

## Wonderful! 215: Difficult and Horny

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:** [laughs] Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is *Wonderful!*

**Griffin:** [whiny voice] Why'd you laugh at me?

**Rachel:** Griffin, before we start recording, always likes to do something that makes me think I should not start, and usually it involves drinking a beverage, and I figure, "I'll wait until he's finished."

**Griffin:** I am a prepper, right?

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** Not in the... sort of—

**Rachel:** Backpack.

**Griffin:** —uh, go bag kind of way.

**Rachel:** Yeah, uh-huh.

**Griffin:** But in the, like, I wanna— before I leave the house I have to have peed within the last ten minutes.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, because I need to, like— I need to start out at the optimal position so I can have, like, the optimal time with it, right? So I have to hit the water right before we start recording so that my mouth is like [smacks lips]. Optimal moistness.

**Rachel:** I don't know. I have no problem with that. I think that is great prepping. Um, but I will say that usually you're like, "Alright. Ready to go." You look at me to start, and then you grab your water! And I think, like, "Oh, he's not ready to start, 'cause he doesn't want that sound on the recording."

**Griffin:** Well, um, I mean, the time that it takes you to say, "Hi, this is Rachel McElroy," I can get a guzzle in there, easy.

**Rachel:** And the microphone doesn't pick it up? That's what I worry about.

**Griffin:** Not if I lean away from the mic to breathe. Tay Zonday "Chocolate Rain." [holding back laughter] You remember him? [wheezes] Oh, man!

**Rachel:** I don't, I don't. I don't— people talk about "Chocolate Rain." I don't remember that. I may have seen it. I don't need to see it, as far as I'm concerned. But I don't remember what it is when people mention it.

**Griffin:** There is a weird— there's a lot of weird sort of cultural disconnects between yourself and me.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** There's a lot that we— there's a lot we mesh on, the important stuff. Values!

**Rachel:** Values, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** But I feel like there is an era where I was scum at the bottom of some sort of filthy pond—

**Rachel:** [giggles]

**Griffin:** —just sort of, um, nourishing myself based on nutrients absorbed through my computer screen on an eBaum's World, on an Albino Blacksheep, on, uh, enter Flash site here.

**Rachel:** Wow, these are all things I don't know.

**Griffin:** And it's because of that that there are moments that just— I feel like a— I am ta— like I'm married to a stranger! Like I'm married to a stranger!

**Rachel:** I just— I feel like you are an internet expert. Like, when I think of the internet I feel like Griffin knows what's on there. And— and so I don't— I don't hold it against you.

**Griffin:** I guess that's— I guess that's a good point. We both cover a lot of different cultural ground.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** There's not— sure, there's not much overlap, but that's okay.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Because when there's a case when people are like, you know, we're at a bar and someone's like, "[singing] Badger, badger, badger, mushroom, mushroom!" And I can be like, "Yeah, dude! [singing] Snake!" And, like, do the rest of the meme. And you're looking at me with wild eyes—

**Rachel:** [laughs] I have no idea what's happening right now.

**Griffin:** But then, like, somebody will be like, you know, talking about a book. Or...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You know what I mean?

**Rachel:** Sometimes I feel like I have woken up from a coma. Like, maybe I had a coma and nobody told me.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Because you will reference things, as if— as if everybody knows them. And I think, "That's not familiar."

**Griffin:** Yeah. Oh babe, I do think that most of our... well, I don't know. We're on— we're on opposite ends of the gamut now, because, like, I bet a lot of youngsters didn't go to those websites, 'cause they probably didn't fuckin' exist! By the time they reached an age where they were allowed.

**Rachel:** When was your peak— like, when you're referencing these memes—

**Griffin:** God almighty.

**Rachel:** —when was your peak internet?

**Griffin:** Er.. late 90's, early 00's is when a lot of this stuff, like, really popped off. So, like, I would say 13, 14, 15, 16. Those years. 17, 18... [holding back laughter] 19.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** 20, 21, 22, 23. [laughs]

**Griffin:** 20, 21, 22, 23— how old am I now? 34. Yeah, so just— yeah. Basically that whole part of my life.

**Rachel:** See, I know “Peanut Butter Jelly Time.”

**Griffin:** That's alright. That's gettin' there. It's ge— yeah, sure!

**Rachel:** I just assumed that was it.

**Griffin:** Yeah we made that and stopped.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Do you have any small wonders?

**Rachel:** Uh, drinking water. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Jesus Christ almighty alive.

**Rachel:** We— so the freeze went okay. We did okay in the freeze. We had to turn our water off continuously, maybe—

**Griffin:** For a few nights— a few nights in a row.

**Rachel:** Maybe unnecessarily, but after you have the experience that we had, it seemed necessary.

**Griffin:** For new listeners, our house exploded!

**Rachel:** Yeah. In— In '21, we lost our master bathroom, uh, and in '22—

**Griffin:** And bedroom, and—

**Rachel:** —in '22 we thought, "Well, that's not happening to us again." And so then we— we made it through and we thought, "We're great!" And then the drinking water stopped.

**Griffin:** Yes, Austin has been under a boil water notice for three days, four days now? Uh, and it is our second in a year and, like, fifth in three years. Um, yeah. So I guess our infrastructure... [laughs] in Austin... needs work?!

**Rachel:** Yeah. What was wild was that we were told to start boiling our water. I started getting lots of texts [laughs] including texts that told me how long to boil the water, and then to let the water cool.

**Griffin:** Thank you.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Thank you. Uh, but never really made clear to me why?

**Griffin:** Somebody apparently goofed up, which I don't— I don't think that water— I don't really think any sort of, um, utility like that should be something that one person can, like, have an off day at their job, and then the whole— for a million people, the water is poisoned.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I will say, there are a lot of areas that have this issue continuously.

**Griffin:** Of course, yes. We are not really suffering.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I recognize this is temporary for us and we're lucky for that. But I will tell you, I really appreciate being able to drink water, um, you know, out of a faucet now, like I didn't... I didn't before.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Um, I'm going to say, uh, *The Afterparty* on the Apple TV.

**Rachel:** Oh, good one.

**Griffin:** Uh, it is a mystery, a murder-mystery show with a fucking all-star cast.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Just— just... every scene has somebody that you are delighted by, uh, and it's like— it's that unique kind of delight where, you know, it's not like "Oh, I see this person in everything and, you know, I'm over it."

It's like, "Oh, good! This person, too!"

**Griffin:** Yeah. So, uh, Tiffany Haddish is the lead detective on the show and it's, like, the best role for her. Uh, Sam Richardson from *Detroiters* and, I mean, he's been in so much stuff at this point.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, Ilana Glazer, Ben Schwartz, Ike Berinholtz, like, all of these people. And they are all— uh, they've all gone to a high school reunion, and then at this afterparty—

**Rachel:** Dave Franco!

**Griffin:** —Dave Franco plays this pop star named Xavier who gets murdered. And so the— each episode goes through the events of the night through one character's perspective, and sets up in the pilot that, like, everybody's the star of their own movie in their mind. And so basically each episode, in diving into, like, each of these characters in the show, basically goes through the night in a different genre of film, essentially?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, like, Ben Schwartz's, he is an, uh, sort of failed music producer, and so his episode is a movie musical.

**Rachel:** Yeah, and Sam Richardson is a romantic comedy.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It's— it is brilliant, and so funny, and everybody is— Dave Franco just puts on a fucking clinic.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Like, the funniest shit I've ever seen him in. It is a really, really good show. Um, speaking of, I go first this week.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I am also going to talk about another show that we've been watching.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** And it has become, like, my new favorite television program, and it is called *Murderville*.

**Rachel:** Yeahhh.

**Griffin:** *Murderville* is— it's on Netflix. Uh, it is an adaptation of a BBC show called *Murder in Successville*, and the two shows basically have, uh, the same premise. It is a procedural cop drama in the vein of... God almighty, all of them? *NYPD Blue* and, uh, *Law & Order* and *NCIS* and, like, all of those. Any sort of cop drama that you can imagine, it is one of those. It stars Will Arnett as detective Terry Seattle, and each week, he has to investigate a murder. And the twist is that in each episode, he is assigned a new celebrity guest star as his partner. And it is a scripted drama for everyone except for the celebrity guest star, who has not seen the script and has to improvise everything start to finish, and just follow along as best that they can as each episode goes, while also trying to solve a mystery.

**Rachel:** Yeah, and I was really surprised by the celebrity guests, because—

**Griffin:** Runs a wide range.

**Rachel:** —I assumed— the first episode is Conan O'Brien, and so I thought, okay, it's just gonna be actors that are known improvisers, you know?

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Uh, and then I looked at the rest of the roster and I was like, "Wow!"

**Griffin:** And it's just a couple of 'em are actually that.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Um, so it's super formulaic, right? Because cop shows are super formulaic. In each episode they introduce the guest star. Uh, there is, like, ongoing through lines about Detective Terry Seattle and his partner, who was mysteriously murdered 15 years ago, and the painful divorce that he's going through. Like, it's not just, you know, bottle episodes every single time. And then they have to go to a crime scene, where they look at clues, and then they go to investigate three different suspects, uh, before the guest star has to decide who they think the murderer is, and that's not a lock. I think it's... I'm trying to remember back. There's only six episodes on Netflix. I think, like, only half of them actually got the murderer correct at the end, so not everybody is an expert, sort of, uh, at cracking the case.

**Rachel:** Yeah, that's what I didn't— that's what I didn't realize when I first started watching, that, like, it is designed so the viewer at home can, like, put it together.

**Griffin:** There is a gamey element to it. Uh, which is, like, an, I feel like unnecessary layer, but one that I feel like really makes the show fun on multiple levels, where you are— you want the guest stars to be funny, and most of the time they are very, very funny. But also, like, you wanna know how good a detective they are; like, how good they are at, like, solving puzzles and being clever.

**Rachel:** Yeah, 'cause it's extra charming if they're, like, taking it really seriously.

**Griffin:** Right, exactly, and most of them do. Uh, and what's, like, super brilliant about the show— like, the— this setup is, like, amazing, and I love a reality show with just, like, a clever concept that will pay off forever, right? Like, that there's just infinite ways to wring that delicious, you know, reality show TV juice out of. But because it also a send up of cop dramas, they basically give themselves the freedom to put the guest stars in any situation you could ever imagine.

Uh, so we just finished the finale last night with Ken Jeong as the celebrity guest who has no idea what's going on. And they are investigating a woman who is the host of basically a *Shark Tank* style television show. And so in order to investigate her, they have to go undercover by pitching a product called Icebreakerz with a Z, which are big blocks of ice with icebreaker questions, like, frozen inside, and so



they have to shatter them on the floor, and then retrieve the cards inside, which have incredibly, like, personal questions about the murderer suspect that they're— like, smash. "Oh, it says here, uh, 'Where were you on the night of September 5th, 2006?'"

And the person's like, "Wow, that's really specific just to me."

There's an episode where, like, Annie Murphy has to cook in, like, a— a kitchen and, like, stir a big thing with her arm. Uh, it— like, there are so many— Marshawn Lynch has to pretend to mirror somebody from behind, like, a two-way mirror that is not there.

**Rachel:** I don't wanna— there are so few episodes—

**Griffin:** There are so many— you're right, I don't wanna spoil it.

**Rachel:** There are so few episodes, I don't wanna spoil too much of it. Um, but it is delightful.

**Griffin:** But that's just to say, like, with this show, there's only six episodes but, like, it proves that they could do anything with this format. Like, they could put themselves in any format and be like, "Well, this is in the interest of investigating this murder, so that is why we have put you in this scenario." There's no shortage of— they're not going to repeat, I think, concepts anytime soon. It's just such an easy, like, show to get into.

I will say that the— the episodes, I think, quality differs from episode to episode. Will Arnett is, like, always great. I cannot imagine anybody else doing that role, 'cause it is, like, peak Will Arnett, like, gruff, kind of dumb detective guy.

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** But he is an incredible improviser who, like, is able to take whatever the guest, like, puts up and, like, run with it. Uh, which is great if the other person's being hysterically funny and he can build off that, or if the other person's not really giving him anything, he can sort of still kind of power through and make it work. Like, Sharon Stone is one of the guest stars, and is probably the weakest episode for me just because, like, there's not much fun, like, actual improvising.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And building and stuff that happens there. Uh, but Marshawn Lynch gets into the role so fucking instantly and so deeply.

**Rachel:** Yeah. For those of you that have watched, like, an athlete host an episode of *Saturday Night Live*, you realize, like, most of them do not have comedy chops. But oh, man.

**Griffin:** [laughs quietly] He ju— he— he walks in and is like, "By the way, I don't want you to call me Marshawn Lynch this episode. I want you to call me—" what did— "Dete— Detective Bag a Bitch?"

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** Or Bag a Beach, as they then change it to. And Will Arnett is just like, "[wheezes] Okay? We can— yeah, absolutely we can do that."

Uh, Kumail Nanjiani is probably my favorite episode of the whole series in that I am— I have not laughed to the point of hurting and, like, "Oh no, I might lose consciousness from laughing as hard at this as I am." But start to finish, that episode was just so funny, and I feel like it is the concept firing on all cylinders simultaneously, because Kumail Nanjiani is also a pretty good detective, as it turned out!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, it's— it's— man. Uh, I— you know, Rachel and I watch probably more reality television show than... anybody else on the planet? I don't know why I said we watch reality television show. There's more than one of them.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, but I just love it when the premise is so good. That's why I like a, um, that terrible *Utopia* show that we watched—

**Rachel:** Yeahhh.

**Griffin:** —where the people had to build a community as, like, they didn't execute on it very good, but dammit, that concept was so strong!

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** Uh, or Solitary. Like, I love a reality show where the idea is just like, you hear the elevator pitch and you're like, "Oh, okay, I'll watch that."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And I feel like *Murderville*— Justin and Dad and Travis were texting me about it, and I was like, "Oh yeah. Yeah, of course I'm going to watch that and enjoy it, because the concept is just so, uh— so amazing." So, yeah. I— I haven't watched *Murder in Successville*.

**Rachel:** I know, I wanna check it out now.

**Griffin:** Apparently there's a big facet of that that isn't present in *Murderville*, which is in *Murder in Successville* it takes place in a town called Successville, which is filled with celebrities who are being played by other comedians.

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** So, like, Gordan Ra— somebody plays Gordon Ramsey, who shows up in a bunch of episodes and, like—

**Rachel:** Huh.

**Griffin:** —the, uh, you know, the victims are like, you know, Lindsey Lohan as played by somebody else.

**Rachel:** Huh.

**Griffin:** Which, uh, people say is hysterical, and I don't doubt it. And, uh, this show doesn't have that, but it definitely, definitely still works. Um, I cannot recommend it enough.

**Rachel:** I know. I want, like, a new season, like, next month.

**Griffin:** Instantly, yeah. It's— it's fantastic. It is wild watching it at the same time as *The Afterparty*, as mentioned earlier, which is, like, a more— you know, it is still very funny, but a more straight-laced, obviously, because it's fully scripted and everybody has seen the script, uh, mystery show.

Um, but I would say they complement each other quite well, also.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So that's— that's my recommendation. I don't talk about TV shows in the big segments that often, which I feel like is a— a real, uh— really identifies how much a very much enjoy this show.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** You gotta watch *Murderville*. Can you... steal us away?

**Rachel:** [stutters] Let's go. Let's—

**Griffin:** I'll show you how. There's a button— here. There's a button you press—

**Rachel:** [sighs]

**Griffin:** —and it releases this lever. You pull on that lever as hard as you can, and you're gonna want to pump it.

**Rachel:** And then you're stolen.

**Griffin:** And then you're stolen away, yeah.

**Rachel:** Okay. Well, I'm doing that now.

**Griffin:** Okay. Beep! [makes whooshing noises] Yeah, that's— you got it.

**Rachel:** Sounds a lot like you. [laughs] That's weird.

**Griffin:** That is weird.

[ad break]

**Griffin:** Coup— a couple— coup— a couple jumblejobs here.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That was fun.

**Griffin:** Couple jumblejobs here, and this first one's for Grace and it is from Trisha, who says:

"Dear roommate. From sticker wars to stairwell chats to international calls, you've always been my wonderful thing. And whether it's for your big successes— she has a Ph.D, y'all!— or the seemingly small ones, I am so proud of you. You will forever be my roommate, my family, my person, and my most amazing Grace. I love you lottle, weird one."

**Rachel:** You know, I noticed this message wasn't for Dr. Grace, and it seems like it should be.

**Griffin:** Yeah. You gotta kee— it's— I know Trisha, it's hard to lock that in, that your pal Grace, who you've just sort of, like, run around with... doctor now.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** They're a doctor now, and you gotta—

**Rachel:** Dr. Grace.

**Griffin:** —you gotta respect— you gotta respect that and defer to them in all things.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Can I read the next one?

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Rachel:** It is for Vee. It is from Pepper.

"Vee. To marry you on Halloween was an absolute dream come true. The culmination of these last ten years together has meant the world to me. You are kind and soft and funny, and you give my life such happiness. The only thing in life I wish to do is to continue to be your wife. I love you. Pepper."

**Griffin:** There aren't many things I regret about our wedding.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** But if we coulda done it on Halloween, holy shit, that would've been so dope.

**Rachel:** Ohh, man. You're one of those!

**Griffin:** Mm-hmm!

**Rachel:** Would you have worn, like, a fun costume?

**Griffin:** The mummy.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** And then I, like, have to unwrap you to get the ring, or something?

**Griffin:** Well, you would be dressed up in a sort of, like, Brendan Fraser in *The Mummy*...

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** ... outfit.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** But instead of us battling with swords, we would kiss and commit to each other forever.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it's the same, really.

**Griffin:** That does kind of happen in *The Mummy*, doesn't it?

**Rachel:** I haven't seen the film.

**Griffin:** Death is only the beginning. They say that in *The Mummy*. It sounds wild, though. You haven't seen *The Mummy*, and that's still unacceptable.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Speaker One:** Did your neighbor back into your car?

**John:** Bring that case to Judge Judy.

**Speaker One:** Think the mailman might be the real father?

**John:** Give that one to Judge Mathis.

**Speaker One:** But... does your mom want you to flush her ashes down the toilet at Disney World when she passes away?

**John:** Now, that's my jurisdiction. Welcome to the court of *Judge John Hodgman*, where the people are rule, the disputes are real, and the stakes are often unusual.

**Speaker Three:** If I got arrested for dumping your ashes in the Jungle Cruise, it would be an honor.

**Speaker Four:** I don't wanna be part of somebody getting a super yacht.

**Speaker Five:** I don't know at what point you want to go into this, but we have had a worm bin before.

**Speaker One:** Available free right now at [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org).

**John:** *Judge John Hodgman*. The court of last resort when your wife won't stop pretending to be a cat and knocking the clean laundry over.

[meow]

[ad ends]

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Hey, kid. Your dad tell you about the time he broke Stephen Dorff's nose at the Kid's Choice Awards?

[audience laughs]

**Speaker Two:** In *Dead Pilots Society*, scripts that were developed by studios and networks but were never produced are given the table reads they deserve.

**Speaker Three:** When I was a kid, I had to spend my Christmas break filming a PSA about Angel Dust! So yeah, bein' a kid sucks sometimes.

[audience laughs]

**Speaker Two:** Presented by Andrew Reich and Ben Blacker. *Dead Pilots Society*, twice a month on Maximumfun.org.

**Speaker Four:** You know, the show you like. That hobo with the scarf who lives in a magic dumpster?

[audience laughs]

**Speaker Five:** *Doctor Who*?

**Speaker Four:** Yeah!

[audience laughs and applauds]

[ad ends]

**Rachel:** Can I tell you my thing?

**Griffin:** Yeah, tell me about that... thing.

**Rachel:** So, let me tell you, off the cutting room floor— and this is kind of an embarrassing admission. Uh, so I was gonna do balloons. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Awesome, babe!

**Rachel:** But then I looked at wonderful.fyi and realized that I have talked about both, uh, parade faloat balloons—

**Griffin:** Parade faloat?

**Rachel:** Parade float balloons.

**Griffin:** I like faloat better.



**Rachel:** Uh, and also bunch of balloons.

**Griffin:** So there's been a sort of...

**Rachel:** So I've definitely been into balloons for a while now.

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:** And I realized, I probably don't need to tread that ground again.

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** But when I was thinking about bunch of balloons, I started thinking about—

**Griffin:** Condoms.

**Rachel:** No. I started thinking about infomercials.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** And how I kind of love them.

**Griffin:** You do. What were you doing recently that you were having trouble with, and you said you were like—

**Rachel:** [laughs] I don't remember.

**Griffin:** Oh, it was stuffing pillowcases.

**Rachel:** Ohh, this'll be an interesting thing to talk about. Okay. So, uh, I have this oversized body pillow. Uh, this body pillow is difficult to get in the pillowcase.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** And— and I have a similar experience kind of in trying to get a duvet cover on a, um... duvet?

**Griffin:** [laughs] [squeaks]

**Rachel:** Like a down comforter.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** [laughs] So, uh, what I do, basically, is just struggle through it.

**Griffin:** Just fuckin' ram it in there.

**Rachel:** I don't have a technique. I don't have a hack. And then Griffin revealed to me that he does have a hack, and was shocked that I do not.

**Griffin:** Yeah, you flip the— you flip the pillowcase inside out, right? And then you put the, like, far edge of it on the, you know, one of the edges of the pillow. And then instead of cramming the pillow down into the sausage casing of the pillowcase, you sort of unroll the— the, uh, pillowcase out around the, uh— out around the pillow.

Okay, that was nothing.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** It's basically the equivalent— and I don't know why I'm just sort of stuck on condoms today— from, like, unrolling a condom and the, like, trying to, like, shove—

**Rachel:** Oh, God, the gesturing you're doing right now. [laughs]

**Griffin:** —shove your thing into it, versus putting your— the condom on the edge of the thing and then sort of doing it like they teach you in health class.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That was a really, really clear and concise way of explaining the physics of this.

**Rachel:** Anyway, when Griffin realized I don't do this when I put pillows in pillowcases, he was shocked.

**Griffin:** Well—

**Rachel:** And I said— I said I felt like somebody on an infomercial.

**Griffin:** And you admitted that it takes you a really, really, really long time to, like, make the bed because of this very— because of this very thing.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I have a similar experience— we have outdoor, uh, cushions that I have to put the case on.

**Griffin:** These technique— this technique will work on those too.

**Rachel:** All of these things take me forever, and I just thought you had to muscle through it. And I felt like somebody on an infomercial, which leads me back to my wonderful thing this week, which is infomercials.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Um, there was a real heyday for this.

**Griffin:** Oh my God, yeah.

**Rachel:** Uh, I want to name— so, I found a Thrillist list of infomercials. I'm gonna hit 'em, and just see kind of if you remember them.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Number one, of course, George Foreman grills.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:** Did you have one?

**Griffin:** Of course we had one. It was the lean— lean, mean, fat grillin' machine, yeah. We had— we had a *couple* of them. We had, like, the OG one and then when they came out with, like, an even bigger one, uh, we— my mom used it constantly.

**Rachel:** Oh, really?

**Griffin:** Got a lot of use out of our George Foreman grill.

**Rachel:** I just assumed it was for people in college who didn't have access to... you know, real, like, stove top situations.

**Griffin:** I mean, we had access to a stove top but, like, it could cook meat twice as fast, 'cause you didn't have to flip it.

**Rachel:** Ohh.

**Griffin:** And so when you have the huge one, and you can just, like, throw a bunch of shit down on it and then squish cook it, uh, that was very appealing to my mom. Uh, and so yeah, we used that thing a lot.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I had something like a triangle sandwich cooker that was kind of similar.

**Griffin:** Yes. Everybody had that— that little, uh, bargain bin panini, sort of.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Uh-huh. Uh, number two: the Total Gym.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I don't— gun to my head, I don't know what the fuck that was.

**Rachel:** It was like— so, Chuck Norris did it, Wesley Snipes did it, Christie Brinkley. Uh—

**Griffin:** Was it Bowflex adjacent?

**Rachel:** You could, like... it was kind of like a Bowflex, in that it was like a full body workout station?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Um... but it cost, like, over \$900, so it wasn't really like the George Foreman grill.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I don't imagine they moved a lot of units on that. Uh, Moon Shoes.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** Do you remember these?

**Griffin:** Of course!

**Rachel:** Like, the Nickelodeon, like, you put 'em on your feet and they were like little bouncy trampolines?

**Griffin:** Yeah. I have to imagine that that infomercial mainly aired on Nickelodeon.

**Rachel:** It did, yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't know that I saw that one, uh— I don't know that we could even call— that feels more like a commercial to me. 'Cause, like, what problem are moon shoes solving?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** There's not somebody, like, walking around in regular shoes trying to jump and just, like, falling down going, "It's gotta be easier! There has to be a better way!"

**Rachel:** The infomercial is just like a— a commercial. It's just like a long commercial. It doesn't have to solve a problem.

**Griffin:** Hmm.

**Rachel:** That's just a popular technique that we have seen used a lot.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Um, okay. Uh, OxiClean.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, baby!

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. Proactiv.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Thank you, Mandy. Mandy Moore cleared my shit up in college. Thank you.

**Rachel:** Also Justin Beiber, Jessica Simpson, Katy Perry, Adam Levine, Olivia Munn, like...

**Griffin:** Buncha just—

**Rachel:** Star studded.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Uh, Bowflex.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** As you mentioned. The ThighMaster.

**Griffin:** Yeah. That's more old school.

**Rachel:** Slapchop.

**Griffin:** Slapchop. Now we're starting to get into the ones where, like, I actually got one and I was like, "Uh, this is actually pretty dope."

**Rachel:** Yeah, I do kind of love the Slapchop.

**Griffin:** Slapchop is pretty fucking great, man.

**Rachel:** Uh, Shake Weight.

**Griffin:** Shake Weight.

**Rachel:** Which was just a delight.

**Griffin:** You ever fuck with a Shake Weight?

**Rachel:** Well, we have— our friend had one at her apartment, and so I get to see the experience in person.

**Griffin:** You do one of those once and it's like, this is difficult and horny.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** This is difficult *and* horny, and those are two things that I don't— that shouldn't— are odd bedfellows.

**Rachel:** Uh, the Snuggie.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah!

**Rachel:** The Clapper.

**Griffin:** Damn! It speaks to the strength of infomercials that I know all of these shits.

**Rachel:** And then The Gazelle, which was basically a NordicTrack, but it was like an elliptical NordicTrack.

**Griffin:** Is it just because they carpet bomb television stations for, like, a year with these? So it's just, like, the sheer repetition of it is just like, "Ah, yes. The Snuggie."

**Rachel:** So, in 1991 alone, the infomercial industry generated more than 750 million in product sales.

**Griffin:** Okay. That doesn't sound like very much. [laughs]

**Rachel:** They had their own version of the Oscars called the Play Awards. Uh, they gave out to, like, infomercial superstars.

**Griffin:** Yeah. A lot of those superstars I would say probably didn't...

**Rachel:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... have long-lasting and fruitful careers. In fact, some of 'em turned out to be pretty big creeps!

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah, no, I would say that is true... if not half the time, maybe a majority of the time.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, infomercials actually started in the 1940's.

**Griffin:** What the fuck?

**Rachel:** Um, but they had FCC regulations that limited to length of them until 1984, when you could do, like, a full program. It was just if it was longer than 15 minutes you had to say it was paid advertising.

**Griffin:** Ugh, God!

**Rachel:** But yeah, in 1984 the cable communications policy act allowed people to just really go for it in the space.

**Griffin:** Such a shitty, like— you're watching one Saturday morning on ABC, like, kicking it with, like, all your favorite shows. And then that immediately ends, and then you hear, "The following is a product placement for Old Bone Medicine."

**Rachel:** Yeah...

**Griffin:** And you're like, "Aw, fucking snore!"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Snooze!" What a way to pull the rug out from under some kids.

**Rachel:** I just— I mean, you say that. But, like, there is something about the format, right? Of, like— like, a counter top full of simultaneously, like, cooking George Foreman grills, and just, like, the unboxing of each grill to see what meat product was in there. And the pacing.

**Griffin:** [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:** You know? Like, I don't know. It was very engaging.

**Griffin:** It was very engaging. Sorry, that made me think of the cornballer from *Arrested Development*.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah. Well, and that's the thing, right? Like, that really, like, generated a lot of parody. Uh, particularly on, like, Saturday Night Live, for example. They really went for it. Uh, but yeah. In *Arrested Development*, too. Uh,



it's just such a— I don't know, man. It's so entertaining and, like— and nostalgic for me?

**Griffin:** I like them because they exist in a parallel world where human needs and desires are twisted, dark mirrors of that of our world, which I'll henceforth refer to as the Light World. Where you see the— I can't remember the gentleman's name who did pass away who did the OxiClean—

**Rachel:** Billy Mays?

**Griffin:** Billy Mays.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Who takes the Flex Seal tape and there's, like, a whole in his aquarium that's just shooting out, just a constant stream.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And he's like, "Your aquarium's all fucked up?" And then he slaps the Flex Seal tape onto it with the force of, like, an asteroid impacting the Earth.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** And then the thing is gone. And you see that and you're like, "Wow, Billy! That beats ass, but also, when am I gonna have a aquarium with a hole in it?"

**Rachel:** [laughs] I know.

**Griffin:** That's awesome! That's awesome that they can plant the seed in your mind of... your aquarium might get a hole. And I think, like, I don't have an aquarium, and that's not how glass works, but...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... you might be right, Mr. Mays!

**Rachel:** Yeah. No, that's the thing. Like, they create a problem that you may or may not have known that you had, and then they show how they effectively solve that problem. And it's just, like, this moment of, like... like... just pure relaxation.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Of just, like, "Oh, this problem has been solved, and there is one thing that does it."

**Griffin:** Onto the next.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Onto the next one.

**Rachel:** I will say, there used to be, like, the little As Seen On TV display at Bed Bath and Beyond, and I always loved checking that out.

**Griffin:** Yeah. There— yeah. I don't know that there was... [sighs] eventually I feel like infomercials became too self-aware, and then it was things like the... like marshmallow cannon. And it's like, okay. I'm not a ki— I'm not a fucking kid anymore.

**Rachel:** The Snuggie was kind of right there on that. Like, it was kind of like, "We know this is just a blanket we put arm holes in."

**Griffin:** People know that you and I love comfort, but there is a level of, like... it's hard not to see somebody wear a Snuggie and not think like, "That probably— it probably smells pretty bad in there."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I don't care how long you've had it on. It probably doesn't— it's probably not great in there.

**Rachel:** Well, yeah. I mean, most of these are not made of the highest quality, um, products. You know? Like— like, you can't— you can't pass a Snuggie on to your grandchild. [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** I will say, we had a leak in our roof and I slapped some fuckin' Flex Seal up on it... and it still leaks sometimes—[wheeze-laughs]

**Rachel:** [muffled laughter]

**Griffin:** [high-pitched] But not as much!

**Rachel:** There you go. That's a ringing endorsement from Griffin McElroy.

**Griffin:** I probably used it wrong.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, hey. That's it. Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description. And thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network!

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** So many great shows on Maximum Fun.

**Rachel:** So many great shows. Uh, you have a live performance coming up, I saw.

**Griffin:** Yes. We're doing a live MBMBaM show. Uh, and I'm gonna tell you all about it. And...

**Rachel:** It's this month.

**Griffin:** It is this— it's— it is this month, and I am gonna tell you all of the details... right now. It's on February 26th, at 9 PM Eastern Time, and tickets are ten bucks. And, uh, it's— you can get those tix at [bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual](http://bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual). And, uh, the video on demand will be available for two weeks after the show, so you could come and check it out and have a fun time with us. Uh, we have a bunch of merch at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). The pin of the month this month is *Sawbones* Number Two Books, which are books that vaguely reference poopie. Uh...

**Rachel:** Can I tell you, I was... really debating whether or not to get the "I'm Not Ashamed of my Clown Husband" sticker? Um...

**Griffin:** The one that was designed by Jacob Bailey? Jsbailey817 on Twitter?

**Rachel:** Yeah, it's—

**Griffin:** Sales for which benefit the Huntington Children's Museum?

**Rachel:** —obviously a little on the nose, uh, for me?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Um, but I— I'm so charmed by it. [laughs]

**Griffin:** There's also pins for our 20 Rendezvous theme for this year on MBMBaM. Uh, one of which is, like, a prom photo of the three of us, and one of them is us on a floating tandem bike. It's very whimsical. Uh, and those were designed by Lucas Hespheide. Uh, and yeah. Those are all available at mcelroymerch.com, so come— come get you some. That's it. That is it. Have a good, safe week. I think—

**Rachel:** Oh, hey! And thanks to everybody that attended our *Wonderful!* live show.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** We were able to give over \$8000 to Austin Bat Cave, which was a nice thing for them, and for us to be able to pass that along.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It was so awesome. Uh, apologies, also, for missing last week. It has been, uh— we have been on a— uh, a difficult journey, the last, I would say, six weeks or so. But, uh, what's that coming up over the horizon? [pause] [mumble-singing] Here comes the sun, babadadie! Here comes the sun! [bad British accent] Here comes the sun! [low voice] Here comes—[Kermit voice] Here comes the sun, doo doo doo doo!

**Rachel:** I really wanna be able to play with you in this space, but I just...

**Griffin:** It feels like you actually don't?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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