Wonderful! 003: Get Busy, Towel Man

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Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful!

Griffin:

Welcome to Wonderful. It's the new podcast that's three episodes old. It's a little baby. It's a little baby. Did you bring it a gift? You gotta bring the baby a gift of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We're the baby Jesus of podcasts.

Rachel:

What is the third episode gift?

Griffin:

Frankincense.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel:

So it got gold?

Griffin:

It got gold and it got myrrh. And I don't know what myrrh is entirely but I'm sure they were psyched about it. And frankincense was potpourri, which I

don't know what a baby's gonna do with that. If our baby is any indication, it'll just probably eat it and get real sick.

Rachel:

Just immediately vomit.

Griffin:

Just immediately throw it all up. But the throw up would probably smell good but still it's not the ideal situation. What's a baby gonna do with gold? Actually that's probably for the parents. This is our holiday episode.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, this is, this is the third episode. Thank you all so much. The response to the show has really been wonderful. Um, oh we can't use that word really unironically on this podcast ever, uh, again, huh?

Rachel:

Thank you for all the good reviews in the iTunes.

Griffin:

Yeah. That means a lot and it really does help us out. But like even, uh, aside from that, like, it's been so great like just seeing other people in the Wonderful! Facebook group and on Twitter like tweeting at us and just like talking about stuff that they're enthusiastic about. Like I was hoping that that would sorta be the result of us doing the show, uh, and it has been and it's been a really, really great thing, uh, for us so thank you all so much for that and tell a friend and, uh, let's... You wanna dive into it?

Rachel:

Mm-hmm

Griffin:

Who's going first this week?

Me.
Griffin: All right.
Rachel: It's my turn.
Griffin: You pointed at yourself.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: And you're the only other person in the room.
Rachel: Yeah. I'm new to this podcasting thing.
Griffin: Yeah, you hit your mic, too.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: You really goofed it up.
Rachel: [clears throat]
Griffin: Let me clear my throat. Ah, ah, ah. You know that song?
Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: DJ Kool.
Rachel: I'm gonna start us off real easy.
Griffin: Okay, gimme a slow ball. Some, was it like weekends?
Rachel: A little better than that.
Griffin: Orgasms.
Rachel: Ooh
Griffin: Ooh, that's a
Rachel: No
Griffin: That's the weekend of doing it if you think about it
Rachel: I don't.
Griffin: 'Cause you're at work all wee-, uh, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, TGIF, [moans] Saturday!
Rachel:
Nope. Nope, nope, nope, nope.

Griffin:

What is it then?

Rachel:

So is Friday like foreplay then, I guess?

Griffin:

I mean, Monday would be foreplay and then we get into the hard work of doing it Tuesday through Thursday, and then Friday is...

Rachel:

Oh-

Griffin:

... you know, just looking forward to it.

Rachel:

Yeah, I guess it... Ah, it depends how long you go.

Griffin:

And then Sunday's the Lord's day. You don't do it then.

Rachel:

Griffin, my mom listens to this podcast.

Griffin:

I know. I know. That's why I mentioned, I've been trying to keep it sort of, um, PG-13. There's nothing not American Pie so far in this one.

Rachel:

Um, my wonderful thing that I'd like to start this week off with... soft pretzels.

Griffin:

Oh babe, I knew that this was gonna come up.

You knew it was coming.

Griffin:

Should I just do sour candy this episode, too, so we can like really nail down into the McElroy food groups.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, I am a lifelong, huge fan of soft pretzels. Not just sporting events. Not just at airports. Just whenever, wherever.

Griffin:

Airports?

Rachel:

There's always an Auntie Anne's at an airport.

Griffin:

Okay, I guess that's fair. I mean, there is in the Austin airport. I don't know if it's as ubiquitous as you think...

Rachel:

I'm pretty sure.

Griffin:

... it is. Malls, definitely.

Rachel:

Yes. Shopping malls.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You know, Google offers this feature where I typed soft pretzels into the search bar and it said, "Soft pretzels near me." [laughs] Which I thought was a nice feature.

Griffin:

You know it does that for all kinds of stuff though. It's not like they have pretzel radar.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs] You know that, right? It's important to me that you...

Rachel:

I didn't know that. No, I didn't know that. [laughs]

Griffin:

So you just... sorry, sorry, sorry—

Rachel:

If I typed in...

Griffin:

... you thought that the Google folks got together...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and they're like, "What do we wanna work on? Let's just have the best email application that just like everybody's gonna use. Um, we're gonna come out with our own little phone and it'll be kinda niche but cool and also we need to have special radar that will geolocate you and make sure you know where the nearest pretzels are to you."

Rachel:

So if I typed in tomato soup, it would start to fill in, "Tomato soup near me"?

Griffin:

Probably. Maybe? I don't know if it auto fill it but it could get you there. It could get you there.

I clicked on it, I clicked on it...

Griffin:

It could get you to tomato soup.

Rachel:

... just 'cause I was excited about this new feature, uh, just Auntie Anne's.

Griffin:

Auntie Anne's, yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs] Um, the soft pretzel though has a rich history. Are you excited?

Griffin:

This is one of those where I don't know that the history of the soft pretzel is gonna be as entertaining as we think it is.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, a lot of, a lot of hearsay out there about the soft pretzel.

Griffin:

[laughs] A lot of scuttlebutt.

Rachel:

Uh, some accounts say Italian monks presented young students with dough twisted in the shape of crossed arms which used to the be the position of prayer as—

Griffin:

Wait, really?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]
Rachel: As early—
Griffin: Dear God.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Why did you harvest— Uh, me harvest? I guess that's what they were doing back then was harvesting things.
Rachel: Harvesting pretzels.
Griffin: Yeah.
Rachel: Uh, that was as early as 610 AD.
Griffin: That time may as well be a billion BC. It's, uh
Rachel: I know.
Griffin: there is no way. There's just no way.
Rachel:

I have no like what else was happening back then. I have no idea. Um, there's also, there's like a lot of religious, um, allusions... That's probably not the right word. Religious iconography with pretzels.

Griffin:

Really?

Rachel:

Um, the three holes have been said to suggest the Holy Trinity.

Griffin:

Holy crap.

Rachel:

Uh, it apparently Catholics also used to consume pretzels during Lent since meat, dairy, and eggs were prohibited.

Griffin:

Is that... I can't, I'm not Catholic so I'm not familiar with the rules of Lent. I thought you were gonna say that it was like a— They would sometimes just slip those into mass during the...

Rachel:

[laughs] The wafers.

Griffin:

... and it would, it would transubstantiate from like the delicious soft, salty pretzel.

Rachel:

Just a little, tiny pretzel on your tongue. Oh, that's lovely.

Griffin:

Not a hard— Can we agree on this though?

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

Before you get too much deeper in the history.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Fuck hard pretzels.

Rachel:

Yes. Yes. 100%.

Griffin:

I am not... Unless they are, unless they have a little peanut butter nugget in the middle of 'em, like they sell at like Costco and World Market and shit like that. I cannot get down with a hard pretzel. It is just work.

Rachel:

I mean...

Griffin:

It is just work for work's sake.

Rachel:

... you know I'll eat it, in a pinch. But would I ever, ever in my life pick it over a soft pretzel? No.

Griffin:

Absolutely not.

Rachel:

Um, in the 1600s, uh, pretzels were used by Swiss couples to seal the bond of matrimony...

Griffin:

Fuck yeah!

Rachel: which they think may have been the origin of tying the knot.
Griffin: Straight, uh, really?!
Rachel: Mm-hmm. That's what it said. That you would give pretzels to your beloved
Griffin: Isn't there a, but isn't there like a religion where you actually like tie the knot. You actually like tie the cloth around your hands while you're That seems wildly apocryphal to me.
Rachel: Hey, Griffin?
Griffin: Yeah?
Rachel: Come play with me.
Griffin: No, I know but—
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: [laughs] I also don't wanna discount like an entire culture's

Griffin:

We're in the pretzelverse now.

I know. But the pretzelverse can't be a place where like other religions don't exist. Um, I... Would you, straight up would you have done this if you had known about this custom during our wedding? Would you have insisted on like... And then we eat a soft pretzel.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"I love you."

"I love you, too."

"You may now kiss the..." Stop. Wait. I'ma eat this fucking pretzel right now. I will get to you in a minute. Does anybody have any honey mustard?

Rachel:

Mm... That's nice. You know how we did the ring-warming ceremony?

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Where everybody passed a ring from the back up to the front-

Griffin:

And filled it up with their love and we took it from 'em, monster-style.

Rachel:

We could have them pass up a little container of honey mustard.

Griffin:

That's... oh okay, I thought you were gonna say a pretzel. I am not gonna eat something that's been manhandled by...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... fucking 60 of our dearest friends.

Um, there has also been, uh, tales that the pretzels came over on the Mayflower. I don't know.

Griffin:

Come on. What the fuck are we doing here?

Rachel:

Here's what I will say though. The true American origin of the soft pretzel, or just pretzels in general from what I can tell, uh, Pennsylvania. In 1861...

Griffin:

They think of everything.

Rachel:

... Julius Sturgess founded the first commercial pretzel bakery. Uh, Auntie Anne's didn't start 'til 1988, by the way.

Griffin:

Yeah. They seem like a sort of recent comer...

Rachel:

Pretzel upstart.

Griffin:

... to the game. What is it you think you love, is it, this is your favorite bread, right? Like if I know anything about you, is that... I cannot think of a bread that you prefer more than this.

Rachel:

Oh. Um, you mean like pretzel bread?

Griffin:

Like soft pretzel bread, yeah.

Yeah. Oh yeah. No, if it's an option at a restaurant, I get unbelievably excited.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um, I mean, I like the doughiness. It's a real doughy experience.

Griffin:

I like the salt.

Rachel:

Yeah. The, kinda, the thick rock salt, uh, quality. Um, I like that you can pull off the little ends, you know, where it crosses and it's the—

Griffin:

Yeah, and then you just have little nuggets.

Rachel:

I like that. I eat that first and then you have the bigger pieces.

Griffin:

It's dippable in so many things.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

And there are very few things you can dip it in that's bad. You know what I mean? There's a lot of bad dips out there but pretzels is just on point. Beer cheese... What's your favorite dip? 'Cause I am torn between beer cheese and spicy mustard. You sell it, you serve me up a soft pretzel with both of those bad boys?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I'ma go. I'ma go back and forth.

Rachel:

Yeah, um, there's a place here in Austin called Easy Tiger...

Griffin:

Highly recommend it. It fucking rules.

Rachel:

... that offers you a giant soft pretzel with multiple dips. Uh... Yeah, I think, I think a honey mustard is probably... You know what I used to like is cream cheese with a pretzel.

Griffin:

Oh. That's kinda interesting.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. 'Cause a pretzel's kinda similar to a bagel.

Griffin:

Uh, we have not...

Rachel:

Which I also like.

Griffin:

We have not talked about this but I love making soft pretzels.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

They are really easy to make and you feel like the fucking emperor of food when you do it.

Yeah. Griffin's done this a few times and it has cemented our relationship.

Griffin:

Really not hard. You just like make a dough and then you just boil it. And then...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... you've made— Congratulations, you've pretzeled.

Rachel:

Why does the boiling happen? I don't understand.

Griffin:

That's what like makes the skin all brown and like, uh, it makes it the way it is. It's the same way that bagels, like the exterior of bagels are sort of the similar sort of texture as the exterior. Uh, it's 'cause, uh, you boil them with, uh, baking soda, uh, and it alkalizes or whatever the fuck. I am not gonna pretend like I know but boy, do I love pretzels.

Rachel:

Anyway, soft pretzels. That's my...

Griffin:

They're the jam.

Rachel:

... my number one.

Griffin:

Uh, my first thing that I wanna talk about this week is midnight releases.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

And I'm saying this and it sounds like I'm talking about when you are dreaming and you have a particular type of dream...

Rachel:

Oh, Griffin.

Griffin:

Midnight releases, come on.

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Anyway—

Rachel:

Thumbs down.

Griffin:

... I'm talking, I am talking about, uh, when different sort of multimedia things, uh, come out at midnight on either the day before that they are inintended to come out, um, and is a sort of big event. I did some Googling to like learn about the history of this practice and it was kind of difficult.

Griffin:

First of all, there's no like go-to term for it. Um, if you're using sort of film parlance, it's midnight screenings. Um, although that's not even really accurate anymore, um, and it's also kind of tough to find because the idea of watching a movie at midnight, for a long time, was sort of the, um, uh, like a cult movie thing. Like Rocky Horror Picture Show or other like pulp horror movies. But I am talking specifically about when something new comes out and it is, uh, it comes out at midnight. And then you go and you stay up late and you share that experience with other people enthusiastic about that thing.

Rachel:

The only time I think I've ever done that, and correct me if I'm wrong on this, is when we went to see Star Wars?

Griffin: Uh, yeah. Rachel: Was that a midnight release? Griffin: Recently it is moved forward,

Recently it is moved forward, uh... The first push, uh, was, uh, a few years ago, um... uh, like 2012. It started to move back to like 20— uh, to 10 PM. And that was like a decision sort of pushed forward by the, um, like the actual film companies themselves.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm

Griffin:

Trying to, uh, boost sales because not a lot of people wanna stay up at midnight and then you can have like an entire theater doing 20 screens of a 10 PM show and more people will come to it, uh, 'cause they don't have to stay up 'til midnight. Even though the time has changed, I'm still... I- I still think it is a- a cool phenomenon no matter what.

Rachel:

Did you ever do anyone of those like Harry Potter books or anything?

Griffin:

So I'm glad that you've asked. This was, as far as I could tell, the first evidence of like really popularization of this practice for films was, uh, Star Wars Episode One: Phantom Menace in '99. Uh, there are lots of, lots of resources of like people telling their stories of that midnight release. And I think that's because it was one of like the first experiences where that happened.

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Yeah.

Griffin:

But where it really, really took off was the Harry Potter books.

Rachel:

Yeah, that's what I remember.

Griffin:

So, uh, in 2000, Goblet of Fire was... That's the fourth Harry Potter book. It was the first one that came out in the US and the UK at the same time. Um, it had... The series had been out in the US and been at the bestseller, like top of the bestseller list for like 40 weeks in a row. And Goblet of Fire was the first one and so the, uh, publishers when Goblet of Fire came out in 2000, pushed, uh, for this huge nationwide event. Uh, not just nationwide, worldwide because it was in the UK also. They did midnight launches all across the UK and the US. Uh, and sold millions and millions of books that first night.

Rachel:

Gosh.

Griffin:

And I think that was... I think, uh, around 5 million is what I found? Um, and I think that was when this sort of idea became like, uh, a thing that other industries and other publishers and everyone was looking at. Like, "Oh, okay. Now we can make the release of our thing like an event."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, uh... Speaking of Harry Potter, uh, the final Harry Potter movie, part two of Deathly Hallows is the most successful midnight screening of all time.

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

Um, it made \$43.5 million in one showing...

Rachel:
Oh my gosh.
Griffin:
essentially across the country, uh, which is completely buck wild. Uh, and if you go through, like, the top like 20 movies, uh, that had midnight launches, it's Harry Potter is everywhere on there. Uh, Hunger Games is everywhere on there.
Rachel:
Yeah.
Griffin:

Uh, Twilight's on there a couple times. Um, a couple of the Marvel movies

Rachel:

Do you have—

are on there.

Griffin:

But mostly it's Harry Potter. And like Harry... This little, magical boy...

Rachel:

[laughs] I know.

Griffin:

... like started this like thing and four books. I went to a couple of the midnight releases for the Harry Potters books.

Rachel:

That's what I was gonna ask you.

Griffin:

Yeah.

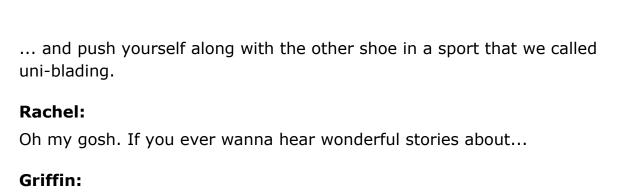
Rachel:

How many times have you done this?

Griffin: Uh, for the Harry Potter books, I probably like three times.
Rachel: How old were you?
Griffin: Uh, in 2000, I woulda been 13, uh, and moving forward.
Rachel: Did you go like with your dad, or?
Griffin: I went with Clint Wilson and then we'd have a book race. Which is, uh, where you go back to your house and you both are reading the book and then like every 15 minutes or so you would announce what page you were on just to see-
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: how far into the book you've gotten.
Rachel: Oh my gosh.
Griffin: Uh, and then your, uh, your friend's dad would tell you to go play outside for a bit and so you'd go and you'd take your one pair of roller blades that you share and you each wear one of the roller blades

[laughs]

Griffin:



Those were good days.

Rachel:

... Griffin's childhood, just ask him about activities he did with Clint Wilson.

Griffin:

It was very wholesome.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and so this is, this is now like a thing for movies. I went to... Uh, I've been to like a lot of the midnight screenings. We went to, uh, like you mentioned Star Wars Episode Seven? Uh, although that was like at 10 PM, or so? Um...

Rachel:

That's the only one I've ever done.

Griffin:

Really?

Rachel:

I am kind of an early to bed kind of lady. [laughs]

Griffin:

You sure are.

So the idea of seeing anything at midnight... Like the cost, uh, outweighs the benefits for me.

Griffin:

Yeah. I- I- I definitely get that. Uh, I've been to like a lot. I went to a couple of the first trilogy Star Wars movies. I went to Spider-Man.

Rachel:

Do you ever, uh, get in costume?

Griffin:

I don't think so. No, no, no.

Rachel:

No?

Griffin:

No. I never went quite that buck wild with it.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Um, but the other that I wanna mention is that it's also, this is also a thing that video games do but on a much smaller scale. Um, I used to work at Game Stop. I worked at Game Stop for a couple of years and so I participated in some of these. And I also wanna say here that like I also totally recognize that this is a thing that is, um, for a lot of folks I imagine in these industries, in these like service industries. Like it is forced upon them.

Uh, like, "Hey, you know, Halo 5 comes out tonight. Come on out and help us with the launch." Um, I enjoyed it. Like I always enjoyed the atmosphere. Like I thought it was cool we would like do little games or whatever. I worked at a movie theater for a while and we had a couple midnight releases there. Uh, and I always thought it was like kinda cool and kinda fun but at the same time I was like 18. Now that I am 30, I do not know that I would be as like thrilled to have to work it.

Here's a question. Having no experience with these, can people buy other stuff while they're there?

Griffin:

They can but it'd be really annoying.

Rachel:

How does it, how does it work? They, so they... Do they hand you the book and you immediately go the register and they're ready to, with the-

Griffin:

Essentially. There were lots of ways of doing it. Like one, is just like if you had a pre-order, you could just bring in your slip. And if you had a slip, you would get a ticket and you'd just hand them the ticket and get your book. And boom, boom, boom, boom, boom.

Rachel:

Okay. Yeah. I just wondered if anyone was like, "You know what I need? I need a 2017 calendar." [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah. Uh, I feel like that definitely happened while I was working at Game Stop and we'd have like 30 people outside like waiting in line for the Wii midnight release...

Rachel:

Ooh, Gobstoppers.

Griffin:

... and like you gotta... yeah.

Rachel:

Don't mind if I do.

Griffin:

Hey, can you tell me anything about this man who is named Mario?

[laughs]

Griffin:

Like, get the fuck out of here. Take your Wii and run. Um, so like I recognize that like there's probably a lot of people who are not crazy about this because they have to like work these events and I totally get that. I am totally appreciate of that but there is something to be said for this feeling...

I think everybody always wants to feel like they are part of, uh, the zeitgeist, right? Everybody wants to feel like they're part of, um... They're on the ground floor of the, of the thing that they are into right now, and that they are participating in these communities that share that same like excitement that I have for this thing right now. And to have like this idea of a switch being flipped or a floodgate being open...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and then all of a sudden, all of you are experiencing this like thing that you've looked forward to for a long time, all at the same time. And then can share that. It's really, really cool. Um, I got to do that with, uh, Destiny 2. Which is... I had been looking forward to and it came out at the same time, midnight eastern time, and then all of a sudden like just my entire PlayStation friends list with like all of my buddies and coworkers just like everybody was on, all at the same time.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And then the next like couple days it's like all we talked about. I think it's really cool. It's stuff like, uh, digital releases of stuff. Uh, specifically for games sort of limits this a little bit 'cause you don't have to go to a store. There's just like at midnight the E-store refreshes and then it's like, "Oh, I got it." But yeah, I just really like the idea of staying up late knowing that like, "Ah, I'm gonna feel like shit tomorrow." But knowing that like you're

going to be a part of like the most excited version of experiencing the thing that you can experience, I think is like really on point.

Rachel:

Yeah. I will say that that kind of community has never necessarily appealed to me, uh, but when we did go see Star Wars, uh, it was neat to be in the theater. Everyone's cheering and like genuinely excited.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And clapping and it feels like you are a part of something, you know.

Griffin:

I didn't go see Phantom Menace at midnight and I'm kinda glad I didn't 'cause I can't imagine. Man, can you imagine?

Rachel:

Oh, I wonder if people realized that it was not...

Griffin:

At what point did they realize?

Rachel:

Yeah, I don't know.

Griffin:

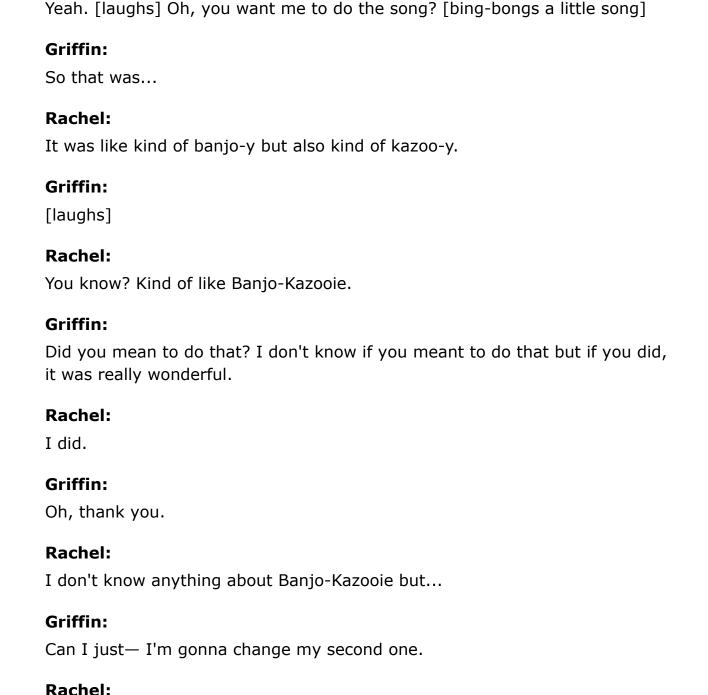
"Uh-oh."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, let's not shit talk Phantom Menace though. Instead, do you think that maybe I could steal you away?



Griffin:

I'm gonna edit. I'm not always talking about Banjo-Kazooie. That's a really, that's a really, uh, inaccurate way of describing sort of my day to day interactions with you.

... it's something that you are always talking about.

I don't know— What is it?

Griffin:

Babe, do you think we could do that one, um, the broccoli pasta that you make tonight and, uh, my favorite level in Banjo-Kazooie is the one where the seasons keep changing each time.

[ad break]

Griffin:

I got a Jumbotron message here and this one is for Jeremy and it's from Rahjin who says, "Hey Sweeby, you make—" I hope that's not a typo. Uh, "you make every day special and make me laugh 24/7. Best friend doesn't even begin to describe who you are to me. I am so lucky to have you in my life and I can't wait to marry you. Happy 5th Anniversary. Here's to more years of board games and podcasts and smalls and cats." Smalls? Not smells? No, smalls. Smells would probably make less sense than smalls actually...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... now that I think about it. "Here's to more years of smells. Ah, I love you so much and I always, always will." Uh, and I guess their anniversary is September 20th? Uh, or... yeah. I think that might be right so... whenever it is, congratulations on your anniversary. Congratulations on your upcoming, on your upcoming wedding and...

Rachel:

Congratulations on Sweeby!

Griffin:

... on Sweeby. It's got a lot of brand potential, hit me up.

[laughs]	
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Griffin:

Put that shit on some shirts and just keep on smelling.

Rachel:

[laughs] This message is for Nick and Rachel. It is from Matt. Oh... Did you read the copy on this?

Griffin:

No.

Rachel:

"To my brother and his [Borat voice] wife..."

Griffin:

Oh, you gotta do better than that.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Please. I know our baby's sleeping and you don't wanna get too loud but please do better than that. I'm not saying that like you did a bad job. I'm saying that I know you can do better than that.

Rachel:

"To my brother and [Borat voice] his wife..."

Griffin:

Oh, babe.

Rachel:

"Congratulations." I've never had to do it before. [laughs]

Griffin:

Can you just do me favor?

Rachel: Please, let me stop.
Griffin: No, please. No, please let me go. Can you just do me a favor and just give me five? Rattle 'em off and then 'Cause when I edit it, I can take the best one and I can just cut it in there.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: And make it sound good. Just gimme like five my wife— His wives. And really imagine
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: [laughs] the character. Please do this for me. I need it.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: I need it. It's been a really hard week.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Here we go.
Rachel: It's Tuesday. [laughs]
Griffin:

Yeah, tell me about it.
Rachel: [laughs] His wife.
Griffin: A little more.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Bigger.
Rachel: [laughs] His wife. That was worse.
Griffin: It was You're moving away from it. I need you to come closer to me.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Take a, take a beat.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: I don't think you can do it while you're laughing. I think you need to take a beat 'cause you owe me three more. And I'm so sorry to this Jumbotron message 'cause this is probably not the direction you wanted this to go. Rachel's having a full blown meltdown right now. Here we go. [laughs]
Rachel: [laughs] His wife.

Griffin:

[laughs] It's been literally the same. Now I'm not expecting a great Borat impression...

Rachel:

I can't do it.

Griffin:

I'm not expecting a great Borat impression out of you. I just need you to understand that you've done the literally the exact same thing.

Rachel:

[laughs] I can't. That's all I can do. [laughs] That's all I can do. All right. I'm just gonna start. I'm gonna read the copy.

Griffin:

All right.

Rachel:

I'm gonna need you to be supportive.

Griffin:

I love you. I think you did a great job, it's just they didn't change at all from attempt to attempt. This is not Rachel's cup of tea, by the way.

Rachel:

I think that's pretty clear. "To my brother and [Borat voice] his wife..."

Griffin:

Oh, you did it! No, you put a little bit of... Yeah, you put a little bit of funk on it!

Rachel:

"Congratulations. I want the record to show on air that I have 10 to 15% ownership of your life together since it was at a party I invited you to that you met..."

Griffin:

That's how it works.

Rachel:

"...and the rest was history."

Griffin:

That's how it works. That'll hold up in court.

Rachel:

"Enjoy those good, good tax deductions and enjoy your honeymoon/first anniversary depending on when they get around to reading this."

Griffin:

That's a sweet one.

Rachel:

Message was for August 2015, or 2017. [laughs]

Griffin:

That's pretty good then. That was a sweet message. I'm sorry we spent most of it Borat-ing.

Rachel:

Yeah. I hope, I hope you like at least one of those Borat impressions.

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Rachel:

My new one is towel man.

Griffin:

Is what?

Rachel:

Towel man.

Griffin:

You... are— Rachel's now bouncing up and down. She could not be more excited to talk about towel man?

Rachel:

You're familiar with towel man and you don't know it. He is at every Blues hockey game.

Griffin:

I don't... You, uh, the word familiar is not what I would use with my relationship with towel man.

Rachel:

At the St. Louis Blues hockey games, uh, for the past 27 years, Ron Baechle has come down from the balcony when the Blues score a goal, waved a towel, at which point he pumps his fist for each goal that has been scored. Everybody shouts the number of goals, and then he drops the towel from the balcony. You don't remember this?

Griffin:

Every game? Every game? No, I don't remember that at all. Every game? Like he's at every home game?

Um-

Griffin:

Is he on the, is he on the payroll? That's like a lot of uh...

Rachel:

That's the thing. He's a season ticket holder. He buys the tickets himself.

Griffin:

Holy shit. 'Cause that's like a job at that point, dude. If you are that much of an institution, you should be making some... You should be making some bucks.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. So they ring... They like, they sound a gong or whatever so...

Griffin:

There's so much stuff— Every... More than any other sport, hockey has the most things that happen there. 'Cause I guess it never happens, right? Like most hockey games, not a lot of people know this, end without, uh, any goals being scored.

And so when it does happen they're like, "Okay, we got... Let's see, we got everybody get out the... You know, get out the mustard packets and then we all throw those up in the air and that signifies this, and then when the mustard packets land, we all sing, you know, Deep in the Heart of Texas."

Rachel:

Towel Man, Towel Man as far as I know, is unique to St. Louis.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, I imagine that other sports teams...

Griffin:

Well, there's the Terrible Towel which is the... I think Steelers, maybe?

Yes. But not at all related to this—

Griffin:

This is a great. This is a very good towel.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

This is an exceedingly good towel.

Rachel:

Uh, so he, um, started this... Apparently he saw it at a hockey game in Peoria and brought it to St. Louis, um, and, uh, after three years of doing it, it took off. Uh, now they put him on the Jumbotron and, um, he says that he only misses one or two games a season. Uh, and he buys the tickets and has sponsors pay for the towels.

Griffin:

I was about to, that was my next question. Is where are these towels coming from?

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. He says he brings seven to every game because usually a hockey team does not score more than seven goals, if even.

Griffin:

So if they score eight, he just comes out like, "I don't know, guys." He has to hurl himself off the balcony.

Rachel:

This is the adorable thing. So he has a few solutions to this. Either he ties a...

Griffin:

How do you know the solutions?

Because I read about this man.

Griffin:

Oh God, this is great. Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, he takes a lace from a skate, ties it to the towel, throws it and then pulls it back up. [laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Which I love. Or he like, he's thrown... Apparently he's thrown like a paper towel or a napkin before.

Griffin:

His underwear. You think he's gotten nasty before?

Rachel:

No, Griffin. No!

Griffin:

Why did you, why won't you play with me in this space now?

Rachel:

[laughs] Because Towel Man is a St. Louis legend and has been for 27 years.

Griffin:

He probably...

Rachel:

I don't wanna talk about him throwing his underwear.

No listen, no listen, no you need— Uh, if you... Then you take the headphones off.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

'Cause this dude goes to all these games. He's a legend. I'm just saying if he could. If he, if he wanted to, like... He could, he could get busy probably.

Rachel:

He's 58 years old.

Griffin:

Oh, you're saying 58-year-olds can't get busy? Short-sighted, close-minded.

Rachel:

Um, there is a Towel Girl.

Griffin:

Oh!

Rachel:

So on nights that he hasn't attended, there is another Blues fan, apparently by the name Dee Loris, who has stood in for him, uh, if he cannot attend the game.

Griffin:

Dee Loris? Not Delores.

Rachel:

Yeah. D-E-E. And then the last name is L-O-R-I-S.

Griffin:

That's a confusing name. "My name is Juh Ohn." "John?"

"No, no, no, no."

[laughs] Um, but yeah, I just, I think this transcends the specific St. Louis Blues hockey team which as many know I am loyal to. And they're actually playing game tonight against Dallas that we are not watching.

Griffin:

Oops. Not that loyal, eh?

Rachel:

Uh, but I think that most sports teams... And I was gonna ask you, if you can think of any off-hand where it is not an official mascot, but it is a person who has taken it upon themselves...

Griffin:

God.

Rachel:

... to play this role.

Griffin:

This is like every... I feel like every fucking team has this. Like every team has like a person who's like—

Rachel:

Who's gone to every game.

Griffin:

... who's gone to every game and it's like, "I'm gonna immortalize myself." Maybe.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I can't think of anything off-hand because I, but again, like you are asking the wrongest person. Although I anticipate that we are going to get an inbox full of these like...

Exactly.

Griffin:

... local legends.

Rachel:

And I look forward to that.

Griffin:

Yeah, that'll be interesting.

Rachel:

I think it's, I think it's cool. Like I, like I mentioned, this guy is not paid by the team. Uh, he buys season tickets like everybody else and has just committed to this towel display.

Griffin:

Yeah. Uh, no I think it's great. I appreciate it. It's like I'm... Now, I'm the mascot. I've made the decision that now I am also the mascot.

Rachel:

Apparently he always sits in the same section 'cause he's a season ticket holder but I remember every time I get to a game, I always look around like frantically...

Griffin:

Looking for him.

Rachel:

... to try and find him.

Griffin:

Um, I'm gonna change my last one. 'Cause I was gonna talk about Destiny because it's just like all I've been doing lately. Um, and I think it's like a cool game with like... And I was gonna try to broadly talk more about like just playing video games, uh, online with strangers who end up being very cool...

Rachel: But then I said that thing about Banjo-Kazooie.
Griffin: But then, yeah And we got sort of got our quota met.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Um Uh, no also 'cause like it would be sorta the same thing as like my midnight launch thing.
Rachel: Can I ask you a sincere question?
Griffin: Yeah, sure.
Rachel: What's the difference between Crash Bandicoot and Banjo-Kazooie?
Griffin: Uh, Banjo-Kazooie is like an open world, like exploration sort of thing where you're going around looking for pickups and in Crash Bandicoot you're mostly running down sort of more of a linear track.
Rachel: What are the animals though?
Griffin: In Cr— Sorry baby. Baby.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin:

Baby. Baby. Baby.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Baby.
Rachel: What's a bandicoot? Am I supposed to know that?
Griffin: It is a animal.
Rachel: You're telling me you wouldn't, you would know what a bandicoot was if you hadn't played the game Crash Bandicoot?
Griffin: Absolutely not, but I will tell you that when Crash Bandicoot came out in 1997 probably, it was like, "Oh, that's a bandicoot. Now I know that."
Rachel: Okay. What's a kazooie? [laughs]
Griffin: It's okay. I supposed it's a double standard. Banjo-Kazooie is like a, it's like a big bird who rides around in a bear's backpack.
Rachel: Okay.
Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, so instead of doing that
Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin:

I do think Destiny's a great game and I really do have a lot to say about like playing, uh, video games online with randos who end up being kind of cool but I think it would just sort of be more of like this shared excitement that I kinda talked about in the midnight release stuff.

Rachel:

Well, plus listeners can go polygon.com and check out...

Griffin:

That is true. We do, we do a lot of stuff there.

Rachel:

... all of your Destiny coverage.

Griffin:

I... So I don't have any prep for this but I do wanna talk about the character Jerry Gergich on the television show Parks and Recreation.

Rachel:

Oh my gosh. That's so perfect.

Griffin:

Rachel and I have... We're on our third probably rewatch of Parks and Recreation. It is a shows that I adore. I think it is an imperfect show. I think that it has some slipups. I think that has it has some like weaker seasons but I... It is, it is one of my favorite shows of all time because, um, Rachel and I have a hard... We bounce off pretty easily off of a show, um, or a movie where all of the comedy is derived from people being fucking miserable to each other.

And I don't, I really just don't have any stomach for it. I don't think that it is like, uh... I don't think that it— And maybe in certain ways it works. 'Cause I'm trying to think of it and like I love Arrested Development. And I think that's a show where like a lot of the times, the characters are very selfish and, um, not very great, uh, to each other. And a lot of their like, the humor comes from the ways that they sort of, um, you know, pick on each other.

But there's also like some elements of like, "Oh, well these are also people who love each other very much." And you get some of that.

And Parks and Rec hits that like perfectly because this is a show about a group of coworkers and friends who love each other completely and while there are definitely some parts where they still pick on each other, there is reminder after reminder after reminder of this... These are a group of people who love each other and would do anything for each other. And that is so rare in comedy, uh, especially on television, where the joke is like, "You're a fucking idiot." [fart noise]

Um, and so I adore Parks and Recreation for that reason. There's, it's also a show about like struggling against, um, apathy, like political apathy.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Uh, and the frustration of, uh, how like apathy, uh, affects our political landscape. Uh, it is a show that has a lot of stuff to say about that and I think that is very bold and very, uh, it perfectly delivered.

Rachel:

Um, but you wanted to talk specifically about Jerry.

Griffin:

So, all that said. And this is why I wanna talk about it.

Rachel:

Slash Gary, slash Larry...

Griffin:

Slash Terry.

Rachel:

[laughs]

There is a character on the show. If you have, uh, seen it before, uh, you know what I'm talking about. If you have not, there's a character who works at Parks and Recreation named Jerry Gergich who is... And again, this is a show about people who love each other very much and they're very positive and very helpful. He is this sort of, um, edifice for their malice.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Like he is this target for their, um, their hatred. No, hatred is not the right word but they are constantly picking on Jerry Gergich and Jerry Gergich is always messing up.

There is an episode where he says he got robbed in a park and so they throw a big press conference trying to raise money for security in the park but it turns out he just fell in a river while reaching for a burrito. Um, there are... Like to a point where there's an episode where he has a heart attack but he farts a whole lot while having a heart attack which is a thing that actually happens. And then people like kind of laugh about it and then realize like, "Oh no—"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"...Oh no, Jerry. I didn't realize..." That like that is how hard this show goes on Jerry Gergich. When the rest of the time, it is a show about people who love each other and would do anything for each other. Um, and I don't know how to wrap my mind around that. Like I don't know how to...

Rachel:

You know what it is? It's like he takes it with such, uh, good humor so you never feel bad for him.

Griffin:

He is, he is such a contented character and I think that that sort of builds up a barrier around him so much. Like he talks about how he and his wife go, uh, to their, uh, timeshare in Muncie, Indiana, and how happy it— And everybody makes fun of him but he's like, "You know, I got a big stack of mystery novels I'm gonna take with me when I retire. I get pension in two years. I'm gonna go to Muncie and just read all my mystery novels and I'll be..."

Like he's a very, very happy character who has like the li-, like this is a show also about people who are, uh, flawed people in a lot of ways, who have trouble with relationships and have trouble, uh, with their career, and have trouble, uh, with their friendships. And Jerry Gergich doesn't have any of that. He has this like perfect family and is so completely happy all the time but he also... just screws up constantly.

Rachel:

There's an episode we just re-watched recently where he is sealing envelopes for, uh, Leslie's campaign and, uh, we just see him for hours and hours very happily just lick envelopes and close them. Uh, and it's such a good symbol of the kind of character he is, where he is just happy to have clear, straightforward work to do and to contribute to things.

Griffin:

He's played by an actor named Jim O'Heir and I just wanna... I wanna talk about Jerry Gergich because this is, again, like our third time re-watching this series, and for whatever reason like this is the time where I'm like, this is every fucking thing... Every scene with Jerry Gergich in it I think is absolutely hysterical.

From the scene where they were setting up their holiday carnival and they ask who wants to be Santa Claus and they said it be him, uh, because... It couldn't be Jerry because he knows what happened last year. And Jerry delivers the greatest line in television history which was, "It was just farts."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

It was extremely, like it's a...

That's one of Griffin's favorite lines.

Griffin:

It's one of my favorite lines. I made, I made Rachel like... I rewound it 'cause Rachel left the room and I was like, "It's just farts," just happened and you need to see it because it's extremely important.

There's a scene where Andy, uh, who is the character played by Chris Pratt, uh, is working security for, uh, for Leslie, the main character's, uh, campaign. And somebody throws a pie and they get it on, uh, at Leslie, and they get it on tape. And in recreating the crime scene, he just very, Andy very, very painfully slowly lowers another actual real pie onto Jerry's face to like figure out the ballistics of the pie...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... while Jerry's just like, "No, please."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

While this pie is very, very slowly colliding and like, everything about the delivery of this like... I think kind of hard character to pull of, is so fucking perfect. Um, and I think it serves. I think one of the reasons I appreciate it is because for one thing like at the end of the day, everybody still does love Jerry.

Like there are a few very, very sweet moments where it's like, uh... especially when Jerry's sort of serving as foil of like, "I have this perfect family and you all are kind of fuckups a little bit." Um, you get these moments where they are, where they are very sweet to Jerry.

But I also think like it serves to... It serves as a contrast to how all other sort of sitcoms treat all their characters and I think that's why I appreciate it. Like if you go back and you watch the first season of Parks and Rec, maybe you listen to this segment and think, "Oh, they like the show. I should give it a shot." That first season's not great because it tries to be like the Office a little bit too much, and that is not what this show is at all.

And also like, in that first season, pretty much all the characters are horrible to each other, um, because that's like what, that's like what television comedy is for a lot of shows. And what I love is that this show moves so, so far beyond that, except for this one character. It's like this weird tone shift that exists, this weird pocket dimension that exists just around this one character.

Rachel:

Well, and you know what it reminds me of? Part of what I think is funny about it, too, is it just seems like the level of contempt seems almost unreasonable and it reminds me of the way that Michael Scott hates Toby in the Office.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like just this fiery contempt for somebody...

Griffin:

That's another great. That's, uh, I mean—

Rachel:

... who's kind of inoffensive.

Griffin:

... Toby is the, is the perfect comparison here of just like... The Office, which we— That was like the first show we rewatched once Henry was born. Um... That was a show where pretty much all the characters, especially by the end of the season, even fucking Jim and Dwight were like, cared very very

deeply for each other, by that final season. And that was pretty much universal across the whole staff.

I love the holiday episodes of The Office. They are so warm and, well for the most part... There's actually one or two kind of fucked up ones but they are like these, uh, testaments of how much these characters love each other, except for Toby, who is like this kind of colossal mess who nobody really, uh, is especially sweet to.

I don't know why I like that. I don't why I like that character so much. Because I recognize that it is also the antithesis of what it is I like about this show. But I think it's like putting a little bit of salt on a sweet thing..

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... and it makes the flavor a little bit better.

Rachel:

No, that's good.

Griffin:

I think that's part of it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I also think that just, uh, Jim O'Heir like was perfect. It was— He was unfailing. Like, literally everything that happens with Jerry Gergich on this rewatch is like absolutely slaying me. Um, should we talk about what other people are enthusiastic about?

Rachel:

Yes, please! Uh, can you remind people how they get that information to us?

Yeah. Just shoot an email to wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com, and, uh, try to keep it short, like one or two sentences. Uh, we get a lot of those and we try to keep them fairly tight when we read them here on the show.

Uh, here's one from, uh, Rachel who says, "With colder weather coming up, I've been really excited to try all different sorts of teas. It's so much fun to try a new variety of chai with friends or have a cup of Earl Gray while curled up with a good book. What kind of hot drinks do you two like? Thank you so much and I love you both." Thank you, Rachel. Hot drinks.

Rachel:

Um, I mean I've been known to have a hot chocolate in the wintertime.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um, I do like a chai although I never make it at home. I only get it out when I'm, uh, out and about. Um, and then yeah, just coffee.

Griffin:

Yeah, I mean, I drink coffee everyday.

Rachel:

You got into tea for a while.

Griffin:

I like, uh, cinnamon tea?

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I got to the point where like for whatever reason, around like, uh, after dinner I would just get super sleepy super early and so I just liked having like a little hot bev there to pep me up a little bit. And so I did a cinnamon

spiced tea. Like that's my jam. I don't really love a floral tea too much. I like sort of a spicy tea.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Um, in the fall though I love apple cider. Hot apple cider.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

Mulled apple cider like is my fucking jam. I walk into a place with mulled apple cider popping off and like I get outta my mind excited. It's my favorite.

Um, here's another one from Aleesa who says, "Hey guys, I have something I think is good. Every time someone asks my dad, 'How are you?' Instead of responding with the regular, 'Good, how are you?' He always says, 'Another day in paradise.'"

Rachel:

[laughs] Oh man. That's the daddest thing ever.

Griffin:

It's also the best thing ever. Thank you very much, Aleesa.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Keep this going. I don't know how you keep this going but, um, here is another one from Maree-ssa who says, uh, or Marissa, that's probably what it is. "Dear Griffin and Rachel, there is literally nothing better on this earth than eating tiny portions of cheesecake or small cured meats out of a tiny paper cup at Costco for free."

Rachel: Ooh. That is nice.
Griffin: Sampies, though, sampies are very good. Though, I feel like Can we have a serious conversation right now?
Rachel: Yes.
Griffin: I feel our recent Costco trips have been very pedals to the metal
Rachel: Yes.
Griffin: We have not And most of the time is because we have a baby there and we just wanna get in and get out and I get that. But I will go I pass by a lot of sampies. And I don't know how I feel about that. No wait, I do. I feel bad.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: And that bad feeling turns into anger.
Rachel: Well, it's my fault.
Griffin: Yes. Agreed.
Rachel:

I'm less adventurous now given my food constraints, um, so I'm not, I'm not able to just take things off a tray but I remember in college... I had friends that would make a whole meal out of that on Sundays.

Griffin:

They would make a sampy meal?

Rachel:

The would specifically go to stores where they knew samples were being handled out...

Griffin:

Ah, bummer.

Rachel:

... and they would turn that into a meal. [laughs] It was college.

Griffin:

I guess it was college. I mean, fuck I can't, I can't judge. All I ate was crispy chicken sandwiches from Wendy's everyday 'cause they were 90 cents.

Um, here is one last one from Chase who says, "Hey, I'm a mechanic and the most wonderful thing is when the last thing snaps or locks or bolts into place. The previously incomplete thing is now whole and it's great."

Rachel:

Mm... That reminds me of our car seat that snaps into our stroller.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's got like a dock that's like installed in the car and then you just like pop right in there. It doesn't make that noise. It makes a very more satisfying noise.

Rachel:

[laughs]

I was thinking more like putting together like a complex IKEA thing...

Rachel:

Ooh...

Griffin:

And it's like, "Oh, yeah."

Rachel:

That's good, too.

Griffin:

Now, it's an entertainment center. Uh, this has been Wonderful. Thank you so much for listening. Uh, if you want to leave a review on iTunes, that would mean a lot. If you wanna go to MaximumFun.org and check out all the great shows there, that would be cool. They got shows like Jordan, Jesse, Go!, Judge John Hodgman, Stop Podcasting Yourself, Lady to Lady, Dead Pilots Society, One Bad Mother...

Rachel:

Wow, those are a lot of 'em.

Griffin:

I know. I mean, there's a lot of shows and they're all really great, and they're all free so go check 'em out. We also do other shows that you can find at McElroyShows.com. Um, anything else? Oh, we have a P.O. Box. We need to get over there...

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, it's P.O. Box 66639, Austin, Texas, 78766. And again, our email address is wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. Uh, big thanks to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find the link to that in the episode description.

Rachel:

Oh, and join the Facebook group, if you haven't. People are regularly posting wonderful, uh, things and videos and cute animations and cartoons and...

Griffin:

And a lot of facts. Straight up. The wombat? It poops cubes.

Rachel:

Oh yeah, people really shared that piece of information with us.

Griffin:

And I'm so glad they did 'cause wombats poop cubes. Hey capybaras, get outta here. You're out.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Wombats are in now. They're the... Capybaras don't go too far 'cause you're number two but wombats...

Rachel:

[laughs] Number two.

Griffin:

... are number one because they have cube shaped number two.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, the, get outta here. You kill enemies with your butt, your big butt, you're so soft and...

Rachel:

You know what a lot of people said?

Wonder— what?
Rachel: We should've said wom-butt.
Griffin: Dammit!
Rachel: When we were talking about their great butts. We should said
Griffin: Shit. Babe.
Rachel: It's a great wom-butt.
Griffin: Well
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: We'll get it next time. I don't know what to say.
Rachel: Put it in the special features.
Griffin: Can you give me one more, uh, my wife?
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Please. Just to send us home. And this could be like our outro.

Rachel: Ooh
Griffin: Like every episode you have to do it.
Rachel: Good.
Griffin: [laughs]
Rachel: [Borat impression] My wife!
Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.
Rachel: I'm Rachel McElroy.
Griffin: Bye!
Rachel: Bye! [theme song plays]
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