

## Wonderful! 210: Look at All These Wizards

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:**

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Hi everybody, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:**

And this is wonderful.

**Griffin:**

Do we say everybody? I'm in a space, we're in this space now, where I don't remember the words that we saaaaaay... end of sentence.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

This is wonderful to surely talk about things that we like and things that we are in to, that's part of it.

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh.

**Griffin:**

That's definitely...that's in it. But in the beginning do we go, Hey guy, hey guys?

**Rachel:**

I always struggle, like, whether I say hi, hey or hello and whether it's important.

**Griffin:**

Hi this...

**Rachel:**

It probably isn't.

**Griffin:**

"Hi this is Rachel Mc..." I need to listen of it, uh, an episode of this show.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I don't, I mean listen, we make it.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

That doesn't mean I've gotta consi, consi...

**Rachel:**

I used to listen to it. Did you know when we first started, I would like listen to it and just kinda get a sense of kinda where I could improve and...

**Griffin:**

That's amazing.

**Rachel:**

... and what went well.

**Griffin:**

I used to put it on whenever I was driving Henry to daycare cause he would cry and cry and cry and cry. But the sound of your mellifluous voice. mellifluous, sounds bad. And I can't believe it's a word that means like good and beautiful. It sounds like the word, it sounds like your voice has a sickness. It sounds like it's Maleficent and also it has a flu. Is what it does sound like. And I'm not like a words guy, but...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I guess that's more your corner. Thanks for joining us everybody. Uh, things are still wild over here.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Yeah. It's still pretty terrible. Um...

**Griffin:**

Yeah I said wild, and that's a soft way of putting it. It sucks shit over here.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I feel like with our first, Griffin and I were hesitant to talk about how bad things were, because we wanted to appreciate this precious gift that we have.

**Griffin:**

He's still a precious gift, but like...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

He's a precious gift that sleeps in 20 minute increments...

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

... and is a disaster.

**Rachel:**

I know. It's, it's almost like it, it's a top that situation, where we're like well it can't get worse, and he's like, oh yeah? [laugh]

**Griffin:**

Oh yeah? We'll see about that. Um, yeah. Um, I mean we're, we're getting through it. We're, we're doing our best. But, uh, yeah. If we sound less than ts, ts, ts, like super energetic, that is, uh, that's the reason why, although die hard fans probably could have guessed that. Do you have any small wonders?

**Rachel:**

I did actually, thought about this.

**Griffin:**

Okay, okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, I'm going to say a organic carrot.

**Griffin:**

Organic carrot? Okay.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. I like a real sweet carrot and a lot of times you don't get a good sweet carrot.

**Griffin:**

That's a good point.

**Rachel:**

When you go to the grocery store. But I found that you have a better, a better bet.

**Griffin:**

A better carrot experience?

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Now this may be wrong, this may just not be true, but...

**Griffin:**

You may just be getting the wrong carrots.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Cause I've got a sweet grocery store carrot, for sure.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I don't know. I, I don't know if organic...I, I've heard that like, if it grows in the ground, organic doesn't make that much of a difference. But I don't know if that's true or not.

**Griffin:**

Wow. The other...

**Rachel:**

Anyway, I like a good carrot.

**Griffin:**

For lunch, like two days ago, I had a hotdog with a carrot. And it was very visually, it was like I was eating a big equal sign.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs]. It was very visually uh, uh, pleasing to me.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] You had a hotdog and a carrot?

**Griffin:**

Yeah. The carrot showed up to, to with the hotdog. It was like, uh, you know, hiding behind him.

**Rachel:**

Was this left over from Henry, or did you really go through the process of peeling...

**Griffin:**

I peeled the carrot, cut the nasty butt off of it, chomped it down. Loved it.

**Rachel:**

And just one hand carrot, one hand hotdog, or...

**Griffin:**

No, I wasn't like, no wasn't, I wasn't like holding nun chucks. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Oh, uh, I'm gonna say, and we've just started to dip into it. Ninja warrior is coming back, right? Which is great, because now we have a sports based hole in our heart. Not that I would call...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... American Ninja warriors sports is...

**Rachel:**

I think May 31st, right when the Olympics start, they're gonna capitalize on that momentum.

**Griffin:**

And, and, and it's sad, but I think I'm more excited about ninja warrior.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs]

**Griffin:**

Yes, sadly the Blues were knocked out, swept in the first round of the playoffs. A real heart breaker, David Braun, top scorer for the team, out on COVID protocol the entire playoffs.

**Rachel:**

Justin Faulk, they're like, their defenseman that plays the most minutes of anyone in the league, and also scores goals, uh...

**Griffin:**

Got a nasty hit.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Was it game one or game two?

**Rachel:**

Oh...

**Griffin:**

He got, he got basically tackled in his skull, and...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, and a player got suspended, like it was a serious hit.

**Griffin:**

It was a nasty thing, but, yeah, disappointing way to end the season, but I gotta tell you, I loved watching sports with you...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

...for like three times a week for, holy shit, how long is the seas...we watched so much hockey.

**Rachel:**

We really did.

**Griffin:**

It, did, I hope we continue that, even when the world is not suffering from a terrible pandemic.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I believe you go first this week?

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I think so.

**Griffin:**

All right, what you got?

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I thought of two things to call this.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, one is intense interests...

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

... which is apparently what science, science,

**Griffin:**

Science calls it?

**Rachel:**

What science calls it, scientists call it. Um, or what I also, what I came to it as, which is dinosaur kids.

**Griffin:**

Dinosaur kids?

**Rachel:**

[laugh]. So it is, I'm specifically talking about a, a kid that loves and knows everything about dinosaurs.

**Griffin:**

For sure, for sure.

**Rachel:**

Um, but I realize that that is a type of, uh, intense interest that kids get.

**Griffin:**

Uh, okay.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Our son, I believe has intense interest in dinosaurs.



**Rachel:**

Yes. Yeah, I mean not as much as super heroes.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

But...

**Griffin:**

God almighty, that kid.

**Rachel:**

The whole idea of intense interests is that like, kids of a certain age, like three to five years old typically, start to like, become, you know, like categorizers of particular things that they like.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And they start knowing everything about it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and I love that.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, me too.

**Rachel:**

It's just the best. Like, it's so fun, especially to have him tell us stuff that we don't know, and, or to like, mention things to him once, and have him remember.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Um, so, okay, so almost a third of all children at some point, typically between the age of two and six, uh, have some kind of intense interest. Uh, the most common intense interest is vehicles. So planes, trains, cars.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And, and the next most popular by far is dinosaurs.

**Griffin:**

It's vehicles above dinosaurs? I wouldn't have guessed that in a million years.

**Rachel:**

So, oh, Henry knows a lot of like, Marvel and DC superheroes. And like deep cut ones too.

**Griffin:**

Like weird...

**Rachel:**

Like Green Goblin.

**Griffin:**

Like Captain Cold.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. [laugh]. Uh, and dinosaurs. He, uh, he of course knows, you know, the T-Rex, the Brachiosaurus, uh, Ankylosaurus...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And also, uh, you wanna do our favorite song?

**Griffin:**

Uh... Parasaurolophus.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Or is it Parasauropholus? I don't remember.

**Griffin:**

It's Parasaurolophus because...

**Rachel:**

Oh, okay.

**Griffin:**

Wait. Paraso...I got something for all of us. Listen guys, weird kids YouTube has a lot of dinosaurs songs.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Yeah. Uh, and so when I was reading this article, so this is an article from The Cut, uh, 2017. Uh, and it talks about how, um, mastering a topic can be real like confidence boosting for kids.

**Griffin:**

Sure, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Like, it's kinda the first time that they potentially know more than adults, you know? And can kinda come into a situation and, and like, you know, know, know the score.

**Griffin:**

Knowing something that your parents don't know is an intoxicating, like feeling, when you are very young.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]

**Griffin:**

I, I corrected my mom on some bible trivia of like who washed J-Jesus's feet with oils. Like, something like that.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]. Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And I still remember that to this day.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And I was like five years old and I'd read in some illustrated bible stories book.

**Rachel:**

I remember being at Th, Thanksgiving and telling my uncle about tryptophan, or whatever...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

...that chemical in turkey that makes you sleepy.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And he didn't know about it and I was just like, how, how,

**Griffin:**

How does that work?

**Rachel:**

How do you don't...

**Griffin:**

But your, your brains bigger than mine, huh!

**Rachel:**

[Laugh] You're older, how do you not know? Um, so, the, the one thing about this though, is there was a study in 2007, and researchers followed, uh, put the parents of 177 kids and found that the interest only lasted between six months and three years.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

So if your little kids wants to be a paleontologist, it's very probable that they will not hang in there.

**Griffin:**

Well it turns into other things, doesn't it?

**Rachel:**

Well that's what they say. So when you go to school, um, you know, there's this emphasis on being a, an, an all kinder.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

You know, like somebody that, that knows a little bit about everything.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

And you realize that, you know, math and, and history aren't necessarily dinosaur heavy.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And so maybe you should learn more stuff.

**Griffin:**

Well, I was saying like, an interest in dinosaurs could turn into an interest in Pokemon, which are just...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that's true.

**Griffin:**

... dinosaurs with powers.

**Rachel:**

It's true. Henry knows a lot of Pokemon now too.

**Griffin:**

That's true.

**Rachel:**

Um, yeah, the whole idea of like getting into a particular thing, like dinosaurs, like teaches you how to ask questions and find answers and gain expertise. Uh, and it helps you kind of build those skills and, and, be, become somebody as an adult that, you know, seeks out what you are interested in.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. It's delightful. It's delightful when it's, when it's any kid. Like I love seeing some kid who like, knows every state capital and they're like four years old. Or they can, like, play sweet riffs on a guitar, or whatever. But when it's your own kid, it's doubly, it's doubly sad.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

It's to watch your four year old shoot the shit with your dad, because...

**Rachel:**

Yeah...

**Griffin:**

... they just want to talk about, like, fuckin Gorilla Grodd or whatever.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Like that's, it's so good.

**Rachel:**

Um, I will say so three separate studies found that older children with intense interests tend to be above average intelligence.

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

So, you know on all those Pokemon.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

It's not necessarily something to be ashamed of.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, uh, there was a time I could do the whole Poke-rap, which is nothing now.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]

**Griffin:**

I feel like Brian Devitty Gulder has made that accomplishment of [00:10:05]

**Rachel:**

So here's I get a craving to just like, listen to the one he made.

**Griffin:**

To the Poke-rap song? Yeah, me too.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. [laugh]

**Griffin:**

Me too.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, so I, I thought about bringing dinosaurs and just like telling him how cool dinosaurs are.

**Griffin:**

They're fun, yeah.

**Rachel:**

But then, I decided that was a pretty big topic and maybe I wanna break it down a little bit.

**Griffin:**

Break it down, yeah. Like I could do a whole Ankylosaurus, like, segment. Have I ever told the joke that Henry made up at the, at the, there's a place called the Dinosaur Park?

**Rachel:**

Are you sure you didn't make that up and he overheard it?

**Griffin:**

I did not. I, uh, why would I be, okay, it was a dinosaur based Star Wars joke, because Henry has like a kylo ren toy, he has not watched those, the, the new trilogy of Star Wars movies.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

But he said, which dinosaur is a big fan of Darth Vader? Ankylosaurus. And I was like, that's good shit, my man.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that's like a real good joke.

**Griffin:**

Like that's a, that's a wild...

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

... maybe he heard it somewhere, maybe he heard on a YouTube video, or something like that.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

But it was a, it's a, it, it...



**Rachel:**

Yeah, that joke construction is a little advanced.

**Griffin:**

It's, it's wild, yeah. Hey can I steal you away?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

[Home Improvement theme plays]

[ad break]

**Griffin:**

I have a couple poppadoms here and, can I read the first one of them to you.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, go for it.

**Griffin:**

This ones for Keister. It's from Sarah, who says, Keister, happy sixth wedding anniversary. I'm so lucky I was able to spend the past year quarantining with you. Baby B, Kahlua and Madness. And thank you for being the guinea pig for all the Tik Tok meals I made, hopefully we are all moved into our new house right now. If we are, I think it's time we add a Corgi to our family. Love, Lady. It's always....uh.

**Rachel:**

And this was asked for close to April 25th, so maybe they have that Corgi by now.

**Griffin:**

Probably have that Corgi. Probably got Tik Tok stardom, getting all the Tik Tok, uh, st, p,points.

**Rachel:**

[Laugh]. Griffin inexplicably doesn't have Tik Tok. I don't but there's a lot of things I don't have.

**Griffin:**

I cu, I curated, uh, fuckin premo list on vine, like...

**Rachel:**

I know

**Griffin:**

I invested so much of my heart, soul, blood, sweat, tears into creating a quality Vine, fel, fellowship that every time I turn on that app I got something delightful. And I do not know how to do that with Tik Tok. I do not understand it.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, who's got the time?

**Griffin:**

Apparently the rest of my family.

**Rachel:**

It's true.

**Griffin:**

It is true. Uh, hey, do you wanna read this next one?

**Rachel:**

Yes. This message is for Safety Town chat. It is from Tay. Can't believe our chats only existed since November 2019. Fully don't remember what I did before we talked everyday and I don't know that I would've gotten through the pandemic without y'all. Can't wait until the world is normal again, so we can retake over safety town, squeeze each other at McElroy shows, rent a big house and live our queer co-op dreams.

**Griffin:**

Um, if, if you're talking about the safety town in Huntington, do not mention us by name.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]. Although multiple people have pointed out, including Sydnee's mom, that there is now a child painted on the building that looks a lot like you.

**Griffin:**

I get, yeah, um, I'm not the one that stole the batteries out of the car. Like, there's a...

**Rachel:**

Oh yeah.

**Griffin:**

There is a bit where somebody like, picked up batteries and carried them somewhere. I think it was Travis and we got in trouble for that cause apparently the batteries are very expensive.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

And that's why we had to leave. Um, I shouldn't be airing out this dirty laundry, oooh, I got stories for days. Shit about Mayor Steve Williams. You wouldn't believe that's not true...

**Rachel:**

... very nice man.

**Griffin:**

He's very nice. I hit his car once and he was totally cool about it.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

Jumbo Trons are about to do another drawing for those, uh, for the second half of 2021. If you're wanting to get a message on the show and you haven't done it before, uh, the demand is much higher than the supply, uh, so once again we will be doing a drawing for Jumbo Trons. Only personal messages, uh, and that drawing starts today. Go to [maximumfund.org/jumbotronsdrawing](http://maximumfund.org/jumbotronsdrawing) to enter drawing to purchase one of the limited Jumbo Tron spots on wonderful and that drawing closes on June 4th, so uh, the, the date of your message is just estimated, not guaranteed

because again, sp, sp, the supply is so low, we don't wanna do a whole bunch of these per episode, but, ah, if you want complete details, please visit [maximumfund.org/jumbotronsdrawing](http://maximumfund.org/jumbotronsdrawing) and if you have any other questions you can email [Daniel@maximumfund.org](mailto:Daniel@maximumfund.org).

[MaxFun ad]

**Rachel:**

What is your thing?

**Griffin:**

My thing this week is a game that I have had a wild hankering for lately.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. Free Cell.

**Griffin:**

No, it's not Fr, it isn't Free Cell. I don't think I know what Free Cell is. Is it just solitaire?

**Rachel:**

Can I... uh no.

**Griffin:**

Okay. It's not a video, uh, you don't play it on a computer or a Nintendo Game Boy or a Sega Game Gear...

**Rachel:**

Oh, this is fun, are you gonna have me guess?

**Griffin:**

Sure yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh...

**Griffin:**

I, I here's another thing, I saw it on an episode of The Americans and I was like, which I've been watching, and I just like, it instantly activated this thing in me where I haven't played this game in a long time. Uh, but it's like, all I wanna do right now.

**Rachel:**

Hide and seek?

**Griffin:**

No.

**Rachel:**

Hopscotch?

**Griffin:**

I love the idea in your mind that its *The Americans*, a cold war era spy thriller, they have a sequence where, I guess spy work is all hide and seek.

**Rachel:**

I was trying to think of older games that have been around for a long time,

**Griffin:**

Yeah

**Rachel:**

... that they would show American children.

**Griffin:**

This game has a ball.

**Rachel:**

Oh. It's not dodge ball is it?

**Griffin:**

No, God, no.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

Fuckin dodge ball.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

Dodge ball's so good on paper, but then like, throwing a ball a lot makes your arm wicked hurt.

**Rachel:**

And, and not to mention getting hit by a ball.

**Griffin:**

Oh I don't, well that's not a concern for me. It just the throwing.

**Rachel:**

Oh yeah, you're very fast. Um, it has a ball.

**Griffin:**

It has a ball.

**Rachel:**

I've talked about four square before on this show.

**Griffin:**

That's true.

**Rachel:**

I know it's not four square. Um, I'm gonna give up.

**Griffin:**

Bowling.

**Rachel:**

Bowling.

**Griffin:**

I used to bowl, I mean, close to monthly in Huntington cause in Huntington there were lots of bowling alleys.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And when you grow up in a very suburban area, that doesn't have a lot to do, bowling is like the thing you do as a kid/teen.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I don't know that, I didn't grow up in the suburban area of Huntington, but there were, I mean, scattered, hithering yond these bowling alleys were.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I'm just saying like, not like a big city where you can just walk around and that's your activity.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Uh, that has obviously diminished since we have had kids and then a p, pandemic happened. Uh, but we've gone, you know, several times with our friends. There used to be a place Dark Bowl that we would go to...

**Rachel:**

Yeah. That's no longer.

**Griffin:**

That's no longer open. This, this industry has been hit pretty hard by this quarantine.

**Rachel:**

When you were in high school, could you still smoke at bowling alleys or had they stopped that.

**Griffin:**

I mean I wasn't smoking in high school, so...

**Rachel:**

Well no, I'm just saying when I was a kid, I would go to a bowling alley and I would come home head to toe smelling like smoke.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, there was a, there was a place called Colonial Lanes, which I dunno if it's still open, but in, it's, it was in a Huntington, that, I'm pretty sure they just let you smoke in there. Cause it always smelled like smoke like in the, like late aughts.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

When, I like know that that was not anything that was supposed to be allowed for that time.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that bakes in. That...

**Griffin:**

That bakes, that gets deep in that slippery wood, but damn, ooof I'd love to hit that slippery wood.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

So have you once. Throw a big boy down the lanes. Oh, God, doesn't that sound good as hell right now? Eat some fuckin 'tater tots.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

And throw you some Coopers Lites.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that does sound nice. We, I think the last time we went bowling was one of our friends birthday, they like rented a party bus and we like showed up at the bowling alley without a reservation. [laugh]

**Griffin:**

It was a thing. Uh, I, bowling checks all the boxes for me. Like, it's a game of skill, that doesn't involve cardio, muscular exercise. Uh, and I am sometimes pretty good at it. Like, I have definitely had times where I've gone bowling and like gotten lots of them big strikes and gotten lots of them...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Still pretty...I still like a spare. I know a lotta people,

**Rachel:**



Oh of course.

**Griffin:**

... they get a spare and they're like ugh. I get a spare and I'm like hell yeah. And I've definitely gotten like, I've probably gotten close to, like, high hundreds, close to, to, you know, swiping at two, two hundred on my best day.

**Rachel:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

And then also, I will go in there and I will bowl like a fuckin' forty.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Which is, if you're not familiar with bowling, a pretty bad score.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

A not great score. Uh, I don't know what it is, maybe it's just like I need to pick my ball out better and that's always such a satisfying thing, you feel like you're, like, picking your magic sword from the wizard.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

[laugh]. You know that trope in Fantasy, where you go to see the wizard and he's like, "I've got like 10 of these magic swords"...

**Rachel:**

I just thought it was funny that you could have said like, picking your baseball bat or your golf club, but, and you went...

**Griffin:**

Why the fuck would I know anything about either of those things?

**Rachel:**

... magic sword from your wizard [laughs].

**Griffin:**

[laughs].

**Rachel:**

Aaah, no.

**Griffin:**

I don't know anything about golf, I, I, I have played golf a few times and secretly in my heart of hearts, I really love playing it. Uh, I just don't live a lifestyle that is conducive to that right now. Um, but I, I play a lot of golf video games and every time I play them, which I played a lot of at this point, I see like, oh, a five iron, I don't know what that means.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It sounds good to me.

**Rachel:**

That's the thing and that's, I mean that's like bowling too. Like, you just have to, you just have to learn technique, you know.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

I mean, that's, that's the big variable.

**Griffin:**

I used, my style used to be go with a really light ball that I could just throw the shit out of, right down that lane.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like, and that was very satisfying and not very effective, I don't think.

**Rachel:**

My, my problem was that it was, it would always go down the lane so slowly that it would be right in the center, but it would only take, like five pins down cause by the time it got to the end, it was just like...

**Griffin:**

Yeah, no mo. Uh, it, it's just, it's very tactile. Like I love the, the feel of the, of the ball and the smell of those shoes and the, the...

**Rachel:**

The smell of the shoes?

**Griffin:**

No.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

There's like a, you know, a, a, a greasy, the grease that they use on the, on the wood.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I like seeing, like people on dates too at the bowling alley.

**Griffin:**

People on dates, there're so much good people watching. There is a, as a spectator sport, it's the best, because you go with a big group of friends, and it is like a dance circle, where like somebody gets in the middle and everybody has to watch them, like that's, that is bowling. Like, you, you are drawn, your attention is drawn to...

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And there's down time so you can, like chit chat...

**Griffin:**

Chit chat and go to the bathroom, no questions asked.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]. Wha, wha, what activities can you not go to the bathroom?

**Griffin:**

I mean darts. If you're playing one on one darts...

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

... you can't like take a pool, like you know what I mean? Bowling is perfect. You get like, like a group of five people...

**Rachel:**

Ah, and you have time.

**Griffin:**

I have time, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

Uh, I just, I, I, I love bowling. I think it's great and I've really, it's one of those things that you don't know what you, now that we're in this weird liminal space, post, post, uh, quarantine, uh, which is even more liminal for the two of us, because we have a newborn and aren't exactly going places, like, if for whatever reason I just got this strongest urge, uh, the history of bowling...

**Rachel:**

Can I ask a question first?

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Did you have a friend or friends that was like on a league, that was real good?

**Griffin:**

Probably, but I didn't know, I...

**Rachel:**

I definitely had a friend that not only used to do bowling on the weekends, but he had his own monogrammed ball...

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

... with his like, initials on it.

**Griffin:**

I don't know if I had that friend, but I definitely had a lot of friends who were very serious about everything we did.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, okay.

**Griffin:**

Whether it was pool, or bowling, or you know, hitting the dog tracks or whatever.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Um, okay. So this game is wicked old and there's been so many different versions of it. There were drawings found in Egypt dated back to 5200BC depicting bowling. So people have been throwing things at smaller things for a minute. Uh, ancient Romans used to throw balls to get them closer to other balls, which is where bocce ball comes from, which is kinda bowling.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, makes sense.

**Griffin:**

And around the year 400, uh, there's, uh, skittles is a big game that is, is sort of a, a, a progenitor of, you know, certain types of bowling. It can be played out, outdoors or indoors. It can change scale, essentially. But in German, it's called kegels. And that's because in the year 400, around the year 400, Germans, uh, as like sort of a like religious ritual, would throw rocks towards these clubs called kegels. And the clubs were meant to represent heathens. Uh...

**Rachel:**

Oh! [laugh]

**Griffin:**

Yeah, which is okay. Which is, which, okay. If that, I mean, if that, I don't th, know if that's great or not, but it got us bowling, so...

**Rachel:**

What is that game that we've played in Chris Plant's yard, where you throw bones?

**Griffin:**

Oh, God. What is it called?

**Rachel:**

It's like, I feel like it's like, it sounds like an IKEA word.

**Griffin:**

It sounds like Gru, but I think that's the fuckin Despicable Me gentleman.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

K, Kewk? C, Coob. Coob.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Coob. I'm so sorry everybody.

**Rachel:**

I like that I said that it sounded like an IKEA word, because it does.

**Griffin:**

It does, it does.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

Uh, yeah, I mean that is like a bowling outdoor game essentially.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Where you throw sticks at other sticks, like a, a,

**Rachel:**

It's a bowling...

**Griffin:**

Bowling sorta comes from a lot of this. Uh,

**Rachel:**

And you can, uh, there's something to be said about a one handed game. You know,

**Griffin:**

Oh sure.

**Rachel:**

Like, like a game where you could feasibly like hold the drink in one hand and do what you're supposed to do with the other.

**Griffin:**

Absolutely.

**Rachel:**

That's lovely.

**Griffin:**

Um, so, so, uh, you know, the game of throwing things at other things outside spread throughout, you know, most of Western Europe from the 14th century on. Uh, taking on just like a bunch of different variations, uh and, when it took place outside, they would do things like lawn bowling, which took place on a bowling green, which is where that comes from. There a city in West Virginia, called Bowling Green. There's a street here, in Austin, called Bowling Green. I never just put two and two together, that that's describing an actual lawn.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. There's a place in Ohio, I think, called Bowling Green too.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Um, so indoor bowling alleys started to open up in the middle of the 19th century, which is about when tenpin bowling started to rise in popularity. Um, before that, it was ninepin bowling where they're put up in different configurations and then there's different rules of, you have to hit the first front pin before you can knock any of the other ones down.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

And you know, ball size and pin size differed, you know, des, depending on where you were. If you were playing in a pub, it would take place in sort of like a skee-ball, uh thing, with like netting on the sides to sorta catch errant pins and um,

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Those are, you know, you can still find those in some, some pubs and in, in England. Um, and then, uh, at the turn of the 20th century, Bronzewick got into the game, started to sell, you know, balls and pins, and alleys to places which is also right around when the rules for like, modern tenpin bowling were established by the United States Bowling Congress, which is...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... an organization that, I guess had to...

**Rachel:**

Those clowns in Bowling Congress.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. So, that was like, that was like around the nineteen, 1900, and then it just like, blew up over the next, you know, few decades. Obviously it's not



as popular know as it was in say, 1950, uh, but I don't know man, I feel like bowling's going to have a big comeback.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I like for you, when our kids are older, to like have, well you know, I mean we've talked about curling, but just some kind of league that you do...

**Griffin:**

Curling is throwing things at other things.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I like a throwing things at other things games.

**Rachel:**

I mean, you don't really throw it, but you, you slide it.

**Griffin:**

You know what I mean.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

Uh, hey thanks to Boeing and Augustus for use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You'll find a link to that in the episode description. I'm sorry that we don't have any wonders from the home audience. We haven't done that in a little bit because we did, [laugh], have been so under the gun...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... to get these recordings out. Um, but, we'll, we'll, I will get back to you.

**Rachel:**

What is that email, wonderful podcast?

**Griffin:**

I, honestly? No idea.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

No idea. No idea.

**Rachel:**

Um, and thank you to Maximum Fun. Have we said that?

**Griffin:**

No, we haven't. Thank you Maximum Fun for having us on the network. There's so many great shows on the network that you should go listen to and try 'em out and find a, find a new, you know, try a new favorite show out today. Maybe it's gonna, maybe it's gonna click with you. Maybe it's gonna triple click with you, which is the name of one of the podcasts and that's on maximum fun hour.

**Rachel:**

That's very clever.

**Griffin:**

They, and they can use that, uh, that's it. And that's it. That ones it. How long have we got. How long is this? We're not even at a half hour yet. You just wanna shoot the breeze for a few minutes?

**Rachel:**

[laugh]. We, remember last time we toyed with the idea of our, our farewell being, we gotta go.

**Griffin:**

We gotta go and us running out the door.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I mean we could do something like that.

**Rachel:**

I'd like to think that this isn't forever. Um...

**Griffin:**

It's not forever.

**Rachel:**

Although it feels like it.

**Griffin:**

No, it's, yeah.

**Rachel:**

And this, this, this could be translatable, I think a lot of people maybe listening, don't have kids, uh, or have not experienced raising young a child, uh, and so, maybe they can't relate. But, it's one of those times in your life, where it's really hard and you feel like it's forever. Uh, and I feel like everybody can probably relate to that.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Um, yeah, I mean there's happy times, certainly. I know we complain a lot.

**Rachel:**

He's very cute.

**Griffin:**

He's very cute. He's very...

**Rachel:**

I mean of course he is, he looks like you.

**Griffin:**

And whenever him and Henry have like, times together, like sweet moments, it's like so good, it's like so good.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

Um, it, but, he, um,

**Rachel:**

I like putting my face on his face.

**Griffin:**

That's good, that's good too.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Um, and, but, um, he just doesn't sleep. The only thing he doesn't do.

**Rachel:**

And he's very angry.

**Griffin:**

He's so mad at me.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

In particular. He only really knows me, you and Henry. And he loves Henry. And he, he a, appreciates you. And he fuckin despises me.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

What do I do for him? What do I do for him?

**Rachel:**

He laughs at you too though.

**Griffin:**

That's a fair point.

**Rachel:**

Which is good?

**Griffin:**

Is it? I don't know.

**Rachel:**

We can't keep this in the show, this isn't interesting.

**Griffin:**

I think it's interesting. Henry is starting to ask questions about my job and I had to tell him that I'm funny for a living because he's four and that's like the only way that I can, I can explain to him the pod, the medium of podcasting right now. And he's been giving me a lot of shit about it, about that lately. [laugh] Like...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... isn't it your job to be funny? Like, yeah. Wow. When you say it that way, that's bracing my boy.

**Rachel:**

We're just started taking Henry places, uh, but before that we didn't really took him to either the Dinosaur Park or the zoo or McDonald's. And so, he said to me, he said, Daddy is funny for a living, what do you do? And I said, oh, I, I work at a big building. I go and I drive there and I write for people. Uh, and the only place he could think that I could work, was McDonald's. And so then he asked me if I worked there. And I said, no. But it's very revealing for the past year that that is the only establishment he thought existed outside of the Dinosaur Park and the zoo, which he knows I don't work at.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. He would have seen you there.

**Rachel:**

[laugh].

**Griffin:**

McDonald's, he has not been inside the building.

**Rachel:**

He doesn't see anybody, so...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Could be me.

**Griffin:**

McDonald's may have grants, opportunities.

**Rachel:**

I'm sure they do.

**Griffin:**

Make me. All right, that's a half hour, bye everybody!

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