

Wonderful! 157: YUUUUUP!

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hello, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: Aw baby, isn't it! Yuuup!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Remember that dude on storage wars? People were like, "How much money do you wanna spend? This one has— this big storage unit is full of pictures of their kids, a broken bike and half of an LCD TV." And my man is like—

Rachel: And a mystery box.

Griffin: "And a mystery box with four ingredients." And my guy, instead of saying like, "I would like that, please," he swings in there like, "Yuuuup!" and they just have to, like, decipher the intention behind that. Because it always means, "I will pay more money for that."

Rachel: Mm hmm.

Griffin: What a wild way of doing that, huh? I can't go to— I can't go to the Kroger and just take muffins up to the register and they'll be like, "That'll be \$2.95" and then I'm like, "Yuuuup!" They won't know what that means.

Rachel: Well, you don't need a catchphrase in the grocery store, the way you need a catchphrase on a reality television program.

Griffin: Do you think when he's, like, doing storage unit buy-offs not on TV, he still yups?

Rachel: Yeah, I dunno. If you see him on the street and you say, "Do it!" will he say it?

Griffin: Oh, you know he'll— that's without question.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So, this is Wonderful. This is a show where— you know what kind of show this is. Uh...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] It's... we are late doing this episode, and we'll just put the— lay out our cards so you can see them, like a bad poker player does it. Because you're not usually supposed to show the cards.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Because then everybody knows what cards you have and then they can beat you at the game.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Uh... we, like you listening to this show, statistically, I'm assuming, are not in the best shape, mentally speaking, of our lives right now.

Rachel: We're like little gargoyles perched on our furniture, just waiting, just ready to pounce.

Griffin: Quite literally.

Rachel: Just tense.

Griffin: At certain parts of this week, quite literally perched on the edge of the couch, my claws dug into the fabric. Just sort of screeching.

Yeah, it's... we could go into detail, I think, about what happened on election night and what is still happening and how hugely disappointing and disconcerting and maybe a little bit hopeful about what can still happen. But I don't know. I don't want us to do our usual thing, I think, where we're just like... talking about things that we love and things that we're into, which is what we usually do, when there is so much at stake right now.

Because I don't want people to think that we are ignoring that or trying to move past it. Because I can assure you, just based on the cumulative hours of sleep we

have gotten over the last two evenings, we are extremely preoccupied with it as well.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, do I still like peanut butter in a pretzel? Yes. Do I like cream cheese on a bagel? Yes.

Griffin: Yeah, but you—

Rachel: Did I feel like researching the history of cream cheese on a bagel?

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: No. No, I didn't.

Griffin: Oh, so that's Rachel's way of telling you that we haven't really... some weeks it is tough for us to really batten down the hatches and say... "Today I have spent some time researching cream cheese on a bagel."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This week it's inconceivable.

Rachel: But we didn't wanna— I mean, and maybe, I dunno, maybe I'm speaking for myself here. But I felt like if we didn't put out a show this week—

Griffin: The terrorists win.

Rachel: Yes. [laughs] The terrorists win. It would be like us saying, "Welp, nothing wonderful in the world. Sorry guys."

Griffin: Yeah, no, it may seem that way a little more than it did Tuesday morning, but, um... yeah. So, literally, Rachel and I have sat down in my office, it's 9.22am Central time, and just kinda pressed record.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And we're not 100% certain what is gonna come out. So far, it's been a sort of at-length Storage Wars discussion. Not really sure why.

Rachel: You know what I was thinking about? Is when we started this show, it was in reaction to a problem we were having watching reality television and feeling like it was terrible.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So we thought, let's do a show where we talk about wonderful things. And then the world progressively got more terrible, and now we're in a situation where it's like, should we start talking about space, maybe? Just exclusively space?

Griffin: Let's talk about space. Space. No air. No oxygen.

Rachel: Aww.

Griffin: So, already you're at a pretty steep disadvantage there.

Rachel: What about under the sea?

Griffin: I mean, you know I like that.

Rachel: I guess we have talked about that a little bit, huh? [laughs]

Griffin: You know I— yeah, especially our cruise episode. I'm like, into that whole aesthetic these days.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: Mermaids.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Whales!

Rachel: Yep. [laughs]

Griffin: Anemones. Sometimes I say that word just to brag about how I can say it.

Rachel: I know, you seemed so confident saying it.

Griffin: I read a book, it was like one of those, like, um... young encyclopedia— what was like, the brand, of like young encyclopedia? It wasn't Britannica... it was, uh...

Rachel: It was encyclopedia with a Z at the end? For kidz?

Griffin: It was encyclopediaz.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And it had a little, like, mnemonic device for how to say that word. And it's like asking somebody if they have any money. Anemone. Any money.

Rachel: [laughs] They could have referenced Eddie Money.

Griffin: They could have just said, "Just say Eddie Money really fast, and most of the time you're gonna get through it." So, we've talked about just kind going through some of the older episodes and relitigating the things that we talked about then.

Rachel: Yeah and/or just, you know, maybe uh... maybe reminiscing about a time where we could talk about orange soda.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, maybe we can go kinda hard on the small wonders. Because, like... uh... the things that are my interests, which is to say, like, shit like video games. Like, next week, if this election wasn't happening and so contested and you know, really taking the wind out of our sails, next week there's a new game console that comes out. And like, that's really exciting. Harmonix has a new game that comes out next week, and like, there's so much cool—

Rachel: Yeah, but you got Besties. You got Besties for that.

Griffin: We got Besties for that, I guess. But it is, I mean, it's something that I'm excited about. It's something that, like, I— it is weird to— and sort of guilt-inducing to have something that I'm looking forward to when the other, like, 96% of my brain share is like, completely occupied.

Rachel: [laughs] Do you wanna talk a little bit about how you've been staying on top of things? Your various clicks and clacks and your 3am phone checks and—

Griffin: Yeah, no, I mean I'm not proud of it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I've mostly been sort of dialed in to, I dunno, four or five different— I've been looking at Twitter again, God help me, uh... because it is— I've curated my list down to a point where I feel like I'm getting pretty good information from it?

Rachel: I mention that because I communicated to Griffin that I was basically hanging around one site just watching whatever they showed me, and he was aghast. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh no, I've got a plurality. I dip into 538, I dip into NBC News, ABC, I dip into WaPo, I dip into... [slaps his arm] get that Times needle, oh!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm not proud— I mean, the needle is not a great needle, but sometimes I just, I, yeah. I don't love the way it makes me feel though. I was up until about 3.30 last night, um...

Rachel: Does it connect you back to your journalism days? Do you feel that journalism rush of, like, "I'm in the middle of it, this is history happening"?

Griffin: Um, no... no. Because, I mean, so I did a stint as a sort of state-wide reporter on the 2008 election for MTV News. I don't really talk about that a whole lot because it was just such a weird thing.

They had representatives, they had, like teen representatives— not teen, I was, I guess like 20, 21. But they had young representatives from each state, covering the state for the 2008 presidential election. Which was Obama's election for the first term. And it was so like— the writing was so on the wall. Maybe not in West Virginia, necessarily, but like everywhere else, that it was, uh, I dunno. Exciting.

I was at Marshall University, and so talking to Marshall students was typically, like, pretty, you know, exciting. And it made me have to give a shit about the election in a way that I really hadn't before, because I was coming from a fairly— I mean, the last presidential election I was coming in from a fairly sheltered, uh, position.

Rachel: Yeah. You weren't particularly political, I would say.

Griffin: I wasn't particularly political. I was, you know, I was left-leaning, but when I was embroiled in the— especially like in the Southern Baptist church where we grew up, those leanings weren't necessarily, uh, catered to or nourished or tended to in any kinda way. So yeah, the 2008 election was just like a fuckin' sugar rush, cause it was like me learning about all these things while also sort of blossoming into my liberalism and yeah. This doesn't feel quite like that! This feels different!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um... yeah. I don't know how we got off talking about that.

Rachel: Okay, Anyway.

Griffin: Do you have— before we get into the re-litigation, do you have any small wonders? A thing that you are kind of into, kind of excited about.

Rachel: Um... you know, I'm gonna say holiday décor has been more appealing to me this time around. I was never somebody that, you know, really went hard in the seasonal trimmings, but this year I've found it really helpful in kind of, both in really helping our son kind of get [laughs] get adjusted to time as it passes. But also to kind of remind myself and make things feel different. So, we had Halloween, little window clings.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I was talking to Griffin about how maybe we get Thanksgiving window clings and maybe we become a window cling family.

Griffin: When Chrimbo comes around, oh my God. Chrimbo and Hannukah? How many menorah— a menorah for each room! Let's go!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, I think I'm gonna be pretty insufferable about that this year. Because uh... we're not doing anything else, really, for the holidays, so. Let's get gaudy about it. Alright.

Rachel: What about you?

Griffin: Me?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, uh... I mean, video games are pretty good right now. I don't really know what to say. I mentioned Harmonix has a new game coming out next week, and it's basically a videogame version of Drop Mix, which I've talked about on the show. It's the one where you put the cards down on the board and it makes a remix of it.

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: But you can like, do remixes with other people online. I've been watching footage of it all morning and it looks like something that could be really, really funny. I would like to, like, stream it and just try to put together the worst sort of mashup of Bad Guy and All Star that I could possibly do.

Rachel: That's a good idea.

Griffin: Yeah. That might be fun. I wish it was out right now, so I could do something to take my mind off of the stuff. But yeah. I mean, this is such a— this is always a really exciting time for games, which I care deeply about. And we're about to get two new consoles and all the big late fall blockbusters, so y'know. That's cool. That's cool and exciting. My Animal Crossing renovation is also nearly done. Like, phew.

Rachel: Yeah! Griffin got back on that Animal Crossing. It was wild to hear you talking about turnips again.

Griffin: I just tore everything down to the studs and yeah, it's looking good. It's looking promising. Think I'm gonna win the big prize.

Rachel: I saw that you had a, like, a picture of an island that you were using as inspiration.

Griffin: Yeah, I've been looking at a few. God, the Animal Crossing New Horizons, like, fanbase has really, uh, what's the word? Like, coalesced around a few different aesthetics and a few different— so there's like, cottage core and clutter— clutter core. And like, all of these different ways, like natural. But like, I wanted to get a little more natural with my layout.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so, I've been looking at different layouts to get there. So. Nobody cares about that. So, let's talk about... the past.

Rachel: Yeah, let's take a little trip.

Griffin: Boy, this is gonna be wild, huh?

Rachel: Uh huh.

Griffin: Because it would seem— it would be, I think, pretty irresponsible to talk about the Grand Prize Game in this climate.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It would be irresponsible to talk about, um, let's see. Getting a haircut. That doesn't play so well in November 2020, I think.

Rachel: Yeah. Four Square, difficult to play.

Griffin: Difficult to play. I mean, a lot of these... um... Rachel's chili. Rachel's chili!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Rachel's chili.

Rachel: So loud...

Griffin: Episode 7, Dog Beach. Rachel's chili. Let's get into that.

Rachel: Yeah. So, for those of you that were active during the MaxFun Drive this year, you may have seen a little video of me making it in our very own kitchen. This is something that I think, uh, I think continues to enrich our lives.

Griffin: Absolutely.

Rachel: Uh, as the weather gets colder it continues to seem like a good idea.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I would recommend today just as heartily as I did in the past.

Griffin: Crock pot, beans, tomatoes, ground beefs, spices.

Rachel: Lots of spices.

Griffin: Lots of spices.

Rachel: Mm hmm.

Griffin: Or ground turkey. You pour that in a crock pot, get that meat potpourri— I almost certainly made that exact reference when I talked about Rachel's chili last time. But it holds true!

Rachel: It does.

Griffin: You make that on a chilly Sunday, get that going at 10am... [gleeful laugh]

Rachel: Now, I wanna ask you about pumpkin spice.

Griffin: Pumpkin spice, interesting.

Rachel: Are you still team pumpkin spice?

Griffin: No. Well— hmm. Not drinkable.

Rachel: [laughs] I didn't know if as you have aged, the sweetness of pumpkin spice had become a little cloying.

Griffin: God, did I talk about PSLs? Was I specifically on that tip, or was I talking about, like, a pumpkin spice... a pumpkin bread, a pumpkin muffin, the Trader Joes little pumpkin oreo guys, I forget what they're called... uh, like, absolutely. Sign me up every time. Because it's pumpkin, and pumpkin's solid, and you eat a solid food.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Right? It's pumpkin, pumpkin's solid, and you eat a solid food. But a drink... of pumpkin? A drink of pumpkin?

Rachel: Well, it's more— I think you talked a lot about, like, the combo, right? Of like, the cloves and the cinnamon and the nutmeg.

Griffin: Oh that's all— oh yeah, the spice itself is like, amazing.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's super duper good. But like, I— you know, the word that almost always follows pumpkin spice is latte, and I just, I cannot do a sugary drink beyond my sugar-free hazelnut coffee mate. Like, that's as— y'all, that's as wild as I'm willing to get.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm not gonna name names about members of my family, but Justin will bring in some truly buckwild coffee creamers.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: To his scenario.

Rachel: He likes the seasonal flavor.

Griffin: He likes the seasonal flavor but then, like, you know, I'll visit and they'll have, like, cinnamon roll coffee creamer. And it's like—

Rachel: Is that too much for you?

Griffin: It's too much! Because you eat it— the cinnamon roll is solid.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And you eat a solid. Do you know what I mean?

Rachel: I mean, a hazelnut is a solid, but you'll still—

Griffin: Barely.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Barely.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, let's talk about... you know what I've actually been really into again lately? Episode 14, Tomorrow's News. Chess. I've been watching YouTube videos where this very polite Russian man runs through chess games very, very quickly and describes what makes them interesting. I forget the name of the channel and that's a shame. But I watched— because I really wanna watch that Queen's Gambit show that's on Netflix, because I love a good chess program.

Rachel: You were doing research before you do?

Griffin: Well, it doesn't, like, go into the show. It talks about one game from the show, or like, I watched an episode that was about Searching for Bobby Fischer. Which is a movie I barely remember, but he's like, here's what happened in Searching for Bobby Fischer, and it's based on this actual game that happened, only it makes a divergence here and you can see why— I don't know.

I still don't think I'm a very good chess player, because once I have to start thinking about, like, more than one move out, my brain just stops functioning. But God, I've got a hankering for chess.

Rachel: I know. I do wanna watch that show. I do— much like I like movies about baseball, I do like movies about chess.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Even though I am not one who plays it. [laughs]

Griffin: My hope is that you will watch it and then be like, “Let’s play a little bit of chess”.

Rachel: I just—

Griffin: I promise you, it has been so long since I have played chess that I am not going to be a particularly skilled—

Rachel: People that play chess bring an energy to the game that makes me as a novice feel a little off-balance.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Because they’re like, “Oh, well this—” I’m still trying to remember what the pieces do.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So it’s hard for me to be like, “Oh, you’re five moves ahead of where I am right now,” you know?

Griffin: Yeah. Well, you could do what Henry does and like, you have a rook, it can smash into all the pieces. And then they go to jail.

Rachel: He does know the names of the pieces, which sounds impressive when he’s talking to people.

Griffin: Yeah, until you see him put the fucking Riddler on the board, and he’s like “This is the Riddler and he allows me to stomp on all your guys.” Quick shout out, episode 26, the lightsabers. Henry’s been— Henry’s been, y’all. He’s been curious. He’s seen the force, and he’s been like, “Tell me more about this.”

Rachel: [laughs] Uh huh.

Griffin: “Tell me more.” He loves stormtroopers so much and I wanna tell him, like, “Man, that’s really sort of a stand-in”

Rachel: We watched a little bit of it and there's a scene, you know, where they're trying to escape the Death Star, and as they're pulling away, Henry's like, "Are the stormtroopers okay?" [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] And Rachel said yes. And I looked at Rachel like, "Hun... they're okay for like, the next 18 minutes."

Rachel: Well, what I said is—

Griffin: Do you remember what happens at the end of Star Wars?

Rachel: What I said is, and this is a good lesson for everybody, really, is there will always be stormtroopers. Maybe those four or five we saw on screen aren't gonna be okay, but there will always be more stormtroopers.

Griffin: But I don't know what it means— that's a scary, like, when you say that to me, that is a scary sort of statement about the...

Rachel: Yeah, that's true. For him, it is reassuring. [laughs]

Griffin: The constant of fascism in all of its forms. But Henry hears that and he's like, "Phew, oh good." [laughs]

Rachel: "Okay." [laughs] I mean, they look really cool.

Griffin: They do. He was really confused why they couldn't use lightsabers, and I was like, "Well, it's possible that some of them could be force-sensitive in some way, but like... you know, Finn used one, he was a former stormtrooper, although he didn't really end up being the sort of like Jedi focus, you know what I mean? Anyway..."

Rachel: I think it's confusing for a young child, because Darth Vader looks evil, right? He's got, like, an evil look. But stormtroopers, it's like, I dunno. It's kinda marshmallowy, you know?

Griffin: Yeah... I think it takes a little bit to learn that a bunch of people holding guns dressed up in combat gear, in sort of uniform combat gear, um, working for Darth Vader, is a bad thing, just generally speaking.

Rachel: Mmhmm. Oh, so episode 18, Amazing Race. We, uh, we're pleased to see that the new season has started. Watched the first episode. It existed, like, pre-COVID times, so they are just running all over the world.

Griffin: Unmasked.

Rachel: Not a care. First episode was the steel drum episode and I wanted to share, I wanted to share... [laughs] You know, I don't see myself as a contestant on these shows particularly often.

Griffin: I almost al— every single episode, every single challenge, I am running the calculus in my head of whether I'd like to do it.

Rachel: Partially because I'm so practical, I'm just like... the way I feel when I get hungry would make it impossible for me to be a contestant on a reality show. But Griffin saw this steel drum challenge and was just like, "Bet I'd crush that."

Griffin: They had steel drums numbered with the different, like, the different tones, numbers one through eight, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then they had sheet music for— what was the song?

Rachel: Oh, uh... Day-O?

Griffin: Day-O, yeah.

Rachel: I don't know if that's the actual title.

Griffin: And they had sheet music that just had the numbers and— I get that, like, musical ability is not something that everybody has, but like, I saw this challenge and for whatever reason I was like, "I would fucking crush this."

Rachel: [laughs] He was so confident.

Griffin: Rarely am I that confident about— you know, if it's like, "Roll this keg down the streets of Barcelona," I see that and I'm like, "Fuck no, of course not." But the steel drum, ooh boy, I think I'd be a really accomplished steel drum player.

Rachel: It makes sense, it makes sense. I mean, you are a video game enthusiast and you bring that skill to those types of challenges, for sure.

Griffin: Yeah. Not sure how video games— I guess Donkey Conga, with the little drum controller...

Rachel: No, like Rockband, where you have to translate the colors to what your hands are doing. It's kinda the same thing.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true. Hey, shall we take a real quick break, and then we'll come back with more, just sort of, Seinfeld-esque nothing talk.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break]

Griffin: Hey, here's a grimbobom, and this one is for Sydney, and it's from JB, who says,

"Happy birthday Sydney. I couldn't get you a booster box of Crimson Invasion, but I hope this message from your favorite podcast couple is just as good. You are a wonderful friend and beautiful person. I wish you the very best on this special day. I promise your gacha pools will be filled with six stars. Looking forward to the next meet-up."

Alright. Alright. Rachel said, "Griffin, will you read this one, because I understand very little of it."

Rachel: Do you know what Crimson Invasion is?

Griffin: I don't, I don't, I don't. I'm assuming it's a gacha game of some sort.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Which is like, uh, oh my God. A gachapon, you know what a gachapon is.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: A capsule toy machine, it's like that, but for video games. And so it's like, spend a dollar and maybe you'll get a character that you want. But you almost certainly won't, but spend 50,000 more dollars and maybe you'll get the character— you still didn't? Oh boy. That's a bad beat. Six stars though, I mean, even not knowing anything about this game, six stars is a lot of stars and I would love to get me some of those.

Rachel: This next message is for John. It is from Olivia.

“There is no one else on this earth that I would want to quarantine or shelter in place with than you. You are my constant, my best friend, my favorite music director and the most amazing cat dad to our babies Leopold and Lenny. We are so grateful for you. My heart, my life, and perhaps a few of my French fries are all yours. Happy birthday, my love.”

Griffin: That’s huge. That’s huge.

Rachel: The French fries?

Griffin: The French fries, that’s huge. That’s so huge. I have recently— maybe I talked about this on the show, because I for sure talked about French fries, but like... Henry’s really into them, and he saw me eating them once and he was like, “Hey, you like French fries, too.” And after thinking about it, I was like, “Yeah, they’re my favorite food.”

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: I like— if I— I have never once seen French fries—

Rachel: [hums breaking news tune]

Griffin: Of any caliber—

Rachel: News alert, news alert.

Griffin: And had any reaction other than, “Ooh, I can’t wait to eat those with some ketchup or other sort of dip-ems.”

Rachel: Yeah. Now, here is the question: What format do you like your fry in? Just a regular thin and crispy?

Griffin: Yeah, I’m not a steak fry guy. But, that’s the thing. With a steak, I’ll eat steak fries.

Rachel: I like a crinkle.

Griffin: Oh, a crinkle is good too, if it’s like— I find that crinkles, they don’t really do a good job of salting those in the kinda way that I like.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's whatever— for whatever reason, the crispy ones are, you know, more exciting to me. And, um... yeah. That's kind of the most important thing to be thinking about right now

Rachel: [laughs]

[Max Fun ad plays]

Rachel: Oh, this is nice. Episode 22, travelling with Rachel.

Griffin: Yeah. But it's— can I tell you, babe? It's been so long, I don't even...

Rachel: I mean, technically we still travel together, it's just we have a child with us.

Griffin: Or even more technically, we don't travel together.

Rachel: Well, we sit in a car together and drive places.

Griffin: That's fair.

Rachel: That's like travelling.

Griffin: That is like travelling, yeah. Absolutely. I'll give you that. Yeah, no, I mean, I love travelling. I can't wait— that's sort of what makes this whole thing the most intolerable. Is like, yeah, I really wanna go, uh... everybody wants to get out of their house and some people are just like, "Fuck it, let's do it." We're not in that particular camp, but I'm very much looking forward to— of course, as soon as the pandemic clears, I think we'll have a brand-new baby. So there will be a sort of localized lockdown.

Rachel: Yeah. [sighs] Yeah.

Griffin: But hey, que sera, sera, right? Don't know what that means. Aw man, song. Calling out a song, episode 29, speaking of driving in a car, we were driving in the car and this came on my, like, Spotify shuffle. Slow Burn by Casey Musgraves. Been coming back to that album. Been coming back to that album. It's contemplative and makes you feel so good. Slow Burn's got the good jams. I got back on the train a little bit after we watched Teenage Bounty Hunters, pour one the fuck out, uh, but yeah. Now I've been listening to it sort of recreationally. Not for work.

Rachel: [laughs] And that work, that work would be?

Griffin: Oh sorry, I am, um, I work for CMT. Country Music Television. So, I've got, yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm doing a lot of programming there. [laughs] I wanna just give a quick shoutout to episode 45. Which— not a particular topic on it, but the title of it was Fraisiest.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's probably not okay to, like, compliment our own goof, but that's good. One that I think hasn't really aged particularly well, episode 61, uh, our live show from Austin, seeing rental scooters in a sad, destroyed kind of state.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: Maybe it's just kind of here in Austin, but I feel like they're gone.

Rachel: They're gone.

Griffin: And that was a very fun, you know, looking up in somebody's balcony in like one of those high-rise apartments on 6th and just seeing a scooter up there that somebody had been like, "This one's mine," or seeing one forcibly crammed down into a sewer drain, like, that's fun. But I think that era is over.

Big shoutout to Austin, Prop A got passed.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: There was a prop— Austin, I dunno why you'd know this if you didn't live here, but Austin is a big city that is growing and growing and growing and has been extremely resistant to passing any kind of proposition about public transit outside of, like, we'll open up a new lane here, we'll add bus lanes downtown, that's gonna fix everything.

But like, not expanding the kind of meager light rail system that we have now. But Prop A was ballot this election to, um, address that. And it passed. And that's very, very, very exciting, because Austin is— Austin deserves so much better than...

Rachel: Austin has, like, a sprinkling of public transportation.

Griffin: I mean, the bus system's fine. Like, the bus system is— is fairly comprehensive, if not, like, especially convenient for certain routes. We need a light rail system. We need a light rail system going north-south on, like, a main drag. And with Prop A that is looking more like a reality. So that's super exciting.

Austin's gonna be transforming, I think, pretty wildly over the next couple of years. One of our friends works for this huge, um, project. This huge sort of infrastructural park project called the Waterloo Greenway down in the heart of the city and it looks absolutely gorgeous—

Rachel: Yeah, they're making this beautiful, huge, family-focused kind of park that's just gonna be incredible.

Griffin: And renovating the, the, you know, the creek itself and doing a lot of work.

Rachel: Yeah, the creek itself used to just kind of be like sewage run-off. And I feel like they've really invested in making it a place where people wanna be.

Griffin: So, that's cool. I feel like Austin— whenever people talk about Austin expanding, it's always in the context of, like, you know, some new, huge office complex or apartment complex. Uh, which, you know, people often rightfully sort of decry, but I feel like these two things are the first time Austin's been like, "We're doing big stuff," and I'm like, "Oh, cool!"

Rachel: Yeah, like, "Hey, we're one of the country's largest cities. Maybe we should start really—"

Griffin: Acting like it. [laughs]

Rachel: Putting our back into it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I wanted to give shoutout. Episode 54. I am offering this poem by Jimmy Santiago Baca. This is the poem with the corn. You remember the poem with the corn?

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: Pot full of yellow corn? Warm your belly in the winter.

Griffin: Oh yeah, I think we could all use a little bit of that.

Rachel: Mm hmm. I wasn't planning on reading the whole thing. I mean, I could. Um...

Griffin: No, you said the one with the corn and I'm sure—

Rachel: I said yellow corn, so... [laughs]

Griffin: Our audience sort of lit up, I imagine.

Rachel: Just wanted to read this last stanza again.

Griffin: Please.

Rachel: I love you,

It's all I have to give,
and all anyone needs to live,
and to go on living inside,
when the world outside
no longer cares if you live or die;
remember,

I love you.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: Isn't that beautiful?

Griffin: That is nice.

Rachel: Such a good one. Man, poetry corner. I will say I have been hitting that corner hard lately, uh...

Griffin: There's a lot of good poems!

Rachel: There's a lot of good poems. [laughs] Listen, there are only, like, a finite number of soups.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But there are tons and tons and tons and tons of poems out there.

Griffin: Let's say episode 69. First of all, nice.

Rachel: Nice.

Griffin: The Billy Crystal Cube, which is another good name for an episode.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I did talk about crystals.

Rachel: Oh...

Griffin: I can't imagine I talked about their, sort of, like... ability to channel energies or whatever, and I more talked about, like, crystal formations and how fucking cool that is.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because it is— I still think it's super cool. But we watched the, uh, My Next Guest, or whatever. What is David Letterman show called? On Netflix? His interview show.

Rachel: I think it's My Next Guest.

Griffin: Yeah, I forget what it is. But he does, he did an episode with Lizzo that was so delightful and genuinely insightful into an artist whose, like, work I have very much enjoyed for a long time. And she is deep in that crystal game.

Rachel: Yeah, she spent a lot of time talking about crystals. And I was just kind of, like, pleased at the way that the conversation went, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. They were clearly on two different sort of ideological— not ideological, but sort of like, uh, I dunno.

Rachel: I mean, David Letterman's like a crystal novice, you know? He like, has an appreciation for them but doesn't know a lot of, kind of, uh, what some people would identify as the soothing powers of them. And so, it was just kinda nice to hear Lizzo, who is not somebody, you know, that is remotely pretentious or, you know, like uncomfortable to be around just kinda talk to an old man about crystals.

Griffin: And I saw— I gotta say, you know me, I like a good tactile object.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: In my hand. Some of those crystals looked pretty good to hold.

Rachel: They're like fancy fidget spinners, you know? [laughs]

Griffin: Well, I think there's probably a few people that would find that a bit reductive, but, um...

Rachel: Well, I'm just saying, you know, like, if you want something pretty to fiddle with.

Griffin: True.

Rachel: You know?

Griffin: I think your dad got me some bismuth.

Rachel: Yeah, cause you were talking about bismuth. I remember.

Griffin: Yeah. That's, maybe that's the start of what will be a new sort of... a new thing for me. I don't know where I'm gonna keep a bunch of crystals. I'll find a place for them.

Rachel: [laughs] On top of the new gaming consoles.

Griffin: Yeah, that's great. Maybe that'll help me be better at my Call of Duty games when I'm trying to get all the guys.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Trying to get all the guys but I can't get there. Should I use cheat codes? No way. Let's put some, uh, some bismuth up there, what, get some opal. Little bit of tourmaline. Now the K-D ratio is looking pretty good.

Rachel: Some rose quartz.

Griffin: A little bit of rose quartz. You gotta be careful with that stuff.

Rachel: Amethyst.

Griffin: That's another one.

Rachel: Are we just naming them?

Griffin: This would be fun. We can go back and forth.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um...

Rachel: Ooh, episode 65. Sorry, I'm going backwards a little bit, but chex mix.

Griffin: Yeah, I may of, uh, last night—

Rachel: Oh, did you finish it off?

Griffin: I crushed it. I crushed it. I tried to go to bed so many times last night. I even dipped into that ASMR well. I got these, like, wrap-around sort of headband earphones and I put them on, just cranked an AS— like a three-hour ASMR mix. And I was, like, getting it. I was getting it.

And then I was like, "I wonder if Atlanta's turned anything—I'm up!" And I just came upstairs for two hours and ate chex mix. It was bad news bears. But chex mix was good.

Rachel: You know what is wild, is when I first saw those wraparound headphones I had a moment where I thought, "Is Griffin gonna start doing some early morning running?" And then I was like, wait, no, no, no, these are certainly for sleeping.

Griffin: This is the time of year where I could do early morning running.

Rachel: You could, yeah.

Griffin: I just really don't want to. I just really, really, really don't want to.

Rachel: Oh, episode 66. Having short hair. This is not something I have anymore.

Griffin: Rachel's hair— how long would y— it's like collarbone, if not past it. Armpit-length.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, yeah, I would say collarbone, maybe a little— yeah. No, that's right. I haven't had hair this long since I was in graduate school, uh, which was 2007. So, it has been 13 years and it is, it is wild. I'm using a lot more shampoo. I realized that I can't really get away with not combing it now. Which is, uh, unfortunate. [laughs]

Griffin: I think you know my proclivities when I— when we first started dating.

Rachel: You were a short hair enthusiast.

Griffin: I'm a short hair enthusiast. But the thing is, and the thing I've come to love, is that your hair is so unimaginably soft.

Rachel: [laughs] Oh, see now...

Griffin: I say this, and every time I say it, Rachel—

Rachel: I don't believe it anymore.

Griffin: You got that Sandra Oh hair. It's so rich.

Rachel: That's the highest praise you could give anyone ever is Sandra Oh hair.

Griffin: It's rich and voluminous and soft and now there's more of it! I like that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Episode 79. I talked about chill-hop, or like, low-fi beats. And I can't think of a topic... I can't think of, like, a checkpoint in the history of our show that was more sort of transformative, because that very quickly became virtually the only kind of music that I listen to anymore.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I'm exaggerating a bit, but the things— the kind of music I used to listen to when I was, like, working, I'd like an acoustic, you know, gentle, non-lyrical, um, playlist that I just don't do anymore. If I'm, like, going for a short drive somewhere and need some, like, background music, or I'm doing some writing, which I've been doing a lot of lately, I just throw on some low-fi music and...

Rachel: I guess I get that. See, when I'm in the car I kinda wanna be hype, you know? I kinda wanna be jamming out. I wanna be dancing in my seat in the car, typically.

Griffin: Interesting. I mean, if we have Henry in the back, like, I can't really get away with that for very long

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, but yeah. That's a wild— like, episode 79 is when I really started— whenever that episode came out is when I sort of found this new genre of music that I am now completely embroiled in.

Rachel: Episode 82, Crash Bandicoot.

Griffin: [laughs] Was this me or you?

Rachel: This is you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But if you haven't watch Brian David Gilbert's Crash Bandicoot—

Griffin: Very good.

Rachel: Um, little YouTube video, I would recommend it.

Griffin: Did I dedicate a whole segment to Crash Bandicoot, or was that a small wonder?

Rachel: I don't know. I don't know how to tell from looking at this.

Griffin: Well, if it has a picture of a little baby—

Rachel: It does have a picture of a baby.

Griffin: That's a small wonder, then. I can't believe I dedicated a whole segment to Crash Bandicoot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's a new Crash Bandicoot game. I haven't played it. I feel like I may have been full of shit back then. I like his style and his attitude, but that style, like, 3D platformer, like—

Rachel: Cause he's like a little animal John Cena?

Griffin: He is exactly a little... he is exactly a little animal John—

Rachel: Yeah, right jean shorts?

Griffin: He is exactly a John Cena the bandicoot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Pretty cool, pretty cool. Episode 92, Summer View 2019 Edition, how long the day lasts. Not cutting the mustard in November 2020.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's not 2020's fault. That's one thing that I can't lay at the feet of 2020. [laughs] Episode 107, Deep Hugstink, we got Bon Appetit's YouTube channel. So that one's not— that one's not doing it!

Rachel: Oh... yeah...

Griffin: That one's not so good anymore.

Rachel: RIP.

Griffin: Will say Stump Shola though, on the Babish channel, is really scratching that itch if you've not checked that out.

Rachel: Yeah, and Claire has a cookbook coming out, supposedly.

Griffin: Interesting.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I think I wanna close out my list, at least, with fairly recent, episode 111, Tiger's Gotta Scratch. Holiday inflatables. Big holiday inflatables. Those are about to come back.

Rachel: Oh... we should talk about this as a couple.

Griffin: Just to warn you, it is gonna be— we're gonna expand the roster. At least by one.

Rachel: We got a Mickey.

Griffin: We got a Mickey. And who know— we left that Mickey out into— the elements.

Rachel: It's in the garage, it's safe.

Griffin: Okay. I mostly wanted to talk about 12-foot skeleton. I'm so jealous of everybody who got 12-foot skeleton.

Rachel: Oh yeah.

Griffin: Our house is a bit, uh, recessed below the street.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: To a point where if we had a 12-foot skeleton in our front yard, he would just be kinda peeking above the hedges.

Rachel: He would just peek over.

Griffin: And that's amazing. That would be so fun. But that was like 300 bucks, right? It was not a cheap enormous skeleton.

Rachel: Well, it was very— it was very trendy, so it's the kinda thing, you trot that skeleton out next season, everyone's like, "Oh, I see. I see. Your last season skeleton up in front of your house."

Griffin: What are they gonna do, a fucking 15-foot skeleton? At a certain point, you know, shipping and logistics, fulfillment becomes an issue with a 15-foot skeleton. I don't know how to get one of those to my house, you know?

Rachel: Yeah, I don't know how anybody gets them to their house.

Griffin: I don't, yeah. I think they airdrop them. Like Operation Dumbo Drop.

Rachel: Maybe they— you have to assemble them like some kind of doctor.
[laughs]

Griffin: Or some sort of paleontologist.

Rachel: Just humming to yourself, "The leg bone's connected to the... " and then you know how to put it together.

Griffin: What if next season they release an expansion pack to 12-foot skeleton and it's a 12-foot muscular system? And then the next year, 12-foot nervous system, and then skin, and then you've just got a big guy. And then they'll sell clothes for him. Big clothes! Big, big clothes. You know? Repurpose some JNCO jeans as Crash Bandicoot shorts.

Rachel: Oh, that's fun.

Griffin: That's fun.

Rachel: Like those, like, cement geese, you know, where you put a little hat on for Easter?

Griffin: Love that. I have no idea what you're talking about.

Rachel: Oh. My grandma had one. It was, it was like a little stone goose and you could buy clothes for it depending on the season. So, you could put a little trick-or-treat outfit on it in Halloween, and then a little turkey outfit on Thanksgiving. And it was a way to just kind of acknowledge through your front-of-house décor that the seasons were changing. Kind of like my window cling, but a goose.

Griffin: Yeah. This seems like the kinda thing that I'm gonna get corrected for, and maybe I shouldn't, like, die on this hill, but that really sounds like something that only your grandma did and is not, like a thing that everybody did.

Rachel: [laughs] Oh, I can't wait. I can't wait for all the tweets you're not gonna see about this.

Griffin: I don't know, it's not, it's not— I dunno, if it comes in during— I dunno. If I get tweeted about these stone geese while we're waiting some votes from Philadelphia, I might fuckin' see 'em.

Rachel: [laughs] That's true. I just wanna point out kind of the funny timeline here. Episode 110, I talked about how Henry turned three, and then episode 111 I talked about birth control. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs loudly] Well, clearly you were not practicing what you were preaching.

Rachel: True.

Griffin: At that time, because you are with child.

Rachel: I am with child.

Griffin: We're dialing in on a name, which is very exciting. Not gonna say it on this show, so please don't ask, but we're uh... that's very satisfying.

Rachel: I didn't— I was surprised by how much I wanted the second name to kind of coalesce with the first name.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I realized that if the name felt too different in, like, time period or tone, it felt like not appropriate to me. So, we spent a lot of time trying to figure out, like, what's a good solid name to go with Henry.

Griffin: Yeah, we also kind of knew the middle name, so it had to sound good with that, but it took some doing. But I think we've got it.

Rachel: Yeah. Spent a lot of time, spent a lot of time going back and forth on that.

Griffin: Looking at a lot of names on the baby name tinder app thing, which I think we talked about on the show. Yeah. A lot of stinkers. A lot of stinkers in the mix. But I think we've got a good one. Uh, I think that's— I think we're good. I think that this could be an episode.

Rachel: [laughs] We got there?

Griffin: I think when you look at it and somebody listens to it, they'll be like, "That was— I listened to an episode of a podcast. Pretty undeniably."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We don't have any submissions from our friends at home, which I apologize for, but we've been pretty, uh— I don't need to couch this episode any more than I think we already have.

Rachel: Yeah. We probably do have submissions, you're just saying that we have not looked at them.

Griffin: We have not looked at them. Uh, 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 episode description. And thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network.

Rachel: Yeah! Thank you Maximum Fun for hosting our show. I would really encourage folks to check out Maximum Fun, if you have not, to see what else you might like to listen to.

Griffin: Um... yeah, I think that's probably it. I don't really, uh...

Rachel: Keep drinking water, guys.

Griffin: Keep drinking water. It's— it's— when this episode goes up— it doesn't take me very long to edit Wonderful, so I imagine we'll have it up by, you know, noonish or so. So like, who knows where things are going to be at that point.

Rachel: Yeah, it's true.

Griffin: And I need to practice what I preach here, but like, take breaks.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: And give yourself a break. Not, uh... you know. I'm not saying, like, let yourself off the hook or anything, but I am saying that like, clearly there is so much work to do. There is so much work to do and there is...

Rachel: And the news story that comes out at 11.57 will still be there at 1.02 if you go take a nice walk or eat lunch, you know?

Griffin: Or take a nap.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um... the thing that buoys my spirits is, like, seeing... you know, uh, marijuana legalization, like, sweep across the country, the minimum wage increase in Florida, like, passing by a pretty huge margin. Like, there is a hunger for the work that needs to be done.

So like, I dunno, it feels weird to put an optimistic spin on what's happening right now, but I think the best thing we can say is just to, you know, give yourself a little bit of a break. You don't need to be there as every single vote is called. Obviously, there's work to do in like, curing ballots and, you know, if that's something you can do you should look into how you can volunteer there. But I'm mostly talking to myself right now.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, and you know, be present for the things that you love. You know, I think it is easy to kind of disassociate right now.

Griffin: Oh yeah, baby!

Rachel: [laughs] But that also means that you are disconnecting from the things that make you happy, and I think it's important to give yourself space in that, too.

Griffin: I've been dissociating so hard the past few days that I think I've technically been astrally projecting.

Rachel: [laughs] There's a little ghost of Griffin that hovers over Griffin.

Griffin: Just kinda floats away, like explores the ether and like, travel— yeah. It's um, it's not great.

Rachel: But you can reach the ceiling fans and...

Griffin: Dust 'em off.

Rachel: Dust 'em off, and I'm grateful for that.

Griffin: Me too. That's it, bye!

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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