

Wonderful! 226: Half Past Puffs Time

Published April 27, 2022

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: [vroom noises] Hop on in the car. We're going on a Max Fun Drive.

Rachel: Oh, that was nice.

Griffin: We're— we're going— we're going on a drive. It will be the maximum amount of fun. That is how much fun we're having. No more than that, though. Or we will— we'll— we'll— they will—

Rachel: What would be more than the maximum?

Griffin: That's it. It's one of those things where it's like the, you know, infinity cops will find out about it. The ones who, like, maintain order in the universe? And it's like, "You can't have more than the maximum."

Rachel: In the historic case of maximum plus one.

Griffin: Yeah, it—

Rachel: It is still maximum.

Griffin: They don't like that. They don't like that. You've gotta follow the rules. But we're— there's no rules here, just right, because we're gonna tell you all about the Maximum Fun family that we've been a part of now since we were— since the *Rose Buddies* days.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, and now it's the *Wonderful!* days, and we're still a part of it, and I think that's pretty wonderful.

Rachel: Yeah! So, for the uninitiated, the Max Fun Drive is a time each year where we come to you and we say "Hey, thanks for listening." Uh, we want to keep doing this show, and we would appreciate if you could help us out with that.

Griffin: Yes. We, uh—

Rachel: In— in money.

Griffin: In money.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: In—in money. [laughs] In pog form.

Rachel: We say "Money, please!"

Griffin: We say "Money, please." Uh, yeah. We ask you to become supporters of the network, and when you do that you pick the shows that you directly want to support, and then you get cool stuff! At just 5 bucks a month you get what is, in my opinion, the best thing that is on offer here, which is over 350 hours of bonus content from every show on the network. I am— I think this year's *Wonderful!* bonus episode is maybe one of my favorite things I've ever recorded.

Rachel: [laughs] So, listeners of the show will know that it is pretty common for Griffin and I to reference *Dharma & Greg*, having never seen *Dharma & Greg*. And so this year for our bonus episode, we watched not one but two episodes of *Dharma & Greg*, and we try and decide once and for all, in our relationship, who is the Dharma—

Griffin: Who is the Dharma and who is the Greg?

Rachel: —and who is the Greg?

Griffin: It's a nighttime record. We're pretty loosey goosey, some might say.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And, uh, it's a— it's a hoot. But, you know, we have tons of stuff on there. Even back from the *Rose Buddies* days. Our interview with Jasmine, the Canadian bachelorette, is on there.

Rachel: Oh my gosh. That was a— a magical time for us, uh, when we were searching for content, and we found...

Griffin: We found it north. It was north of us the whole time.

Rachel: We found the Canadian *Bachelorette*, and folks on the show were so appreciative. [laughs]

Griffin: I know. Just to have a break from our crude American programming.

Rachel: Well, no, I'm saying specifically contestants and members of the production team.

Griffin: Oh, right, yeah.

Rachel: Reached out to us, including the bachelorette herself, and it was... it was a remarkable experience. [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, so yeah, we— we are pledge supported and, uh, it is— the majority of our income is what supporters sort of, you know, give during the Max Fun Drive every year. We have a very ambitious goal this year of 20,000 new and upgrading members, so you can help us reach that, and you can support us in a very direct and very material way, which if you've been a fan of ours for a while, if you've listened to, you know, hundreds of hours of content from us and you have the means, think about becoming a supporter of the Max Fun network, because it is why we've been able to do the shows as long as we've been doing them, and expand the shows and, uh, just— just have the kind of career, making the kind of stuff that we like making.

Rachel: Yeah. And the community, too. You know, Griffin was just recently recording an episode of *The Flop House*.

Griffin: That's true.

Rachel: Uh, which is very exciting. *Just the Zoo of Us*—

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: —is always giving *Wonderful!* little shoutouts, which makes me so happy, because that's such a...

Griffin: A delightful— a delightful show on the Max Fun network.

Rachel: It's— it feels really special to be part of this community, and to get to recognize it during the Max Fun Drive every year.

Griffin: We'll talk more about it as we go on today. The link is Maximumfun.org/join. Look at the different levels, look at what you can get for your different levels of membership, and we sure do appreciate you.

Uh, do you wanna tell people what we're gonna be doing this episode? 'Cause speaking of loosey goosey...

Rachel: Well, should we do small wonders first?

Griffin: Uh, yeah! Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs] I am going to say, uh— and Griffin may be the only one that appreciates this, but the chickpea puff.

Griffin: Yeah, chickpea puffs, man.

Rachel: Uh, so because of our sons', plural, allergies, plural, uh, we have had to seek out different ways to get protein in our littlest. And the puff, obviously very popular with the younger crowd.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. And the older crowd— you know, I'm still puff positive.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm still— I'm still up on these guys.

Rachel: Um, and I found these vegan cheddar chickpea puffs, which actually come in two different brands. Um—

Griffin: The stink as, like, the day is long. Stink to high heavens of cheese.

Rachel: But, uh, little son loves these things, and they have, like, fiber and protein and...

Griffin: Chickpea. Cheese...

Rachel: ... good— good stuff in 'em.

Griffin: ... flavor. Dust.

Rachel: So when he eats approximately 75 a day, I can feel okay about that.

Griffin: Gosh, this baby eats... this baby eats so much now.

Rachel: This baby eats, period. [laughs]

Griffin: This baby's like Brad Pitt in the *Ocean's* movies. He's just always got— once this baby can eat sandwiches, once he can eat hamburgers, he will be Wimpy from *Popeye*. Just, like, knocking down pyramids of burgers every day.

Rachel: I can't wait until he can manipulate items better, because then we can just hand him a plate of food, and he can just navigate it completely on his own.

Griffin: Yeah. Although he will want to sit on top of the table that the food is on.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: 'Cause he does not— he does not care about decorum.

Rachel: What's your small wonder?

Griffin: I'm gonna say the wonderful reception we got from the city of St. Louis when we did our live show last week!

Rachel: Oh yeah.

Griffin: It was so much fun!

Rachel: What a, like, absolute treat. I have been really lucky in that we have not done a lot of *Wonderful!* shows, but when we do them, we have done them in cities that are just, like— just wild for it.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh—

Rachel: And it's awesome.

Griffin: Well, it's helped that we've done them in cities that, like, we have lived in, and sort of have, uh, a hometown advantage in, for sure.

Rachel: Uh, except for perhaps the cruise, in which we have never lived on a boat or in the ocean.

Griffin: Well, and that was— that was why that was our worst episode.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: No, that's not true. I got to talk about baleen in that episode. You know I'm all about that.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Uh, for this episode— we're scrambling a bit this week. We just got back from tour, and we are once again without childcare this week. We are recording this in a nap window. They're doing— somebody is blowing their... lawn. Is that what you say? Someone's blowing their lawn outside right now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But we can't reschedule this. We have one nap to record this episode in. Uh, so Rachel went to the polls

Rachel: I did. So—

Griffin: She Pokemon— she Pokemon went to the polls! Do you remember that? When Hillary—

Rachel: I don't— I don't— I don't know what that means.

Griffin: When Hillary Clinton said that in the 2016 election? She said "*Pokemon Go*—"

Rachel: [simultaneously] Oh, *Pokemon Go*—[laughs]

Griffin: "—to the polls!" I only know about that because *Good Christian Fun* uses that clip all the time.

Rachel: Uh, yeah. So, because Max Fun Drive is all about the listeners, I said, "Hey, listeners. Uh, take this poll."

And I did this both in the *Wonderful!* Facebook group and on Twitter, and I said, "One: what is something we've talked about that you would like to hear discussed in more detail? And Two: what is something we've never talked about that you think is wonderful?"

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And that kind of gave us a guide for this week's episode.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, I don't know about you. I just kind of grabbed some random stuff off the list. Because, uh, dear— dear listeners, you asked us to talk about a lot of things that we have not dove into ourselves. Uh, we watched the trailer for *Our Flag Means Death*. That was a very hot topic.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And it looks great, and maybe we'll circle back on that one in a week or two. Uh, but we have not dove into that.

Rachel: Yeah, it looks absolutely delightful, but neither of us had had anything to do with it until we watched the trailer, so we're not ready. But we will be.

Griffin: We're not good on— we're not good about, like, watching shows that aren't, uh, garbage reality television?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: When we do find one of those shows, we typically consume it within, you know, a very short time frame.

Rachel: We have approximately two hours each night to watch a program.

Griffin: And hockey season eats up about half of that time.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, but hockey season's almost over. And then I guess we'll end up watching all this stuff. And maybe more *Dharma & Greg*. We haven't really talked about it.

Rachel: Okay. So, take us to the polls, uh, and tell us what you found.

Griffin: One thing that people wanted us to talk about that we have not talked about before is the art that kids make. I think the art that kids make is good. 'Cause one of our kids makes a lot of art these days.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And it, uh— it is so interesting to see, and, like, nostalgic to see the kind of stuff that Henry draws, because of— not the technique that he employs or the, like, actual result of his artistic endeavors, but the— the lore and narrative behind the things that he does.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: He does a lot of characters with powers, and explains, like, what the powers are and, like, what is happening in this combat scene between this bear that has a force field, and he's raining down acid on the skeleton.

Rachel: It's amazing the recall, too. Like, the thing I didn't realize with kid art, because it's often difficult to distinguish what you're looking at, is that we will ask him days, a week later, "What is this?" And he will be able to tell us in great detail the exact plot that is happening.

Griffin: Yeah. There's— and what's fun is sometimes I— you know, we are featured players in the art. A lot of the times, I do have a stink line or ten coming off of me, and sometimes—

Rachel: There's a small brown crayon.

Griffin: I have a small brown crayon thing that is—

Rachel: That has been used—

Griffin: It's usually poop.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: And a bear— a bear did poop on me, or a big dinosaur did poop on me, or... something along those lines. And I have a force field that's holding the poop stink in to me so it doesn't get on Mommy and Gus.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's a lot of force fields in these drawings.

Rachel: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh, I just think that's so delightful, because it reminds me of, like, how I used to do it.

Rachel: Well, and it's just fascinating to see the progression, because I would say for 90% of Henry's life, drawing was just a big scribble on a page. Like, he didn't have the time or the patience or the ability to do a drawing. And now, almost every time, there is a person, a very easily distinguishable person.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And then—

Griffin: Who has some sort of power.

Rachel: Some sort of power. [laughs]

Griffin: That's great! That's very good to me. I like— I prefer that to, like, "Here's a house and a rainbow." It's like, cool. I would rather hear, like, "This is Psycho Bear. Um, he has force fields and acid, and this is you, and you do have poop on you."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Uh, I do not respect you as an adult or a parent." Uh, what do you have?

Rachel: Um, well, along the lines of a summary, I will say, one thing that came up on Twitter that we haven't discussed and was suggested by both of your brothers now...

Griffin: Oh boy. Oh boy.

Rachel: ... is Travis McElroy. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, Justin wanted to hear more about Travis McElroy, too?

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah!

Griffin: I actually had "siblings" on here, which is...

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, siblings definitely was a topic. But when I tweeted this, a suggestion immediately came from Travis, uh, which was himself. And then, uh, Justin got on board and said "Travis McElroy."

Griffin: But Justin didn't want to hear about Justin McElroy?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: No. Well you know, Justin, he's so humble.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Uh, so I would like to say that I enjoy Travis.

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Rachel: Uh, I think Travis— one thing I really like about him, he is very welcoming. He's a great host.

Griffin: That is absolutely true.

Rachel: Not specific to podcasts, although I do believe he is a good podcast host, but just in person, when I am present.

Griffin: Both of my brothers are extraordinary hosts.

Rachel: That's very true!

Griffin: They want to— they aim— they aim to please. They are the type to, uh, you know, plan and prepare an exquisite... you know.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Irish breakfast or some shit whenever you roll up to their house.

Rachel: Well, and even on a smaller scale, if you are a new person in the room I think they are very thoughtful of what your experience is and how they can kind of bring you into the fold.

Griffin: Yes, absolutely.

Rachel: Which I really appreciate. Uh, and I also am always kind of surprised at how much Travis notices, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: Like, he's very perceptive about people and situations. Like, he's so, uh, high energy sometimes and scattered you think like, "Oh, he— there's no way he noticed this," but he always has, and always, like, has a good thing to say about it.

Griffin: Yeah. He's— he's a dope brother. Both my brothers are really top flight dudes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, and Travis— I mean, growing up Travis was so, like... I think I took more after Justin terms of, like— especially in social situations. Like, Travis had this quality that we didn't really know where it came from? Where he was not,

like, afraid to go up and talk to somebody, or ask some famous person for a photo or an autograph, or...

Rachel: I will say, while I don't think that your dad is necessarily a gregarious person, your dad can turn it on, in a way.

Griffin: My dad's a deeply gregarious person.

Rachel: Well—

Griffin: He was professionally gregarious.

Rachel: That's the thing. I think he is able to turn it on. I don't know that that is his natural pull. I think often he seems kind of quiet, you know? But I think he is able to, like, recognize, like, this is showtime. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. I don't know. It's just so hard to tell, because I saw— when you watch your father sort of gladhand people—

Rachel: [simultaneously] Yeah, as a child, yeah.

Griffin: —over big boxes of Stewart's hot dogs at the, you know— at the Riverfront Regatta, like, 15 years in a row.

Rachel: I imagine that Travis was maybe motivated a little bit by that. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, but yeah, I mean, he's a great bro. I think we all have— I enjoy our differences, between all of us brothers. And I think that especially in terms of on, like, the social spectrum, like, Travis is so far from where I'm at. And it's like— it's— that's fantastic. I think that that's a— I think that that's genuinely a very good thing. And I think sometimes, you know, in the podcasts, especially MBMBaM, that comes off as sort of a— we play that up for, like, laughs.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That, like, the friction.

Rachel: Yeah, 'cause he is so different, yeah.

Griffin: Uh, but— and it always really bothers me when people, like, psychoanalyze that. Because first off, like, it's— that's not— I hope that people listening at home know that we are playing very accentuated versions of ourselves on all of our shows.

Rachel: Yeah, completely.

Griffin: Um, but also, like, the idea that, you know, some... some joke I don't laugh at or vice versa on the podcast means we secretly have this, like, acrimonious thing developing between us is, like, the most childish bullshit read of the situation.

Rachel: Yeah, of course. No, he is very willing to keep the momentum of a show, even if that means kind of sacrificing his dignity. [laughs]

Griffin: He lays himself down on the— on the—[laughs] on the cross of... of comedy. The comedy cross, from time to time. Uh, number one with a bullet I believe from things we've talked about in the past was Carly Rae Jepsen.

Rachel: Yesss.

Griffin: And I don't know that I have, like, a ton more to say about Carly. I think—

Rachel: Well, she's done a lot of music since then.

Griffin: She has. Uh—

Rachel: Although I will say that I do listen to the entire *Emotion* album pretty frequently, still.

Griffin: It's still the best. It's still the best one.

Rachel: Ooh, okay!

Griffin: I mean, it is. It's—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That— that album is front to back, like, absolutely incredible. Um, the stuff that has come after, I think there's definitely some, you know, highlights all over that, right? Like "Cut To The Feeling" is obviously a jam. Uh, "Too Much," uh, frickin', uh... aw, man. "Julian?" Did I say "Julian?" Anyway, uh, what I want to talk about though is that Carly Rae Jepsen herself did, like, a video, I think with BuzzFeed or something like that, where she did a bracket for all of her own songs.

Rachel: Oh yeah, I saw somebody post about.

Griffin: And the results of it were so fascinating, right? Like, you have a lot of, uh, things that you could definitely, like, predict what is going to happen there, right? "Now That I've Found You" versus "Cut To The Feeling," it's gotta be "Cut To The Feeling." Like, "Cut To The Feeling" is so strong. But then "Cut To The Feeling" loses to "No Drug Like Me" off of—

Rachel: I don't even know that one.

Griffin: I think it's on *Dedicated*? That was the name of the album that came after *Emotion*, right? I should really know these things. Yeah, *Dedicated*. Uh, and then you get, like, "Call Me Maybe" versus "I Really Like You." Where would you land on that one? 'Cause both of those are obviously so iconic.

Rachel: Oh, yeah. I mean, they both have a lot of similar qualities, right? Like, they're just, like, real poppy, infectious. Um...

Griffin: "Call Me Maybe" actually made it through.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: But then "Call Me Maybe" loses to "I Want You In My Room," which is my favorite song off of *Dedicated* so, like, I get it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um... but— where are we? Actually I'm looking at the other side. "Boy Problems" versus "Party For One."

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: Like, those are both very, very strong. Uh, "Party For One" ended up taking it.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: Uh, and then "Party For One" beats "When I Needed You," losing out just—

Rachel: Wow, I love "When I Needed You."

Griffin: I do too. Uh, *Emotion* just runs the track on, like, where it goes, and then loses to "Too Much." So it comes down to "Run Away With Me" versus "Too Much," right?

Rachel: Huh.

Griffin: And I feel like this is maybe, like, the Elvis versus Beatles, cake versus pie. Like, what era of CRJ do you really land in?

Rachel: I've gotta say "Run Away With Me."

Griffin: I would too. "Too Much" won.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: That is what she considers to be her best song. And I like "Too Much," but it's a more contemplative jam.

Rachel: Can we play a little bit of "Too Much?"

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, yeah, I don't think we've played— everybody knows "Run Away With Me," but let's play a little bit of "Too Much" on the show now.

["Too Much" by Carly Rae Jepsen plays]

Griffin: "[singing] When I'm with you then I like you too much. [mumbling unintelligibly] too much."

Rachel: That was beautiful, by the way.

Griffin: Thanks, yeah. It's— thank you.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, so I found that very interesting. Uh, I believe— this is foggy. I didn't really look it up, but I remember seeing that she just, like, put up a billboard of some, like, album that she has coming up now. Which, like, I'm always— I'm always down. Uh, I didn't click with *Dedicated*, which came out I believe in 2019, as much as I did with *Emotion*, which is one of the best albums of— definitely the best pop album, one of the best albums of all time, in my opinion. Uh, but then when we saw her in concert and she did all of *Dedicated*, and we, you know, got those good seats, uh, I vibed with it much, much more. So that's— that's my CRJ update for everybody. That's where I'm at in my journey.

Rachel: She would talk more about the Max Fun Drive?

Griffin: I think that that would be a sound idea. Should we talk about the other membership levels? Maybe that would be a good place to start.

Rachel: Yeah! Yeah, so Griffin mentioned earlier the \$5 a month that gets you the bonus content from— from the beginning of time. [laughs]

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Um, and that's something that you can— so—

Griffin: Last year I think it was your journey into *Animal Crossing* was the bonus content. Is that right? Doesn't that feel right?

Rachel: No! Dungeons and Dragons character.

Griffin: Oh shit, that's right! It was the year before that that I got you into *Animal Crossing*. That's right.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, so this is something I'm going to explain that I wasn't aware of. So, in your podcast app you can enter a... a feed, and then it'll give you all the content. This was not something that I understood before.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Uh, when you give at \$5 a month, that'll trigger an email, and that email will give you the information you need to get the bonus content, and you can carry it around with you, and it'll last you probably all year, if you're me, because every once in a while I'm like "Oh yeah! I never listened to that one thing," and then I'll get in there, and it's just nice to have that little buffer in between episodes.

Griffin: Yep. And that's for all the shows. The— *The Adventure Zone* bonus content traditionally is pretty buck wild, uh, if you're a fan of that show.

Rachel: Yeah. Oh, and I'm really excited to listen to— they did a [laughs] *Judge John Hodgman* after dark, where they had people submit more adult-themed cases.

Griffin: Ooh!

Rachel: And I'm excited to listen to that one, too.

Griffin: Uh, at \$10 a month, you get the bonus content. You can also choose one of 35 embroidered patches, one for each of the shows. Uh, and they are just gorgeous. You can put 'em on whatever. Uh, we're not gonna judge you here. But they're these really beautiful two-inch round patches, and you just iron 'em on or sew 'em on to whatever you want, man. And you also get an embroidered membership card for the Max Fun family.

Rachel: Did you say "embroidered membership card?"

Griffin: What did I— what word was I trying to say?

Rachel: I don't know. I think you were—

Griffin: Oh, I was looking at the word— the patches are embroidered. The membership card is not.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You could probably embroider a membership card—

Rachel: You could!

Griffin: —if you really wanted to. If you really want to support the network and you have the means, \$20 a month gets you all the stuff mentioned before, and then you can choose your reward for this level: the Max Fun creativity pack, or the rocket hat. And the creativity pack a bunch of sort of craft supplies that you can use to make all kinds of stuff, and then, uh, artist and Max Funster Ellen VanderMyde illustrated a beautiful deck of 54 cards in the Max Fun inspiration deck, and each card gives you sort of a jumping off point for ways to use these different arts and crafts products in the creativity pack. And the rocket hat is a hat that has the Max Fun rocket logo on it.

Rachel: Oh, that's so cool.

Griffin: It's a good hat. It's a beautiful hat. Uh, there's other levels, too. We hear a lot every year from people who are like, "Oh, I can only give at \$5 a month. I'm— I'm so sorry."

Uh, that's a huge amount of support to show— like, to give financially like that represents a huge amount of support.

Rachel: Yeah. Well, and anybody that has worked at an organization that relies on, like, charitable gifts, I will say that getting that sustaining membership, that money that you pledge each month is what helps, you know, artists prepare their content, and know that they will have a show the following month. [laughs]

Griffin: I made this pitch on Inst— Instagram this week. Uh, but over the last year, we had a baby last March, end of last March, and—

Rachel: I think that's the first time you've said "We've had a baby" in—

Griffin: It's a boy.

Rachel: There you go. [laughs]

Griffin: And, uh, it has been amazing, and challenging, to have an infant in these times, in the COVID times. And we have been— we have had, like, childcare that has fallen through, whether it be in the form of, you know, a sick nanny or a daycare closing down, which has happened so many times, uh, and it's been— it's been really hard. It's been very challenging. We've had to take a lot of time to ourselves. And the team that we kind of have that helps us out with

all of our shows, like Amanda our business manager, and Sarah, who helps us with social media and stuff like that, and McKay, who helps us with merch stuff, and Rachel Jacobs, who is our editor who we just hired last year. Like—

Rachel: Yeah, and special shoutout to her, because a lot of times these unforeseen events have caused us to record late.

Griffin: Like right— like literally right now.

Rachel: Like right now. And she has done such a good job in scrambling to get content out as fast as possible, even though we have given her a [laughs] very small amount of time to do so.

Griffin: And that is, like— that is one-to-one how your support of— during the Max Fun Drive, like, creates the things you like, because we would not— *Wonderful!* would be a, especially over the last year, a very erratic publishing, like, timeline show. Uh, and not only that, like, even if we were able to, like, turn it out in time, we'd be kind of miserable, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because we would have to—

Rachel: Doing those, like, 11 PM recordings, you know?

Griffin: Right. And also just being, I think just generally unhappier, because we have to— so your support helps us make the shows. It helps us, you know, on a personal level, sustain this, like, work-life balance that is healthy and good. It lets us spend time with our kids and, like, not sweat. "Oh no, how is this episode gonna end up getting published?" Uh, it— your support is monumental to us, and it is the reason the we have the lives that we have, and it is the reason that we make the shows that we make. And if you like those shows, and if you listen to them, please consider joining the network. Maximumfun.org/join. If you've been a member, and maybe it's been a— a good couple of years for you, and you're, you know, more financially stable or whatever, you can upgrade your membership. That will get us closer to that 20,000 member goal.

Rachel: Yeah. You can also select new shows that you are listening to now that maybe didn't exist back when you started. Uh, if you go to Maximumfun.org and

click on "manage," you can enter your email, and then they will contact you with the ability to update your list of shows.

Griffin: Yes. So please, Maximumfun.org/join. Uh, just think about it, and help us out, and let's keep rollin'. What do you want to talk about next?

Rachel: Okay. So... when I asked our Facebook group, "What is something you like that we haven't discussed?"

The number one response was "An original Rachel poem."

Griffin: Yesss!

Rachel: So, I will say, this is not exactly... true. Because in episode 46, I talked about the process of writing, and I did share a small poem that I wrote, like, 10+ years ago.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But...

Griffin: God, that was so long ago, wasn't it?

Rachel: I know. [laughs] But because it is the Max Fun Drive, I have written a poem.

Griffin: Oh boy.

Rachel: As of yesterday. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh boy!

Rachel: Specifically about our show.

Griffin: Okay! I'm very excited.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: You told me about this yesterday.

Rachel: I know. I was literally edding— editing it... edit— nobody can say that word.

Griffin: Editing?

[pause]

Rachel: [wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Like, right before we started recording. So, uh, it would probably change ten more times if I had another day, uh, to work on it.

Griffin: Well, why don't you read it every episode, and we'll follow the path as you chop and screw it.

Rachel: Okay. [breathes deeply] So, this is a—

Griffin: You got so nervous just now!

Rachel: [through laughter] I did.

Griffin: I love it. It's so charming.

Rachel: I— I write, like, a poem a year now.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: In— in graduate school I had to write, like, a poem a day. And so the burnout was so real, and has carried me into now my 40's.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Okay. Okay, here it is. There's no title, but you all, the listener, know that it's about our podcast.

Griffin: I'll title it afterwards.

Rachel: We found a gem that fits in our hands and can be carried without a fist.

We bounced from the melody of its movement, and it gives us a way to keep time.
We have a prize that outstretches its arms and becomes our partner.
It can squeeze us together when words fall short.
What we love is that the "it" is somewhere, and that somewhere can be here,
that there is the moon, and the sun, and the "it," always, and whenever it is
wanted.
If you love it too, I can bend it around us.
We can move it like a hula hoop, feel the joy in the spin, the kind of shield we
create when we're synchronized in wonder.

Griffin: Oh, baby! That was so good!

Rachel: [laughs] Thank you!

Griffin: That was really good, hon!

Rachel: Thank you. I mean, you have to say that. [laughs]

Griffin: I don't have to say that! I would tell you— I would—I—

Rachel: You would? [laughs]

Griffin: I feel like— okay, I would say that—

Rachel: [deep voice] It's bullshit, babe.

Griffin: But my tone of voice— like, if I didn't mean it I'd be like, "Babe, that
was really good."

Rachel: [laughs] That's true.

Griffin: You know?

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: But that was really, really good!

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: You're so good at imagery, and metaphor, and painting a picture with words that makes me feel emotions.

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: I guess that's what poetry is.

Rachel: That is, beautiful!

Griffin: I think you just made me realize what poems is.

Rachel: We did it. [laughs]

Griffin: I love that, honey.

Rachel: So— thank you. So, there you go, listeners. That is—

Griffin: I'm gonna call it... The... Cool Poem—

Rachel: [flatly] Okay.

Griffin: —About Lo— Love Po— A Love— Sorry About The Plums, by Rachel McElroy.

Rachel: Sorry about the—[laughs quietly] Sorry 'Bout The Plums.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: That was really good.

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: I want more now. Now I want more.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: A lot of people wanted us to talk about being a parent. And I, uh—

Rachel: Which I feel like we do every episode, more or less.

Griffin: Well, we complain about being a parent. But, like, we—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Because, like, I think that especially over the last year, like, it's just been... here is— whenever we talk about being a parent it is, "Here is the thing that has kept— here's why the episode's late."

Rachel: [laughs] That's true.

Griffin: Because no joke, like, we— I would say every other week we are without childcare for one of our kids. Because— and that's not, you know, exclusive to us, or the childcare that we employ to watch both of our kids. It's just the world, right? It's just the nature of... parenting young kids in a pandemic.

Rachel: Well, yeah. And it is— it is the reason, you know, hundreds of years ago that families traveled in packs, because you had a backup plan, and we do not.

Griffin: We don't.

Rachel: Um, but we have gotten to spend a lot more time with our kids as a result.

Griffin: That's true.

Rachel: And we have— it feels like we're in this kind of lucky age range where Henry is a person, and—

Griffin: Yes. Fully.

Rachel: Fully a person, very delightful, has his own interests, has his own sense of humor, all of this very inspired by us, but very unique and exciting. And then we have this second baby that we're able to appreciate more, because it's the second baby.

Griffin: And we know...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... we know our way around a baby a little bit more.

Rachel: Yeah. We know— we know where the butt is and what comes out of it, and what to do—

Griffin: Yeah. Nothin' good!

Rachel: [laughs] Um, and we are lucky in that big son is just... an incredible brother, I would say.

Griffin: He— he— this is a recent— I think for every big sibling, like, it takes a minute to ramp over the "Oh, well, they're sharing their attention with someone else, and that's— I don't love that." Uh, but he *loves* this baby so much now!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's so... good! Like—

Rachel: I had heard that from people that had multiple children to say, like, "Oh man, you aren't even gonna believe. The best thing is when they play with each other. Like, there's no better feeling."

And I was like, "Okay." But... 100% true. [laughs]

Griffin: It's hard— and I know that it is— it comes from a primordial place, and it comes from frankly a very egotistical place, that when you have a child, you get this feeling of, like, this person exists [dramatic tone] because of me!

And they are going through all these things, and experiencing all this stuff, and there's parts of me and parts of you in there the whole time, and that's amazing. But then when one of those has those experiences with another one of those?!

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: Its' just like— it is indescribable, and it's so fuckin' good. Uh, and I find myself really in a great place these days. Like, genuine— as hard as it is, the happiest I've ever been, because I feel like I am fully aware that it won't always be like this, and that, like, times won't always be this good— not necessarily even, like, localized to our family or interfamilial relationships. Just, like, you know,

the— the world and our lives and everything. Uh, I find myself just so grateful every single day to get to hang out with these two, and get to watch them interact with each other, and... it's just— it's just a really good time.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Right now, for us.

Rachel: Yeah. We— I mean, we were not sure if and when we were gonna have a second child, so I would say maybe the first eight months of his life there was a lot of, like, "I can't believe there's another one!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And now it's kind of more like, "Oh. It's great." [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Well, he's able to sort of express his needs more, and sort of sign when he's hungry, and all that. And speaking of the devil, I believe he's awake!

Rachel: Yep. That's him!

Griffin: That's him! Hi, Gus. Welcome to the studio. Are you gonna be cool, or... what's up? No. Bad start.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Bad start. You don't know how to type. Do you wanna sit with me? That's a surpri— that's surprising to Daddy. Are you sure? Okay! What else do we got in these polls?

Rachel: Uh, a lot of people wanted us to talk about *Bluey*.

Griffin: We just did! We just did talk about *Bluey*.

Rachel: And frankly, we have still yet to watch the entire series.

Griffin: But there's a lot of it. There's, like, a hundred episodes.

Rachel: There is a lot of it. Uh, we very much enjoyed the show. It was cool, because after we talked about it, some of the animators are fans of *Wonderful!*

And they were like "Hey, I make this show. It was so cool to hear you talk about it."

Griffin: Yeah. I like that too. Do you like *Bluey*?

[mic rustling]

Griffin: What are your thoughts on *Bluey*?

Rachel: Ah ba. Ba ba ba. You wanna talk? He doesn't get to spend a lot of time in this office.

Griffin: That's true. He's mystified by all the tchotchkes. Henry calls 'em toys, but they're not toys, dammit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: They're collectables. Can I cuss in front of— hey, how do you feel about me cussing in front of Gus? 'Cause there's, like, no way he...

Rachel: It's okay until he starts talking.

Griffin: Okay, good.

Rachel: Uh, okay. So, I have another thing. I mentioned this to you last night. So, when I talked about what we haven't discussed on Facebook...

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: Uh... a response that got 52 votes as of this recording came from Clayton, and it was "The way everything shines in the sunlight after a summer rain."

Griffin: Oh, sweet Clayton.

Rachel: [laughs] So if you need any more proof of how wholesome the *Wonderful!* Facebook group is, there it is.

Griffin: That is pretty good, though. I do like it when it rains and it's— but then it's sunny outside? I mean, that's where you get rainbows from.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And I think those are— I think we all agree, pretty good stuff.

Rachel: 107 people wanted us to talk about Lego Nintendo games. Do you know anything about those?

Griffin: There's a trillion of 'em, right? Like, so there's *Lego Batman*, and *Lego Star Wars*, and *Lego Marvel*, and *Lego*... just, like, all kinds of games. Uh, and they're— honestly, it's wild to me that I have not played any of these with Henry, 'cause they're very simple and cute, uh, like, action-y kind of platformer games where everything's made out of Legos, and they've made a million of 'em. Uh, I think they just made one that is, like, the Skywalker saga of *Star Wars* stories that, uh, I should dip into with him, but we're still churning through *Kirby! Kirby and the Forgotten World*, I think is what it's call— or *Forgotten Land*, something like that.

Rachel: Yeah. Oh, it is so fun to watch you guys play that.

Griffin: Yeah. Except I just wanna say, whoever designed the boss Silly Dillo, thanks for nothin'. You scared— that boss scared my son and gave him a terrible nightmare! It's just a big armadillo with googly eyes on him, and he's upsetting to look at, so thanks for nothing.

Rachel: Well, and he, like, traps you in, like, a cage or something and shakes you.

Griffin: He traps you in a cage and, like, shakes you around. No thanks, Silly Dillo! Go to hell, Silly Dillo. What's— you are really wildin' out right now. Just make cute noises into the microphone so people will—

Rachel: [softly] Yeah!

Griffin: —people will join the Max Fun network.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Gus, what's your favorite thing about the Maximum Fun network?

Gus: Ahh.

Griffin: Yeah. What else? Uh, yeah, a lot of people wanted us to talk about *Animal Crossing*, too. I tried to dip back in when they did the big update, but I just, uh— I had a hard time getting reinvested. I guess I'm curious if playing *Animal Crossing* instilled in you any kind of interest in playing more video games, or if it was just pretty much—

Rachel: No.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I still think you'd like *Stardew Valley* if you gave it a shot.

Rachel: Yeah, I don't know. The— the, like, interface of *Animal Crossing* is so charming, and *Stardew Valley* seems so, like... 8-bit?

Griffin: Whoaaa.

Rachel: Am I— am I doing this right? [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, you— yeah, sure, that's a fully, uh— that's a fully real concern. Uh...

Rachel: So, yeah. So anyways, so I'm not as enticed.

Gus: [babbling]

Rachel: Some people wanted us to talk more about the Muppets, which I definitely could do.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Um, it's just hard to find original things to say. I mean, everybody loves the Muppets, right?

Griffin: I mean, if you're talking about the Hensonverse, like, it's still got something for kids of all ages, which I very much appreciate.

Rachel: I will say my favorite Muppet movie is *The Muppets Take Manhattan*.

Griffin: Okay.

Gus: [babbling]

Rachel: It's a harder one to find for whatever reason. I think they worked with different production companies on different movies or something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, but I love *Muppets Take Manhattan*.

Griffin: I don't think you can beat *Muppets Christmas Carol* for my— for my money, but, uh...

Rachel: Oof.

Griffin: What's wrong? You don't like that one?

Gus: [babbling]

Rachel: No, I'm just saying, this is a contentious debate we're about to have, and I'm not sure we want to get into it.

Griffin: Was there anything else on the list that we can zoom through? 'Cause this baby is a real wiggler.

Rachel: Um, somebody suggested that we do a commentary on the *Home Improvement* theme mixes, which I personally would love, but would require a lot of compilation work on our side.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, I don't know how to break this to you all. I did it very fast.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I just— I would go into Audacity and I would click "effect," and I would see what effects I hadn't used before, and then I would just use 'em.

Rachel: So there will be no album to come of the mixes, is what you're saying?

Griffin: I'm sure that I could legally do that. I guess it is fair use in that I did remix them pretty heavily.

Gus: [babbling]

Griffin: Um, okay. We gotta— we gotta wrap this up, 'cause this child needs... something. Uh, but thank you all so much for listening. One last time, Maximumfun.org/join. If you are able to become a member of the network, there's great stuff. Bonus content, all kinds of pledge gifts. Um, but really you just— this baby eats so much food, guys. It eats so much food. Tell 'em how much food you eat, Gus.

Uh, Maximumfun.org/join. Uh, this is gonna be going for two weeks, and just all the support that we can get, we truly appreciate.

Rachel: And if you can't donate, please talk about it on social media, encourage other family and friends to give as much as they're able to. Uh, and we really appreciate it.

Griffin: Yep. Um, I think that's it. We're gonna wrap up. Thank you all for listening. We'll be back next week.

Gus: [babbling]

Griffin: And Gus, take us out with our famous tagline!

Gus: [babbling and whining]

Griffin: I think it's puffs time.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I think it's half past puffs time. Bye, everybody!

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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