

Wonderful! 193: Hashbrowns Appendix

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[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi. This is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hello. This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful!

Griffin:

This is a show where we talk about the stuff, the goods, baby, yeah.

Rachel:

The good stuff.

Griffin:

The goods, uh, we got 'em. [laughs] Yup, this is a show, which we didn't, we didn't do last week.

Rachel:

Yeah, thank you all for your patience.

Griffin:

For your patience with us.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Uh, we, we, we have a little, uh, a little vacay because we were.

Rachel:

A little family vacay.

Griffin:

A little family vacay. We're having a pretty tough time. I think it's easy to say for us. Uh, er, you know, we're all having a tough time right now. It's not a competition, though, folks. And, uh, yeah, we a little, little time off for ourselves, um.

Rachel:

Well, yeah. Griffin, er, Griffin hadn't seen his bros in almost a year.

Griffin:

And they had not, er, more importantly.

Rachel:

They had not met our new child.

Griffin:

Right. We, uh, we, we... There was a lot of stuff that happened kind of all at once.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And it turned out that our, our plans that we had for them to meet Gus, uh, like weren't going to happen.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And so, we hopped on this, this family trip and, uh, it was, it was nice and hectic and stressful and lovely. And uh, but we're back now and we're ready to...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... hit the ground running with the good.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

The goods. You got any little goods?

Rachel:

[laughs] Are we changing the name of our show?

Griffin:

Small Wonders is now Little Goods.

Rachel:

[laughs] I like that.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Oh, man. Oh, man. Oh, man. Can you go first?

Griffin:

I can. Uh, our friend, Evan, uh, Minsker sends me and, uh, er, our extended fam a recipe, uh, on Food Network from Trisha Yearwood called Garth's Breakfast Bowl.

Rachel:

Ah. [chuckles]

Griffin:

And I can't stop thinking about it. Um, I... Can I just read it cause it's a four-step—

Rachel:

Yeah, please.

Griffin:

It's a four-step recipe.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

I'm not gonna read all the ingredients cause one of them comes at you so fast and furious in a way that this is a breakfast bowl that Garth Brooks, that Garth Brooks made. Okay. Step one, in a large skillet, melt the butter and scramble the eggs. Okay.

Rachel:

All right.

Griffin:

So far, we're, uh, in breakfast bowl territory.

Rachel:

Scramble the eggs, yeah.

Griffin:

Step two, in a separate large skillet, cook the hash browns according to package directions. I love that.

Rachel:

Yeah, if you look that.

Griffin:

It's like refer to ancillary materials, where do, go, uh, go to Appendix B to find out how to cook the hash browns.

Rachel:

Yeah, you don't need to make hash browns. You've got a box right now that will tell you.

Griffin:

Check this, step three, in a third skillet. [laughs]

Rachel:

Whoa, that seems unnecessary.

Griffin:

Break up the sausage with a wooden spoon and cook until brown. Remove with a slotted spoon and transfer to a bowl. Cook the bacon in the same skillet until crispy.

Rachel:

Whoa.

Griffin:

Drain on paper towels, tear into pieces, and set aside. That's all step three. You're supposed to be doing all that stuff at once in your three discrete skillets that you have gone.

Rachel:

Wow. I don't think we have three skilletts.

Griffin:

Are you ready for the fucking twist of a lifetime?

Rachel:

It seems pretty greasy by the way so far, but go ahead.

Griffin:

Oh, that's going to be the least of your concerns when we hit step four. Cook the tortellini according to package directions. Layer a large bowl with hash browns, sausage, bacon, tortellini, eggs, and cheese and serve. End of recipe.

Rachel:

Ah, which, um, er, er, pasta not typically a breakfast food, uh, but more... I wonder. Is it supposed to be tortilla?

Griffin:

Nope.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

The ingredients, two tablespoons butter, eight large eggs, one 16-ounce bag frozen hash brown, such as Tater Tots thawed, one pound pork sausage, one pound bacon, one nine-ounce package cheese and roasted garlic tortellini.

Rachel:

Unreal.

Griffin:

And then sharp— Unreal, Garth and Trisha. Garth.

Rachel:

Why? Why? Why? Why?

Griffin:

Why, Garth?

Rachel:

Why?

Griffin:

Garth, you made some hits as, uh, you think this is that you think maybe he, uh, sorta got very experimental with food when Chris Gaines was around. And this is like uh, a whole though.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like when Chris Gaines was around, Chris Gaines ate some wild shit. And he's a fancy, uh, fancy boy who likes tortellini and, cause which we all think is the fanciest. It looks like little beautiful rings. So, it is, of course, the fanciest pasta.

Rachel:

It's just so strange to me that, you know, I could see in a pinch. Let's say, we don't have enough food items.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

So, maybe we'll have tortellini for breakfast, but there is more than enough food items.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm. I can't even, I can't see that.

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

If I, if we look around the house and this is a very privileged position to take and I get that, folks. But if we look around the house, it's like, "We don't got eggs. We don't got sausage. We don't got hash browns. We don't have bacon. We got tortellini though. Hon, do you wanna eat tortellini for breakfast?"

Rachel:

I would do it.

Griffin:

I would say, "No. Let's just run out and grab something."

Rachel:

I would do it.

Griffin:

Because it's tortellini.

Rachel:

I would do it, honey.

Griffin:

Okay. I, I think also I don't really like tortellini very much.

Rachel:

Really?

Griffin:

Yeah, I like a long noodle.

Rachel:

Huh.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

So thank you, Evan, uh, for, for sending that my way. And Justin, you, you both, um, have really put a spring in my step this way.

Rachel:

[chuckles]. Um, I thought of my little good.

Griffin:

Good, good, good.

Rachel:

Uh, the chicken nugget at Burger King.

Griffin:

Oh, God. Yes.

Rachel:

Really paid off for us.

Griffin:

Really in a big way.

Rachel:

We, uh, when we travel typically, uh, one thing we can count on is the chicken nugget.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

And typically, this comes from an establishment called McDonald's.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

But, uh, at the airports we were at, for whatever reason, Burger King had the monopoly.

Griffin:

A strangle hold.

Rachel:

And I was a little nervous cause I, you know... I mean discerning four-year-old, I thought he is gonna, uh, see this nugget and recognize it as not his beloved one.

Griffin:

No.

Rachel:

But he gladly ate it, and I had some as well.

Griffin:

Good.

Rachel:

Uh...

Griffin:

Good fucking nuggets, man.

Rachel:

Good nugget.

Griffin:

Do you remember when they, uh, added chicken fries to the menu.

Rachel:

Yeah, fuck.

Griffin:

And America lost its fucking mind collectively.

Rachel:

Those were not good. Those were not good.

Griffin:

I mean they're long nuggets, honey.

Rachel:

And well, but they, they... Because of the thinness of the chicken fry...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

They became like, er, rubbery.

Griffin:

Oh, I disagree.

Rachel:

Like there wasn't enough like juicy meat inside.

Griffin:

I disagree. I per-

Rachel:

Do you liked them? Um.

Griffin:

I, I think it was per- I think the dip-ability of these bad boys?

Rachel:

Yeah, but they just didn't hold up well.

Griffin:

Getting chicken fries with a side of fries-fries is like, "Yes, give me long food, exclusively small, long foods, please, please." But I'm giving them in the smallest container of barbecue sauce.

Rachel:

Yeah. It's just weird to like a food because of its dip-ability, like you recognize-

Griffin:

It's not weird!

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

Is that weird?

Rachel:

You recognize you're saying nothing about the taste or mouth feel of the item. Just the fact that you can easily dunk it at something else.

Griffin:

Let me hit you with this then.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

And this could be the show.

Rachel:

Nah. [chuckles].

Griffin:

But then it would be My Brother, My Brother, and Me.

Rachel:

Yeah. [chuckles].

Griffin:

What do you like better, Fritos or Fritos Scoops? When it's time to dip? Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Case, case closed.

Rachel:

I had, er, but I would never say first and foremost, I like a Frito because of its dip-ability.

Griffin:

Um, um, no, but you would say.

Rachel:

I like the salty crunchy.

Griffin:

You would say when it's time to scoop, I would like the Frito design specifically for that function.

Rachel:

Yeah, but to look at a chicken fry and to say, "Oh, that's good dip-ability." Like first, first thing out of your mouth, like...

Griffin:

Yeah, because what do you have?

Rachel:

It tastes whatever.

Griffin:

Maybe, maybe you have like a small flask. You have like an Erlenmeyer flask full of barbecue sauce, and a regular chicken nugget's not going to get past that narrow mouth.

Rachel:

[chuckles] But I would say, uh...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, a chef at a fancy restaurant.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

He doesn't provide you with salt and pepper and seasoning because the idea is that their food doesn't necessarily require additional elements.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

That if you are looking at a food, anticipating a need to dip, perhaps the food is not...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... good enough on its own.

Griffin:

Yeah. Maybe it's also, by the way, just because I haven't had Burger King in a while.

Rachel:

Yeah, that's true.

Griffin:

But, um, their flame-grilled burgers are good as fuck.

Rachel:

Oh, yes. Yeah, I didn't have the burger.

Griffin:

I liked that smokey flavor. Tastes good in my mouth. And that's all I got to say about Burger King, [laughing] our sponsor this week, the BK. It's just we all, uh, we all, as a nation, have slept on Burger King for a while.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

And McDonald's is always doing and saying, and then Wendy's popped up. And it was like, "You're a fucking bacon monster." And we're like, "Oh, that's fun."

Rachel:

Can I say we had basically stopped entirely eating...

Griffin:

Oh, sure.

Rachel:

... fast food until we had a son that was very, very picky? And now, it's like we are so intimately familiar with all of the fast food chains.

Griffin:

Yes, we don't, uh, we still don't get food from them. We get food... Like we don't. Uh, we're not.

Rachel:

Uh...

Griffin:

I mean, occasionally, it's been a minute though since I've had a, you know, a Mac of any size.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, er, God, do you remember that Mac— Is it the Mac deluxe? What was it? Oh, god.

Rachel:

I don't— You, er, er, you might recall.

Griffin:

I know so much deep McDonald's apocrypha.

Rachel:

I know. This is why the Munch Squad segment is so successful in the show.

Griffin:

I know. It's something. We're all very enthusiastic then.

Rachel:

Yeah, yeah.

Griffin:

Okay. Can I go and do my thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Because my thing is sandcastles.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

I like sandcastles. They're so fun. They are the premier beach activity in my book.

Rachel:

I just had a really strong memory of a year where Laumeier Sculpture Park, my beloved...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... St. Louis Institution did like a whole sandcastle exhibit.

Griffin:

That makes sense.

Rachel:

Where they had like multiple castles that you could visit, uh, er, er, which seems very like, er, er, like a difficult decision to make.

Griffin:

I know, rain.

Rachel:

Because it is so... Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin:

And it's gone, yeah.

Rachel:

Day two, it rains, like, what do you, what do you do?

Griffin:

Well, there's ways of, for like art exhibits...

Rachel:

Oh, for preserving.

Griffin:

... castles for preserving them, whether it's with a, uh, adhesive spray.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Which is what they do at a lot of sort of like big sandcastle competitions, or just mixing in sort of clay composite into the mix to give it a little bit more, um.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. See, you know.

Griffin:

More oof.

Rachel:

I never seen you make a sandcastle. I don't think. I don't even know your technique.

Griffin:

I mean, I made them at this trip that we just had.

Rachel:

I know, but I didn't see it. It was gone by the time I arrived.

Griffin:

Yeah, it was, uh, yeah. I mean the— They were brutal tides. And we'll, we'll get into that.

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

All right. We, we have fun building sandcastles. Henry got hit by a pretty like bonkers rogue wave.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

That gave him swimmer's ear, which cast a shadow, I would say...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... uh, over the trip.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But before that, we made, we made some good sandcastles. And then, it— They remind me.

Rachel:

He was so devastated. When I came back, he indicated to me that the castle had been lost. And he seemed really worried that you are going to be upset about it.

Griffin:

I know. It was so sad.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Maybe we— Yeah, I wanted to tell him like, "It's okay, buddy. That's what happens with sandcastles."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

There's something, there's something beautiful about that, but okay. There's a lot about the process I like. When you find the right, like sand with the right moisture content so that it slides right out of one of those like bucket molds.

Rachel:

Oh, okay, okay.

Griffin:

Oh, that's good stuff.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Because it's hard. It's hard. If the sands too dry, it just falls apart.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

But if it's too wet and it forms a suction in the, uh, the bucket.

Rachel:

Yeah. You're right. You're right.

Griffin:

And it won't come out, and you, er, er, er, you know, you got to get that perfect, that, um, that perfect porridge.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Um, which is, uh, tough to do. I don't even do it all the time, you know, when I'm making sandcastles every, every couple of weeks or so in the basement.

Rachel:

[chuckles]

Griffin:

We don't have a basement. Um, what I like even more though, and I think is true for everyone, more than just making a castle, is the infrastructure, making like the, the moat that goes around it or the, the pool, the swimming pool for the imaginary sand people to play inside of, or the flood walls that could potentially hold back the, the waves. Although, they er, almost exclusively are not effective at that because, as it turns out when water hits sand, the sand goes, "Oh, okay."

And just kind of goes and just leaves. Er, the water takes it and it's gone. Um, but just like trying to, trying to build defenses for it, like getting into structural engineering. Maybe I'll build, maybe I'll build a fence with little sticks. That could be fun. I'm just thinking about this now. Would it be fun to build it? Well, actually, it's dangerous because somebody could step on that. I don't know.

Rachel:

Well, and also it's difficult to find sticks on the beach, actually.

Griffin:

I guess so. I mean driftwood. That's what I like is using reclaimed. It's a, it's a multi-

Rachel:

Oh, mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It's multi-medium project...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... because you can use driftwood. You could use it, but, uh, you know, a bird.

Rachel:

Um, bird—

Griffin:

It's a big fish that you find. [laughter].

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Uh, I also like the decoration stage a lot, like picking up like washed up kelp and draping that on there.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Or, uh, getting a bunch of shells and kind of pressing that into the, into the work or using like a, um, like a fork or something to scrape some texture into the walls.

Rachel:

Oh, listen to you.

Griffin:

Or that, the, this stuff. Um, poking holes, poking the windows in it. Like it's, it's, there's, there's so many ways to get creative with sandcastles.

Rachel:

So, for you, it's not necessarily about height because I feel like you're...

Griffin:

I don't care about the height.

Rachel:

A lot of folks out there are really, they're interested in the height.

Griffin:

No, I don't. Uh, er, that's not my thing. Like the castle is secondary. The ca-, er, the castle is the thing to protect and decorate with infrastructure and decor. It's not the- it's not the star of the show for me.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Uh, for me, it's more about the, the, uh, you know, the utilities offered by the, uh, by, by installation.

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

And there's also something genuinely very zen about sandcastles and that you know, while you are making it, unless apparently you are our four-year-old son, that it is inherently a doomed enterprise.

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

Like it's going— It isn't, it is not. It is very impermanent.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

I have this very like vivid memory of a beach trip we took when I was like little, uh, with our family friends. Uh, and we're staying at this hotel in Myrtle beach that was like facing the ocean and were like 10 stories up.

And I remember we had spent the morning building this huge sandcastle with all of this sort of defensive structures. And then like, in the afternoon and evening, when the tide started to roll in, we just sat on the balcony for hours and watched our sandcastle, our little sandcastle like tried to fend off the waves.

Rachel:

Oh. [chuckles].

Griffin:

Until eventually, like it was just all traces of it had been completely washed away.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And it wasn't, like, you know it's gonna happen. And if you are okay with that, then it's just a question of like how long can my bold, brave old toaster...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... like hold off the ravages of the world. And when like not to get too like existential about it, but like...

Rachel:

I think it's too late.

Griffin:

It's too late, I guess. You could say the same for over the grand scope of everything like any creative endeavor. So, if you think about a sandcastle and you think like, well, this doesn't have to be perfect because it's going to be, you know, eroded by the ravages of time at some point.

You could apply that logic to a lot of creative endeavors that would make you not approach them with like complete perfectionist, like, attitude that we keep you from, from making the thing and having fun with it in the first place. I think there's a lot to learn from sandcastles.

Rachel:

It's so very— It is very glass is half full approach cause what you said to me now just sounded like a little depressing.

Griffin:

Really?

Rachel:

Yeah. The idea that, that you could put energy into something that is very fulfilling, but that has no permanence.

Griffin:

Well, the energy has merit.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That is, that is the thing like it's the— It is the act of. of creating the thing that has the, that has the value, not the creation itself.

Rachel:

Hmm.

Griffin:

Uh, you can— I know that is a, maybe a challenging statement for this show, but it is, uh, it is a— I don't know. It's a philosophy that I think serves me fairly well in my...

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

... in my, uh, uh, more professional creative endeavors.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, and also for sandcastles. [laughter] And, uh, all right. Uh, I'll turn it around. I know the thing you've been wondering since I started talking about this is like, what's the history of sandcastles. And I'm here to tell you that. I don't know that.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

But I can tell you what the biggest sandcastle ever made was because it was made earlier this year.

Rachel:

Whoa.

Griffin:

In Denmark, uh, there was a small seaside town called I'm going to mispronounce a lot of things here in the next like 30 seconds, uh, Blokhus. And, uh, a dude named Wilfred Stijger and 30 other sculptors built a monolithic pyramid-esque sandcastle that stands nearly 70 feet tall.

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

And it's made from, er, almost 5,000 tons of sand and clay.

Rachel:

I was thinking as you were describing this, I was like, "Oh, I hope you can walk into it.

Griffin:

Uh, no. Er, you can't walk into it. It is a, it is a, uh, it is a wild... Look up a picture of it. If you search like biggest sandcastle ever made in Denmark...

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

You will, you will get there, but it is like a multi-tiered almost city. Like it is a, um, it is like a keep made out of all...

Rachel:

Yeah. Okay.

Griffin:

... multiple buildings and things like that. Um, but what's wild isn't just the intricacy of it and the scope of it, but also that it is about the role that COVID-19 has played in our lives over the last year and a half, which is wild.

Rachel:

[chuckles].

Griffin:

Uh, there is a model of the virus wearing a crown at the top of the sculpture.

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

And, in an interview, the, uh, Wilfred Stijger said, uh, "It's ruling our lives everywhere. It tells you what to do. It tells you to stay away from your family and not go to nice places. Don't do activities. Stay home." He channeled his COVID anxiety...

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

... into a 70-foot tall sandcastle made out of 5,000 tons of sand and clay.

Rachel:

That's so interesting. All those people that are like, "Hey, look at the sourdough I made." And he's like, "Oh, interesting. Uh, here's my thing that I did." [laughs].

Griffin:

Yeah, just a little 70-foot tall sandcastle. Uh, yeah. That's sandcastles. I really like them, man.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I am afraid of a lot of the things that live in the ocean, which may be I've chosen a strange topic to do a whole season of the adventure zone around, but I like. But I'm also not a fan of like, you know, sunbathing.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Or I like, I like chilling in the shade on the beach and reading a book. That's like my shit. But if I'm gonna, not be doing that, I wanna be building a sandcastle.

Rachel:

Now I'm curious.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Do you have opinions on beach sandcastle versus sandbox sandcastle?

Griffin:

I mean sandbox sandcastle, you're not gonna get the, the mixed media.

Rachel:

Yeah, of course.

Griffin:

You're not gonna get the, uh, you're not gonna get the water content.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like it's, it's, it's er, I mean, it's good practice, I guess, but, um, it's not the big show, as we call it.

Rachel:

The big show, yeah.

Griffin:

In the sandcastle community. Hey, can I steal you away?

Rachel:

Yeah.

[ad break]

Griffin:

Oh, we got a couple of blumper bones here and this first one is for Joseph Lynn. And it's from Stephanie who says, "Hey, sweets. I can't believe we have been married a decade already. So glad you are willing to be my blind date to prom 13 years ago. I like you and I love you. Our life together is the most wonderful thing ever. Let's get drunk, order Pad Thai and play some video games. Happy anniversary." That's, uh, a fun night.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

We just had, we just had some Pad Thai last night. It was pretty, pretty good.

Rachel:

That's true.

Griffin:

So, I'm feeling— I'm feeling the Pad Thai part.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, no, no, drunk, but...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Definitely, Pad Thai.

Griffin:

The Pad Thai part.

Rachel:

And if there's Griffin, there's always video games.

Griffin:

Hey, that's not fair. I don't— I'm not always playing video games while we're hanging out, you know, have a nice time.

Rachel:

Well, not always.

Griffin:

Not always, but sometimes.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I almost figured out how to play FreeCell, okay?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And then, er, yeah. I'm on my phone.

Rachel:

Is that all you're doing over there?

Griffin:

Almost exclusively.

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

You see me playing on my, on my phone or on the Switch?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's all FreeCell.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Because it's like, er, it's just like it's really complicated.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It's like solitaire, but it's not.

Rachel:

[chuckles] Can I read this next one?

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

This is for Amy. It is from Austin. "Hey, my dude. I bought a Jumbo-John so you hear it and go, 'Huh? Those people have the same names as us.' Then ponder that until I said something more specific to our personal lives. I guess you'll never unravel this mystery. Don't ask me about it or I'll just raise my eyebrows or something. Love ya and bless up."

Griffin:

That's so good.

Rachel:

That is so good. I love that. I, I love, I love that very accurate description of how these things often go out to the world.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Because I have that name and I know someone with that name.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Could it be?

Griffin:

And it is.

Rachel:

It is this time.

Griffin:

It is Austin and Amy, but Amy, you knew, you know cause you've got it. But Austin, surprise! We got you. [laughs]

[MaxFun ad]

Speaker 1:

Mr. Robot, man, what are you doing?

C-53:

Oh, I'm just taking one last look at my coworkers.

Narrator:

Every journey comes to an end.

Master Kierano:

Remember, Pleck, this space will be with you always.

Pleck:

Sorry. Who are you again?

Master Kierano:

Uh, Master Kierano.

Pleck:

Oh, right, right, right. Sorry. [laughs].

Master Kierano:

Just calling in.

Narrator:

Friendships will be tested.

Speaker 2:

Dar, you have to do it. You have to shoot Pleck.

Dar:

Okay.

Speaker 3:

Wow, you shot him so fast.

Narrator:

Destinies will be fulfilled.

Speaker 4:

I've become a complete bird. I'm flying. I'm flying!

Pleck:

Guys, we don't have a choice. We have to put on a show.

Speaker 3:

We should do it in [inaudible]. We've got the costumes. We've got a stage. We can do it, you guys.

Narrator:

Mission to Zyxx, the final season on Maximum Fun.

[MaxFun ad ends]

Griffin:

Hey, what do you want to talk about today?

Rachel:

I want to talk about something that I am surprised I have not talked about before, but according to my, uh, look through the index, I have not. And I think this is gonna be a little pretentious.

Griffin:

Oh, oh.

Rachel:

Tie dye.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You don't really like it, do you?

Griffin:

I do not care for it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I don't have— Okay, I don't have anything against it. It's just not something I, I wear actively. I don't think I—

Rachel:

Is it all the color? Is it just the so, the, the so many color?

Griffin:

No. I think that wearing tie dye intimates a certain, er, uh...

Rachel:

Like a party lifestyle. [chuckles].

Griffin:

Cultural lifestyle...

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

... that. And it's not, er, not just one, there's several. There's several different sort of, I would say, tie dye identities.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Uh, or tie-dentities, if you will.

Rachel:

Of course.

Griffin:

And, uh, I don't know that I necessarily apply to any of them, right? Like you can, you can have, you can live that sort of hippie life.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

You can live that— I think it's got— There's a beach life for sure that's got that.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Like a, uh, a casual relaxation life. Or I also think there's like a church mission trip life where you get the— Where you think that's my dye.

Rachel:

Yeah. So, that's what I was going to ask you because, I- I- I'm wondering if you have participated in tie dye and or had any tie dye items at any time.

Griffin:

It will not surprise you to learn that the latter of those three examples I just gave was one that I had.

Rachel:

Yeah. That's what I just I say cause so tie dye for like, I feel like our generation is really just more about like camp life, you know.

Griffin:

Interesting. Yeah.

Rachel:

Like that was my experience was like one year at art camp, we like all tie dyed shirts or in shoes and whatever we could get our hands on. And so, for me, like, er, er, my nostalgia for tie dye is like a very artsy craft one.

Griffin:

See, and maybe that's part of it for me is that I am 34 years old and I don't actually know how you do tie dyes. [laughs].

Rachel:

Oh!

Griffin:

I have tie-dye shirts, but I've never really successfully made one. And I'm not really sure how it works, and I'm too afraid to find out at this point.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, yeah. I, so I have quite a few tie dye items.

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

And I find myself always kind of seeking out more. Um, my, er, my banner pieces of tie dye clothing right now are like overall-shoulderalls.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

That I love. Um, we also have a little onesie that my friend, Krista, made our oldest son that now our youngest son can wear. Uh, and I...

Griffin:

[singing] If I could save time in a bottle.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, you see, you sing now, but you just did the sandcastle segment. And so, I, I don't even know where you stand really.

Griffin:

I can, I can feel both things.

Rachel:

Oh, that's beautiful.

Griffin:

I know; complicated me.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. Uh, er, I love it. I love it. I love the artsy crafty element. As I mentioned, I love the colors. I love the- that they're always a little different like if you get like a real handcrafted item.

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

Uh, and there is a rich history there that goes back before the '60s.

Griffin:

Oh, I don't doubt it.

Rachel:

Um, this is actually.

Griffin:

To the roaring '20s!

Rachel:

Even before that.

Griffin:

To the, to the— To the zany tens.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, so, er, tie dye, uh, is a little difficult to track because textiles decay faster...

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

... than a lot of other mediums. And so, it's difficult to say, like, "This is the first piece of tie dye." But they can date, uh, Chinese pieces from the fifth to sixth century, uh, er, which is kind of incredible. Uh, Peru is another place where there has been a lot of early tie dye. Uh, in Japan, tie dye has been around, uh, since 552 C.E. Uh, you can also find some tie dye in India done as early as 4,000 B.C.E.

Griffin:

Geez.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Those are the places I would assume.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like places that have a history of like very colorful, like art.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

And, yeah, er, with things like dye, it's like a lot of different civilizations figured out how to dye things.

Rachel:

Yeah. Mm-hmm. It came out of a lot of different kind of like cultural, uh, ceremonies and, and religious ceremonies. Uh, and also just, you know, the availability of the items that you could use.

Griffin:

Well, they don't have rubber bands.

Rachel:

Dye fabric, true.

Griffin:

So, I don't know what was it like in, like in some sort of awful like— entrails or something like that?

Rachel:

Yeah. I, I can tell you that string is something that's been around for a while.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

And you can also bind...

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

... with string.

Griffin:

I was thinking like tended like, you know, sinew

Rachel:

[laughs] I mean maybe.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, so, er, in the US, uh, it was actually The Great Depression when women were learning how to tie dye at home.

Griffin:

That doesn't sound depressing at all.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, er, there were some shelf dyes available like the one used today, which is the rit, R-I-T, dye.

Griffin:

Oh, rit.

Rachel:

It was created in 1918. That's a lot, what a lot of people use to tie dye today.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

Um, but you could also, you know, use blackberries and cabbage and marigolds and, you know, any number of plant items. Uh, and it's the '60s, uh, 1969, where you saw like your, your Janis Joplin, your Joe Cocker on stage at Woodstock wearing the tie dye. Uh, there is some, cause everyone like associates it with the '60s, but it's like, "Well, how did it come back?" And there's an interesting theory that the Peace Corps showed up in 1961, where people were traveling all over the place and that potentially volunteers in West Africa brought back kind of this, this knowledge of dying fabric with them.

Griffin:

Interesting.

Rachel:

Um, but— So, tie dye has this huge like surge in the '60s and '70s. And then the '80s get super preppy and it disappears. And then I feel like right around when I was like middle school, high school, there was like a resurgence.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like mid-to-late '90s, there was this kind of like reemergence of this like hippie.

Griffin:

Well, it's er, I, I genuinely think it was because that's when we got into like wild, hyper color shit.

Rachel:

True.

Griffin:

Like sort of the, that mid-to-late '90s aesthetic was like...

Rachel:

True.

Griffin:

... overwhelmingly neon.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Like bonkers.

Rachel:

Well, there was also a Woodstock came back in the 90s too.

Griffin:

I guess so, yeah.

Rachel:

That might be even part of it. Uh, and then, as recent as like this year, there has been this huge like tie dye movement. I don't know if you remember this. I had actually forgotten about it until I was researching this. But in, in the Olympics, Team USA had this whole like line of like red, white, and blue...

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

... including these like bucket hats that I guess you can purchase now as a...

Griffin:

You just showed me the copy of the article. I can't [chuckles] not the... There we go. Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

I wanna show the pictures, see?

Griffin:

Yeah, those are nice.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

They're nice.

Rachel:

I guess it was Ralph Lauren that did the whole like tie dye motif.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

Um, but yeah. It was like all over, all over the place again.

Griffin:

I mean, it's a hobby, everyone got hobbies.

Rachel:

That's the thing. A lot of people are kind of associating it with the like pandemic, uh, you know, home, home activity, um.

Griffin:

Do you know what's wild, quick sidebar?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Last year, I got into electronics. It was like my hobby was like modding controllers and switches and old game boys. And then, I kind of fell off of it earlier this year because things started to get a little bit better.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And now that we're starting to turtle up a little bit more, I've been getting really interested in doing it again.

Rachel:

[laughs]. I wonder what that is.

Griffin:

I don't, I don't— I don't know.

Rachel:

It's almost like a reflex.

Griffin:

It seems reflexive.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, er, yeah. We— Our, our friend, uh, Cassie, I know, got real into tie dye, and gave us some tie-dye socks, uh, very early on in the pandemic. Um, and it's— It was actually, it was something I was planning to get into, uh, at the beginning of quarantine. And then, uh, for various reasons, just didn't.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, largely because it is a pretty lengthy process.

Griffin:

By various reasons, do you mean you grew a child?

Rachel:

Yeah, I started growing a child. Um, er, and also, it's like, it's a very kind of time-intensive process. So, there's, there's, there's the, the wrapping of the rubber bands.

Griffin:

Oh, sure.

Rachel:

And then there's the soaking of the dye in, in various like segments, you know, of, of depending on what pattern you want. And then there's like washing and then soaking wa- you know, there's like a, there's like a multi-step.

Griffin:

I don't know. You can say all these things I don't know. I don't. I do not know.

Rachel:

But you remember my— the birthday party we went to where tie dying was involved for the children.

Griffin:

Yeah. Did I do it? No.

Rachel:

No. I guess I did.

Griffin:

I don't know.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I don't know how it works.

Rachel:

The, the, the the trick is to let the dye soak long enough. And then, uh, wash it, I believe, in cold water, uh, so that you don't lose all of the dye.

Griffin:

But it's just the way it's crimped that it makes the crazy patterns.

Rachel:

Yeah, you kind of swirl it and then rubber band it. So, er, yeah.

Griffin:

It's all swi-

Rachel:

The like the spiral of it can create kind of like a spiral pattern, or if you can, you can fold it certain ways...

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

... to create different types of patterns. It's kind of like origami in that way.

Griffin:

It's the chaos I think I don't like.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I think that it's the chaos.

Rachel:

The chaos of tie dye. [laughter]

Griffin:

I like constructions, er, you know, connect point a to point B to make C happen, but tie dye's like just twist it up, baby. Dip it in. Who knows?

Rachel:

That is true. There is something that you said for the fact that you do not know what it's gonna look like...

Griffin:

I don't know. I don't like that.

Rachel:

... until you take everything out. I, I have made quite a few tie dye items that just look splotchy.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

There's no discernible pattern.

Griffin:

Yeah. I can't.

Rachel:

I just liked the- I liked the multicolor. Uh, I think I might actually like the chaos.

Griffin:

I always say that eventually.

Rachel:

But that, you know.

Griffin:

That Rachel, the micro-agent of chaos.

Rachel:

But that, you know. I'm the Dharma to your Greg.

Griffin:

Stop saying that! You know we're both Greg!

Rachel:

I know. [laughs]

Griffin:

Rachel and I have this conversation a lot. When one of us...

Rachel:

Exactly. [laughs].

Griffin:

When one of us wants to say or do something fun and the other one's not necessarily in the right head space for it, we will accuse one another of being the Greg and we're the Dharma.

Rachel:

Ultimately, we're both Greg.

Griffin:

But the— Whenever we talk about it for more than two minutes, we come to the realization that we're both Greg. We're Greg and Greg. And that if one of us was a Dharma, this relationship probably would not work.

Rachel:

[laughs] It's true.

Griffin:

Probably would not function.

Rachel:

I always think about this scene and I don't know if it actually happened, but this like this, er, this, uh, commercial or whatever, preview or teaser for an upcoming episode where Dharma is dancing on a table and Greg is standing on the floor looking up at her. And I think, yeah, I wouldn't be on the table. [laughter] Both you and I would be on the ground looking up at this Phantom Dharma in our relationship.

Griffin:

I imagine like, "Oh, yeah. I did tie dye on your business papers."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like, oh, man. You're so free-spirited. I would be like, "My business papers, Dharma!"

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

"I need these for business tomorrow!" Uh, hey, thanks to Bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song Money Won't Pay. You'll find a link to that in the episode description. And, uh, thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. There are so many great shows on Max Fun. You should go, uh, check out and listen to like, uh, FANTI and...

Rachel:

Yeah, If you haven't checked out Tiny Victories, I feel like, I feel like there's a lot of crossover potential between us and Tiny Victories.

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure and Mission to Zyxx, a whole bunch of shows for you to go listen to. Uh, we, uh, and by we, I mean, Montaigne just put up the music video and full songs for the MBMBaM theme...

Rachel:

Oh, it's so charming.

Griffin:

... theme, uh, My Life Is Better With You. Uh, You can find that at our McElroy Family YouTube channel. And, yeah, I think that's about it. We got stuff at mcelroymerch.com. You can go check out now, but, uh, that's it. Thanks again for being patient with us. Uh, and, you know, we'll be back next week, the regular old episode, but this is a fun one. I've really enjoyed doing the show with you today. I always enjoy doing it, but this is one I've just, I've delighted in. I delight in— I delight in your presence.

Rachel:

Oh, thank you, dear. Yeah, we took a week off.

Griffin:

That's not it. It's, uh, just, um, full of love. I'm overwhelmed with love for you.

Rachel:

[laughs] We also haven't had a conversation this long in a, in...

Griffin:

That's true.

Rachel:

In over a week.

Griffin:

Not because we're fighting, but because our children are conspiring against us.

Rachel:

There are so many times this past week where Griffin would turn to me and asked me a question and wanna talk about something. And I would be like, "Can we do this later?" [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah, because, er, er, we would have each, each one child...

Rachel:

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

...clambering all over us.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

But that's the life we chose.

Rachel:

It is, you know, it is.

Griffin:

It is.

Rachel:

It's a long game, parenthood.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I still imagine a time where both of us could sit with our young children at a restaurant and enjoy a meal together as a family. It can't be that far away.

Griffin:

It can't, but it is.

Rachel:

But it feels like it.

Griffin:

Oh, no!

[theme song plays]

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