

## Wonderful! 184: Ding, That's a Sin

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[theme song plays]

**Rachel:**

Hello, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Hello this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:**

And this is *Wonderful!*

**Griffin:**

We're here, you're here. Us, us here.

**Rachel:**

Hot studio.

**Griffin:**

Hot studio tonight. We got a hot one. It's not tonight, it's 1:21 PM Central Time, but it is a hot one, because there's a big stink in the house, isn't it?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I'm not talking about the child that doesn't sleep, or eat, or do anything.

**Rachel:**

Although he does stink.

**Griffin:**

He does do a stink every now and then.

**Rachel:**

Um, we have a second-floor laundry room, it has a drain in it. If the drain does not get water in it for a while—

**Griffin:**

It's thirsty. Yeah, it gets angry.

**Rachel:**

It starts to release a stink.

**Griffin:**

A bad stink, and Rachel tried to fix it, and I don't want to say, say this and make you mad, but it made it way stinkier and it's everywhere now. It's in the kitchen, it's everywhere.

**Rachel:**

It's gotta get worse before it gets better.

**Griffin:**

The house has a big stink and we're going through it, like they, like the one guy, I think maybe Teddy Roosevelt or somebody like that said, "If you're going through heck, keep going."

**Rachel:**

So Griffin opened up all the windows, and it's a very hot day in Austin.

**Griffin:**

Muggy.

**Rachel:**

And now, there's nothing that is harder for me ...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Than a sweaty record. But I'll do it.

**Griffin:**

You know, you know, what's totally jacked, dude? Is—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... I stepped outside this morning to take our big son to day—, the one who eats and sleeps, to, um, to daycare, and it was so, it was like already like 85 and just like so muggy and I said that.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I said, "Wow it's so muggy." He said, "What's muggy mean?" And I was like, "It means it's humid." And he said, "What's humid mean?"

**Rachel:**

[chuckles]

**Griffin:**

And I was like, "It's like when the air is wet?" And he was like, "Rain?" And I was like, "No. Dammit. This is hard to explain."

**Rachel:**

Oh, man.

**Griffin:**

It's like the air itself is kind of wet.

**Rachel:**

My friend, uh, Charlie used to say it's like being in somebody's mouth.

**Griffin:**

Interesting.

**Rachel:**

And I feel like that's a good way to describe it.

**Griffin:**

But you also understand why like ... with the brand that I've been trying to escape from ...

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Fair.

**Griffin:**

... for like half a decade now, why I couldn't say something like that.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] That's fair.

**Griffin:**

Okay. Good. Hey, you got any small wonders?

**Rachel:**

I do, and I'm going to reveal our secret shame, and I'm sorry that I'm doing it here on the podcast, but—

**Griffin:**

Please don't, please no.

**Rachel:**

... but my small wonder is a series that we have been watching called—  
[crosstalk]

**Griffin:**

We've having a very difficult time.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

This is an extremely difficult chapter in our lives, and this, it's, okay. Just to couch it.

**Rachel:**

Um ... I don't even remember how we started.

**Griffin:**

I don't either.

**Rachel:**

But we have been watching *Married at First Sight*.

**Griffin:**

It's, it's, it's actively bad television.

**Rachel:**

It's a terrible premise.

**Griffin:**

It's, it's a terrible premise made unethically.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Just per— it is a gross show to watch, but—

**Rachel:**

They bring people on with advanced credentials to try to make it seem like it is an experiment.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

But what it really is, is making people get married before they've met each other.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And we started watching it. And then we found that there were a lot of seasons on Hulu. And ... it's pretty much all we watch lately.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh ...

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it's, well, because we watch TV with the sound off in the dark in our bedroom while you hold our baby from like 8:00 PM 'til like 6:00 AM, uh ...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... so yeah, it's, we don't wanna watch good television. So yeah, we've been watching it. And it's the most poorly made television. What I, what I enjoy about it is like half the shots are out of focus.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's on the Lifetime Network and it's like the Lifetime version of *The Bachelor*.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Where it's just like ... they don't, they're not very good at pointing a camera at a thing—

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh [affirmative], uh-huh [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

... and recording it. and that brings me a, a great deal of joy when I'm feeling very exhausted.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And, and so it's not a w—, one would say a wonderful show, but it has been wonderful to us.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Rachel:**

In this time where our brains hurt.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, exactly. Um—

**Rachel:**

What's your small wonder?

**Griffin:**

Uh, we're, we, so we got big son in daycare, we get photos every—, every now and then and he's such a special, weird kid.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I, you feel a little guilty like putting him into “the system” like this, although it's a M—, Montessori school, so like how much of a system could it possibly be, but ...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

But they send photos through the app sometimes, and in every single one he's like wearing a, a crown made out of paper and like putting his dukes up like he's fighting like a Power Ranger or something.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And you know no other kid in there is bringing that particular—

**Rachel:**

I know, he's always by himself.

**Griffin:**

He's always by himself, flexing and looking like a tough guy. Um ...

**Rachel:**

I think he, his, his best friend in the class lately is so it seems is the teacher herself.

**Griffin:**

[laughs] Yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:**

So ...

**Griffin:**

Sounds, that sounds familiar?

**Rachel:**

Hey [laughs].

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Hey, uh, you go first this week.

**Rachel:**

Okay. Uh ... my first thing, and I am speaking generally, I am gonna use the word your—

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

... but I'm not talking about you in particular, Griffin McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Okay. Okay.

**Rachel:**

But I am going to say your 20s.

**Griffin:**

Yeah... Yeah! Sure!

**Rachel:**

Okay. Alright. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Yeah, those, [crosstalk] I had to, I had to think about it for a second. And like 23 on for me was like ... dope.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like, really good stuff.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. No see you're lucky in that way, because a lot of people have pretty terrible 20s.

**Griffin:**

Is that true? I feel like 20s is, is good, is good times for most folks.

**Rachel:**

It, well, it's just, it's a time where you have all these expectations and goals and, uh, the world isn't necessarily ready for you.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and so a lot of people experience that and they, um, have a very frustrating experience with their 20s.

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

I, I don't really think I hit my stride with my 20s. I mean I think it started when I was 25 that I started to feel like, "I've got a handle on this." And then maybe 27—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... when I was like, "I'm gonna be okay." [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I will say the 20s is like, where the rolling start of your life stops. Where you're like in high school, you're like, "Can't wait 'til I get to college." And then when you get to college it's like, "Once I'm done with college, it's

really gonna happen for me." And then once you get out of college, it's like, "Once I get past these awkward post-college years, everything is gonna happen for me."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And then once you hit a certain point in your 20s, it's like, "All this is, oh, I'm in, I'm fucking in it now. That's undeniable."

**Rachel:**

Well, and even if you don't go to college, you have this experience of like kind of all being in the same place as your friends, more or less.

**Griffin:**

Absolutely. Yeah, we're making—

**Rachel:**

You know?

**Griffin:**

... a lot of generalizations about what your life looks like—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... and that is not fair or true.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, like I had a, a handful of friends that didn't go to college. I had some that got married really, really early. But we all were kind of in this same place of like, what am I gonna do, you know, like what's important to me? Which of these friends am I still gonna talk to? [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Like and being in the same place ... is something that as you get older gets harder and harder to do.

**Griffin:**

Yeah sure.

**Rachel:**

We talk a lot about that now that like we have multiple children, uh, and it is becoming immediately harder and harder to like, have a social life.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

It's just like you, you feel yourself start to diverge in paths and then it becomes harder to, to kind of keep it going.

**Griffin:**

[lightly sarcastic] This is a fun show.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

We're talking about things that we like. Did we say that? Maybe not. It is a fun show.

**Rachel:**

Well, I want to say, like, for me like my 20s, like I look back on really fondly, but I think it's because I have like, the advantage of hindsight.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And also the advantage of realizing that my experience was not particularly unique.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Um ... and, and I say that because there's a lot of data that suggests now that, that your 20s looked different. Like when I finished college, I thought, I'm supposed to find a job, and this is going to be my forever job.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

And I'm moving to a city, and this is gonna be my forever city.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, no.

**Rachel:**

Um, but a third of people in their 20s move to a new residence every year.

**Griffin:**

Yeah? [laughs]

**Rachel:**

40% move back home with their parents at least once. Uh, this is from a New York Times article in 2010. Um ...

**Griffin:**

Well even that, like it's—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... that was a, that's 11-year-old article. [crosstalk]

**Rachel:**

I know. People in their 20s go through an average of seven jobs.

**Griffin:**

Phew.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and two thirds spend at least some time living with a romantic partner without being married.

**Griffin:**

Huh, that's a sin, but okay.

**Rachel:**

Um, [laughs].

**Griffin:**

We don't do a good enough job on that on this show and it's something I'd like to get better at, is when something is obviously a big sin, we can just say like—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... "Oop, that's a sin!" I mean, we can have like a little—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... bell that we ring to let people know, hey, don't, don't do this, it's bad.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I'm, i'm just kidding. I mean, go nuts.

**Rachel:**

Uh, yeah, and so this is the other thing that like came about when I was actually in my 20s is people started talking about the quarter life crisis.

**Griffin:**

[laughs] Oh, okay.

**Rachel:**

Do you remember hearing about this?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I feel like you could say pretty much I'm in a 34-year-old life crisis, right?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I feel like it's just a big, I feel like it's just a big crisis.

**Rachel:**

So it was like a, it was like an actual book. Like it was a thing.

**Griffin:**

Oh, I see.

**Rachel:**

Like, it's, it's like an actual expression and it, it encompasses four typical stages.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

Which is that you're, you're suddenly locked into some kind of commitment at work or home ...

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Uh, or an apartment or a relationship, uh, and then you leave that, and then you become kind of like, lonely and you have this like crisis of recalibrating ...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... uh, and finding kind of a new version of yourself on the other side of it. Um—

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Or sometimes just the, the lonely one goes for ...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... a *while*. A while. It goes for a while, the lonely one.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, you know, I was thinking a lot too, about like ... uh, it's kind of your first experience of ... like picking your, your friends and your circle, in a way?

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Rachel:**

Like, if you go to school, you kind of become friends with people out of circumstance.

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

And then there's a certain point where all the sudden it's like, you're in charge of choosing your circumstance, and you have to kind of figure that out.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and a lot of times you're like, hold on to those friendships, uh, maybe past their, their—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... their prime. [laughs] Um, so, I, there's another, there's a book called *The Rocket Years: How Your Twenties Launch the Rest of Your Life*, it came out in 2020.

**Griffin:**

Hey that's appropriate.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] And, uh, it talks about, um, kind of that experience of what 20s look like now. And they did a study that said 95% of older Gen Zs and millennials think that finding a career is the most important objective in their 20s.

**Griffin:**

Interesting—, that's interesting.

**Rachel:**

So like, in previous it was like, you know, finding a partner or like having kids or buying a house.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

But like now, it's like a focus on a career. But for most people, it takes between 10 and 15 years to find a job that actually aligns with your skills.

**Griffin:**

Huh.

**Rachel:**

Which is fair, like, and this article said a lot about, uh, you know, you have this concept of the dream job and you wanna work for this like great cause, and you know, like, for me, like I was very focused on like getting a job in publishing, and then I really wanted to work at a nonprofit, and I kept picking things that paid very little. And didn't actually have me doing the work that I cared about.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh—

**Griffin:**

So then you became a grant writer at a community college.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Where all the money is.

**Rachel:**

Where the money is. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Baby!

**Rachel:**

Well, it's definitely more stable, I will say that I, I ... it, confident that I will have a job next year.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Which is not something I could have said about anything before this.

**Griffin:**

No, absolutely not.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] So all that to say like ... it, there's this ethic around like, finding something you care about, but then there's all these compromises involved in it, and that can leave you feeling kind of disenchanting. And so the article was like, it is not a dream job if you do not have benefits and/or like, can't afford to live where you're living.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:**

In that job.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I mean, it's that desire that led to so many sort of, like, predatory in, like internships. "Come intern at our company and the experience is gonna be great!"

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

"It's never gonna turn into anything, but, c'mon down."

**Rachel:**

[laughs] yeah. Um, and then the last thing I'll just go back to is that like, that friend circle that I was talking about. So there's a lot of research that shows your circle of friend peaks at like age 25, uh, and that like the average person in their 20s has like 18 close friends.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Which I think is a little bit of a—

**Griffin:**

That's a l—

**Rachel:**

That's a lot.

**Griffin:**

That seems good to me. I would love to have 18 close friends.

**Rachel:**

That seems like a lot. No, well that's the suggestion, is that it starts a decline from there.

**Griffin:**

Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Um, I, I was really fortunate, uh, and I think Griffin benefited from this too, in that I came to Austin and I just suddenly had this huge friend network which is—

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... and I was like, in my late 20s at the time, and it was really kind of exceptional, because most of the people I knew had seen like a decline in their friendship, and I just had like a huge skyrocket—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... from doing AmeriCorps, uh, and that had made such a huge difference for me, and I look back on that time really fondly because a lot of those friendships I still have now.

**Griffin:**

Of course, yeah.

**Rachel:**

And they were all kind of founded around this idea of like, we're all excited to be in the city. You know, we want to do things that are important, you know, and we're all kind of figuring our lives out now, uh, you know, after we've had a little time to kind of figure out who we are.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

That's interesting, it's, uh, when you mention the topic, I thought like, that's such a broad, because that, that ... you're talking about a 10-year span—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... which could mean anything to anyone who lives in it.

**Rachel:**

For me, I'm really talking about the last five years of your 20s. But—

**Griffin:**

Oh, I thought you were talking about the musical. The one that's like [singing unintelligibly]. I should learn more than three words of that musical, huh?

**Rachel:**

What, what? What are you doing?

**Griffin:**

It's call *The Last Five*, there's a musical that is, it's called *The Last Five Years*.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

And it is about, uh, I believe, a painful divorce.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Cool.

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

Cool. So like *The Marriage Story*, but to song.

**Griffin:**

It's like *Marriage Story* but it doesn't got Kylo Ren in it. Maybe, I don't know, actually, I didn't see the film version.

So I guess that was a good one, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

[ad break]

**Griffin:**

Got a couple MBMB-bops here, can I read the first one?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

It's for Courtney and Future Cindy, and it's from Past Cindy, AKA Stan, Queen of Khan. "Dear Courtney, thanks for being the lady in nerding to my queen of Khan, bringing me SoCal sunshine and introducing me to the McElroys. You'll be an amazing nurse. Dear Future Cindy, you may not be prepping for a PhD, but other dreams and projects are fueling your soul, remember, your unapologetic enthusiasm brings oodles of joy. I love you both."

**Griffin:**

I said "fueling your soul" there like I was fucking Shang Tsung from *Mortal Kombat*.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Fueling your soul!

**Rachel:**

[laughs] There's something about a Jumbotron that makes you wanna like, adopt your announcer voice.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that, I mean it's called a Jumbotron.

**Rachel:**

There.

**Griffin:**

It's right there on the tin.

**Rachel:**

Uh, can I read the next one?

**Griffin:**

Please.

**Rachel:**

Uh, it is for Van, it is from Cali.

"Vanford, you're the best brother I could ever imagine, and since moving back to Texas, spending time together is the only thing that's kept me sane. I am so proud of you and your accomplishments, and I know there's even more to come. You're going to be amazing. Let's get Taco Bell and play *TKO* next weekend, yeah? Love you so much, Calliope."

**Griffin:**

I miss *TKO*. I miss playing *Jackbox* games with the crew. We did that so much during quarantine when we would do Zoom calls all the time.

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

That was fun.

**Rachel:**

I know, our friend that had scheduled the regular Zoom calls was like, "Oh, we don't need these anymore." And part of me was like, we still [crosstalk] we still do, we're still trapped in our house. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs loudly]

[Max Fun ad break]

**Griffin:**

Hey, may I do mine?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Do we have time, is baby still asleep? Baby is still asleep.

**Rachel:**

Alright.

**Griffin:**

There's, there's no way I'm gonna make it through this whole segment.

**Rachel:**

No, you're not. Unless you get started.

**Griffin:**

Let's get started.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

We talk a lot about sort of exotic, adorable animals—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... on this show.

**Rachel:**

We do, yes.

**Griffin:**

A lot.

**Rachel:**

Yes, yes.

**Griffin:**

But today, I wanna talk about a little guy that we overlook so frequently, a little guy that lives in our backyard and also everywhere on the whole planet. I am talking about the humble squirrel.

**Rachel:**

Aw!

**Griffin:**

The humble squirrel. I feel like if squirrels ...

**Rachel:**

Here we go, here we go, guys.

**Griffin:**

... were not—

**Rachel:**

Get ready, get ready. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs] Uh, I, this may just be my own sort of twisted sort of view, but, uh, but I think if squirrels weren't the pigeons of rodents ...

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

... we'd be stoked every time we saw one. Like, we would be going to the like, to the zoo or to like their, their natural habitat—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... wherever they may live to go and see a squirrel if not for the fact that we see 100,000 squirrels every day.

**Rachel:**

I will say, man, if it is furry, like, I'm, you've already got a, a plus in my book. And so like, I saw a bunny the other day.

**Griffin:**

Yeah ...

**Rachel:**

And I, I just like, I felt like I needed to tell someone. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs] You could have told me.

**Rachel:**

I know, I should have.

**Griffin:**

I would have been stoked.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Just if, just as mental exercise, you listening at home, if you're not operating a motor vehicle, close your eyes and just like—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... imagine that squirrels weren't everywhere and then think about how good they are.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that, that bushy tail?

**Griffin:**

The bushy tail, the little face.

**Rachel:**

The way they sit.

**Griffin:**

The way they sit!

**Rachel:**

Their haunches.

**Griffin:**

The way they eat a nut.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's, it's all pretty good stuff.

**Rachel:**

And the leaping from tree to tree.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Like a monkey.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. For sure, for sure. Um, so there's a, like a billion different kinds of squirrels of varying colorations and sizes and habitats and ... all that jazz. You got tree squirrels.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

There's also ground squirrels, which like—

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

... marmots and prairie dogs?

**Rachel:**

Whoa.

**Griffin:**

That's a ground—

**Rachel:**

A prairie dog is a ground squirrel?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it's part of that whole, part of that whole family.

**Rachel:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

Uh, chipmunks. Um, they even got flying squirrels now. So it's just like nowhere's, nowhere is safe.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

From squirrels. [laughs] If you got a nut—

**Rachel:**

Ever since ...

**Griffin:**

... nowhere is safe.

**Rachel:**

Ever since the Wright Squirrel Brothers invented—

**Griffin:**

Uh-huh [affirmative].

**Rachel:**

... the capability to fly—

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Exactly. Well, there's not ocean squirrels, I guess, if you got a nut that you need to hide—

**Rachel:**

Yet, depends on when you're listening to this podcast.

**Griffin:**

That's a good point.

**Rachel:**

Maybe there are ocean squirrels.

**Griffin:**

You think in the future, they're gonna come up with that technology?

**Rachel:**

Little Jacques Cousteau squirrel.

**Griffin:**

Oh shit, that's good.

Oh, man.

**Rachel:**

[simultaneously] Oh, man. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, so I just, I haven't, I don't know that I've ever seen a squirrel that wasn't at least like a little bit adorable.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And the ones that I guess arguably are not, are like the big hulksters, like the big-ass absolute unit guys that we get, we get these huge, sort of like very dark—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... furred squirrels that like, run up on our deck sometimes.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And we see them all, it's like a, it's like a—

**Rachel:**

They've very big.

**Griffin:**

... a dog or a cat—

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:**

... has showed up and it's so exciting every time. That one, that one is one we point out to each other. Like, "Look at that big squirrel!"

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And that's always very exciting. Um, so the most common squirrel is the eastern gray squirrel which, uh, there's over two billion of those bad boys.

**Rachel:**

Those liberal elite squirrels.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And, uh, so, but there's over 280 different species of squirrels, uh, n—, none of them, I believe, have two billion, uh, uh, in their number, but, uh, some of them are actually quite endangered. There's some, there's some squirrels—

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

... that are like, there's less than 100 of them. Um ... and they belong to a classification, all squirrels do, and I'd never heard this word before and it's so good of, uh, synanthropes, or perhaps, synanthropes [alternate pronunciation], S-Y-N-A-N-thropes. Uh, and that refers to an animal species that like, lives in harmony with humans, and like benefits from ...

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

... their, uh, being adjacent to, to human civilization.

**Rachel:**

Interesting.

**Griffin:**

So pigeons are also sort of in that category.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Um, I thought that that was really interesting. They eat nuts mostly because they can't digest cellulose, and there are some rare reports of ground squirrels eating meat when push really came to shove.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, there were studies done on like the droppings of different sort of ground squirrels, uh, and some of the, some of the bigger marmot boys were, like, had some lizard stuff and tiny—

**Rachel:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

... tiny bones in their, their stuff.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

But there's fortunately, there's few reports of s—, human attacks.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I don't think they've ever taken one of us down. And maybe that's why I, we still all like them so much.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Because the scoreboard is still like so heavily in our favor. Um, and they're just so industrious. One of their, uh, main predators for a long time, snakes, right?

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

And so what do they do? They got all kinds of ways. They learned to fight, um, but the big thing that they've done, and it, I, it's so good, is they'll take dead rattlesnake skin, like shed rattlesnake skin, and chew it up, and then rub that stink on themselves to make like, rattlesnake perfume—

**Rachel:**

Whoa.

**Griffin:**

... to like, scare predators away.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I thought you were gonna say that they wear it. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

They wear it.

**Rachel:**

They put it on like a little costume.

**Griffin:**

They make tiny little boots out of it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And it's the cutest. Um, hey, did you know it's illegal to have a squirrel as a pet in Texas? And also most of the other states?

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

I did not know that. But what's a pet? Hm.

**Rachel:**

Hm.

**Griffin:**

That's my question.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

If I wanted to see a squirrel, I could probably do that within the next 60 seconds, depending on which window I looked out of in our house.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:**

And if I wanted to have a moment with that squirrel, I could have a squirrel moment.

What is, what is a pet but that? I may not be able to touch it and pet it. And I don't think I would want to, but ... isn't that a pet? Hm ...

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I think a pet is something that you have ownership over. You know, like—

**Griffin:**

Oh, listen to you.

**Rachel:**

Like—

**Griffin:**

Who rescued who?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I'm asking. All—

**Rachel:**

That's fair, that's fair.

**Griffin:**

... I'm over here saying, all squirrels are my pet.

**Rachel:**

The Supreme Court decision, who rescued who?

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I believe that was who versus who. Um, hey, did you know, hey ... [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Hey, hey.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I feel like my little nephew has come into this studio.

**Griffin:**

Hey, hey did you know?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Hey, did you know that squirrels can turn their ankles 180 degrees backwards? And, but that's why they're like the only mammals that can climb down a tree face first. Think about that. What other, what other, do you see a kitty cat climb up a tree—

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

... if kitty cat tries to climb down a tree, you gotta go—

**Rachel:**

Fair.

**Griffin:**

... you gotta go backwards. Squirrel though, can turn its ankle completely around and then like hang from it like that.

**Rachel:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

That's dope as—

**Rachel:**

I never thought about that. Yeah.

**Griffin:**

It's so sick.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that's pretty cool!

**Griffin:**

It's so radical. Yeah, you don't think about like, "Man, they sure do go around those trees real fast."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's because they can turn their feet backwards. And that's great to me.

I just think they're neat.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I just think they're neat and it's wild to me that they're just, they're just like, they're just like clouds. You just see them and you're like, "Oh, yeah."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[deadpan] More, oh yeah, more squirrels.

**Rachel:**

I will say we are saying this from a vantage point, we do not have crops. Uh, we do not have bird feeders.

**Griffin:**

I don't think they go for many crops.

**Rachel:**

I ... I think they probably, they could probably mess up some of your—

**Griffin:**

Well, they can't digest like, like cellulose and, and plant fiber, I think.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, but they could really get in there and muck things up, you know?

**Griffin:**

I guess. But so, I mean so could any creature.

**Rachel:**

And then, and then you're—

**Griffin:**

I feel like you're [crosstalk].

**Rachel:**

And then your bird feeder, right? Like there's always the squirrels that are eating on—

**Griffin:**

Okay, if I have a bird feeder, and squirrels eat some of it, I'm like, "Okay. Not, it's a squirrel feeder too." Like there's nothing they're saying ...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I'm not gonna yell at a squirrel like, "Get out of there, that's for birds, another animal in nature!" Who, who gives a shit?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Oh, man. Those birders are really gonna come after you.

**Griffin:**

I know the birders are gonna come after me, but I'm not worried about that because I'm saying if I put food out in nature and an animal eats it, mission accomplished.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Okay. That's a good point.

**Griffin:**

Anyway, um, I didn't know my wife hated squirrels so much, or else I wouldn't have done this.

**Rachel:**

I do love squirrels. I just like to present all sides, you know?

**Griffin:**

That's not something we do on this show!

**Rachel:**

[laughs] That's fair.

**Griffin:**

[laughs] I feel so cross-examined.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, hey, thank you for listening. And thanks for sticking with us through these, these, uh, these here shorts. Uh, hopefully we'll only have like maybe one or two more, uh, in this tiny, tiny bite-sized format?

**Rachel:**

Yeah, the plan is for both of our boys to be under the care of others eventually.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

At which point we can start making shows that aren't so frantic.

**Griffin:**

Yes, uh, I kind of like the half-hour format, if I'm being honest? It feels good, it feels good to me.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:**

We can do real deep-dives into things like squirrels.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, maybe play some games.

**Griffin:**

Maybe ...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

What does that mean?

**Rachel:**

Well, I don't know.

**Griffin:**

So like, is it like—

**Rachel:**

We just don't have—

**Griffin:**

... Jimmy Fallon?

**Rachel:**

... we don't have any real like, without the Poetry Corner, which is a segment ...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... we don't really have any other segments. And I think maybe we could play some *games*.

**Griffin:**

I, we have Small Wonders and ads.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

Which is a game for us because we do win.

**Griffin:**

Sure, sure. Um, hey thanks 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. They got so many great shows that you're just gonna love, you should go and find a new one that you haven't listened to before.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, if you haven't checked our *Depresh Mode* yet—

**Griffin:**

Yeah!

**Rachel:**

... you should.

**Griffin:**

The critics are raving about *Depresh Mode*.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, they are raving.

**Griffin:**

Um, in a good way. Um, they could be, you know, raving angry about it, but they're not, they, they're loving it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, and I think that's it. The baby has stayed asleep for this entire, I mean this is a 27-minute recording so far, so let's not like go throwing any parades or anything like that.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

But this is our first recording we've had in a while that didn't get interrupted.

**Rachel:**

Should we just keep going?

**Griffin:**

It feels like, honestly, it feels like a, a waste to stop before the baby wakes up.

**Rachel:**

Should we *Thelma and Louise* this and just hold hands and just—

**Griffin:**

Just hold hands.

**Rachel:**

... and keep going?

**Griffin:**

But they wouldn't, the audience wouldn't hear that. What's like the audio equivalent of holding hands?

**Rachel:**

Have you seen *Thelma and Louise*, by the way?

**Griffin:**

Um, the one where they jump off the thing?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Yes, the whole movie.

**Griffin:**

It's sad, that's, I know that that's how it ends and it sounds sad.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

So no, I didn't watch, if I know a movie has a sad part in it—

**Rachel:**

Oh, you don't watch it.

**Griffin:**

... not even interested in it. Yeah, no thanks. Because I, why would I get invested in these people if they're about to chomp it? No thanks.

**Rachel:**

Okay, so what is the audio equivalent of holding hands, is that what you asked?

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

We rub our noses on the mic.

**Griffin:**

That's probably good.

[scratching noises]

**Rachel:**

Is that, is that picking up?

**Griffin:**

I think it might be picking up. You, let's, uh, Rachel can you boost the, boost the bass on that and let's get it really bumping.

[scratching noises intensify]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And this is good too because it exfoliates.

[theme song plays]

[chord plays]

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