

Wonderful! 67: A Fleet of Wienerdrones

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, it's your— hey, it's Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: [laughs softly]

Griffin: I forgot which one it was, didn't I?

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: Yeah, it sure is! I forgot which intro it was, though, didn't I?

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, you guess you could say your... Rachels has been Griffin—

Griffin: I'm the youngest husband Rachel's ever had, which is exciting for me. She's married some real old men, huh? Who was your first very old husband that you had? Do you remember him? He was 200—[coughs] I got choked up because of how jealous I got. But your 200-year-old husband, he was cool. And his name was...

Rachel: Um... gosh, what was it? It was uh, Pefferson.

Griffin: Yeah. First name Pefferson.

Rachel: Pefferson, yeah. I called him Peff.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, and then his last name was... Julian.

Griffin: Do you remember the time you married an old mummy that they found in Egypt, and it was, you know, a good 3,000 years old...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...and his name was... King... Burger King. Is what it loosely translates to.

Rachel: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I'm glad that you picked me. I'm glad you ended up with me. I know I'm not— I don't usually bring that sort of—

Rachel: My youngest husband.

Griffin: That aged flavor that you prefer, but this is *Wonderful!*, it's a podcast where we talk about things that we are really into, things that we very much like, things that we're enthusiastic about that paid us to talk about them. [gasps] I mean— oh, no!

Rachel: Oh, no.

Griffin: Aw, man!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Shoot. The cat's out of the freaking bag, I guess.

Rachel: Pumpernickel, the big Pumpernickel.

Griffin: Big— Big Pumpy [laughs] is dropping big stacks on...

Rachel: Came to me and said, "Hey, we know that Rye Bread has been courting you, but we're willing to offer you double."

Griffin: So, do you have any small wonders, now that we've sort of revealed ourselves to be, you know, scammers?

Rachel: Doublemint gum.

Griffin: Doublemint gum...

Rachel: Twice the freshness.

Griffin: Impossible. I have never seen you eat this—

Rachel: No, I'm kidding.

Griffin: Oh, you were...

Rachel: I'm kidding. I was pretending—

Griffin: Oh, what about all our fans at home that love Doublemint and they're like, "Fuck yeah, finally!"

Rachel: I was pretending that we had sponsors.

Griffin: Oh, I see.

Rachel: That were...

Griffin: Because Doublemint is really dropping stacks— I think everybody knows about the Doublemint product at this point.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: They kinda went hard in the paint in the '90s with all of their twin commercials. But then Mentos really ate their game up, I think. With their similarly-toned commercials. Hey, do you have a real thing, though, for number onesies?

Rachel: Uh, for number onesies, I would have to say *Top Chef*.

Griffin: *Top Chef* is a really nice show.

Rachel: Yeah. It's maybe the best cooking competition there is.

Griffin: That is not a difficult... sort of bar to clear.

Rachel: I mean, there is a fair number of competitors.

Griffin: Sure, I mean there's *MasterChef*, which... kinda stinks now. I mean, we watched a lot of it, but it's not so good now. And then there's... you know, *The Taste*. Long live *The Taste*. One season, not nearly long enough.

Rachel: Now, to be fair...

Griffin: Oh, *Great British— British— Great British Bake Good*.

Rachel: Yeah, I— I was just gonna say...

Griffin: *Bitty Bitty Baking* is probably even better.

Rachel: [laughs] I— that's like— that's not even comparable. That's like a— it's a different category.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, I would say.

Griffin: And this is going to be a repeat, but I feel very, very, very enthusiastic about this. If we're talking about things we're enthusiastic about, I made Rachel watch it, and she lost her mind. There was a speedrun last week during AGDQ of *Sonic the Hedgehog 1*...

Rachel: Yeah, unintentionally teased it.

Griffin: ...uh, run by— oh, did you?

Rachel: Well, I remember I requested...

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: ...that you let me know when the Sonic run happened.

Griffin: It was run by a dude— I think his name was Dr. Fatbody? Or something like that. And he just showcased his run with, uh, a level of excitement, and he had like, this whole crew on the couch behind him that was like, they were obviously, like, a really tight-knit group of *Sonic the Hedgehog* runners.

And the whole run... was so chock full of what I would like to call just like, Sega energy?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It was just full of— I think “big dick energy” is like, so 2018. We gotta leave that behind. In 2019, it’s all about raw Sega energy.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: He was pulsating with raw Sega energy, and it was the most fucking, like, exciting, funniest, best run, uh, of the year for me.

Rachel: It was very good. And so many shoutouts, uh, that left us all wondering, kind of, what this universe is that we exist in.

Griffin: [laughs] It’s a beautiful universe I would love to exist in. Basically, every time he beat a stage, he had a good, like, 10 seconds there to like, give some shoutouts to people.

Rachel: Thank his mentors.

Griffin: It was so incredible. It was so, so, so good. Even if you don’t like stuff like this, I cannot— it’s 20 minutes, and also the glitches they show off in *Sonic* are like, absolutely disgusting. It is hands-down my favorite run of the year. Um, and there is a lot of competition for that.

I go first this week...

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: My first thing... both of mine are kind of themed. My first one is trying on a new style. Or perhaps trying out a new style. "Trying on" makes it sound like I love to go to, you know, I love the J'Crew, and while I'm at J'Crew I like to actually go in a dressing room and put on clothes. That's false. I hate that part.

Rachel: [giggling]

Griffin: I don't like that part very much, because uh, it has been difficult to find clothes that fit my bod in the past, and that's always frustrating, but also, the lighting that they use in dressing rooms... makes me look... I feel, like, so terrible.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I don't know if it's because— I reach a point where I've just tried on these clothes and none of them fit, and then I put on the old clothes that I wore in there, and I realize I look so raggedy.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Just like, with my old clothes and my skin that has become nightmarish in the glaring fluorescent lights they hang so bright above.

Rachel: So, tell me what you like, Griffin!

Griffin: I like trying out new styles, by which I mean I've got the clothes, and I'm like, "Oh, I don't normally wear stuff like this! Let's give it a shot!" And you give it a shot, and you like it. That's the thing I like. That's the thing I like.

Rachel: I need, like, a concrete example of it.

Griffin: Let me give you a concrete example here.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I uh— the Facebook thing, the “how hard did aging hit you” challenge...

Rachel: Yes, yes, yes.

Griffin: Which, by the way, I made the point to Rachel, like, you can just post, like, “I got more attractive,” or “I used to be more attractive,” like...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It’s fine, I’ll take your word for it. Like, for me? I got more attractive. But that’s because I didn’t know what the fuck I was doing basically up ‘til the point where I met my wife, Rachel.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Um, I was looking at that, and it made me sort of go through my old profile pics, and just sort of reflect on some of my choices.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Reflect on some of my decisions.

Rachel: Your choices— can I summarize?

Griffin: Uh, yeah, sure.

Rachel: Your choices reflected that you did not think you were an especially attractive man.

Griffin: Mm. Mm. Mm.

Rachel: And I feel like, as you have gotten older, you have kind of embraced, “Hey!”

Griffin: I can— I can— yeah.

Rachel: “I can pull this off!”

Griffin: "This guy fucks, for sure."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think you can say that about yourself.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Going through it, like, in hindsight, I look back, and it's like, I did not post in this challenge partially because I— I am not a big social media guy anymore, but also because, like, there wasn't a picture of me that I felt...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ...like, even okay about.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And in hindsight, right, looking back, like, it's really easy to knock yourself for the choices you made, but I think back to when I was like, in middle school, and my entire childhood, like, Mom bought all of our clothes. She was a mother of three very rambunctious young gentlemen.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: Most of the clothes came from, like, consignment shops and stuff like that, so like, I did not have a say in the matter. And when I finally did start to have, like, a say in the matter, my first thing that I remember really liking was like, Hawaiian shirts. And I started wearing Hawaiian shirts because I was, you know... sexually nonthreatening, and I... just— I felt good. I like, felt good about this style. I finally had, like, a nice style.

Rachel: Well, and— remind me what that time period was.

Griffin: This would've been like, uh...

Rachel: Was it like 2003?

Griffin: I would've been like— no, around 2000. Around the turn of the millennium is when I started to get my own clothes going.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, that— the thrifty look was more popular back then, for sure.

Griffin: Yeah. And you know, my mom had— was like, way ahead of the curve on that.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: With all of our consignment pickups. Uh, and then after that, it was like, I remember trying on a bowling shirt, like a polyester bowling shirt, and I was like, "This is great on me." And so, I bought a few of them, and then like, that was my style, and I would— I got really excited about that. And then it was like, you know, checkered button-downs and then uh, you know, I went through a few— I went through a few different phases. And like—

Rachel: I mean, you're still a checkered button-down guy.

Griffin: Less so these days. Maybe I— I mess with a flannel, but like, I do not wear that many checkered button-downs anymore. Recently, I've been kind of a t-shirt guy. I've been more into t-shirts and layering the t-shirt with a thing. I like, uh, stra— I like long-sleeve non-button-downs. Which I didn't used to have that many of, and now I have a lot of, and they excite me.

Rachel: So I still need... I need, like, a concrete example.

Griffin: So, what I'm saying is every time I found one of these new styles it was really, like, it was really exciting for me that I had found, like, this new thing...

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: ...that maybe I didn't think or didn't even think of or specifically thought I could not pull off. And then you try it out, and you're like... not only can I pull this off, like, this could be a part of the rotation.

I don't really know how to categori— I don't know how a person categorizes style. It seems, like, wild to me to think that a person can be, like, "I wear rustic clothes. I wear just flannel and corduroy, and that's *everything* I own."

Like, I can't— I don't think that my closet is that— I don't think anybody's closet is that, like, specific. But the idea of, like, finding a new sort of style that you didn't think you could pull off, and then trying it out, and realizing, like, "Oh, I can do this!"

Uh, back in college, my senior year of college, all the way through college, um, basically for about a decade, I didn't actually get my hair cut. I just got it thinned out from a place in Huntington called Happy Hair Boutique, uh, that again, our mom took us to.

Rachel: [chuckles softly]

Griffin: A lot of— there's a running narrative through this wonderful topic. And so, it just got really poofy. I had these long skinny sideburns that were pretty bad. Uh, and I just— yeah, I just didn't really think that much of myself, and then made like, this new big group of friends my senior year of college, one of whom was a hair stylist. She was like, "You want me to cut your hair?"

I was like, "Yeah, I guess." And I was scared, and I got it done, and I was like, "Oh. This is the haircut that I will have for the rest of my life." Like, that was a really exciting thing for me.

I just think the idea of like, transforming yourself in this very accessible way that isn't, like, isn't necessarily obvious. Travis, a couple years ago, got me like a— or last year, got me a jean jacket. And I was like, "I'm not a fucking jean jacket guy." Now I wear that jean jacket all the time, 'cause I like how I look in a jean jacket.

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: That's the kind of stuff I'm talking about. Like, it's a way of like—it's kind of like eating a new food that you thought you didn't like, and you end up really liking it, and you're excited because you know you're gonna eat that food a lot.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: There's something to that for me with fashion. And—

Rachel: This reminds me of when you brought, one week, your, like, finding your new favorite song.

Griffin: New favorite restaurant, new favorite song, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I think that's a big thing for me, just sort of in general. But with fashion, and what's cool about fashion is that it is... I'm going to like eating chicken pot pie for the rest of my life. I may not like wearing jean jacke—like, I move—I do move a lot—another thing that is bringing this up is uh, this past weekend, I Marie Kondo-ed the *fuck* out of my, like, wardrobe?

Rachel: Oh, gosh. Can I make a recommendation?

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: Okay, the show is good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Let's say you're with a partner who you feel like has a lot of stuff they're holding onto...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...that they aren't using in their daily life. Sit 'em down, watch Marie Kondo with 'em...

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: ...and it will, maybe, give them the motivation they need to explore some of their uh, their less-used items.

Griffin: Yes. I certainly had a lot of very old clothing. I certainly had some Halloween costumes in there that I was never gonna wear again. Um, I've dropped a few lbs in the last year, and so there was just some stuff that just straight-up didn't fit that I have not worn in about a year, and so I just like, threw all that shit out.

But in doing so, I went through 'em, and was looking, like— Rachel was right. I did almost exclusively wear, you know, checker-pattern long-sleeve button-up shirts, and that was pretty much it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I threw pretty much all of those— not away, we donated them, but... um, yeah. I think that's why I sort of got, like, nostalgic about this exact topic. Also, because everybody's posting their old... fashions, and folks, let me just say, unless one of the two pictures is completely...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ...busted... you're just showing off at that point. Maybe I should do it, because I have a lot— a big selection of busted bowling shirt, long pervert sideburn pics to pick from.

Um, yeah. That's my first topic, is trying out a new style.

Rachel: Congratulations, Griffin. I'm happy that you're expanding your horizons. I feel like, you know, you're worth it.

Griffin: Thank you! It's my midlife crisis. 62 is all I'm planning to get to.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What's your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is the long-awaited return to the poetry corner.

Griffin: Hey! Oh, my God!

Rachel: It's been a while, hasn't it?

Griffin: It's been a hundred years. I've—

Rachel: I think maybe since our live show.

Griffin: I've been crawling in the desert, dying of poetry thirst.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Drip one into my mouth. Drip a poem— pour a poem, freshly wrung from the oasis, directly into my mouth.

Rachel: I— I— I feel like we're done now, with the segment. I feel like it's just...

Griffin: That was a poem. That's right.

Rachel: Yeah. Just closed out the poetry corner.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: So, play the *Home Improvement* thing, and we'll... we'll move on.

Griffin: I should— what if there was a— I could make a *Home Improvement* remix that was sort of like, kind of fresh. Like, kind of like poetry... kind of poetry, like jazzy.

Rachel: Ohh. With like, some snaps, and...

Griffin: Yeah. I won't be doing that. But what's the poem?

Rachel: I'm so glad that you've mentioned jazzy.

Griffin: Oh, okay!

Rachel: Because our next poet...

Griffin: Is from DJ Jazzy Jeff.

Rachel: ...is a big jazz enthusiast.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And his name is Robert Pinsky.

Griffin: Robert Pinsky. I know that name.

Rachel: He was the Poet Laureate from 1997 to 2000.

Griffin: That's almost certainly not how I [wheezes] know his name.

Rachel: [laughs] He was also in an episode of *The Simpsons*?

Griffin: Maybe that's it?

Rachel: There's an episode where Lisa goes to college, and she goes to a poetry reading that Robert Pinsky is reading at.

Griffin: I may be thinking of *Salute Your Shorts*. I think there was a character named Pinsky.

Rachel: Oh. Yes. That too. [laughs]

Griffin: Wasn't he, like, the cool kid that came in in like season 3?

Rachel: Yeah, he was.

Griffin: And he like— he, like, had a sau— I remember his intro episode, he like had a sausage that he was really excited about?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: A big summer sausage?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It was a weird show. But this is a different guy, huh?

Rachel: Yeah, it is, it turns out!

Griffin: Alright.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, so he has written 19 books, most of which are poetry. And he is a former saxophonist that says that being a musician was profoundly influential in his interest in poetry.

Griffin: That makes... I mean, it makes so much sense that it's almost obvious. Like, the two are so, I feel like, inextricably linked.

Rachel: Exactly, yeah. And I read an interview with him where he talks a lot about musicality and why that's, you know, a really inspiring part of poetry for him. Um, part of being Poet Laureate, you know, we've talked about this before...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...um, I read an interview where he said, there's actually no, you know, explicit requirements of the job. But he really kind of leveraged that opportunity to really expand, kind of, the reach of poetry.

Griffin: Interesting.

Rachel: So, he created an online course called "The Art of Poetry," which is available to the public, and has been since 2014.

Griffin: Just for free?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's incredible!

Rachel: Yeah! So, he is a professor at Boston University, and so he used that platform to kind of share the course. But each little lecture part of it is only like, two to five minutes long.

Griffin: Oh, wow, okay.

Rachel: Uh, so you can really kind of parcel out, like, you know, little pieces of interest depending on where you are. The course— if you read the course description, it says, "The course has the underlying principle that the more you know about an art, the more pleasure you will find in it."

So, you can find all these videos, uh, if you search for "The Art of Poetry."

Griffin: So what are you— which of his poems have you brought?

Rachel: [exaggerated annoyance] I'll get there!

Griffin: I just wanted— I haven't had a poem in fucking six months! I'm dying!

Rachel: I also want to talk about this other great thing he did when he was Poet Laureate, which was he started the "Favorite Poem Project," which is FavoritePoem.org. Thousands of Americans from varying backgrounds had the opportunity from every state to share their favorite poems.

Griffin: Mm.

Rachel: So more than 18,000 people responded, and they selected 50 people to read and talk about their favorite poem. Which I just think is really cool. You know, I think there's this sense that poetry is not like, a living, breathing thing in our daily life.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And he has this idea that poetry should be as popular and as recognized as music.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: As something that people are interested in.

Griffin: That's a really good point, because I know what my favorite song is. For the life of me, I couldn't tell you what my favorite poem is.

Do you know what your favorite poem is?

Rachel: Oh, geez-o. There's a Anne Sexton poem I really like.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Well, it'll get its time in the poetry corner.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: We don't wanna cheat on Pinsky.

Rachel: Yeah. I'm saving it.

Griffin: "Saving myself for Sexton."

Rachel: [laughs] So this is, uh, something he says about poetry in an interview he did in 2013 with Butler University. So in the interview, they're asking him... kind of, what people, librarians, instructors can do to make poetry more accessible and more available to people.

And so he's giving some suggestions, but then ultimately he says, "Art takes care of itself. Its appeal is endless, like the appeal of cuisine beyond nutrition, lovemaking beyond copulation, dance beyond locomotion. Poetry meets a fundamental craving, the mind meeting the body in the sound of words."

Griffin: I just want to apologize, but the word “copulation” really puts— really—

Rachel: It’s a beautiful quote!

Griffin: It’s a beautiful quote, and I think it’s wonderful. It’s just— I know he’s a poet, and that whole thing is like, finding pretty different words, but like, “copulation” really gets my gooseflesh going.

Rachel: So, let me read you the poem you’ve been waiting for.

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: And this isn’t the entire poem. I just wanted to showcase kind of the musicality of what he does in his poetry.

Griffin: Yes, please. What is the poem called?

Rachel: Well, it’s appropriately called “Rhyme.”

Griffin: ...Alright.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I’m just say— if you write a song and it was called, like, “Music...”

Rachel: [laughs] So here’s the poem. This is just the first two stanzas. You can find the whole poem, if you search for “Rhyme by Robert Pinsky” on the internet.

“Air an instrument of the tongue,
The tongue an instrument
Of the body, the body
An instrument of spirit,
The spirit a being of the air.

“A bird the medium of its song.

A song a world, a containment
Like a hotel room, ready
For us guests who inherit
Our compartment of time there.”

Griffin: That’s so good!

Rachel: It’s real jazzy, isn’t it?

Griffin: It is!

Rachel: The way it kind of like, bounces from one thing to the next, and kind of threads the previous idea through into the next thing...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: ...feels very kind of improvisational, uh, and melodic.

Griffin: Yeah, it took me a— I was, like, wondering, like, “Alright, where is this going?” And then it— it was all sort of all part of the whole thing.

Rachel: Yeah. So I guess the reason I kind of talked about what he did as Poet Laureate and what he kind of does with his poetry is... you get kind of a unique opportunity with Poet Laureates, where you kind of get to see what they do with the title, and also kind of appreciate their work and why it was... you know, selected.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, and I just... I think, almost even more than him as a poet, I like what he tried to do to kind of broaden the interest of poetry in our country.

Griffin: Yeah, that’s really cool.

Rachel: Uh, and there’s, like, tangible resources he created, uh, that are now accessible to everybody.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And he wasn't required to do any of that! So, I just feel like it speaks to his real, like... genuine enthusiasm and desire to, like, see poetry continue and grow.

Griffin: So, you can get named Poet Laureate and then just kind of like... chill? You can get named Poet Laureate and be like, "Cool. I'm gonna go work at Home Depot now, and never write another poem."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And they're like, "Ah, shoot. He's still Poet Laureate."

Rachel: I mean, you probably get r— asked to do various things, but there's no, like, you know, job description that requires you to...

Griffin: Who picks it?

Rachel: ...lift 20 pounds.

Griffin: Who picks it?

Rachel: Uh, I mean, it comes out of the president's office.

Griffin: Huh. Okay.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, hey, can I steal you away?

[music plays]

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break]

Rachel: Do you want some personal messages?

Griffin: How personal are we talking? [sleazy laugh]

Rachel: I don't know who this character is... he's got his butt hanging out...

Griffin: "[gravelly, voice] Oh, the Butt Man!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "How personal." [sleazy laugh]

Rachel: This message is for Future Nate. It is from Past Nate.

Griffin: "It's crazy."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "That's crazy, man!"

Rachel: This character also marvels at time travel.

Griffin: "Yeah. Who wouldn't?"

Rachel: "Hi, Future Nate. Drink some water, plan a fun workout for today, and picture a golden retriever puppy in a sky-blue onesie."

Griffin: Thank you, Nate.

Rachel: "Make sure you've sent in your application info for the Energy Science Masters Program, and enjoy something buffalo chicken-flavored."

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: "This is what self-care looks like. I'm proud of you. And Griffin and Rachel probably are too." That is correct.

Griffin: Yes, for sure. Specifically about— I'm gonna hop in here in the middle of the show with a small wonder. Buffalo-flavored stuff is *the* fucking best.

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: It's so, so—

Rachel: I didn't know that about you!

Griffin: Oh, my God. I mean, buffalo wings I will eat, like, all day every day, and then I'll miss— I'll skip the next day.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I'll miss the next day, but then the day after that, I'll get back into buffalo wings town. Uh, buffalo chicken dip is, like, great.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, pizza with like buffalo chicken, that flavor, that super salty, spicy flavor, like, drives me crazy.

Rachel: There's like a— like a Snap Kitchen dish that you like with the buffalo flavors.

Griffin: There *is*! It's uh— I haven't had it in a while, but it's like a hash with like, that— that with the— that, and like a faux ranch dressing— like a blue cheese sauce that goes in it. It's real nice.

Anyway, uh, buffalo flavors is my first...

Rachel: [chuckling]

Griffin: ...my n— it's uh, Subsection B of my things this week.

Rachel: Way to go, Nate.

Griffin: Thanks, Nate.

Rachel: This next message is for Alex and Michael. It is from Tasha.

“Dear Alex and Michael, thanks for being the best roommates and D&D squad in all of bean town. I can’t wait for your wedding this summer, and to meet your future dog. Alex, soon we’ll both be masters, and then you’ll leave me in the dust to become doctor. I’m so proud of you, I love you, you’re my wonderful thing every week.”

Griffin: That is so sweet. And I also wonder if that one sentence was, “To meet your future dog.” Your future dawg. which is maybe referring to Future Nate.

Rachel: Ohh!

Griffin: I’m wondering if they’re talking about this time traveler, Nate.

Rachel: They both mention, like, masters programs.

Griffin: Yeah, so I’m thinking that maybe Nate is from the future, and hear me out... he’s come back because... the robots took all our buffalo sauce. But anyway, they’re gonna all hang out. This is a real Jumbotron friend connection, and I’m ready for it.

Rachel: [laughs]

[guitar strumming plays]

Speaker: *Dead Pilots Society* brings you exclusive readings of comedy pilots that were never made, featuring actors like Patton Oswalt...

Patton: So the vampire from the future sleeps in the dude’s studio during the day, and they hunt monsters at night. It’s *Blade* meets *The Odd Couple*!

[audience laughs]

Speaker: ...Adam Scott, and Jane Levy...

Jane: Come on, Cory. She's too serious, too business-ey. She doesn't know the hokey pokey.

Adam: Well, she'll learn what it's all about.

[audience laughs]

Speaker: ...Busy Philipps and Dave Koechner.

Dave: Baby, this is family.

Busy: My Uncle Tel, who showed his weird Cinderella at Disneyland, is family. Do you want *him* staying with us?

Dave: He did stay with us, for three months!

Busy: And he was a *delight*!

[audience laughs]

Speaker: A new pilot every month, only on *Dead Pilots Society* from Maximum Fun.

[music ends]

Rachel: Can I hear your next thing?

Griffin: My second thing is the most controversial pick.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: *Wonderful!* is turning... [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The most unexpected, even by the person who picked it, pick of the 21st century.

It's a song. It is a metal song. I need to step in here immediately and explain that I know nothing about metal, I do not care for it very much. Not of a judgement of people who do, it's...

Rachel: Are they called songs? I don't even know.

Griffin: I think they're called movements.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Um, I think they're called smashes, and I do not know *anything* about metal, and that is how I'm prefacing this. I am going to sound like a complete goofball for— to the max on this one.

Uh, because the song that I've picked is a song called "Generation" by a black metal band called Liturgy. Had to look up what that means. I did some research on this band. Black metal is, I guess, just... this wilder metal? Just harder...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Harder metal? I'm not sure, like, how you— if there's a threshold that you cross over. Um, and so that is the name of this band, is Liturgy. Again, I don't know anything about this stuff, but here I go. I've never owned, like, a metal album. It's just not my genre. I'm a gentle folk boy, and yet I *really* think that, uh, "Generation," this song by Liturgy, is the slap, absolutely.

They are an experimental rock band from New York City that formed back in 2008. And this song, "Generation," is off their second studio album, called *Aesthetica*, that came out in 2011. And if you can't tell, from like, the names of their songs and albums, they are very much a hipster's metal band, I think.

Uh, and that's sort of the reputation they have. Apparently, uh, a lot of people in the metal scene think they're full of... shit, because of— well, specifically because their, like, front man wrote this treatise on metal.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: .Uh, that was very, sort of, philosophical, and very, uh, very like hoity-toity. It opened up with— I loaded it up to take a look at it. It opened up with a word that they used instead of the word “preface.” Oh, okay. The treatise was called “Transcendental Black Metal: A Vision of Apocalyptic Humanism.” And it opens with a section called, and I’m gonna butcher this, “Prolegomenon”?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: “Prolegomenon”? Which I guess is like an archaic term that I guess means prologue, but... uh, yes. They are that band, and I think a lot of people in the metal scene are not, like, so crazy about that. But I don’t give a shit about that, because I don’t know *anything* about that scene, and I think that this song rules.

I’m gonna play a little bit of it here in just a bit. Just to set it up, I was living in Chicago. My friend Jeremy, who I was living with, was writing about music. Still does. And was writing about— I think was writing about this band, I don’t know if he was reviewing it or what.

And so, I heard this song come from the other room, and I was like, “What’s this beautiful sound?”

And he was like, “This is— this— this is metal.”

And I was like, “Oh, shoot, do I like metal?” And I listened to other metal, and I was like, “I don’t, I just really like that song.”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So, here’s a little bit of it. Just full-blown warning, it is very powerful metal, so be prepared for that. I sent this to Rachel earlier in the day, and you made it about 30 seconds in, I think?

[“Generation” by Liturgy begins playing at increasing volume, guitar instrumentals]

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Because it was so intense that your... you know, your bones started to come out.

Rachel: Yeah. And I said, "Griffin, when do the lyrics start?"

Griffin: And I said, "They don't. Here it is!"

[“Generation” continues, intense instrumentals]

Griffin: Yeah, there's no vocals in this one. You may also be wondering, "Where's the chorus?" There's not really one of those in it, either.

Uh, you might be— oh, you're probably wondering, "When are they gonna play another chord?" They really don't...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ...actually play another chord the whole song. It's really just— this is sort of a, um, a tribute to the E power chord. Just like raising it, raising it up on a pedestal and offering it up to the gods of heavy metal, 'cause it's just that one E power chord for seven fuckin' minutes.

Rachel: Oh, man, seven minutes, huh?

Griffin: Seven minutes, and it does not stop. The changes that it— it moves at like, different sections that have slightly different, sort of like, guitar patterns. And so you'll get, like, 45 seconds of one pattern of just this fuckin' E power chord just, like, screaming into your face, and then it'll change a little bit, but it's still an E power chord.

A lot of the work there that like, sort of differentiates the different sections of the song comes from the drums. This is from a *Pitchfork* review of the track. They said, "The charge here comes from drummer Greg Fox, who explores the possibilities of his small kit, letting the hi-hats rest, letting them ring, limiting the action mostly to his combat-ready snares with a pioneer's

zeal. It's like seven minutes of the introduction to the best rock and roll song you know."

That's very much what this song is.

Rachel: Yeah, that's— yeah, that's how I could kind of see the appeal of it, 'cause it does have that feeling.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I just— I kept waiting for something significant to happen.

Griffin: Yes. I think that— I think that my introduction to this song was maybe the ideal introduction, which was I heard it playing in another room, and was like, "What the fuck is this?"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "They're just doing that one chord nonstop." And I think I was also sort of suspended in the torment of, like, my expectations of what songs were.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, but... man. When I need to get more powerful, when I need to get strong, when I'm like— I listen to this song— this is weird, and it's also the truth. I listen to this song a lot in the airport on my way home from travel. I am... fucking bedraggled, I am tired...

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: It is early, I'm at the airport. And I put this song on, and for seven minutes, I just get...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ...I get psyched out of my mind, because this aggressive song is just, like, being just blasted at me. And it gets me so psyched, and it's so

weird, because it's— again, it's not the kind of thing I usually go for, but I think— I think this song is like— I think the song is exciting, I think it's sonically cool, and I also think it is mathematical in a way that I find very interesting and intriguing.

Rachel: Yeah, I can see that!

Griffin: Yeah, there's so much stuff that I really like about this song that— again, I do not have the words to— I don't feel confident in my ability to talk about music on this show at all, despite the fact that we do it a lot. I do not, like... I don't know anything about this stuff.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: I just think that uh, I think the song is really, really cool. So that's "Generation" by Liturgy.

Rachel: You know, it's exciting to appreciate across genres music.

Griffin: Yeah. Trying out a new music style, kinda.

Rachel: Yeah. I'm gonna support you on that.

Griffin: Thank you. I support whatever your next thing's gonna be, so don't... fuck it up.

Rachel: Oh, you'll support this, Griffin.

Griffin: Uh-oh!

Rachel: You wanna take a drink while I tell you what it is?

Griffin: Am I gonna spit stuff everywhere?

Rachel: Probably! It's the Wienermobile.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, [laughs] can I— just as a really quick aside, in the latest *Adventure Zone*— I don't know if you're listening to it, but Dad plays this character who's like a driver of a car and he lost his car, and wanted to get a new one.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: He sent me a text the morning we were gonna record, and he was like, "What if my new car is the Wienermobile?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I was like, "Mac..."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "You do some stuff to really, like, stretch the old, like, narrative logical leaps, but that seems like that *a lot*, bud."

Rachel: Sometimes I think he thinks of the potential resulting animations as he, like, sits down and brainstorms.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah. I think so.

Oh, the Wienermobile!

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: The *Wienermobile*!

Rachel: What a treat.

Griffin: I have so many fucking questions about the Wienermobile.

Rachel: What a treat it is to see this thing out in the wild. Have you had that experience?

Griffin: Oh my God, yes! Are you kidding me? Huntington, West Virginia, which has a literal hot dog festival...

Rachel: [laughs] Good point.

Griffin: Yeah, like, the Wienermobile got action out— is there just the one? How many—

Rachel: Oh, Griffin, I have so much to share.

Griffin: What's what I'm— start talking!

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, okay. Do you wanna know the history of the Wienermobile, or are you just too anxious to get to the— today's Wienermobile?

Griffin: Give me the— give me the history.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: 'Cause I don't know why this wiener company had their own car.

Rachel: In 1936, Carl Mayer, the nephew of Oscar Mayer, suggested a marketing idea to his uncle. Build a 13-foot-long mobile hot dog and cruise around the Chicago area.

Griffin: He was high on whatever people were getting high on in the 1930s.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, and you know, obviously took off from there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, just recently in 2016, they celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Wienermobile.

Griffin: We gotta— we gotta go back. We gotta stop. We gotta rewind.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can you— I want you to put your shoes... in the closet, and then put on the shoes of a person living in the 1930s. And you're standing on the street, things are probably pretty tough...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't remember exactly when World War II happened, but I feel like it was sort of around then.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: It was probably coming off the heels of the Depression, which again, I don't—

Rachel: Well, and so there was a time period where the Wienermobile went away.

Griffin: Yeah. They scrapped it for—

Rachel: Just 'cause it wasn't economical for the time period.

Griffin: [laughs] Scrapped it for metal that they turned into, like, a fighter plane or something.

Rachel: Yes. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: But then— okay. You're on the streets, and you're a 1930s person, and a big, 13-foot hot dog car drives by. I wanna hear your— what's your—

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: How many people just straight up *died*?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: On their feet, looking like, "Oh, uh... is the crossing guard telling us to go? Okay. Hey, what's that over th—[grunts]." Just dead, because you just saw a big 13-foot hot dog car.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, there's nothing in your life to prepare you for that.

Griffin: My brain would— the lobes would separate, and I would just instantly experience full-body death.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Uh, so the reason that I am familiar with the Wienermobile is...

Griffin: Can I guess?

Rachel: [laughs] Well, it's twofold.

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: One, my maiden name is Weiner, W-E-I. I like to distinguish.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Often, it was pronounced incorrectly.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: Um... associated with this hot dog... opportunity. [laughs]

Griffin: Probably actually— I'm gonna guess that a lot of the times when people mispronounced it, the thing they associated with wasn't a hot dog. I imagine it was like a mean...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...like a mean peeing...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ...like a pee-pee thing.

Rachel: Like a pee-pee thing, yes. Uh—

Griffin: Kids are disgusting. You know what they called me? Griffin Macaroni.

Rachel: Ah, that must've been so terrible for you, Griffin!

Griffin: Griffindor Macaroni.

Rachel: Ohh...

Griffin: Put yourself in the fucking garbage can with that shit.

Rachel: Can I tell you something that is an adorable nickname, and I love it?

Griffin: Uh-huh?

Rachel: “Wiener” did not serve me in quite such an adorable way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But there was a period of time in my late teens when I kind of reclaimed it, let's say.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: And I kind of got excited about the opportunity to be around the Wienermobile, because I always wanted to have, like, a picture in front of it. Like, my mom and I used to talk about how we'd get, like, a family Christmas card in front of the Wienermobile, and it never happened, unfortunately.

But part of the reason that I got to see it more frequently is the whole... driver program for the Wienermobile really circulates around college campuses.

Griffin: Huh.

Rachel: So in 1988, Oscar Mayer launched what they called the Hotdogger Program, where they encouraged recent college graduates to drive the Wienermobile. And so, the company receives between 1,000 and 1,500 applications for the 12 available positions annually. And it's mostly recent collage graduates, who are looking for a road trip opportunity.

Griffin: That's r— that's amazing! That's very cool. Does the car— does the car have hot dogs in it? Do they, like, give out hot dogs?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Yes. I mean, that's how it started. I don't know if they do it today. Today, it's like, typically focused on what they called Wiener Whistles. Which are like those little plastic whistles.

Griffin: Right. I had one of those, yeah.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Okay, I definitely had some face time with this thing, because I definitely had a Wiener Whistle growing up.

Rachel: So, the drivers are called Hotdoggers.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Uh, and those selected are given 40 hours of instruction, and assigned a different US region.

Griffin: Like... was there probably an Appalachian one? Is that the one that I experienced? How big is the region?

Rachel: I assume so. I mean, I don't know the size of the region, Griffin.
[laughs]

Griffin: I just feel like I saw this thing a lot! So, if it was just, like, east coast, then like...

Rachel: I don't have a map of the territories in my hand right now.

So, there's some vernacular associated with the Wienermobile that I really appreciated, and I think you might enjoy. I already mentioned the Hotdogger.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: People, uh, travel in pairs when they do the Wienermobile. And they do that because they want somebody to, obviously, drive the vehicle, and they want somebody to, you know, keep an eye on the road, and wave at passenger—

Griffin: To man the turret on top of the hot dog.

Rachel: To wave at passer-bys. This position is known as riding Shotbun.

Griffin: [wheezes, bursts into laughter]

Rachel: Isn't that the best?

Griffin: Oh, damn it.

Rachel: Isn't that the absolute best?

Griffin: Man, that's good.

Rachel: And people in that position are, like, required to wave. The idea is that their role is to be, like, an ambassador as they're, like, driving around.

Griffin: I like that less.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Well... [laughs] I still enjoy it.

Now, this— I don't know if this is just taking liberties in the article that I was reading. Uh, they talk about uh, fans who are invited to board are encouraged to fasten their "meat belts."

Griffin: Okay, I feel like this article is trying to just make shit up.

Rachel: Uh, the décor, though, is decorated as if— the upholstery looks as if it has ketchup and mustard all over it.

Griffin: Okay. Well, that's good if you do make a mess.

Rachel: There are six seats inside, and occupants are invited to wave from the bun roof.

Griffin: Well, hold on. There's six seats inside?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Are people...

Rachel: I think it's set up kind of like a limousine.

Griffin: Sure. Are people being... I thought of it being sort of like the bookmobile or the bloodmobile.

Rachel: [laughs] No, if you think about it as a recruiting tool, like, when it went to campuses, they would set up shop and invite people on board.

Griffin: Well, this sounds very cult-like, now. Like, "Get in— jump in the 13-foot hot dog! We're gonna take you—" I don't like the idea of getting in the Wienermobile and being taken somewhere else.

Rachel: Oh, sweetheart, it's bigger than 13 feet now.

Griffin: Oh, n— damn.

Rachel: [laughs] In 1995, the Wienermobile grew in size to 27 feet long, and 11 feet high.

Griffin: [claps] [through laughter] Oh, shit.

Rachel: Today's Wienermobile has a voice activated GPS, an audio-center with a wireless mic, and a horn that plays the Wiener jingle in 21 different genres from Cajun to rap to bossa nova.

Griffin: [sarcastically] I bet that rap version's really good.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I bet it's really, very good, huh?

Rachel: So, let me tell you about the fleet. Do you— you asked if there were multiple vehicles.

Griffin: [normally] Yes, yes, yes. How many are there?

Rachel: I mentioned there are multiple regions. Uh, the fleet is six Wienermobiles.

Griffin: Okay. Alright. So, these territories are quite large, then.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: In 2017, they added additional vehicles, including a Wiener Rover, a Wiener Mini, a Wienercycle, which is like a motorcycle...

Griffin: Stop.

Rachel: And a Wienerdrone.

Griffin: A Wiener dro— stop, stop. I don't want any— throw those away.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Mulch those. I don't wanna see a fucking— if I see a hot dog motorcycle drive by me, like, I won't even think twice. It won't even register to me that it's something uncommon. I wanna see that proud... 27 foot?

Rachel: 27 feet!

Griffin: That is such a big fucking car.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That is a big boy car for big boys, I feel like.

Rachel: See, that is— I feel like that is the one that I am familiar with. Like, that's the one I think of, is the 27-foot-long...

Griffin: Not the Wienerdrone? You don't think of the Wienerdrone and think back fondly?

Rachel: [laughs] Um... [laughs] Not yet, but who knows? Man, who knows? 80 years this has been around. Who knows what innovations are to come?

Griffin: I only— the only innovations I'm interested in is a bigger Wienermobile. I don't want fucking a fleet of Wienerdrones flying through— unless it's at a ball park, and each one contains five hot dogs that it would drop down into my awaiting hands. God, I love hot dogs.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: I would eat a hot dog— we just ate dinner. I would eat a hot dog right now.

Rachel: I know, me too.

Griffin: Know what I was thinking about the other day? I was thinking about McDonald's hot do— like, McDonald's bratwurst, when they did that.

Rachel: Oh, I don't remember that at all.

Griffin: I watched a YouTube video about, like, things McDonald's tried and immediately canceled, including their beloved pizzas. Uh, and their weird, like, Philly cheese steak, like, rectangular sandwich.

Rachel: I don't remember any of this. I'm pretty sure this may have been a Huntington-specific opportunity. [laughs]

Griffin: I think we got a lot of test-market stuff, but they had bratwurst, and I swear to God, it was really good. It was really good. It's probably something like Johnsonville. I doubt that they were, like, encasing their own meats. But I got the craziest cravings for those. I would eat any hot dog right now. I want the Wienermobile to smash into that fucking— through the wall of our house.

Rachel: [giggling]

Griffin: I would pay for the— I would pay for repairs, if the Wienermobile just smashed into our front— our front door.

Rachel: So hey, those of you who are graduating this spring, and are looking for a really awesome road trip...

Griffin: Yeah! Come smash in my house.

Rachel: Yeah! [laughs]

Griffin: With your— with your 27-foot proud wiener car.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's so big!

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: If that thing, like—

Rachel: That's why they get 40 hours of instruction to drive this thing. Like, I can't imagine.

Griffin: I would wanna— actually, I need them to have more. That is— that is almost a three-story-long hot dog car. I don't want them making a fucking right turn until they've had 80 hours.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, hey, can I tell you what our friends at home are excited about this week?

Rachel: Yes! Oh, and hey, by the way...

Griffin: Yah?

Rachel: If you wanna email us with things you're excited about, what's that email address?

Griffin: It's WonderfulPodcast@gmail.com. Do you remember what our PO box is?

Rachel: I do not. No.

Griffin: Well, then I'm gonna read the submissions, and then while you talk about other stuff after that, I'm gonna find what our PO box is.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: So, hang in there, everybody.

First submission is from Ashley, who says, "I open a lot of tabs in Google Chrome while I'm at work." It's a web browser. My preferred web browser. "And it's incredibly satisfying to say, 'I no longer need this tab,' and close it, making all the other tabs bigger in the bar at the top of the screen. It feels

like I'm decluttering my brain as I close the information pathways I no longer need open."

This is just Marie Kondo for your web browser.

Rachel: I love this. I actually never have more than, like, four or five tabs open at a time.

Griffin: Oh, God.

Rachel: I know that you really go for it.

Griffin: [sighs] I try not to. My problem is I have multiple windows open, because I have a dual monitor setup, so I will have, like, unconsciously, like, five different instances of Google Chrome being open. It's not ideal.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's one from Robin, who says, "I love my job. I'm a blacksmith. I get paid to burn things and swing heavy hammers. It fucking rules." I... can't help but agree on that one.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That is a good— that's a good job, I feel like. The only time I ever had, like, face-to-face time with a blacksmith was at the old Universal Studios Islands of Adventure, like fantasy t— not fantasy town. Like— yeah, I guess, kind of like medieval town. Uh, and there was a blacksmith there, who was like making, like, armor, but he was also making coins, and I got one of the coins, and I thought it was the coolest shit ever.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That park is cool as shit. I wanna go back there, but— and go to the Harry Potter one! I wanna get the wand from Oliv—

Rachel: Oh, gosh.

Griffin: I wanna be the little boy who gets picked for that experience. Charlie got to do that experience. And she's 27 years younger than me. That doesn't seem fair, does it?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's one from Lina, who says, "I love using wooden utensils while I'm cooking. They can't melt on hot pans." This is a very good one that I wish I'd been keyed into a little bit, uh...

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: ...earlier in my cooking career.

Rachel: I got Griffin a set of wood utensils for this reason.

Griffin: It's true. Uh, they have a strange flavor to them that I'm still trying to wash out. I'm very excited to use them, once the sort of very spicy— they have, like, a spice. It tastes like cinnamon, almost. I'm trying to get rid of that, because it's hard to taste the food that I'm cooking and get that powerful cinnamon, but they're beautiful tools.

But I used to, like, cook with a— I used to cook everything with a fucking metal spatula.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And now I realize how very foolish that was. Yeah, get you some good wooden utensils.

Um, hey. Thank you so much for listening. Thanks to Ben and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description. Rachel's going to talk about Maximum Fun at length right now.

Rachel: So, if you like our podcasts, there is a good chance you will like other podcasts on the Maximum Fun Network! If you go to MaximumFun.org, you can see all sorts of great podcasts. Comedy

podcasts, podcasts about movies, about... dogs, about... parenting. Uh, there's a tremendous amount of opportunities—

Griffin: I found it. Yeah, Max Fun's great. I found it.

Rachel: Okay. Go ahead.

Griffin: Thanks to Max Fun. MaximumFun.org, check it all out. We have a website, it's McElroy.family. Anyway, uh, if you want to send us stuff, it's PO Box 26038, Austin, Texas, 78755.

Rachel: We should mention that we are really only going to check that about once a month, so please don't send in anything perishable. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Please don't. Um, and also don't send any... trash or horse magazines, I swear to God.

Rachel: Uh, Wick Habit.

Griffin: Oh, yes!

Rachel: Uh, so Erica Huff is a listener of the show. Occasionally, she will create show-inspired candles, and then sell them, and give some of the proceeds to charity. Right now, if you search for Wick Habit, you will find her shop, and she has a candle called Rachel's Poetry Corner!

Griffin: It's very good.

Rachel: And she is giving 50 percent to BookSpring, which is an Austin-based nonprofit that provides different programs and books to young children.

Griffin: I was about to jump in and say, "It smells very good." I don't know. It's a web— it's on a picture— I saw a picture on a website.

Rachel: [laughs] We have not smelled it yet.

Griffin: I have not.

Rachel: But the— the scents in the description are all things that we like!

Griffin: Yeah. The— the ingredients. Are they called ingredients if it's a candle? No one's quite sure.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So that's gonna do it for this episode. I thought it might be fun to, like, wrap up if the two of us did, like, an acapella version of the heavy metal song that I brought earlier?

Rachel: Nooo...

Griffin: So, I'll count us in, ready? One, two, three, four. [imitates hard guitar chords]

Rachel: [hums "In The Mood" by Glen Miller]

Griffin: [bursts into laughter] Ah. Transcendental. I just got ASMR! We gotta go!

[theme music plays]

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[rock song plays in background]

Jesse: Hey, it's Jesse, the host of *Bullseye with Jesse Thorn*. I'm coming to Portland, Oregon. We're gonna be doing a very special, live episode of *Bullseye*, my NPR interview show. It's taking place Friday, February 15th at Revolution Hall.

What are you gonna see if you go to Portland, Oregon to see this show? You will see me, live on stage, talking with folks like Corin Tucker, from Sleater-

Kinney; Director Lance Bangs; Writer Bill Oakley, *Simpsons* legend. Uh, we will also have live music from Roseblood and live comedy from Katie Nguyen.

It's gonna be a blast and a half. It's also part of a big podcast festival called Listen Up Portland. Tons of other great podcasts are playing at it, too. Our pals The Dough Boys, among others.

So again, that's Friday, February 15th, at Revolution Hall in Portland, Oregon. 7:00 PM. Tickets are on sale now. Get them at ListenUpPortland.com. And thanks!

[distant audience cheering]