

Wonderful 65: The Big Bubble Man

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[Theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful.

Griffin: Got those rainy Monday blues.

Rachel: Ah, it is not even Monday, is the thing.

Griffin: It feels like it, what with all the rain fall.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I got those moody Monday blues because all the rainfall. Cold and rainy and tummy hurt but that's not that weird. I feel like my stomach hurts more than it rains. Let's— I wanna sort of compare my stomach issues versus the average sort of rainfall in Austin, Texas, because I think we have a fight on our hands people. But I'll tell you one thing.

Rachel: Please do.

Griffin: It's gonna be a good episode, I bet.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: You feel it? You feel the energy? You feel that raw 2019 energy coursing through your bones?

Rachel: Um... I mean if I'm gonna be honest, no, not yet, but we'll get there.

Griffin: You don't have that raw 2019 electricity in all of your bones at the same time?

Rachel: It is so nasty outside right now.

Griffin: It's nasty outside but the year—

Rachel: Feels a lot like 2018 still, to me.

Griffin: No, no, no. The year has a lot of potential in it.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I'm here to sell you a year, and the year is 2019. I feel all this electricity in my bones. It's like a full body org— [whispers] orgasm.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: Do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: I do.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I'm really enjoying the show Seven Days Out on Netflix.

Griffin: Yes. Rachel has said— I am kind of enjoying it. Rachel though is more into it than I am. But it is a good show.

Rachel: I think what I like about it is that it taps into this idea that any kind of big event is interesting when you get right up until the big, the big reveal.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so, it just kind of meets all these people right before their biggest thing.

Griffin: Right. There's an episode about the Westminster Dog show. There's an episode about, like, some restaurant reopening, um...

Rachel: There's a NASA thing.

Griffin: Yeah, with a Cassini mission where they crashed a probe into, uh, Saturn, I wanna say.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: There's uh about a League of Legends championship.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's cool. I think that the show sort of episode to episode, like, some episodes are like all about putting the shit together.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Some of them are more stories about what goes on in the actual event. And I feel like with this show I was more excited for the, like, "how do you put on an event that huge?"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So, some episodes it's not as big a focus. But I mean all the episodes are— it kind of reminds me of like, Chef's Table but for event planners.

Rachel: Yeah, the concept is just really interesting to me. I hope they continue to do it because I feel like there's a lot of opportunity there.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. I'm gonna say one of my small wonders is— one, I— I was thinking about doing hotdogs as a main topic but then I realized that I've talked about hotdogs—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: At a ballpark as like a small wonder so I didn't want to double dip so I'm gonna say eating a hotdog at home is another small wonder of mine.

Rachel: Oh, I almost had pigs in a blanket this week.

Griffin: Those are fun because of the name of them. My mom used to make them wrapped up in bacon, which I loved. I would fight my uncle Chris every New Year's Eve, he would come over and we both loved them so much we would have a competition where we would present toothpicks at the end of the night to see who can get some more of those bad boys.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But now my heart couldn't take that. Um, I'm also gonna say I got an accordion from Justin and Sydnee for Christmas and still trying to wrap my— well, my body around it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It's a big one. It's a big instrument folks and it makes a big loud proud sound but um...

Rachel: Wait, why don't we move away from hot dogs at home? Did you have more to say about that?

Griffin: No, it's just a small wonder of mine. They're good.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Accordion's good too. I go first this week according to Wonderful.fyi.

Rachel: All right.

Griffin: The net's number one source of news for our podcast. And my first thing is Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.

Rachel: Oh, what a great idea.

Griffin: Now in theaters. I never, I don't think I've ever done a mov— have I? I don't remember if I've done a movie before, but I have definitely never done a movie that is actively in theaters that you can go see right now. But like, this is the first movie that I have seen more than once while it was in theaters in, like, a long long time. I think I went to see The Grindhouse movies, like that two pack that came out the...

Rachel: The Tarantinos.

Griffin: Planet Terror and Death Proof.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Like, I was in college when those came out and so I was sort of the target audience and I remember really having fun going to like a midnight screening of it. So, I went to that twice.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That may have been the last time and that was like... shit dog, 2006 maybe. 2007. I'm not sure when it came out. Um, I love this movie. As evidenced by the fact that we don't have a lot of time to go to movies together and I went this one more than once when there were other movies I could've seen. I just, I really love it and I want there to be more of them

and I think everyone on earth should see them so that they'll make uh a lot more of them.

I was sold on this movie kind of minute one from the trailer, which if you have seen go and watch it because it kind of shows you what the style of the film is. It's very like, it is a very clever way of sort of adapting several different comic book styles of how Spider-Man has been sort of drawn and the world of Spider-Man has been drawn in a 3D animated film. And it sort of very cleverly through the story which is sort of this multi-dimensional sort of fiasco. Did I just use the word fucking fiasco in my movie review?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm full blown Shalit-ing over here.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, it sort of has a good reason of sort of having all of these different art styles. It is like a beautiful, beautiful movie to look at. But that style I think sold me just from seeing I on the trailer. There is so much about this movie that I just absolutely adore. The soundtrack is super good.

Rachel: Yes, I wanna, I wanna own it very much.

Griffin: The soundtrack is fantastic. Also, like the, the action sequences of the movie, like, are at times like completely choreographed to the music that is playing behind them like full-blown baby driver style.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Uh, it also like during those action sequences very cleverly uses little flashes of like other-worldly animation. Like, now it looks like, you know, golden age Spider-Man. Now it looks like, you know, an edgy future Spider-Man. It just sort of flashes it when like a guy gets punched. You just get it for like a frame and it's so fucking good every time. The voice acting is super good. I didn't realize that the guy who plays Miles Morales, who is Spider-Man in this one... typically in all the movies we've seen it is Peter Parker, but in this universe it's Miles Morales. And he's voiced by Shameik Moore who was the guy from Dope. The movie Dope. He was the—

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah. As soon as I figured that out I was like, oh shit, yes, that's where I knew that guy's voice from.

Rachel: That's another movie with a great soundtrack.

Griffin: He does, like, a really great VO performance. There are like some heavy parts of his like sort of origin story, because it is like a different Spider-Man origin story, that he emotes, like, so so so well.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: He does an incredible job. So does, uh, Hailee Steinfeld's in it, Marhershala Ali is in it, Nicolas Cage is in it, Lily Tomlin's in it. Fucking John Mulaney is in it. Like, everybody does such a great job. And then there's stuff about the movie that's kind of like bigger than the sum of its parts. Like, it is for sure my favorite Spider-Man movie. It may be my favorite comic book movie ever and it's probably my favorite movie I saw this year. Because I saw it twice. I think that's a pretty good like rubric to, to go by. We've gotten eight Spider-Man movies in the last two decades.

Rachel: Oh my gosh.

Griffin: And I thought, like, I was over seeing this superhero's origin story. But there's something that this one does that is so clever. So, I'm not really spoiling anything because it sort of is in the title of the title of the movie. Several different Spider folks from different universes cross over into Miles Morales's and are kind of, you know, testing him. Kind of like showing him the ropes, kind of seeing what he's capable of, and showing them— him like, what Spider-Man is responsible for in their worlds.

And I think that's such a clever way of doing like an origin story because it shows you how unique Miles Morales's, like, origin arc is by literally making that like the whole plot of the movie. The whole plot of the movie is look at these other Spider folks and what is expected of them. Now that expectation is on you, let's see what you do with it. Like it is such a clever way of getting around the, you know, guy gets bit by spider, guy drinks potion, guy gets kidnapped.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Makes armor for himself.

Rachel: And that's like what made the stakes feel really real to me. That was the thing I was talking to Griffin about is like, for me if you're gonna do a superhero movie I need to, like, feel like it exists kind of in within the real world.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And that the characters like have like a reasonable reaction to the powers, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, uh yeah, and it does that really well with his like family as well.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Again, this is like, a lot of this is not completely new stuff because it does do the origin story stuff. It just does it better than any other Spider-Man movie has ever done it before.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um he, it, his relationship with his dad is like really incredible. It's also worth noting he is, he is Afro-Latino which is like a—

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: There's, it's a very very diverse cast. Even in like the Spider folks, uh, which is like super fucking refreshing. And like, it does all that origin story stuff that you kind of expect, but it does it in such a like well-paced way that by the time you get that hero realization moment, it's like everything after that moment in the film—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I actually kind of timed my— I told Rachel this—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I learned after the first one to time my pee before that so that I don't have to miss any of the last twenty-five minutes of the movie, because all twenty-five of them are ridiculous and over-the-top and like consist of some of the best action sequence stuff I ever seen.

Speaking of which, like, this movie's so generous with its action scenes. I'd gotten so used to like the pacing of a live action Marvel movie where, you know, maybe there's a big explosive opening and then a bunch of exposition and then they move on to this next big set piece where there's another big action scene and then more exposition wrapping up with like this one big set

piece with this huge extended fight. And that's it. And like, that's not to knock other Marvel movies, um, because those are fantastic. I really liked Infinity War. I really loved Black Panther. But like, this movie is just nonstop with the action scenes.

Rachel: Well it's really clever, and I hope I'm not spoiling too much, but they incorporate a lot of like, panels into it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like comic book panels, which allows them to get a bunch done in kind of one shot.

Griffin: Yeah for sure. Yeah.

Rachel: Which I thought was really clever.

Griffin: Which is good because, you know, some of the fights include many spider people in it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Which is a good way of keeping track of them, and yet like becau— despite the fact that like the action sequences are, you know, almost constant and involve a lot of, uh, spider parties uh and the fact that there is a lot of comedy sort of built into the script and a lot of sort of heavier emotional character development moments, uh, it never gets like... it never bites off more than it can chew.

Like, I feel like it is very capable of doing all this stuff. I didn't realize the movie was produced by Phil Lord and Chris Miller. They were the ones who, um, uh, made the Lego Movie.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: And they were, I think, directors on 21 Jump Street, and they were also executive producers of Last Man on Earth. So, I feel like—

Rachel: Interesting.

Griffin: Yeah, I think all of those kind of have this sort of tone— and maybe tone's not right, but like all of those things tied together, I felt so entertained by all of them, so like constantly. And I don't know, like, why. I don't know how exactly they pulled that off, but once I found out that

connection I was like, "Oh shit, that makes a lot of sense." Because this movie is constantly entertaining. It is visually cool. It could have been one of those of those things and it still would have been like one of my favorite movies of the year, but there is stuff that happens in this movie that I wasn't even done with my first viewing yet when I was like, I'm going to come back here and see this again. Uh yeah. It's very good. Please go see it. Please. Please go see it.

Rachel: Is Spider folks, is that how people are referring to—

Griffin: Spider, well one of them is a pig, like Spider... some spider... organisms.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Spider, spider... spider folks I think is good enough.

Rachel: Yeah, no, I like it.

Griffin: Uh, what is your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is Chex Mix.

Griffin: Oh hey!

Rachel: Hi.

Griffin: Hi.

Rachel: Hi, I'm bringing Chex Mix.

Griffin: Thank you.

Rachel: Good.

Griffin: I have a bowl for it.

Rachel: Good.

Griffin: Pour it right in. [pouring sounds] "Hey Tommy, come get this Chex Mix."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's my favorite commercial for Chex Mix.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Have you ever seen that one?

Rachel: Tommy?

Griffin: Yeah. When the like woman comes and is like, "I bought Chex Mix to your house." And then one boy is like, "I have a bowl for it," and he yells for Tommy to come eat the Chex Mix. And then it ends abruptly.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You don't even see the Chex Mix.

Rachel: And then Tommy dies. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, you see Tommy like fall down the stairs for like one frame and then it cuts to black. It's like the end of Sopranos.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Chex Mix is good though.

Rachel: It's my favorite plane snack. I don't think you knew that because I don't know if we've gotten it.

Griffin: Of course, I know. Are you?

Rachel: Oh, did you know that?

Griffin: [laughs] I think Rachel is being facetious because we gotten it literally every time.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Sometimes when Rachel jumps really high she makes sure that she has a bag of Chex Mix in hand. If she goes up more than one flight of stairs, she's gonna need Chex Mix to be her sky friend.

Rachel: I really wasn't sure if you knew that.

Griffin: No, babe. I mean, you know we know each other's proclivities. For you it's Chex Mix, for me it's [crosstalk].

Rachel: The past several years we've kind of, we've changed our flight buying, uh, since we have Henry with us in that we don't really indulge our own preferences as much.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: I thought maybe you'd forgotten this.

Griffin: I think you misspoke there when you said flight buying. I think you actually meant every aspect of our lives.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Every, every possible element of it from which we could derive uh joy is that we do not derive directly from our delightful, delightful son.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh here, here's a surprise to me.

Griffin: Yes?

Rachel: You couldn't purchase Chex Mix sold in packages until 1985.

Griffin: The prohibition.

Rachel: [laughs] Tell me more about that.

Griffin: Prohibition got them. You know, rum runners came through and they brought all the booze in, and it was illegal but they people went to speakeasies and Great Gatsby, Great Gatsby, Great Gatsby. Never read it.

Rachel: And they rolled barrels of Chex Mix out from under the basement.

Griffin: They rolled barrels out from under the basement and then everybody was like, "You know what? Booze and Chex Mix is awesome. Let's ratify this." And so, they did but they forgot about Chex Mix until—

Rachel: Until 1985.

Griffin: And Regan caught it.

Rachel: [laughs] Caught the...?

Griffin: He caught the Chex Mix sort of loophole and he fixed it.

Rachel: Well, you know?

Griffin: Why, why did we did wait that long?

Rachel: I don't know.

Griffin: I was almost born into a world without individually packaged Chex Mixes.

Rachel: You know, and I was, and that explains a lot of the differences between us I think.

Griffin: Uh-huh. Millennials and Gen-X.

Rachel: I'm not Gen-X.

Griffin: I know, I know, I know.

Rachel: Don't date me.

Griffin: [snorts]

Rachel: Uh so Chex Mix, introduced 1937 only as Wheat Chex.

Griffin: [laughs] Ew.

Rachel: Rice Chex as we know it today didn't come out until 1950.

Griffin: Oh. I mean, I imagine Wheat Chex is much better for you but like ugh, y'all.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Come on.

Rachel: Uh, Chex Mix became a thing in 1952.

Griffin: Is that when Melba toast was discovered?

Rachel: You think that it was just Chex Mix and they were like, "Well this is just cereal," and then the Melba toast really made it a mix?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: [laughs] I'm saving Melba toast for a later episode.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: I really wanted to have a Melba toast talk with you, but you seemed really resistant.

Rachel: No, I'm holding on to that one.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: That's like sweeps week right there.

Griffin: All right.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, you already did pumpernickel bread. Isn't Melba toast just super old pumpernickel bread that got, like, mummified? We can talk about this during your great Melba toast segment. You're right.

Rachel: This is maybe a two-part episode of Melba toast.

Griffin: You're right, you're right, you're right.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, so Chex Mix became one of the many popular tv mixes, which is a snack that could be consumed without interrupting television watching.

Griffin: Wait.

Rachel: It appeared in the 1950s.

Griffin: To be consumed or prepared?

Rachel: Consumed.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: The idea that you could just blindly shovel it into your mouth while watching a program.

Griffin: Hey 50s people, get better at watching television and eating. This is everything to me.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I eat fucking, I could eat lob— I can eat crab legs while watching television and not break line of sight with the TV because I don't wanna miss the Terrace House subtitles.

Rachel: Yeah, that's exactly it. We've really thought about our meal consumption—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And whether or not we can read subtitles at the same time.

Griffin: If we get pho, which is always delivered in like individual components that you then have to sort of compile into one big cup...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I can do— I like, I can't— we either have to pause Terrace House or else I make a big sloppy mess.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Because I'm just throwing shit in the cup, overflowing it. Getting it on my feet, the hot broth on my feet because I can't— I gotta see what they're saying.

Rachel: So, do you have a memory of somebody like actually preparing Chex Mix like from scratch? As much as you can from scratch.

Griffin: Uh, I mean we're not talking about puppy chow right?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Because that's— yeah, because my mom definitely made puppy chow on the reg. I think I, you know, I feel like I do— I do remember.

Rachel: I feel like I remember people making it by hand, which makes sense if it only came out in the 80s.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: People probably still had their go-to's.

Griffin: Yeah. It was still like 92 and people were like, "You can buy Chex Mix?"

Rachel: [laughs] I wanna share with you the recipe. You ready?

Griffin: I think I can sus it out.

Rachel: Okay so we get past the Chex.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: What's next?

Griffin: Well then I land right on a soft cushion of Melba toast that's actually quite firm and crunchy.

Rachel: They don't, so they don't, uh, they don't include a lot of the mix-ins.

Griffin: What?

Rachel: Like there's no pretzels or anything in this recipe.

Griffin: What the fuck?

Rachel: This is like origin classic Chex Mix.

Griffin: Oh my god. So, you're asking me what was in original Chex Mix?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean che— chex.

Rachel: Yeah. Let's— let's move on.

Griffin: What they— and then there's sort of those bread sticks. Like little crunchy bread sticks.

Rachel: [laughs] You're focusing too much on the uh...

Griffin: On the mix-ins?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, is it like spices and oils and unguents?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: And—

Rachel: Yeah, tell me about the unguents.

Griffin: Uh, I mean, salt.

Rachel: Yes. Good.

Griffin: I'm gonna go out on a limb and say maybe pepper.

Rachel: Nope.

Griffin: Shoot. Those two are usually best friends in a recipe.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, what is there, garlic powder up on these?

Rachel: There is garlic salt. Yeah.

Griffin: Garlic salt. Uh, I'm gonna guess that there is probably a little sugar in there.

Rachel: Nope.

Griffin: Just to make the salt feel a little saltier. Well, I'll put a little sugar in. And I'm gonna say honey—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And then M&Ms and those breadsticks and Melba toast and peanuts.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And raisins.

Rachel: Raisins?

Griffin: I'm confusing it with gorp, aren't I?

Rachel: Yeah, I think you are. Uh, we're talking butter.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: We're talking nuts.

Griffin: Yup.

Rachel: And we're talking a tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce.

Griffin: Worcestershire. I should've known.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: My old enemy [laughs].

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Worcestershire. Where do you get off being that hard to say?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You're just like a stinky vinegar. Get out of here, Worcestershire.

Rachel: So, here's another fun fact I mentioned. [laughs]

Griffin: Why are you laughing? These are all very— these facts are fun as hell!

Rachel: Corn Chex.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Didn't come about until 1958. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. So, we got—

Rachel: So, 52.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: You know we get the like here's Chex Mix, you know.

Griffin: Can we make this worse for us and the crunch out of this fucking world? Yes. We make it out of corn, folks. Which is your fave of these?

Rachel: I think corn.

Griffin: I think it is corn.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I think corn has the most sort of resilience against milk.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Um yeah. What's your favorite Chex Mix variant?

Rachel: [laughs] I mean, I like the origin because I don't like all the, the dust you get on your hands otherwise.

Griffin: Oh see, you should— you need to tell me this shit because I'm always buying the cheesy ones because I know you like it cheesy.

Rachel: I thought you were buying that for Henry because he's such a cheese fan.

Griffin: Uh yeah, but I mean, he can't tell the difference between flavors.

Rachel: That's true. He has no idea.

Griffin: He has the [crosstalk].

Rachel: He probably would eat wheat Chex, which is not even—

Griffin: He would eat wheat Chex with his—

Rachel: Not even— [laughs]

Griffin: His pedestrian mouth and tastebuds.

Rachel: Here's my last little, my last little fun fact. Okay so, according to—

Griffin: You actually can't call them all. I'm gonna step in here and say you can't call every fact about your thing fun.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's a little bit much.

Rachel: Um, so Chex uh was own Ralston Purina, which has a location in, I believe maybe the headquarters, in Saint Louis Missouri. Uh, so Chex Party Mix became popular as a holiday treat in—

Griffin: It was called Party Mix?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's good.

Rachel: In 1955 when the wife of Ralston executive in Saint Louis served the snack at a holiday function.

Griffin: Ah. Uh, Purina dog— like did they— did they also do the dog chow?

Rachel: Yeah Ralston Purina is dog food as well.

Griffin: Huh. And that's in, that's in the same building?

Rachel: Yeah, I wonder— puppy chow. I wonder—

Griffin: [laughs] Wait.

Rachel: If something happened in there.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. For sure, for sure, for sure. It seems wild because if Budweiser and poison were made in the same factory—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think Budweiser would put out a drink called Poison, sort of ironic—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Right? Like, yeah. That's wild. I do love Puppy Chow, holy shit.

Rachel: Yes. So good.

Griffin: It's been quite some time since I've eaten Puppy Chow.

Rachel: You can buy that one too, but it's not the same.

Griffin: It is not the same. No, no, no. I feel like they go— you need a heavy hand. You need a heavy hand—

Rachel: Yeah, it needs to be more gushy.

Griffin: Of a loving and irresponsible grandma—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Who is just like, "Yeah. Let's get these kids fucking jacked up so that they don't sleep on Christmas Eve." Ah, it takes me back. I love you and Chex Mix.

Rachel: [laughs] I love you too. Can I steal you away?

Griffin: Sure.

[Music plays]

Rachel: Hey, I got some Jumbotrons, Griffin.

Griffin: Hit me with those Jumbotrons.

Rachel: This message is for Rhi or perhaps Rye. It is from Kim. "Hi Rye, I thought I would surprise you with a shoutout on your favorite podcast."

Griffin: Oh, thank you.

Rachel: "I hope you're relaxing with some Star Dew Valley as you're listening to this right now. You are the best game master, a fantastic writer, and I will always love our OC fandom of two. Thank you for being my bestest friend for all these years. Love, Kim."

Griffin: Uh, you got room for two more in that fandom?

Rachel: Yeah, we re-watched—

Griffin: Do you wanna expand it?

Rachel: The Chrismukkah episodes recently.

Griffin: Yeah, season one, which is the best season. Two and three are a little too heavy for my regular Christmas viewing taste and then Chrismukkah four is just like out of control. Uh, it's its own sort of Into the Spider-Verse if you think if you think about it—

Rachel: Ooh. Yeah.

Griffin: And that's all I'm gonna say because I don't wanna spoil it.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah. That's good.

Griffin: Uh do you want me to read this next one?

Rachel: Yes please.

Griffin: It's for The League of Mcstrodynamic Gentlemen and it's from Daniel Nah, who says, "S'up you nerds? I'm not sure if any of you actually listen to Wonderful! but in case you do, thanks for being cool and playing my dumb dungeon world hack based on the McDonald land franchise. I promise to try my best not to kill another one of you. Also, thanks for the support as I continue to make bootleg Animorph audiobooks. Much love, Daniel."

An enterprising individual, who is going to be hearing from my lawyers because I've been Ronald McDonald the entire time.

Rachel: Ooh, see I would've pegged you as Grimace.

Griffin: Well, thanks Rachel.

Rachel: Is that insulting? I'm sorry.

Griffin: He hates the— their food and wants to destroy it.

Rachel: No, he doesn't.

Griffin: He started out as a McDonald land villain, for sure.

Rachel: Hmm.

Griffin: He hates their food and wants to destroy it. He's just a big noid.

Rachel: I'm gonna have to do some research on that.

Griffin: I could be wrong.

Rachel: Okay [laughs].

[Max Fun ad plays]

Griffin: Can I tell you my second thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: It is finding a new staple restaurant. A restaurant that cooks staples for you to eat with your robot metal mouth to crush with your—

Rachel: Oh, I thought you meant the office supply store now has restaurants.

Griffin: They do have pastrami sandwiches that are so good they cook them in the printers.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: They take their printers and they hack them. They run a lot of power through them and that glass screen with the scanner on it gets really hot. They'll slide some of the paper and the meat in the paper tray.

Rachel: Is it weird that my mouth is watering as you tell this story?

Griffin: A little bit. I think I'm just thinking of the very good pastrami sandwich I had last month. So, I love finding a new staple restaurant, and by that I mean a restaurant I know I'm going to go back to.

I feel like I've experienced this like so many times since I've moved away from Huntington, where I lived for twenty-three years. And it was a fantastic place to grow up but there weren't that many new like exciting restaurants opening up, until of course the year I left, when dozens of them started to appear, which is fucking bullshit. Um, I mean it's good. Good for the city and it's good every time I go back, but what the fuck man? Anyway, um so, I

moved to Cincinnati after that. I move to Chicago after that. I moved to Austin after that and then I lived in several different neighborhoods in Austin, and every time that that happened, one of the first things that I would do was kind of like look for my, look for my restaurants. Uh, a place that I know that I can go to for good food or convenient delivery options, because that stuff is super important to me.

I feel like you and I have certain genres of food that we eat super, super regularly almost on rotation. Like we are eating, you know, Chinese food usually about once a week maybe, a little bit more.

Rachel: Yeah, I think once a week is fair.

Griffin: Maybe a little bit less I mean. Once every two weeks at the, at the bare minimum. Uh, we enjoy a good pizza. We go hard on sushi when we're feeling, you know, fancy.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: If we've had a big day, we'll go get some sushi.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And we know the spots to do that stuff in, and it's finding a place to fill one of those spots that is so very, very exciting for me. Uh this just happened, I love pho and there was only one good place at our old house that had it and then we moved and we're out of their range now, but then last week we found a new pho place that was really good.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I was like, "Hell yeah. Whenever I want pho I know there's a, you know, a thing I can do to get pho."

Rachel: You were really excited. I remember that. You were like relieved of like, oh the great wait is over.

Griffin: There was a good—

Rachel: Now we can have it again.

Griffin: Yeah, there was a good TexMex place that we got. I remember the day we moved into this house, we got TexMex delivery and I tried to convince myself like, "This is so good."

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: "I'm so glad we have our TexMex place." But it was actually awful, but then we did find a good TexMex.

Rachel: We did.

Griffin: It's, uh, there is something about that that I find very comforting. I think that— I know that that may seem like silly but there is something about moving to a neighborhood and wanting to have the same sort of experiences, food experiences that you have had at other times in your life and then actually finding them, I think, is kind of a big relief.

Rachel: I will also say like dinner is kind of a stress, you know, and that like our day has ended and we've kind of waited until the last minute to figure out what we're gonna eat. And knowing that like there is a place you can count on that will deliver something you like.

Griffin: Yes. There are days, there are days where we don't—

Rachel: Relaxing.

Griffin: We don't do a good like planning job and so we get Henry down to bed and by that point we're starving.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so, like we— we know we have options. Another thing I will say is my like move in days are, I pray to Jesus behind me, but every time I did move, there is something about finding one of these places that makes a new place that you're living in feel more like home.

I will never forget when I moved to Chicago. That was uh, by far— that was a huge jump for me. I was, when I lived in Cincinnati I was really, really actually really far out of Cincinnati so I don't know if you could technically call that city living. But we lived, you know, in the heart of Chicago and I was, you know, country mouse in big city. I was very nervous. I didn't know that many people in the city. I knew nothing about sort of the geography of the of the city and then the first night that we moved into this apartment we found a restaurant called Hot Woks, Cool Sushi.

And we ate that and I was like, "Oh, this is a good place." Uh it was just around the corner, so I knew I had my place for food cooked in hot woks or cool sushi prepared just for me—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It would still be cool by the time I got it back to my apartment. Um, and that made Chicago feel a lot smaller.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like it made it feel a lot more, um, I felt like I could get a foot hold in it. And I don't know, I think there may be something very primal about that. About like oh god, I can get food, good.

Rachel: No, that's true.

Griffin: Which isn't to say that I didn't cook. I love cooking and we do it often. But, you know, I don't know how to cook pho. [laughs] So, when I want pho it's-it's nice to know I have a home for that.

Rachel: No, and I think back to like places I lived throughout my life I like, it's kind of interesting to do the, like, family tree of like, "Oh, where were the four or five places I used to eat in that place that I lived?" It's kind of fun.

Griffin: Yeah. So, when I lived in Cincinnati I actually lived about thirty-five minutes outside in a town called Batavia and the apartment complex we lived in was just like right next to a mall and nothing else. Like I would have to get on the highway if I wanted— the next closest restaurant was a Cheeseburger in Paradise. Um and the mall was, you know, mall plaza sort of food.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so, I never had, like, I never had a place.

Rachel: Oh no.

Griffin: Like, I only sort of had food that I made for myself or, you know, I would go downtown and have, I had good meals, like Cincinnati's got great restaurants. Batavia does not necessarily. And so that year of my life I just never really had this foothold.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so that made that made it all the more exciting that that first night in Chicago and, you know, the many many times that I had great meals in Chicago the year I lived there. Just, I don't know, I ate that city up and then I knew it and I found that to be very—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, a very exciting process. I feel like I know Austin super well, partially because I lived here longer than I lived than I've lived in any city other than Huntington, but also because like I know where the spots are and that's super exciting to me.

Rachel: Although Austin's kind of incredible. Like I've never lived in a city that like is changing so much month to month and so like we were real up on the food scene—

Griffin: And then we had—

Rachel: Maybe six months ago.

Griffin: Yeah, and now we're not so much.

Rachel: And then we took a break and yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, I have talked for a long time about this. It's just uh, it's a, it's a— I've kind of forgotten how cool a thing this is for me until it happened again last week. And I really like it. You wanna give me thing two?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: What you got?

Rachel: And I don't know if we're gonna be on the same page on this one.

Griffin: Yowzah. I can pretend. You'll know if I'm pretending though.

Rachel: Okay. I will. Home makeover shows.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Great.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Good. It's— I don't think you can lump them in in such a broad category because some are very good, and some are less I feel.

Rachel: Well and that is true, and so I tried to kinda zero in on the, like, specific parts of a home makeover show that I like. Uh, and the reason I was thinking of this was that we were watching um Mari Kondo's Tidying Up show on Netflix now.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: And for those that aren't familiar, she wrote like book that became this phenomenon called The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing, which like I feel like almost everybody has heard of this book.

Griffin: Yeah. Pretty much— I know lots of people who uh—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: For about three months it's all they— [laughs]

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's all they talked about. Yes.

Rachel: Yeah, it's this idea of going through your possessions and like, individually holding them and deciding whether or not they spark joy. And if you, you know, don't feel very strongly for them that you should probably down-size.

Griffin: Dump it in a river.

Rachel: Yeah, don't—

Griffin: I think that's what she says, is to go out to the nearest river.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Or sort of animal habitat and dump it right the hell in there.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's what she says. She cusses.

Rachel: I cannot imagine—

Griffin: I can't imagine either.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: She's, she's, she's fantastic.

Rachel: Uh, so it made me think kind of like what is— because it for a while I was really into like HGTV too and—

Griffin: Oh my god, yes.

Rachel: And I was like, "What, what is it exactly?" And I think it's just the idea of taking something that is unorganized and making somebody unhappy and then kind of neatly boiling that down into a like digestible hour of television. [laughs]

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And you get to see kind of the beginning and end and it like all comes together.

Griffin: Did you watch this stuff growing up? Because I have two very vivid like, two shows to which I attach very vivid memories.

Rachel: I don't know if it really existed. So, HGTV was launched in 1994 and I think at that point I was really focused on like, MTV. I don't think I was watching home improvement shows. Although my parents did watch, uh, Bob Vila, which I remember.

Griffin: Okay. I was thinking like Ty Pennington: Extreme Home Makeover.

Rachel: Yeah. See that wasn't— I don't think that... that wasn't as big of a thing to me.

Griffin: Okay. That was a big thing in our, in our family.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That and Trading Spaces.

Rachel: Trading Spaces was there.

Griffin: Yeah. For sure.

Rachel: I remember watching that. Uh, and so there's all these, all these different research articles out there about kind of the value of having an organized happy home.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Which I thought was kind of interesting. So, there was a study from Indiana University that said, um, "Your physical health is more likely to improve if you have a cleaner home."

Griffin: Hmm.

Rachel: In 2010 there was a study in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin that found that women that describe their spaces as cluttered or full of unfinished projects were more likely to be depressed and fatigued. In 2011, researchers at Princeton found that clutter can actually make it more difficult to focus on a particular task, which is not surprising.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, a surv— this one I thought was really interesting and made me like rethink our whole life.

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Rachel: Uh, a survey conducted by the national sleep foundation found that people that make their beds every morning are nineteen percent more likely to report getting a good night's sleep.

Griffin: Mmm, all right.

Rachel: And that if you have clean sheets, seventy-five percent of people say that they get better night's rest when their sheets are freshly clean.

Griffin: That one I believe. The making the bed, oh, I don't know. Is it, is that nineteen percent representative of like, the sheets if you get into an unmade bed there's a chance you can climb into a weird fold?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You know how like you--

Rachel: [laughs] A weird fold.

Griffin: You climb into a weird fold and like your leg gets caught up in it, but you don't realize it and then you go to sleep and then at 3 AM you try to toss and turn but your leg's caught in the snare.

Rachel: Of the weird fold.

Griffin: Of the weird fold.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Or maybe there is a bag of opened Cheez-Its in there that you didn't realize because you're having night Cheez-Its.

Rachel: I think it's more like when parts of your life feel more organized, you are like more able to relax and feel, like, welcome in the space.

Griffin: Yeah. I think that's true.

Rachel: So, if the bed is like more inviting you're like more ready to...

Griffin: Well I mean that touches on, there's also a lot of sort of uh, you know, philosophical and spiritual—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Elements of-of home design that-that some people— I feel like there is a lot of that going on in Mari Kondo's stuff. I don't— I did not read the book, but just sort of based on the television show, like—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: She talks to the house and tries to display thankfulness towards the things that bring you joy in the house.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean mindfulness is kind of a big thing in the past ten-fifteen years and I feel like that's kind of where this is coming from too.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Of like being more aware of your space and more like, you know, thoughtful about what you put in it. Um there's— so there's this organizing expert who wrote a book called Behind the Clutter and in the book it says, "For every six minutes people lose fifteen seconds searching for items they can't find."

Griffin: Every— one more time.

Rachel: For every six minutes—

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: People lose fifteen seconds searching for items they can't find.

Griffin: That sucks.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a lot of time. Holy shit.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Is that just saying like, you have one day where you lose your keys for eighteen hours and so like that throws off the average?

Rachel: No, I think I mean if you think about like things that we encounter or like trying to find stuff in our kitchen—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Is sometimes challenging.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, trying to find like spices in our spice cabinet can be challenging.

Griffin: This is true.

Rachel: You know, and you think about all that time stacked up and it's like, "Oh, you know what? Maybe that is a thing."

Griffin: Uh, yeah. I just don't like thinking about it because that adds up.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That adds up so quickly. That adds up so quickly. Let's see— fifteen seconds into six minutes, that's one-twenty-fourths of that six-minute period, meaning every twenty-four years I've lost one year—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: To missing objects? By the time I was twenty-four years old I had spent one year looking for shit.

Rachel: I believe that.

Griffin: I don't like it though. I don't like it. I'll tell you, like, I believe that because I lose stuff all the time.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I have certain improvements I have— like this Contigo water bottle that I bought last year, now I don't have to search for my cups of water anymore.

Rachel: That is true.

Griffin: It's the big gray boy that has all the water in it.

Rachel: That's true. So I think there's something there as to why I like those home makeover shows. Because, you know, sometimes like the families and the people in them can be kind of a turn off.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: But I really enjoy seeing a disorganized space be made organized. And trying to do the same thing myself, you know, like Griffin and I will do little purges of like clothes and stuff we don't use anymore, and that's always really satisfying.

Griffin: Right to the— right to the river.

Rachel: We don't-

Griffin: Right to the river. Right into the river.

Rachel: We donate our things.

Griffin: Uh yeah, we do. Um yeah. I agree. I mean— shit. There was a period there where every time we traveled or where I was going out for shows or whatever, HGTV was like my constant companion.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: My— the Property Brothers became my actual— they were closer to me than my non-property brothers, in a way.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: In a manner of speaking. Um, yeah. What's your favorite now though? Do you got a favorite now?

Rachel: My favorite now?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um... I don't actually because what happened was we bought the house and then I kind of took a break.

Griffin: I don't—

Rachel: From the shows.

Griffin: I don't wanna see other nice houses that I didn't just commit thirty years of my fucking life to.

Rachel: I did like Chip and— Chip and Joanna Gaines though.

Griffin: [sighs] Yeah.

Rachel: I'll tell you what.

Griffin: Uh, so I have some submissions from our friends at home. Do you want me to read them?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Here's one and it's sent in by Becky, who says, "I love it when I see a dog wearing a bandana around its neck. It looks so cute and spunky and ready to lead a hiking adventure." Yeah.

Rachel: That is true!

Griffin: I do like that. I do like a good bandana around a dog's neck. Um, I don't typically like most clothing on a dog.

Rachel: How often do you think they change out those bandanas?

Griffin: Hopefully like—

Rachel: You think it's a daily thing?

Griffin: Well, I hope often.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's probably a subscription box service.

Rachel: Just for dog bandanas?

Griffin: Yeah, for dog accessories.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, here's one from Steven who says, "Something I think is wonderful is seeing and identifying animal tracks in freshly fallen snow. I moved to Chicago and it's nice to see evidence of nature still around me. Today I saw bunny rabbit, cat, dog, and bird tracks on my sidewalk while walking to my car."

Rachel: Ah that's really nice.

Griffin: That's a wild fucking street. Where do you—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: What street do you live on?

Rachel: That is true. I feel like I never saw bunny when I was in Chicago.

Griffin: Mm yeah. Me neither. Here's one from Rebecca who says, "I love to see people making big bubbles in public spaces. Not only do kids love it but you get to see adults transform and remember how to play as they chase after these wobbly round things to get that satisfying pop. It's wonderful."

Rachel: Ah, I thought we were talking about the gum bubble.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: That's good too, honestly.

Griffin: That's good too, but watching people use that thing that's like a big hoop on the two sticks and they get it—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: All oily and then make a big bubble, and then—

Rachel: Oh, that's nice.

Griffin: All the adults come out and wanna play with it. I like a big bubble, man.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I love a big Bubble Man.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Bubble Man is my third thing. I know we don't usually bring three, but my favorite is the big Bubble Man.

Rachel: Bubble Man demands being a third thing.

Griffin: Bubble Man is a guy—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: That will float uh up to your window.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Knock on your door, but you can't hear it because he is all bubbles. And he will ask you, uh, for some bread.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And you give it to him and he floats away, and he sings you a little bubble song and he floats away. But if you don't give it to you— um, if you don't give it to him he... he flies into you. He flies into your body.

Rachel: How old is Bubble Man? I feel like—

Griffin: Ancient.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Sort of um...

Rachel: I feel like if you look on the pyramids you'll see hieroglyphics of—

Griffin: He's pre-historical.

Rachel: Bubble Man.

Griffin: I mean, he is Lovecraftian.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And sort of, he's eldritch and old, ancient. But yeah, he'll fly right in ya' and then you become the new Bubble Man and...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It's rough. So just always have some bread on you.

Rachel: Is this what Kirby is based on?

Griffin: More or less.

Rachel: Mm.

Griffin: Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song "Money Won't Pay". You'll find a link to that in our episode description. It's a very, very good song and we are very grateful that we are allowed to use it. And we are also very grateful to Maximum Fun.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Tell them all about it.

Rachel: Thank you maximumfun.org for hosting our podcast and all sorts of other podcasts that include comedy and culture. A podcast I wanna bring up is Can I Pet Your Dog? If you're curious about dog bandanas I bet that they have—

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: Some ideas too.

Griffin: The inside scoop.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh also, we have a new website. It's mcelroy.family or themcelroy.family, where you can find all kinds of stuff. News, merch, new episodes of Monster Factory. One just went up today. All at mcelroy.family. We're gonna keep updating it with all the content you crave.

Rachel: Oh, should we talk about our new PO box?

Griffin: We got a new PO box. That PO box is PO box 26038 Austin, Texas 78755. If you send joke shit to it, I will [laughs] [whispers] find you.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Please. I shouldn't even say that because then people hear that and are like, "Mm-hm. Yeah. They're not talking to me."

Rachel: Yeah. All we— it doesn't even make it to our car.

Griffin: It does not make it to our car. It makes it to the garbage can of the post office.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It is wasteful of the post offices time, effort, gasoline, paper, whatever you send. It's your money. Not a good way to spend it, because it goes in garbage.

That's a bad thing to say because we get lots of wonderful stuff. It's just we moved and neglected reopening a new one closer to our house, but now we've done that. One more time, it is PO box 26038 Austin, Texas 78755. Well that's the episode. Um...

Rachel: Uh, any predictions for what's gonna be wonderful in 2019?

Griffin: Oh, I'm so glad you asked. New perfume from...

Rachel: [laughs] Here's— you wanna hear what I'm thinking?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Instead of double stuffed Oreos.

Griffin: Mmm.

Rachel: We got double outside Oreos.

Griffin: Now these— [laughs]. What's these?

Rachel: Uh the top and the bottom, the cookie part?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Double.

Griffin: So, two— I don't it would stick together, baby.

Rachel: No, it's like extra thick. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, damn. A twosome Oreo.

Rachel: It's like a hotdog bun, but Oreo.

Griffin: Yeah. Sure.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. What about you? What do you think?

Griffin: Yeah, I mean I—

Rachel: 2019.

Griffin: Yeah sure. I got one.

Rachel: Kay.

Griffin: Uh, it's double stuffed double outside Oreos.

Rachel: [laughs] Just really big.

Griffin: It's basically blew it up in like a, you know, Honey I Blew Up the Kids blow up machine. So, uh you got anything else?

Rachel: Uh, you got lamps.

Griffin: Oh.

Rachel: Uh, but the bulbs are shaped like your favorite Pokémon.

Griffin: That's fun. Would— and that for you would be of course?

Rachel: Scruttlesaur.

Griffin: Scrotal-saur is an interesting one to say.

Rachel: [laughs] Scruttle. Scruttle— no, see a lot of people say that but it's— it's Scruttlesaur.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Well, the original Japanese name of it was loosely translated to scrotalsaur so...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um... I don't have another joke. Bye!

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music ends]

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