

Wonderful! 211: Pizza Valley

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, this is Griffin McElroy!

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: [strained] We're—we're happy!

Both: [forced laughter]

Rachel: Woo hoo hoo!

Griffin: Woo hoo hoo! We're in a good mood for the good mood show! [sighs quietly]

Rachel: Just even that was exhausting to me. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, me too. Uh, this is a show where we talk about things that we like and things that are good and things that we are into, and we're still gonna do that, right?

Rachel: Yeah, of course!

Griffin: Like, we—we—we—

Rachel: There's still good!

Griffin: There's still good, but holy fucking... holy—

Rachel: Ooh!

Griffin: —*shit!*

Rachel: Ooh, swears!

Griffin: *Shit*, y'all.

Rachel: Lotta swears.

Griffin: Uhh, yeah. We're doing—we're—we're recording... our show right now. Uh, got the—got the big son home, uh, 'cause the—'cause COVID is running roughshod over our county. Uh, and—

Rachel: Yeah, the public school system I think has some rules in place, but the daycare system, it's wild west out there, and you just—you just kinda—you hope for the best, but you don't really know.

Griffin: You hope for the best, you expect and get the worst.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And we've all been sick for what feels like a month with not-COVID, which is, like, we're getting e—we're getting even, like, wish.com brand COVID. Like, we're not even getting, like, the real deal whole—we're getting Dollar Tree COVID. We're getting Five Below COVID up in here, and it's—

Rachel: You know what? I won't complain, though.

Griffin: I won't complain, obviously it's dope that we haven't gotten COVID yet.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But for Christ's sake.

[knocking noises]

Griffin: Yeah. Boop, boop, boop, boop, boop. Yeah, not gonna lie! Shit's very difficult, I would say, right now. Uh, over in the Austin McElroy contingent. Uh...

Rachel: Yeah, and I would say, uh, a lot of the world. [laughs]

Griffin: And in the world—and in the whole world.

Rachel: But this is a show where we talk about things we like!

Griffin: Talk about things we like, things that we're into, things that are good. You're gonna have to go first with the small wonders this week. I need you to—I need you to be the wind beneath my wings this week.

Rachel: Okay. Okay, okay, okay. Um, have I talked about the new computer?

Griffin: No.

Rachel: So, I believe I've mentioned on the show that my old computer, which was from approximately 2017... maybe?

Griffin: Maybe?

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, I... spilled some milk for our baby into the keys, and the V—

Griffin: Did you purposefully not say breastmilk?

Rachel: I just—I don't know. It feels—it feels—it feels very personal. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Just to reference your breast?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And the milk that comes from—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: —the life-giving, miraculous—

Rachel: If you've noticed, when we do ads for, let's say, brassiere companies, I also—

Griffin: You don't say breast, huh?

Rachel: I also—[laughs] yeah.

Griffin: You say jugz with a Z.

Rachel: I'm what's called a, uh, a prude, one might say?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, anyway, the V key stopped working. And so in order to get a V, what I would do often is into the Google I would type vineyard vines. [laughs] Knowing that Google would figure out that I meant Vineyard Vines, and then I would cut a V from that and paste it where I needed it.

Griffin: Like you're doing a fucking ransom note.

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah!

Griffin: Every time you need to spell the word, like, "ever."

Rachel: Yeah, yeah. 'Cause sometimes, you know, you don't type the V and you still get a real word, and spellcheck won't save you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Anyway, I have a new computer now, and the V works, and that is mostly what I wanted.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I'm happy for that.

Griffin: I'm gonna say, as a grownup—this used to be a bad thing for me when I was a kid, but as a grownup, uh, taking your Christmas tree down and reclaiming that space...

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: Especially when you have a baby that needs space.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Needs a wide open range to crawl around and... fall.

Rachel: I still felt like it was kind of a bummer. I like the light that comes from a tree.

Griffin: I like the light that comes from a tree too. Yes, I—I agree with you on that.

Rachel: I don't love all the ornaments or the mess. Even if you have a fake tree, you get the needles. [through laughter] It's, like, a weird... like, "Let's make you feel a part of things" situation.

Griffin: I feel like—yeah, I don't know. I'm—I'm—I'm riding, despite how fuckin' rough stuff is here right now, I am riding on a wave of—of inspiration, of new years, new me inspiration. I think we both are. And it's, like, it's—it's dope, and it feels—it feels like a much bigger wave than we have had in the past... forever.

Uh, and so I don't know. Getting that space back in our room, I just see it and I'm like, "There's so many possibilities!"

Rachel: That's true.

Griffin: So much we can do here. This is gonna be kind of a shorter episode, 'cause we have a big son downstairs just, like, kicking it, and so, uh, we're gonna probably go through things a little bit faster.

Rachel: He's on the iPad, guys. Don't worry. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: He's on the iPad. He's on Kids' YouTube. He's not on weird, um, like, pregnant Elsa YouTube. So...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We're—we're f—we're fine for a half hour, which is how long we've got. So, I wanna talk about... the internet's celebration of Elmo's hatred of Rocco the Rock.

Rachel: Oh, timely! Timely.

Griffin: It's very timely. I don't usually talk about flash-in-the-pan stuff like this.

Rachel: No!

Griffin: Um, because it doesn't—it usually doesn't have very much staying power? But this brought me so much joy, and we've consumed so much work from this small red monster—monster child.

Rachel: Yeah. Are you gonna explain what this phenomenon is?

Griffin: Yes, I—I—I will. So, earlier this week, uh, Twitter user Chey posted a clip from a 2004 episode of *Sesame Street*. This was not a new episode of *Sesame Street*.

Rachel: Ohh, I thought it was a new ep!

Griffin: It was an old episode of *Sesame Street*, and the episode's called "Elmo Believes He's Being Treated Unfairly."

Uh, and in this clip he is sitting at a kitchen counter with his friend, Zoe, who is an orange girl muppet. Uh, and her pet rock, Rocco, who Elmo hates!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Who Elmo despises, openly.

Rachel: Is Elmo, like—he's supposed to be, like, six or something? I feel like he's—

Griffin: Perpetually...

Rachel: Five or six. I mean, yeah. He's, like—yeah. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Somewhere in there. Um, and in this clip, Elmo wants to eat an oatmeal raisin cookie, but they don't have any more. Rocco has the last one, so Elmo wants to trade cookies, but Zoe says he can't, because Rocco wants the oatmeal raisin cookie.

Rachel: Yeah. Phew!

Griffin: And then Elmo goes the fuck off. And let's actually play the audio from that, uh, right here.

[clip plays]

Elmo: That's Elmo's favorite! Oh, Gabby, can Elmo have an oatmeal raisin cookie instead, please?

Gabby: Aw, gee, Elmo, that was my last one!

Elmo: Oh, that's okay, Gabby! Elmo will just take this one.

Zoe: No, no, no, wait, wait, Elmo!

Elmo: What?

Zoe: Rocco says that *he* wants the oatmeal raisin cookie.

Elmo: Rocco?! Rocco's a rock, Zoe! Rocco won't know the difference!

Zoe: Yes he will! He—you can't have that cookie, Elmo! Rocco wants to eat it!

Elmo: How?! How is Rocco gonna eat that cookie, Zoe? Tell Elmo! Rocco doesn't even have a mouth! Rocco's just a rock! Rocco's not alive!

[clip ends]

Griffin: Thank you, editor Rachel, for sourcing that audio.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's so much. If you understand the history of Elmo and Rocco's... tense relationship.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, you will understand the amount of catharsis behind this moment, because Elmo's disdain for this fucking rock is the thing of legends. Uh, Zoe has also always kicked it with this rock. They introduced Rocco in 1999, so for fu—

Rachel: Oh my gosh!

Griffin: —so for five years.

Rachel: [through laughter] Oh my gosh!

Griffin: Elmo has had to put up with this rock and, like, pretend to exchange pleasantries, with this stone. And, like—

Rachel: What a, like, audience surrogate Elmo is, you know? Because I think typically on a children's program, there's this... this sense that you have to kind of buy in, and everything's magical, and everybody is treated fairly, and everything is fun at all times. And Elmo's a reminder that people have real emotions.

Griffin: He breaks character, almost.

Rachel: Yeah! [laughs quietly]

Griffin: The extent to which—his anger almost breaks the character. Specifically the line where he says... "How is Rocco going to eat the cookie? Huh? Tell Elmo!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "[demanding] Tell Elmo! Tell Elmo." So—so, like, "Whoa, wha—"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's the bit where I was like, "Holy fuck, Elmo, calm—calm down just a little—calm down a little bit!" But I don't want him to calm down, because yeah! Yeah, that's outrageous! Of course you wanna eat that cookie.

Rachel: And it's such a, like—I don't know, it's such a good example, I feel like. You know? 'Cause, like, there are gonna be times when you encounter something, and you can't keep it together.

Griffin: No. And yeah, I mean, that's—that's—that's it too, right? Like, Elmo—we have—we have consumed a lot of Elmo content in the last five years. And also Gus, who just turned nine months, has started to enjoy *Sesame Street* whenever we put it on. So that means, like, we're about to start this... this Elmo train right back from—from the station, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, we're about to start consuming Elmo again. And so it's nice to be reminded that Elmo—like, this humanizes him in a way.

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: Because he's not—he's not just this constantly curious, pleasant, delightful little child. Like, he gets—he gets—he gets frustrated too.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: And especially—I mean, *especially* right now, when we are all very frustrated with things that are completely unreasonable.

Rachel: Yeah, we are having to accommodate people who are maybe doing things that we think are not appropriate. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. It's—it's—it is—I don't know! It is refreshing to see Elmo plumb those particular depths.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, the real good stuff, though—and I would encourage you to look up this—this—this Twitter thread, 'cause it absolutely exploded, are the responses. Because it's one of those wonderful things that has just kind of—it's completely benign, and Twitter just has a fucking party with it. Like, just people commenting on how he just—how he just puts Zoe in the ground with his—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: —by saying, "Rocco's not alive!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Just—he gets—he gets so wild. And then people, like, put together a timeline of that five year span—

Rachel: Ugh.

Griffin: —of him having to, like... there's one clip where they're doing exercises, and he was like, "That was fun!"

And then Zoe's like, "Yeah, thanks! Rocco came up with it."

And then you see Elmo just, like, go stone-faced as he, like, is fighting so hard not to point out the obvious biological contradiction.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That—that, like, poses—

Rachel: I was telling Griffin that I like the scenario where this is like *Breaking Bad*. Where they, like, had a vision of, "Five years from now, Elmo's gonna lose it, and we have to build towards that."

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: "Every chance we get." And then the day they put this show together, like, everybody had been anticipating it, and everyone's standing around like, "Okay, today is the day."

Griffin: Today is—this is it.

Rachel: This is what we've been working towards. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: It's—there's a clip where Zoe shows up late to play with Elmo and some friends, and she was like, "Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry we're late, Rocco had to use the potty."

And Elmo just goes, "[flatly] What?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And that's bullshit! That's not, like, "Oh, yeah, he came up with this fun idea for a game!"

It's like, "I'm blame—I'm late 'cause I'm, like—I was just fuckin' around, and I got here late 'cause I don't respect you or your time. But, eh, I'll blame it on my rock."

Saying that my rock had to pee and poop." Like, your *what* had to—*huh?* And *who?*

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um—

Rachel: This—this actually leads me to a question. Did you, when you were a kid—and I'm guessing this is not true, because you had two older brothers.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: But did you ever have, like, an invisible friend?

Griffin: I—I thought I did sometimes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But even that, like...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I would—I would, like, imagine up my invisible friend and imagine, like, playing with them. But then I would think, like, "I don't really believe this."

Rachel: Yeah, exactly.

Griffin: So it's like—so it's—it hits this, like... completely bonkers level that no child should be operating on of just, like, "Am I being authentic in saying I have an invisible friend, or do I just think that that would be a cool thing to actually believe?"

But then it's like, there's no barrier to entry!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Of having an invisible friend!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You can have one or not.

Rachel: Yeah. I'm getting real *deja vu*. I feel like we've talked about this before.

Griffin: I don't know.

Rachel: Um, but I will say that I had something similar in that I had created this kind of, like, *Saved By The Bell* story that happened every time I played in the backyard where, like, I had, like, an imaginary boyfriend. But I knew the imaginary boyfriend wasn't real, and I didn't talk about the imaginary boyfriend with anybody.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So that is, I think, what is really relatable about this Rocco situation is, like, it's fine for you to have a pet rock. But, like—

Griffin: But when it—but once it starts inconveniencing *me*—

Rachel: [laughs] Yes, yes.

Griffin: —making you late for shit, and I can't eat the *cookies* I wanna eat?

Rachel: Yeah, exactly.

Griffin: Come on, Zoe! Um, it's just so funny, and so good. And, like, I don't know. I feel like stuff like this is getting rarer on the internet. Just, like, good. This is a good, funny thing that everyone liked and laughed at today.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's—that's—that's—

Rachel: [laughs] [crosstalk]

Griffin: —very important, and very good, and represents this, like, counterweight to a—a—an opposite, ever-present thing, that is—that we just have to live with. And so when you get any kind of break from that, holy shit, it's—it is—I think it is worth acknowledging and celebrating.

Rachel: Yeah. Wow, this segues really well into my wonderful thing.

Griffin: Well, can it... hold, just—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: —just a second? Because we do have to steal each other away.

Rachel: Okay, let's—let's do that.

[Home Improvement theme plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: Got a few rumple-rons here, and I would love to read this first one. Uh, because it is for Sarah and Lauren, and it's from Leslie, who says:

"Sarah and Lauren, it's me, Leslie! Remember? From JoCo Cruise 2019? I know it's been forever, but I think of you often and hope you are well. Much has changed in life, but I miss you both and still love you. I can't wait till things get better and we can have another great McEl-weekend and live our best lives together for a couple days. Also, Bud says hi."

Oh, man.

Rachel: Oh, cruisin'.

Griffin: Cruisin'. Cruisin'... that sea. We were on 2019, right?

Rachel: Well, 2020.

Griffin: We were on that 2020 experience.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: We were also on that 2019 experience, just...

Rachel: Oh yeah, you're right!

Griffin: ... yeah, lookin' for love in all the wrong places, and...

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: ... uh, fightin' a kraken at some point. Um...

Rachel: Just sittin' in the sun, drinkin' a boat drink.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. That was—so, that was 2019. That was approximately 65 years ago, right? Is that right?

Rachel: Yeah, it feels like it.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Rachel: [laughs] Can I read you another personal message?

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: This is for Bingo. It is from Laura.

"Hi, Bingo! I'm so happy to have you in my life. Your insightful, whimsical brain inspires me to dream for our future. Hopefully when you hear this we're snuggled up on our big red couch with our kitty and some pumpkin muffins. I'll even put walnuts on half for you."

Griffin: [sighs quietly] Do you think it's a big, *comfy* red couch?

Rachel: Oh, is that, like, a reference to that kids' show?

Griffin: *Big Comfy Couch*?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Where they pull things out of the couch and they... are little people and they explore a big couch and they go on adventures? Just like Bingo and Laura going on adventures right now?

Rachel: Did you watch that show?

Griffin: No.

Rachel: I'm not super familiar. I just knew there were puppets, which I like.

Griffin: Which—I like it too. Beautiful premise for a show. It's about furniture. This is a great love.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I read the next one?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: This one is for Will, Chris, Philly, and Shawn. It's from Shin, who says:

"Can't think of anything more wonderful than my D&D group. Big thanks to The Dan Clan for humoring me and letting me DM for you. In a time of isolation, you guys have allowed me a form of escapism that keeps me going, and I can't tell you how grateful I am for that. Plus, nothing brings me more joy than your reaction to those good, good dad jokes."

If The Dan Clan is the name of their in-world party... I like that so much.

Rachel: That's super great.

Griffin: Even as a real world name for a group of friends, that's powerful. But I'm imagining, like, a paladin, and a ranger, and a wizard, and a cleric. And they're just, like, "We—we ride for *Dan*."

Rachel: [laughs quietly]

[music plays]

Annabelle: Hi! I'm Annabelle Gurwitch.

Laura: And I'm Laura House.

Annabelle: And we're the hosts of *Tiny Victories*.

Caller 1: My tiny victory is that I... sewed that button back on, the day after it broke.

Laura: We talk about that little thing that you did that's a big deal to you, but nobody else cares.

Annabelle: Did you get that Guggenheim Genius award? We don't wanna hear from you. We want little, bitty, tiny victories.

Caller 2: My tiny victory is a tattoo that I've added onto this past weekend.

Annabelle: Let's talk about it!

Caller 3: My victory is that I'm one year cancer free. But my tiny victory is that I took all the cushions off the couch, pounded them out, put them back, and it looks so great.

Laura: So if you're like us, and you want to celebrate the tiny achievements of ordinary people, listen to *Tiny Victories!*

Annabelle: It's on every Monday on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

Griffin: Whatcha got, Tex?

Rachel: So, uh, one thing that is bringing me a lot of comfort in this time is the things that I can control.

Griffin: Good.

Rachel: And one of the things that has become a hobby of mine, uh, I would say in the past six to eight months, maybe, is organizing.

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Rachel: Organizing things. I am finding it to be very wonderful for my mental health, uh, and I have become a repeat buyer at a store that specializes in containers?

Griffin: I did not know a store like this existed.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, I didn't ever really understand the appeal of this store before I started trying to organize things.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, and now I totally get it, 'cause I come in with, like—you know, I have this, like, measuring tape?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: It's not the tape measure, but it's, like, the little—the stringy one, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I know the size of the drawer that I would like to organize, and then I just go in there like a math problem and find the right size container to organize that drawer. And then when I come home and I put those containers in the drawer and they fight exactly as I was expecting them to...

Griffin: Oh my God.

Rachel: ... and then I can put all of the fruit snacks in one, and all of the Zbars in one.

Griffin: [whispering] Stop it.

Rachel: And then you pull that drawer out and everything is where it should be.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And then when you buy more of those things they have a place to go.

Griffin: Go back to where they go, yes.

Rachel: You know when you run out of things because you see there's only one left, and I should purchase more.

Griffin: Oh, it's so good.

Rachel: [sighs]

Griffin: And I get—I benefit from this hobby tremendously.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: Which is my favorite kind of hobby.

Rachel: Yeah. Uh, so I—I tried to do some research. Like, why—obviously there's the thing I talked about, right? The control. Like, the fact that I can take a situation where there's a lot of can control and I can inflict my power on something to make it more pleasing to me. And... easier to look at.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I guess. And so I tried to do some research on that. What I found was a lot of, like, cleaning and organizing. Now, I'm gonna say here... I don't like cleaning.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: I don't find—while I recognize—I appreciate the impact of cleaning, but the entire time I'm doing it, I am not enjoying it.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: A lot of people I think find comfort in cleaning, because it is a process, it is a repetitive motion, uh, it is something that you do, you know how to do, you know you have the right products, all this accoutrement. I don't enjoy it.

Griffin: Yeah. If anything, organizing is, like, a pathway needing to do less cleaning.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, and I think that's why a lot of the articles I found paired them together. Um, because you are still cleaning in a way, but you're not actually scrubbing or using chemicals, typically.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Uh, so what I found was a lot of this, like, reducing feelings of helplessness, which is kind of what I was speaking to.

Griffin: [haltingly] I don't know why anyone would have that these days.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, the other thing besides, like... you know, getting in that control, uh, is the kind of the mindfulness that can come with it. It's this thing you hear a lot about of, like, when you go on a walk, when you do something else, it, like, gives your brain the ability to get some perspective.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Uh, so when you're anxious and you're sitting and you're just stewing, and you're not feeling productive or like you're active, a lot of times it's difficult to get control over that feeling.

But the idea of organizing, for example, like, there's physical activity involved with it. There's, like, concentration. I'm able to kind of get some perspective on my anxiety.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Uh, and then finally this idea of, like, tackling a project and completing it kind of gives you the ability of, like, "Oh, I can accomplish this. Maybe there are other things I can do." [laughs]

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Um, this I think is also why, like, shows like *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo*... there's apparently a show called *The Home Edit*.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: But it's—it's all about just kind of, like, organizing, and minimizing. And apparently TikTok cleaning videos are really popular.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I'm not on the TikTok.

Griffin: Ohh, it's great. Lots of dancing. So many—so much dancing.

Rachel: [laughs quietly] But—[laughs] but for TikTok, like, these videos are like the transformation, right? Like, oh, here's a messy room. Now here's it super organized. I started following this cleaning and organizing service here in Austin, and they do the, like—the picture of, like, "Here's what the pantry looked like before. Here's the pantry now."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Very soothing.

Griffin: That's like me with the pool guy videos.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Is like, look at the gross-ass water in this pool! Now you can swim in it.

Rachel: Um, and there's something kind of, like, aspirational about that, you know? Like, uh, this idea. Like, on Tiktok there's, like, "cleaning my depression room," which apparently has become, like, a popular topic.

Griffin: Oh shit!

Rachel: But just this idea of—

Griffin: Is this my depression room that we're in right now?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If it's not this room, I don't know what the fuck room it is.

Rachel: Well, I think—I mean, I think the thing is is that you're in charge of this room.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: And I feel like kind of... it's difficult sometimes.

Griffin: This room looks great right now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This room looks really good right now.

Rachel: Um... but—but yeah. This—this—this transformation, this idea that you have let things get out of control, and now you are reclaiming your authority, and you are fixing it, and you conquered it. And I, watching you do that, am inspired to maybe do the same thing.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Uh, so yeah. So I have found myself thinking about things that I can organize that I have not yet organized. One of the things I've been thinking a lot about is the freezer, and how I organize that.

Griffin: Oh, our freezer's so fucked up!

Rachel: We just have stuff that falls to the bottom that we never eat 'cause we forget it's there.

Griffin: There's a Omaha steak down there that look—that *looked* at me.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like, it moved like a fucking claymation *Pee-wee's Playhouse* character.

Rachel: [laughs] Um, and also this is 'cause I'm spending a lot of time at home.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know, I used to go out into the world.

Griffin: Live.

Rachel: 40 hours a week, and I would come home at the end of the day, eat dinner, watch some TV, go to bed.

Griffin: Have a beer.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: A Bud Light.

Rachel: [laughs] But—

Griffin: Watch—watch your game.

Rachel: Yeah, uh-huh? Un—unbuckle my belt.

Griffin: Unbuckle your belt.

Rachel: Recline.

Griffin: Yell.

Rachel: In the recliner.

Griffin: Just start yellin'.

Rachel: [laughs] Um... but now that I'm here all the time, it's like, I would like to enter a room and feel like things are where they should be.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, so yeah. So, organizing. That's my—that's my wonderful thing. It's a simple—a simple thing, and it can be kind of a daunting task, also, at the same time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I... like it.

Griffin: I do too. I do too.

Rachel: I will say, one thing I've noticed is your little, um—your little game... your little game shelf over there.

Griffin: I did that months ago.

Rachel: I know, but—

Griffin: I did that once the—after Delta started to go down and things were looking pretty chill for a bit.

Rachel: [laughs] Um... but—but, you know, it demonstrates that this is an interest of yours.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, I'm sure I'll get back into it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Once the fuckin'—[laughs] once the COVID data chart stops turning into a fuckin' skate park that I could do a fuckin' vert trick off of.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: For, like, a minute. Hey, thank you for listening. Uh, sorry about the vibe. Uh... but I don't feel particularly, uh, like we need to curb that, necessarily.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, perhaps for some people this is an escapist show. And they're like, "Hey guys, stop talking about the thing that I came here to avoid."

Griffin: It is that for us too, though, but it's—it's, uh... yeah. I mean, there's peaks and valleys, and we're in a pretty big valley right now, so, uh...

Rachel: I thought you said "pizza" for a second and, like, I had a—

Griffin: It's a pizza—welcome to Pizza Valley.

Rachel: —just a shot of adrenaline.

Griffin: Fuck, that would be good!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That we be good. If there was, like, a podcast called *Pizza Valley*? That—Pizza Valley should be something.

Rachel: It does sound a little bit like the sequel to, um... hmm, what's the *Archie* show?

Griffin: Oh, *Riverdale*?

Rachel: *Riverdale*. [laughs]

Griffin: You think Pizza Valley—

Rachel: [simultaneously] Pizza Valley, uh-huh.

Griffin: —is the next thing after *Riverdale*?

Rachel: Uh-huh, the spin off.

Griffin: Okay. Anyway, thank you to Bo En and Augustus for use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description. Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Um, and... there's a—

Rachel: Friday!

Griffin: Friday! Oh yeah, shit!

Rachel: Friday, Friday, Friday, Friday, Friday we are streaming a live episode of *Wonderful!* You can purchase a ticket for \$5 or more, should you be able to give more. All proceeds will benefit Austin Bat Cave, which is a creative writing organization in Austin that has programs for youth.

Griffin: It's at bit.ly/wonderfulabc2021.

Rachel: Exactly. Exactly.

Griffin: Didn't think so much about that URL.

Rachel: And if you are, let's say, a cool kid, and you have plans Friday night, I will say that the video on demand will be available for two weeks after. So, you know, let's say you go and you have your cool kid plans, and then you return and you can watch our show.

Griffin: It's our—it's gonna be a New Years Day or New Years Week Spectacular, and we're gonna decide what the best year was. [pause] In the history of human civilization.

Rachel: Wow! You just showed the whole—you showed the whole cat... in the bag.

Griffin: I think it's fun! I think—I want people to start thinking about what the best year was.

Rachel: Yeah, okay.

Griffin: Stretching back to antiquity.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's going to be comprehensive. This episode's going to be a week—it's gonna be some Kim Burns shit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So brace yourselves.

Rachel: Yeah, we decided that everyone's talking about how this hasn't been a good year. And when I say "this year" I mean the one that started five days ago. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, and so we thought, "Well, what is the good year?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so we'll figure that out, hopefully.

Griffin: I'm feeling alright about 2022 so far.

Rachel: Really?

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: What—what's... [laughs quietly] what's b—what's been good? [laughs]

Griffin: Elmo got really angry.

Rachel: Yeah! [laughs] Yeah, there you go.

Griffin: Bye!

[theme music plays]

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[chime]

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[chime]

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[music and ad end]