

Wonderful! 180: You Have Disturbed the House God

Published 12th May 2021

Listen here on themcelroy.family

[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: I have coursing through my veins currently... Am I yelling?

Rachel: Yeah. Yes.

Griffin: [more quietly] I have coursing through my veins currently...

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: ... red American blood and, like, four hours of sweet, uninterrupted sleep. Just powerful, wonderful sleep energy.

Rachel: When did that happen?

Griffin: Last night, I feel like I got a good chunkaroo in.

Rachel: Oh, you did?

Griffin: I feel like you soloed some shit. You took some shit on the chin and I appreciate that and the little guy's been napping okay today and I feel strong. I feel like I could kick the moon and run a marathon around the moon. And I also have coursing through my veins red American blood, nap energy, and gratitude for our friends who have become members during the Max Fun Drive.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Which we are currently in the second week of. And boy, it would really take me over the top...

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: ... and send me into a state of...

Rachel: Griffin is holding up three fingers.

Griffin: ... ecstasy. Borderline erotic ecstasy.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: If we could take it even further on the Max Fun Drive and get even more members to join the network to help us grow the show, the family.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I say the family, we probably would have had Gus even if we hadn't done as well in the last Max Fun Drive. Like, that's not— His existence is not contingent...

Rachel: [through laughter] That was our stretch goal, was like we get this many donors...

Griffin: [laughs] But hey, this is the last week of the Max Fun Drive and, uh, you all have been so supportive so far and we cannot thank you enough for that, but if you have not become a member yet and you haven't, you know, checked out the page to see what kind of stuff you can get for joining and becoming a member, you should at least do that at MaximumFun.org/join.

There's all kinds of great pledge gifts and there's, you know, you can support the stuff that you like which I'm assuming is us, because you're listening to us now. But I certainly know there's also a lot of people who listen to podcasts because they don't like them. And if you're one of those people...

Rachel: [laughs] Or they listen to podcasts to fall asleep, which—

Griffin: That's another option, in which case we're gonna hit you with that hypnosis here about ten minutes in, once you hit that deep REM cycle.

Rachel: I never know whether to, like, think of that as a compliment or not, of like, "I listen to your podcast to fall asleep at night." And I think, well, it's nice that we're soothing. I like to help people.

Griffin: Yeah. I bet whales would be stoked if they knew that the sounds that they made were, like, so good. Or for me it would be air conditioner manufacturers, I guess, if we could just— If I could get in touch with air conditioner manufacturers and just be like, "I fall asleep to your shit, nonstop." Hit up the air purifier people, the humidifier folk.

Rachel: The humidifier folks, yeah.

Griffin: Call up the humidifier company and be, like, "Guys, the stuff you're doing over there with noise?" [chef's kiss]

Rachel: Plane sound.

Griffin: Planes! Guys, you're doing it! Boeing! Except, you're not. Apparently they made one real stinker of an airplane. I don't really follow airplane news. But it is the Max Fun Drive, it's the last one, and we're gonna talk a little bit more about those pledge gifts.

Rachel: The last week, not the last one.

Griffin: This is the last week, uh, yeah. I don't—

Rachel: We'll be back again next year.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. Uh, hey do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: Hmm...

Griffin: I can start!

Rachel: Please.

Griffin: The Haribo mixed gummy bag. Hair-abo? I don't know how that's pronounced, they do good gummy work and they have one bag that I always forget is a thing and it's like, "Here's a bunch of different kinds of gummies."

Rachel: The one that Henry got?

Griffin: Well, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But, uh...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I just assumed it was a community chest. But yeah, I mean they got— I mean, it's exciting. You reach in, maybe you get a gummy worm, maybe you get a gummy bear, maybe you get one of those gummy soda bottles?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Maybe you get one that's, like, gummy on top and then, like, creamy on the bottom? And it's all in the same bag?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Every time I dip my hand in there, it's like my hand is a little adventurer going on a gummy—

Rachel: There are different shapes, too, which Henry likes.

Griffin: There's different shapes, different flavors, which Griffin likes.

Rachel: [laughs] That actually gave me my small wonder, which is the candy and snacks available at the checkout, because that is where we found those gummies.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: Um, and it is— I remember as a kid, too. Like, obviously as a parent, it's a little more stressful because you know you're going to have to purchase things from that little stand, but...

Griffin: If you also like gummies, it's an exciting little thing.

Rachel: Yeah, or like, hey, I haven't had gum in a long time and here it is, right here.

Griffin: Here it is, exciting. Maybe, like— What developments have there been in fruit-stripe technology?

Rachel: None.

Griffin: None. They got it in one and it's been holding steady ever since. Yeah, that's good stuff. Henry was talking to me yesterday, he was like, having a little chewy snack and I was like, "What are you eating there, buddy?" And he was like, "These are like M&Ms, but they're fruity and chewy." And I was like, "Those are Skittles, my dude and I know a thing or two about Skittles."

Rachel: Yeah, so that was also a purchase in the checkout and he, uh, he saw them and he said, "I want those round candies." And I don't think— He didn't realize they weren't M&Ms, basically, and we got them home and I had to explain to him...

Griffin: Ooh, that can be a rude awakening.

Rachel: ... that they were fruity.

Griffin: When you expect an M&M and you get a Skittle or vice versa.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Ugh, I hate that. I love both of them individually, just like, tell me what I'm in for. Like, don't try and do a prank to me.

Rachel: Should we do a show, or...?

Griffin: Yeah, we should. We got a baby that's napping right now and it's hubris for us to waste time talking about things like Skittles. Although, that is inherently what our show is about.

Rachel: That is our show, yeah. We basically just did a show.

Griffin: We basically just did one segment of the show. But that was a bonus and now let's do this real damn thing.

Rachel: Okay, so you want to know my—

Griffin: Yes, I do!

Rachel: Uh, lullabies.

Griffin: Oh, gentle song. These are the gentle songs that you sing to a child to make them go to sleep and then they poop right in their pants or diaper and then you have to stop and start the whole thing over again.

Rachel: Ah, yes. That is their express purpose.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Diarrhetic purposes.

Griffin: I heard you singing a lullaby to Gus, which I have not— You are not a big singer, I would say.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: And it delighted me! You have a lovely voice. I genuinely think you are keeping your light under a bushel.

Rachel: Aww.

Griffin: And it made me so happy to hear you singing to our baby.

Rachel: Yeah, well, so here's the thing about our baby. Uh, sometimes we like to do the shush, we like to do the shush noise.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Sometimes he's, like, not into it. But the singing...

Griffin: Singing he likes a lot.

Rachel: He likes the singing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I don't, uh, actually really know the words to any songs.

Griffin: I think—

Rachel: So what I had been singing is the "A is for apple, ah, ah, apple. B is for bear, buh, buh, bear." And just going through the alphabet and sometimes I do animals, sometimes I do boys' and girls' names.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: Sometimes I do, uh, food.

Griffin: Food, yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't want to put you on blast, but I am pretty sure I clocked you looking at the lyrics to *Baby Beluga* on your cell phone so that you could better execute...

Rachel: Well, it'd been a while. I used to sing it to Henry and it had been a long time and I didn't remember the order.

Griffin: Oh, for sure. I made up a lot of verses. I'm pretty sure one of the verses— I sing *Rainbow Connection* to Henry pretty much every night and I'm pretty sure there's one verse that is straight from my mind's eye. Not from old Jimmy Henson's pen, but from my own, sort of, brain.

Rachel: I think I mentioned this on the show. So yeah, again, my family, unlike the McElroys, not big performers, not big singers.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Um, so I asked my dad at one point, because Griffin was talking about the lullabies that were sung to him as a child and so I asked my dad. And I think I've mentioned it, but he used to sing me the theme song from *Cheers*. [laughs]

Griffin: Wow. Guys, I wish you all knew David Weiner as much as I know David Weiner, because that story would send you absolutely reeling.

Rachel: That's exactly right, isn't it?

Griffin: It's perfect!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: 100%! It's so good.

Rachel: It's a good song.

Griffin: Yeah. All I got was fucking Johnny Appleseed song. Which is good, I mean, it got the job done, gave me some sweet rest, but also...

Rachel: Your dad maintains that he also sang *Rainbow Connection* to you.

Griffin: I don't recall it. All I remember is, [singing] "the lord is good to me and so I thank the lord for giving me the things I need, the sun, the rain, and the apple seed, and the lord is good to me." Every night, growing up.

Rachel: Is there another verse or is that it? I always wondered.

Griffin: [singing] "These apples are so crisp and red and I eat them. They're so, so good, I make them into apple juice and they are good apples, yum, yum, yum."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Apples have vitamin C, they are—"

Rachel: Really pivots away from the lord at a certain point. [laughs]

Griffin: [through laughter] The first verse is very lord-based and then it gets into a lot of facts about apples, yeah.

Rachel: Um, so, when I talk about lullabies, I'm mostly talking about, as we've identified, songs that you'd sing to a baby.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Not necessarily, like, *Rock-a-bye Baby*.

Griffin: Yeah. That one— Is it Train that did [singing], "rock-a-bye..." You remember that video? That wasn't Train, who was that? Rock-a-bye...

Rachel: It's a guy, it's a guy's name.

Griffin: It's a guy, it's a fucking guy. There's already a song called Rock-a-bye— No, they fully, like, ripped it off. It's not Five for Fighting, I don't think. They had a few other little hits, Five for Fighting.

Rachel: I'm gonna have to Google the lyrics.

Griffin: Just type in "everything's gonna be alright, rock-a-bye."

Rachel: Oh, yeah, it just auto-populated. Sean Mullins.

Griffin: Oh, yeah! Sure! Love him.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Great stuff, Sean.

Rachel: Okay, anyway. So I found a lot of research specifically on why lullabies are so sad and...

Griffin: Oh, are they?

Rachel: Well, if you think about *Rock-a-bye Baby*...

Griffin: On the treetop, when the— Yeah, there's a baby-based accident that is probably pretty serious.

Rachel: Yeah. So there— I found a couple articles, one in *New York Times* and then one through PBS.

Griffin: Do the articles just say, "because back in olden times people couldn't have a good story without, like, a child being, like, really, very endangered in the middle of it."

Rachel: Well, so there's a suggestion that lullabies are sung kind of in isolation, it's just you and the child so you can kind of say whatever you want.

Griffin: What the fuck?

Rachel: And you can also live out some of your fears, I guess?

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So one of the oldest known lullabies is a 5,000 year old Babylonian song.

Griffin: Oh, shit yeah.

Rachel: Uh, and the lyrics include, "little baby in the dark house, you have seen the sun rise. Why are you crying? Why are you screaming? You have disturbed the house god."

Griffin: I have actually said those exact words to Gus in the six weeks that he's been alive.

Rachel: Uh, lyrics continue, "Making noises like a drunkard who cannot sit still on his stool, he has disturbed your sleep. Call the baby now, says the house god."

Griffin: Can I say something? I'm hearing this at the exact right time, because I'm feeling a connection with these 7,000 year ago Babylonians. Like, "Yeah, guys. It's tough, huh? Oh, it's hard out here, huh? Why are you screaming, you drunkard?" I've yelled this exact— Not yelled, but whispered under my breath.

Rachel: There is also something, and one of the articles kind of zeroed in on this, of just like, when you're singing to a small child, there's something kind of lonely and a little sad about it, because you're, like, sitting in the dark, just doing it so the child will sleep.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so, they suggested maybe that is why the songs were so...
[laughs]

Griffin: I've started singing for myself a little bit and it's been fun because I've been singing Henry old— well, "old," like, songs that I used to listen to in college by, like, Regina Spektor.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I've been singing, like, Ben Folds Five, which I haven't listened to— I used to exclusively listen to Ben Folds Five and then I haven't, not in a whole long—

Rachel: [simultaneously] I heard you sing *Philosophy* the other day.

Griffin: Yeah! I was singing *Philosophy* and I, like, had to sit there and really remember the lyrics to this song that I used to know, like, backwards and forwards. But it's mostly three Regina Spektor songs that I just do every time I go in there and, man, she's a very talented songwriter.

Rachel: Yes! And the lyrics are so, like, difficult to remember. I'm surprised you put them together, because like...

Griffin: I did it for Henry, too. They were Henry's, also, three Regina Spektor lullabies that I busted out, so it's— I remember them very well.

Rachel: The one other thing that I wanted to say about lullabies is there's actually been studies to show, uh, that it can slow an infant's heart rate.

Griffin: Whoa!

Rachel: And improve sucking behaviors that are critical for feeding and increase periods of quiet alertness that will help the baby sleep.

Griffin: Awesome!

Rachel: Yeah, so this was a 2013 study that showed that it offered stress relief for the infants and the parents, too.

Griffin: That's a very powerful thing, I think, for me, like, the way that I connect with Gus is different from the way that you connect with Gus on, like, a sort of, like, physiological level.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so having times where, like, I can be holding him upright and I just got a good burp out of him and I can, like, brush his hair with one hand

while holding him with my other arm and, like, singing to him? That's the best shit in the whole world right there.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it almost makes the other stuff worth it.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, the other thing I will say, this is interesting. So, that song that I was singing, the A is for Apple song, we got from the doctor's office when Henry was little.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And, uh, the nurse was singing it to him.

Griffin: Right after a shot, like, right after a shot.

Rachel: Well, no, you know what it was? It was during the heel-stick. Uh, and there has actually been a study of that, so a UCLA neurologist performed a pilot study on preterm babies.

He played lullabies to infants recovering from a painful heel-stick procedure used to draw blood. His results suggest that the music helps slow the babies' heart rate and reduce stress and that is...

Griffin: That's fascinating.

Rachel: ... exactly what the nurse was doing. She was singing that song and I remember, like, Henry and me and Griffin were all just kind of transfixed while she was doing it.

Griffin: Well, it's a great song.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Literally just goes, "A is for apple, ah, ah, apple. B is for banana..." But you can, like, say anything. And so part of you is, like, "This is a great beat that I can dance to."

But the other part of you is like, "I wonder what she's gonna say for X." Every time, that's all you want to know. [demanding] "What's the X? What X fruit is there?" [laughs]

Rachel: You know what I do when I get to X?

Griffin: What?

Rachel: I just say "X is for X, XXX."

Griffin: Rachel.

Rachel: Which, I mean is, you know, a little raunchy. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Which, apparently, you can say that shit to a baby. Because anything goes according to Babylonians.

Rachel: Uh, yeah, so I don't know. I, again, still struggle with songs that I'm able to sing. I do a little *Kokomo* sometimes.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. Yeah, *Kokomo* is great because you can just say the same— "Aruba, Jamaica, ooh, I want to take you to... [hesitates] Key Largo?"

Rachel: That's a verse, one of them.

Griffin: "Montego, baby, why don't we go to Aruba, Jamaica..."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Just go, "I wanna take you to Jamaica, to Aruba, and Key Largo, and Montego!"

Rachel: I did— I think the *New York Times* article was written from the perspective of somebody who was talking about their own experience with lullabies, and they mentioned that their child was less interested if the words

were obviously not known. Like, when you pause or stutter a little bit, the baby is on to you.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true.

Rachel: So you got to be ready with the improv.

Griffin: Yeah, he has no patience for when I can't remember the words to some 25-year-old song that I haven't listened to in forever. Um, hey, let's lull our listeners into a sense of, uh... uh...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's no good way to say that without sounding like a real jerk, but we do want to talk to you about the Max Fun Drive because we, uh, this is the last week of it, and we do it once a year and we ask for your help.

Rachel: Lull them into a sense of charity?

Griffin: Of charity. Uh, to help us out. If you enjoy the work that we do and the other shows on the network, go to MaximumFun.org/join and you can pick whatever sort of monthly level is right for you and then get some great stuff for joining. You want to tell us about that \$5 a month level? That's where you get that good stuff, that good premium content.

Rachel: Yeah! So, \$5 a month, that is where you get the bonus content. So you'll get a link to over 200 hours of content from all of the Max Fun shows, and this goes back years and years and years.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And it is not just audio, too. There's some videos in there, too.

Griffin: There's some videos in there, too. This year for boco for our show, we uh, Rachel made a character in Dungeons & Dragons which is not something she's ever done before and it was a hoot and we got a lot of Sharleez fanart, which is exciting.

Rachel: I feel like I cheated a little bit, because I did suggest that people do that, but what I have received is exceptional.

Griffin: Yeah! Now you see why we do it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's invigorating. So that's at five bucks a month, which a lot of people, you know, sometimes say that, "Oh, I'm sorry, but five bucks a month is all I can do." That's an incredible, like, gesture, I feel like, to give to us, some stuff that you like in such a meaningful material way. It genuinely means the world.

If you want to step it up, \$10 a month, you will get the bonus content. Every time you move up a level, you get the stuff from the previous levels. You will get a letter-pressed Max Fun membership card and one of 38 enamel pins, each designed based around one of the shows and designed by Megan Lynn Kott.

Rachel: And you can choose the pin, too, it's not like— [laughs]

Griffin: You get to choose the pin, it's not— You don't stick your hand in a box, Jesse comes to your house with a big box and you stick your hand in.

Rachel: And you go, "Ow, ow, ow, ow, ow..."

Griffin: You go, "Ouch, ouch, ouch!" Because there's no caps on any of them. This year ours is a little porcupine and he's got a pumpkin and it says, "Try it!" on it. It's adorable and I love it so much. And then do you want to tell them about 20 bucks a month?

Rachel: Yeah! So this is the [sing-song voice] tea kit!

Griffin: I don't know why you said— I mean, I guess it is exciting! I've seen it, it's a very nice tea kit, but...

Rachel: Uh, it is a Take a Minute Tea Kit and it comes with a tin to hold your tea, tea bags, dice, and you know, any other kind of thing you'd want to put

in that tin. It is a special blend of loose-leaf, interstellar orange tea that was made specifically for Max Fun. Delicious.

Griffin: That's my favorite tea! How did they know that? I love orange tea.

Rachel: Oh, yeah?

Griffin: It's probably not my favorite, I like a honey-lemony-gingery.

Rachel: You like a cinnamon, too.

Griffin: I do like a cinnamon.

Rachel: As I recall.

Griffin: Yeah. You're right, damn it. I'm sorry I lied. I hate orange tea, I guess.

Rachel: You also get a strainer and tray and it's a nice little gift. You know, obviously, the gift is just a bonus from us to thank you for your pledge, but the pledge really supports us and the whole network, year-round.

Griffin: Yes, this is— I've lost track. It's our 11th or 12th Max Fun Drive with the network and, uh, I mean it's changed our lives. It has allowed us to make this our careers and—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You know, Juice and I were doing, you know, video game stuff, Polygon stuff, until, like 2018 when we were able to, like, really go full-time on this.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And we've been able to grow and add more shows to the network and do live shows...

Rachel: Drastically improve the sound quality and the production.

Griffin: Yes, yeah, absolutely. Um, yeah, so it's— This network is a very, very special thing, I mean, I've been on the internet professionally, for a long time now and there really is no other community like this one.

And this time of year I'm always, I don't know, blown away by just the gratitude that we have for you all and the way that you all come out to support us, year-in, year-out. It is touching beyond description, so.

Rachel: Well, and it's a really unique kind of loyalty that we get with the listeners of Max Fun, you know? It's not uncommon for people to listen to multiple shows across the network and you feel kind of a camaraderie, like, with the community of creators on Max Fun.

And so it's exciting for us to, you know, obviously hear people listen to our show but also mention some of the other shows that they have found through the Network and so it's a cool, cool thing.

Griffin: So, go to MaximumFun.org/join, check out the different levels, pick one that is right for you. If you can't swing it, it's been a very dogshit year and change and I totally understand that.

But if you're able to and you get something out of our shows and you want to support us in return, MaximumFun.org/join and thank you. And do you want my topic for this week?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I prepped nearly— I nearly finished prepping two different topics that I then typed into Wonderful.fyi and found out that we had done before.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Two different times! Like, it's wild— We've been doing this show, I guess, for a long time but it was like...

Rachel: Yeah, that's gonna happen.

Griffin: It is gonna happen. One of them was Mario Kart, which like, was not that long ago. And then I was also thinking about how much I enjoy playing with Play-Doh, with Henry and you did that back in, like, the 40s, I think.

Rachel: [laughs] 1940s.

Griffin: Right. This topic is wild to me that we haven't done. I want to talk about Lego. Lego, the bricks and the blocks that you put them together and you can make a building and you make a big guy or a rocket and those are the three things.

Rachel: Those are the three... [laughs]

Griffin: I saw something that was like, you can take six of the four-by-two bricks. If you take six four-by-two bricks you can connect them in, like, 395 million different sort of, like arrangements.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: Yeah, I learned some fun Lego statistics while researching this bit. it's wild to me we haven't talked about Lego yet. Because I do— I love Lego. I want to say Legos, referring to them in the plural, please don't fucking at me. I get it, but it feels right.

Rachel: I was thinking that the whole time you were talking. I was like, "He's keeping it singular. He's keeping it singular!"

Griffin: Yeah, I'm not gonna stick to that and so please don't be that person. This is a fun show where we talk about silly stuff. And, uh, Henry has sort of messed around with Legos in the past. We got— I got sent a box of Trolls World Tour swag when the movie came out and it included two, I would say, ambitious Lego sets for a boy of his age.

Rachel: So I had never seen, like, a Lego set proper before. I knew that they were sold, but when I saw the little booklet, I could not believe it. It's like IKEA instructions. It's like, every page is a different thing that you have to do.

Griffin: [whispering] I love it. I love that shit. I do. [normal voice] So, we built that. We built those, like, super intricate sets and then Henry eventually broke them in pretty short order and we never, you know, put in the effort to put them back together again.

But recently, we got just, like, a builder's box with, like, 400 different bricks of different colors and sizes, not based around a single theme. It's just like, "Here's a bunch of Legos, have fun!" Which is, like, how I rolled.

Growing up we had this big, thick, orange cube that was just full-to-brim with different Legos of different types and I don't think we ever built, like, a themed model or anything like that. It would just— I remember every time we would watch a movie together... You're getting a lot of deep McElroy lore in this episode.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Any time we would all, like, watch a movie as a family or whatever, I would bring this box out of the laundry room, and just play with it literally the whole time, making, like, a spaceship or a box. Because I loved that you could do the hinge pieces, like I was obsessed with that.

Rachel: This is— So I feel like every house had, like a Lego bucket. Like, some kind of container for Legos. But I will also say it is suggestive of why you cannot just watch something without doing something else.

Griffin: I do enjoy a multitask.

Rachel: This is just in your origin.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true. So I was never into, like, making sets until I... Honestly, I think with Henry, I've done a few and I find it so— I think I get why people do, like, the coloring book thing. Like, for me, that's this. I have always found putting IKEA furniture together, like, very contemplative and calming and Lego is very much the same way.

It's the same thing, like, why I got into Minecraft pretty hot and heavy last year, where I would just go find designs online and how to build these things

and I would build them and it was just, like, I don't know. It's, like, some real Zen garden shit.

Rachel: Well, I feel it's the part of your brain that likes games, too. Like, there are rules, there's a way to accomplish something, you know, and your objective is clear.

Griffin: Yeah. But also, like, when I'm playing when Henry— I love playing with Henry, but like, playing with Legos or Duplo or Magna-Tiles or whatever, like, I like making stuff. Like, that is my preferred form of play. Like, I like making blanket forts with him and stuff like that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And Lego is, like, the real star of that particular show. Um, so I feel like a lot of folks know about Lego trivia, but I'm gonna say a lot of it here anyway. Uh, Lego was created by a Danish carpenter named Ole Crick— Old— [laughs] Old Crick!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Ole Kirk Christiansen. And he made wooden toys under the Lego name starting in 1932 and Lego is derived from a Danish phrase, which I'm going to not say correctly, but "leg godt," which means, "play well." I feel like I knew that, but it has been a while since I've had to think about it.

And it wasn't until 1949 that Lego started to put together the first automatic binding bricks design, which was, apparently, based on another set of interlocking bricks made by a company called Kiddie Kraft which patented them in the UK, like, 10 years prior, called the Kiddie Kraft Self-Locking Bricks.

I don't know about the drama there, but I'm sure that there is probably some. And those early Lego bricks, they were, like, pretty rudimentary and not, like— They didn't stick together especially well, there wasn't a whole lot of stuff you could do with them.

And then in 1958, the Lego company came up with a modern brick design that was sort of facilitated by this new material called, I'm gonna do so bad with this also, uh, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, which is what Legos are made out of.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: So this was discovered in 1958 and they settled on the modern brick design in 1958 and bricks made in 1958 can interlock with bricks made today. Like, that is how, like, much they nailed it back...

Rachel: Wow, I never really thought about what Legos are made out of. I was just, like, "Oh, plastic!" But...

Griffin: Super turbo strong plastic. This is my favorite thing I found out researching this. There's a show on the BBC called More or Less and they, as an experiment, solved for how many bricks would have to be stacked up on top of one another to build up enough weight to destroy the bottom brick.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Right? Guess. Do your guess. Guess how many.

Rachel: I mean it's a tremendous amount. Uh. 100 thousand?

Griffin: 375 thousand bricks.

Rachel: Wowzers.

Griffin: Which would stack up to a height of 11,781 feet.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: These bricks are strong as shit and that's why it hurts so bad to step on them. There's no give.

Rachel: Nobody has ever stepped on a Lego and broken it.

Griffin: [laughs] No, that's never— No, that'd be wild! Yeah, so yeah, that was— It's kind of wild how little the actual— Obviously, they have added a lot of different types of pieces to add functionality, but the brick itself has been the same for 63 years now.

Rachel: Did you look into when they started doing the people?

Griffin: This is wild to me, they didn't start doing mini-figures until 1978.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: Which is wild, they had Legos for a long time before they had mini-figures.

Rachel: Yeah. I guess they probably saw people, like, using their own little army men or whatever and thought, like, "Oh, you know what we could make a man."

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, and you know, they were doing themed sets back then, too, but they weren't— I think the earliest ones were not licensed. That's where you get, like, spaceship and old west and stuff like that.

1969, a little over 10 years after the sort of modern brick design is when you get Duplo, which I appreciate. Duplo, I appreciate Duplo. It's more— For me, it's a stopgap measure until your child is old enough to play with the real deal, which is Legos.

Rachel: Exactly, yeah.

Griffin: Playmobil. Playmobil's a different— Is Playmobile a different company? I think so.

Rachel: I mean, they don't do building stuff, right? It's just...

Griffin: Yeah, they do. They do some building stuff.

Rachel: I thought it was just, like, the toys and the—

Griffin: I don't know. This is for nobody except for us and like, 10 people in our audience.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's just, like, I like playing with Legos because it's very fun, but then I think about, like, how much creative energy that this toy system, which is what they call it, which still gives me douche chills a little bit, has like injected into the world. And, it's like, it seems immeasurable.

Because I know they were formative for me and I am not particularly, what, right-brained at all. Like, I don't really have much sort of aesthetic of ability or you know, architectural ability, but I feel like Legos were very formative to me growing up.

And it's not even just, like, aesthetic creativity. It's like, uh, in 1999 is when they started to come out with Mindstorms which was the robotics building set.

Rachel: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: Which I got the first Mindstorms set for Christmas and I made, like, the starting out robot and I was like, I can't. My— I can't do this. With the brain that I have, I can do a lot of stuff with it, I can't do this. So I'm gonna part ways with the Lego Mindstorms corporation starting right here.

But then you see people, like, the amount of stuff that has been done with, like, Lego robotics is, like, it's absolutely bonkers. There's obviously contests for, you know, young folks learning engineering stuff. There's like a whole prosthetics department that they've worked on for...

Rachel: And we watched that show!

Griffin: Yes, of course, there's also the Lego—

Rachel: The Will Arnett-hosted Lego show.

Griffin: Which I don't think is coming back for another season.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Um, it's just, like, it's wild to me how much sort of, like, I don't know. Creative juice this one toy has added to the world.

Rachel: Yeah, it's just so accessible, you know? Like, obviously I'm intimidated by those sets, but the idea of just, like, stacking some Legos together, like, that doesn't intimidate me.

Griffin: Yeah, no it's fun. Henry's attention span is about 10 bricks worth. Like, you connect 10 bricks to put together, like, a yeti or something like that, and you get the yeti's torso, and then Henry's like— He wants it to be done already. And so then I'm finishing it while he's, like, you know watching TV or something.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's like my dark, guilty pleasure. But yeah, I just, you know maybe when he's a little bit older I can really give him...

Rachel: I don't know, I have mixed feelings, right? Like, obviously it's cool and I appreciate its learning potential, but it's a slippery slope.

Griffin: You can go pretty far down a rabbit hole, yeah.

Rachel: They, like, sell whole organizational systems just for Lego and it is, like, you can sort by color and size and...

Griffin: [whispering] See, I like that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [normal voice] I like that. I love an organized system. I just don't like doing the organizing.

Rachel: Mm.

Griffin: But, like, when you hear about rock stars who want their Skittles separated into different jars, it's like, I get it. I also would enjoy that. Also, not a joke, it is a very stereotypical parent thing, but it fucking sucks to step on a Lego.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's bad. They're a fun toy that is also ninja caltrops and it sucks to touch them with your foot meat when it's dark and you're holding a baby. This is something they don't tell you about holding a baby, is when you're holding a baby you can't have a fucking— You can't have a yell because you've stepped on something that hurts.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh, boy.

Rachel: This is— Griffin is prone to exaltation.

Griffin: Yeah, if I have a surprise hurt, then I would— It's hard for me to not do a yell accidentally. I remember I was holding Henry when he was very young, back when Cecil was still around, God rest his merry soul.

Uh, where he was climbing around in a little tunnel toy of Henry's and my foot brushed up against the side of the outside of the tunnel, and he was inside and dug his claw into my foot meat while I was holding the baby.

No way! That got a pretty big yell that scared everybody in the whole family and was pretty bad. Pretty bad day all around. But, uh, Legos. Love them. Love them, they're worth the pain for me, personally speaking.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I hope they don't make, like, sharp conical Legos though. Lego, there's a certain amount of responsibility you have to take when designing your toys. Can you not just make friendly round Legos? I guess that's what Duplo is, which we've talked about is for babies and not cool boys like me.

Rachel: [laughs] This is concluded.

Griffin: This is the end of my book report on Legos, a cool toy for boys like me.

Rachel: [through laughter] Griffin is pointing at himself when he says that.

Griffin: I'm doing a lot of gesticulating.

Rachel: It's a very Peace on the Playground vibe, actually.

Griffin: Anger!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Alright. We've come to the end of our rainbow.

Rachel: I suggested something, actually, speaking of the Max Fun Drive, which we will return to now, that I think should be a future bonus which is where Clint McElroy and Griffin reenact Peace on the Playground scenes for bonus content.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And we mentioned it, but then we got a little bogged down by baby when your dad was in town.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true.

Rachel: But I think it would be phenomenal.

Griffin: That man... That man, my father, took on a four-hour Gus nap on a day when he was, like, inconsolable and yelling, this was, like, hot and fresh out the kitchen, like he was three days old and already kind of asserting his voice in our space.

And dad, like, just popped him on his chest and just chilled with him for four hours. It was the most incredible feat of grandparenting I've ever seen.

Rachel: I went in the room, almost as some kind of caregiver, and I just put on a baseball game.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: I was like, "This is the stuff that dads like."

Griffin: Yeah. When we took him off of dad's chest, he had like an imprint in his chest, like a reverse Krang.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: So thank you for listening! Please, if you can, go to the link, MaximumFun.org/join. Look at the different levels, do some soul searching. If the spirit moves you...

Rachel: Yeah, if you started listening— I've seen some people tweet that they have started listening to new shows and they upped their donation as a result and that, of course, is incredible.

Griffin: That's huge!

Rachel: But we ask you to do whatever you can.

Griffin: Whatever you can. If you enjoy our show and you want to support us, it feels— I'm not just saying this because we are the ones who will be the recipients of this support, but it feels genuinely very good to support the art that you enjoy in the world. And I still feel very self-conscious referring to our shit as that, but...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, it belongs in a museum.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: That's all I'm gonna say about that, podcast museum. So, uh...

Rachel: For cool boys.

Griffin: For cool boys like me! Um, I think that's it, yeah?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Thank you all so much for listening, um, and we appreciate you and... Now there's somebody mowing their lawn outside, it's like we can't catch a break, sonically speaking, huh? Oh, my God, it's the baby! The baby's mowing the lawn?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's not safe, right?

Rachel: But it's super cute.

Griffin: I'm gonna Google it, hold on. [imitates typing on a phone] Oh, shit, we got to go! I feel like every episode for the next two months is gonna be, "We got to go!"

Rachel: [simultaneously] "We got to go!" It's our new sign off.

Griffin: Okay, it is true though. Bye!

[theme music plays]

MaximumFun.org
Comedy and culture.
Artist owned.
Audience supported.