good.

Rachel: Uh, I want to thank Anna for the 'look for small wonders every day' piece of art. It's beautiful.

Griffin: I want to thank Michael, who works at Bose, I guess, and sent me some super nice Bose headphones, which I needed, 'cause I keep breaking my headphones. Uh, that was very cool! Thank you very much!

Uh, also got a cutting board from Emily that says, uh, "Griffin's Chopping Zone" on it, and that's uh... y'know, that's gonna get heavy rotation.

Rachel: We got a lot of other really great invitations and cards, and just really sweet gestures. Thank you so much, everybody.

Griffin: Thank you all so much! Uh, the P.O. Box, if you want to send stuff to it, that is uh... not jokey joke horse magazines. Because folks, P.O. boxes are not that big.

Rachel: We didn't get any horse magazines when I went this last time.

Griffin: Well, I shouldn't tempt fate. Um, then you can send it to us at P.O. Box 26038, Austin, Texas, 78755. And we check that monthly, so don't send any food, please!

Um, thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. Bo En just sent me—he did the uh, the music, the soundtrack for, uh, a new game that's out on Switch that looks very, very cool. It's called Pikuniku, and uh, I was listening to some of the soundtrack, 'cause he sent it over, and it's very, very good. Uh, so yeah. That's great, and also, Money Won't Pay is good, too.

And Maximum Fun!

Rachel: Yeah, thank you to MaximumFun.org for hosting our show, and lots of other spectacular shows like The Flop House.

Griffin: And... Stop Podcasting Yourself. I'm gonna steal that one. That's a steal.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, you can check them all out, and I would recommend you do so.

Griffin: And we have stuff at McElroy.family, which is our new website. You can find all kinds of stuff there. Uh, today, actually, there should be a new Monster Factory up.

Rachel: I've been waiting for that Monster Factory!

Griffin: I know. I teased it last week, and I thought it was out last week, but it's out today, uh, there at McElroy.family, and I hope you all enjoy it. And... uh, oh hey, if you live in Birmingham or New Orleans, uh, like, tomorrow, we're going on tour for MBMBaM and TAZ.

Birmingham, we're gonna be there Thursday. New Orleans, we're gonna be there Saturday doing TAZ, and Sunday, doing MBMBaM, I believe? And you can find tickets for that at McElroy.family. Uh, please come see us!

And... that's it. So let's end the show with one of our fun skits and sketches that we do. Um, I've been working on some, and I know you've been working on some that you're really excited about.

Rachel: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Griffin: So yeah. Here's one called, actually, Human Gachapon, that is... and the whole thing here is that you're gonna put—I have a big sack of quarters here. [makes a strange sound] Quarters. And you just put them in my mouth, and...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I don't know how. Maybe it's just sort of mime work, which you know I'm good at, but toys come out of my butt.

Rachel: Out of your butt... ?

Griffin: And that's what jokes is—that's what jokes is.

Rachel: Mm...

Griffin: I learned that from George Carlin.

Rachel: Mmm...

Griffin: At his joke school. That I went to. In 1981.

[theme music plays]

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