

## Wonderful! 005: Robert Frost Fist Fight

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:**

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:**

And this is Wonderful.

**Griffin:**

I was, I didn't even realize what I was doing while I was doing it while we were recording, but I just took the socks off and that means it's time to play. Come on, babe, It's time to play in this space we create together, can't have socks on, cause I need to feel the earth between my toes, connect with nature and just really appreciate all the good stuff off going on.

**Rachel:**

Did you do all your recordings sockless?

**Griffin:**

Gotta be barefoot, baby. Gotta get that Jack Johnson vibe flowing through me and my first topic today. I'm so glad we could find such a smooth segue is Jack Johnson's wonderful music.

**Rachel:**

No, it's not.

**Griffin:**

It's wonderful beach poetry.

**Rachel:**

It's not.

**Griffin:**

Baby, why do you think I take my socks off? It's so you can admire my bubbly toes.

**Rachel:**

That's nice.

**Griffin:**

Wait, that's the Colbie Caillat song. This is.

**Rachel:**

No, I think it is.

**Griffin:**

No, she did. You're right, you're right, you're right, you're right—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Sorry. I had a, but she has a song too. That's also like, "in your bubbly toes" or shoes, and I'm pretty sure those songs came out in the same year...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... So now the Illuminati is definitely real.

**Rachel:**

It's like a, um, what are those disaster movies that came out at the same time?

**Griffin:**

It's an Armageddon and Deep Impact situation, definitely. Now I think Jack Johnson would be the Deep Impact and Colbie Caillat would be the Armageddon, discuss at home.

**Rachel:**

I don't know who this Colbie is?

**Griffin:**

She did that... "This stops in my nose and my bubbly toes."

**Rachel:**

Oh, are you sure?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that was her I think anyway, this is Wonderful to show it's a, a Colbie Caillat fan cast, did a bad job saying her name and what we really do here is we talk about things that we're into. I wanna say a special thanks the reaction to last week's episode was really, uh, was really delightful, It really meant a lot, um, it was like, we, I, it kind proved what could be cool about doing this show. Again, we're still like pretty new at it, um, but like Nick Drake, talking specifically about Nick Drake is something that's like really important to me and it's, it resonated with so many people and that was really, really meant a lot. It was so cool.

**Rachel:**

Well, we it's a nice synergy too between our, our picks.

**Griffin:**

That is true.

**Rachel:**

This is a fun fact that I think I would like to continue doing and it's like, Griffin and I do not discuss our picks prior to recording.

**Griffin:**

We do not. I was thinking today, cause I started to get psyched about Halloween is that we should have like a spooky episode where we talk about Halloween things...

**Rachel:**

We shall

**Griffin:**

... like. And then I think the whole month of December, we can go pretty, pretty hard on the holidays cause you know how deep I get into that. Um, also special, thanks to Lizzo who retweeted our...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... our episode last week, which is very, very cool. Yeah, So thank you all that, that really meant it's a lot and I hope that we can keep sort of connecting with you in that way, cause I've been doing podcasts for a while and, um, I don't know, that was so specific and, and so wonderful. I can't say that fucking word.

**Rachel:**

[laugh]

**Griffin:**

We need a jar or something that we put money in when we say the word wonderful unironically, um, I think you started last week?

**Rachel:**

I did.

**Griffin:**

Do you want me to start out this time?

**Rachel:**

Yes, please.

**Griffin:**

My first thing that I am going to bring this week is, this is a timely thing and I haven't really done something like this before, but it's the SNES classic, the Super Nintendo Entertainment System Classic.

**Rachel:**

Here we go.

**Griffin:**

Here we go, strap in folks. Um, first thing, first is dang cute. This little guy is so tiny, so little and I like it so much. Uh, we also have the NES classic. We were lucky enough to have one bestowed upon us by the gods, which was the only way that you could get an NES classic you had to climb, you know, the mountain, bring the sacrifice and then Reggie Fils-Aime the, no man, came into gave it to you. Um...

**Rachel:**

The Nintendo man?

**Griffin:**

... There's a big man. Oh, this is wonderful. Hit it again. There's a man who is like, the main sort of face of Nintendo right now and his name is Reggie Fils-Aime and he used to be the king of Pizza Hut. Um, and he, he invented the...

**Rachel:**

See, I don't know what that means either.

**Griffin:**

... He was like the corporate, like marketing chief.

**Rachel:**

Okay. Like the spokesman?

**Griffin:**

Spokesman for Pizza Hut.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And legend has it that it was his idea to do the, uh, the big foot pizza, the like 15 foot pizza.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Okay.

**Griffin:**

And it, that's funny because he's eight and a half yard tall man.

**Rachel:**

Oh, really? Okay.

**Griffin:**

And when I say yard, I'm not using the measurement. I'm talking about like a yard in front of your house.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

Take like eight blocks worth of— Anyway. Um, the SNES classic, if you do not know, it is a sort of little, uh, box that you just plug right into your TV and it is a compilation of 21 Super Nintendo games. And there's some really great ones on there, and I have a few reasons why I wanted to talk about it. First of all, I wanted to try talking about something sort of like, actively happen in our lives right now...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, okay.

**Griffin:**

... Um, cause we just got this last Friday is when it came out. Um, but also because like the Super Nintendo is, it was sort of like my first console that I felt like ownership of, I was born in '87 and that's like when the, the original Nintendo, the NES, uh, was, was out and that was in my house when I was born. And so I, I grew up playing that a bit, but I was like zero years old. So it wasn't like I came out, I came with the controller...

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

...hand me the, the zapper let's let's get some ducks. But the original Super Nintendo came to North America in 1991, when I was four years old and that was like, "oh, okay, that's what this is, and now I'm going to get into." That was like really my first touchstone with video games, which I have loved my entire life. Um, and you could, I don't think you could do any better for like having the Super Nintendo be that console in, in your life because there were a lot of really great games.

Nintendo made a ton of really great games for the console games, like all the Mario games and Zelda and uh, Super Metroid and Pilot Wings and a bunch of really great games. Um, but there was a developer called Square Soft, which is now known as Square Enix, which is a Japanese developer that made all of these role playing games. And those are like the, those were the games that I spent my entire childhood playing.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. This is kind of fascinating to me because I grew up in a Sega household.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

Uh [laughing]. Um, very deliberately. So I told Griffin, my dad...

**Griffin:**

I love this story by the way.

**Rachel:**

... My dad who reads reviews of everything before he purchases.

**Griffin:**

Big consumer reports fan.

**Rachel:**

Yes. Uh, he, uh, had heard that the graphics on the Sega Genesis were better,

**Griffin:**

Got duped.

**Rachel:**

So that is what we had. Uh, so when Griffin has shown me these, these games that he loves so much, I just think like, how did you, how'd you get into this? It's just little blocks, little squares.

**Griffin:**

Oh, how dare you? Um, we could get into I, oh, uh...

**Rachel:**

Which I guess is what Minecraft is, which is another...

**Griffin:**

... And, and it's also what a lot of the Sage Genesis games were.

**Rachel:**

You know.

**Griffin:**

Rachel and I had this big heated debate and I realized like, oh man, like elementary school, this is literally all we talked about the, the faction war between Mario and Sonic and the different sort of universes that they represented. Like this was all that we talked about.

Um, anyway, like this is a huge tangent, but uh, Square Soft games were like hugely influential for me. Um, and I have like countless anecdotes because like, it was how I spent, I was, did community theater growing up, so like, that was like my main, like capital H hobby. But, like, my free time I spent playing video games and most of those were Square Soft games.

So like Final Fantasy II, which was actually the fourth Final Fantasy game that came out but only the second one that came to the states, it was called



II. Um, I played that game when I was probably six years old and learned how to read really well because of it.

Um, there was a game and it came out called Chrono Trigger, which I think is one of the best games of all time I got for Christmas and I can remember, like, that was the best Christmas of all time. There was a home video that was like hugely embarrassing cause I had like a fucking fit when I opened up the box and there was Chrono Trigger, I was so excited for it.

One of my favorite stories is me and my dad used to play this game Secret of Mana, which is actually on the SNES classic. So one of my favorite games of all time, you've actually been watching me play it.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, which is like a role playing game with some action elements and you can play with two people at a time and we would play that together. And so me and my dad would always play Secret of Mana and it was like a really cool, like I never played sports. And so me and dad didn't play sports together, and so like, this was the thing that we did together and it was really great.

And I remember distinctly coming home from school one day and didn't know where dad was. And so I went up in the attic, which is where the super Nintendo was at the time, and I've caught him playing Secret of Evermore, which was the sequel to the game that he had gone to the store and bought for himself so that he could play it. It wasn't like a birthday gift or Christmas gift, which was like our only means of acquiring new video games.

We'd have to wait for Christmas and be like, "Oh, hell yeah, new video game time." Dad, like, went to this store because he wanted to like get this game and keep playing it. So we played that together too. Like, uh, that one is

unfortunately not on the box. So like, uh, that is like sort of the, the space that the super Nintendo filled in my life and the SNES classic has like a bunch of my favorite games from that era, it's real cute and real little. And I just love the idea of like having this little self-contained like treasure chest of nostalgia.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And like the NES classic had that too. But again, like those games are great and uh, important, but they didn't like mean as much to me because they weren't like the games that I really was born into.

**Rachel:**

That's what's so smart about releasing these consoles is all the games are already built in. So it's not like people are like having to reinvest in all these cartridges again, um...

**Griffin:**

Yeah, because I, as you can tell by looking literally into my closet right now, like I have a lot of these games they're expensive as fuck. There's a game on here, uh, Final Fantasy III, which was Final Fantasy VI in Japan, one of the best games ever made. And if you wanted to find a cartridge of it, like an actual SNES cartridge of it, it'd probably run you about 80 bucks which is the price of the SNES Classic.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I just love the idea of having this, this thing that is full of these little memory capsules. And I'm not saying that to be like, poetic, like that is like, that is the space that it fills for me, like more than movies or books or any TV ever. Like, this is the thing that creates nostalgia inside of me because it is the thing that I spent so much of my time playing. So the idea of having a, a little library of that stuff that also like, I'm constantly thinking about, like,

when Henry's older, like I can show him like, these are the games that I grew up playing. Like I think that's really cool...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... and it gets me so excited.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Um, so that's the SNES classic. It's kind of hard to find, which is a little bit of a bummer. It's a little bit easier to find than the, uh, NES classic. You don't have to climb the mountain for sacrifice.

**Rachel:**

Are they gonna be releasing more?

**Griffin:**

I think that's the plan they're gonna try to do better with their inventory. NES classic they just did not make enough of them. And then they stopped making it.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

So it's like this, I huge collectors item. Um, but yeah, we have some, I have a list of the games here, but I talked about enough of them. I think, um, super Mario RPG is a good one. It's on there too. I'm excited to dip in.

**Rachel:**

And that Donkey Kong game?

**Griffin:**

Donkey Kong Country is very good. Rachel and I played Kirby's Dream Course, which I'd never played before, but it's...

**Rachel:**

Yeah it's fine.

**Griffin:**

... like a competitive Kirby-based like mini golf game. I thought it was really fun.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I had a good time with that.

**Griffin:**

I enjoyed playing that with you because, like, I'd never played it before.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. So here's the thing I, as I mentioned before, have not played a lot of these games before, and it is not a lot of fun for me to play games with Griffin, uh, because he has logged so many hours into so many of them that, uh, the deficit is too great.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, in order to find a game that Rachel and I can really get into together, it needs to not have, have that factor in it. Uh, which is like, what, why we really enjoyed the Telltale Games, the Telltale Walking Dead games we got really into, um...

**Rachel:**

Especially with a two player game where you take turns playing like Griffin and I tried to play some Mario together.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Super Mario World.

**Rachel:**

And, uh, uh, I would play for, I don't know, three minutes and then I would die and then it would go back to him and I was like, well, this is not...

**Griffin:**

Yeah. It's not really designed for, there's not a ton of games on there that are good for that except really Secret of Mana. It's like, great. It's just like, you can, you can play together and explore together and cast spells and shit.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I love it. We should play that together. Will you please with me?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]. I'll be your father in this scenario.

**Griffin:**

Well, we didn't have to take in that particular direction. What is your first thing this time?

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I try really hard to do current things. Uh, but it's difficult for me because I feel like most of my interests right now involve the baby.

**Griffin:**

You're done being interested in new things essentially.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so for this week, my first, uh, I don't know, mention is, uh, Wallace Stevens.

**Griffin:**

Wallace Stevens?

**Rachel:**

He's a poet.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

He was a poet.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

I should say.

**Griffin:**

I thought it was the dude from princess bride. That's Wallace Sean.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Although that could be...

**Griffin:**

Wallace Sean would be a really good one.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Dude's had a storied career.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. You know, Jesse Thorn interviewed him on Bullseye, I haven't listened to it yet.

**Griffin:**

Oh, you're kidding? I wanna hear that.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so Wallace Stevens, uh, died in 1955. Um, but his kind of big thing that was really memorable for me for a while. So I learned about him and William Carlos Williams around the same time.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

And what was notable about both of them is they had very kind of boring jobs. Uh, William Carlos Williams was a doctor and Wallace...

**Griffin:**

It's not really a boring job. He pulling shit out of people's...

**Rachel:**

Well, but like, not at all artsy.

**Griffin:**

Not poetic.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Like, and Wallace Stevens spent most of his life working as an executive for an insurance company in Connecticut. Like...

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I don't think as that being like the on ramp onto the stage of poetry.

**Rachel:**

Kind of the, the big, um, the big mythos about him is that he used to write poems on slips of paper, on his walk to the office and then his secretary would type them up for him.

**Griffin:**

Well, that's great.

**Rachel:**

Um, but another cool thing about him, he didn't get his first publication until he was 35 and his first book of poems didn't come out until he was 44.

**Griffin:**

Holy shit.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Which is really, really kind of unique. I mean, I think a lot of people hit 30 and feel like, oh, I haven't accomplished anything, I guess that dream's dead.

**Griffin:**

And very few people, I think even like as much smaller subset think like, oh, I'm 35 time to become a poet. Like what?

**Rachel:**

Uh, so some of his best known poems, uh, which I'll say just for the people out there who may be big poetry nerds, uh, The Emperor of Ice Cream, which is kind of his biggest one. Uh, and The Snowman, Um, Sunday Morning, The Idea of Order at Key West.

Interesting thing about Wallace Stevens, much like Hemingway, got real into Key West, Florida. There's actually all these stories. So Wallace Stevens, the guy, not particularly great, like big alcoholic and apparently got in physical fights with both Robert Frost and Hemingway. [laughing].

**Griffin:**

No, I wouldn't, Hemingway could see that being true about...



**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... was Frost real like, did he, did he have a tight haymaker? Is that— I would not assume that about Robert.

**Rachel:**

Most of his feud with Frost took place in letters and correspondence. They would kind of jab at each other.

**Griffin:**

But for a poet that's like, that's like, a dirty shot to the nards.

**Rachel:**

So here, here's my thing with Wallace Stevens. It's very rare for me to like entire Wallace Stevens poems, but he's got these little pithy stanzas that just kill me.

**Griffin:**

I really hope you're about to read poetry cause that's my favorite thing in the whole world.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Oh, good.

**Rachel:**

I, so this is from the Snowman and this is just, this is just three lines of the poem that just like get me, uh, "For the listener who listens in the snow and nothing himself beholds, nothing that is not there. And then nothing that is."

**Griffin:**

Damn, Wallace Stevens.

**Rachel:**

Isn't that great? Is the whole, the whole poem is about this kind of stark wintery wasteland. And I just love that line. "The nothing that is not there and then nothing that is."

**Griffin:**

That's really good. Do you have more? I want more, more poetry.

**Rachel:**

The thing, so this is all gonna sound like I'm kind of like high, but I promise you.

**Griffin:**

[laughs]. I've been with Rachel all evening, I assume. Unless you went to the bathroom to eat weed. Do you eat weed? I don't know. So go ahead.

**Rachel:**

I don't know what the kids do now. Okay. So this is from a poem called The Well Dressed Man With A Beard.

**Griffin:**

Can, we've never talked about this, like ever Rachel went to school for poetry and it is not a thing that like really comes up a lot. But whenever it does, like, I cannot tell you how much happiness it brings me.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]. Yeah. I went to, uh, graduate school at university of Chicago and they have a one year program in humanities that I went to and I wrote a collection of poems. Uh...

**Griffin:**

You realized by saying that...

**Rachel:**

Yeah. You know.

**Griffin:**

... the folks are gonna want you to read them on the show.

**Rachel:**

I am terrified.

**Griffin:**

No. Well that's your, please do not pressure Rachel, that's her prerogative.

**Rachel:**

Okay. This is another, this is another three lines from The Well Dressed Man With A Beard. I think also at the end, both, these are the big closers and this, I feel like this is so poignant right now and like all the terrible things that are happening in the world. So here are the lines. "After the final no, there comes a yes. And on that yes, the future world depends. No, was the night. Yes, is the present sun."

**Griffin:**

[laughing].

**Rachel:**

Isn't that incredible?

**Griffin:**

Rachel just dissolved after she read that, it was very good.

**Rachel:**

Oh, I really got chills while I was reading it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. It really good.

**Rachel:**

It's like, it's so powerful for me. I— It's interesting, again, I'm not a huge fan of his poems start to finish, but those closers are incredible. Just thinking of this, you know, 40 something year old, man walking to his insurance company job.

**Griffin:**

Did he eventually quit the insurance company job or was that like his, is this his side gig?

**Rachel:**

I mean, that's the thing like, so he won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for his collected poems in 1955, which was also the year he died.

**Griffin:**

Oh, wow.

**Rachel:**

So I'm not sure if it was posthumous or not, but I mean, it's not like poem, you know.

**Griffin:**

It's not like it's bringing in the big box.

**Rachel:**

I'm sure he is making a decent living at the insurance company. It doesn't necessarily seem prudent to quit that...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... for his poems. Um, so yeah, so I just, I love, I just love a lot about him and I obviously love those, those little short snippets there.

**Griffin:**

I would pay any amount of money for, I don't know how this would exist, but like a nice like viral video clip of him just hustling with Robert Frost.

**Rachel:**

[laughing] Yeah. Uh, he was really critical of Robert Frost and they would exchange jabs cause they've had very different styles...

**Griffin:**

How have critical of Robert Frost?

**Rachel:**

... of poetry.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I think the road less traveled is bad.

**Rachel:**

I have to find the clip from their correspondence. I'll share it in the Facebook group.

**Griffin:**

Some gold things can stay.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

**Griffin:**

That was him. Right?

**Rachel:**

I don't think so.

**Griffin:**

Oh, no way. Oh, shit, hold on. Nothing Gold Can Stay wasn't Robert Frost?

**Rachel:**

I apologize. I'm not very good with stuff like that. Oh, it is.

**Griffin:**

Give me your, give me your degree. It's mine now. Now who's the poetry one?

**Rachel:**

You know that?

**Griffin:**

Just can't. I just, know, like, the Outsiders a lot.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Well that's what I was thinking. That's what resonated with me now. I, um, memorizing poetry is not a big part of poetry school.

**Griffin:**

Really?

**Rachel:**

Really.

**Griffin:**

Then what are you doing?

**Rachel:**

Why, that was actually something that was really popular, my grandma who has a terrible memory now is still able to recite poems, she is my—

**Griffin:**

And that was my favorite. My first meeting with, with your grandma, like you guys, just her reciting poetry to you from memory was like, oh my God, I'm getting, I'm getting...

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

I'm getting touched. Just thinking about it.

**Rachel:**

Uh, yeah. So that's, that's Wallace Stevens.

**Griffin:**

That was really good. I really want you to talk about poetry on the show as much as you possibly can. Cause I think it's very good.

**Rachel:**

I got, I got a whole arsenal of poets and I'm a big fan of.

**Griffin:**

Good. Um, before we get into that though, maybe we could, this is the opposite of poetry. So there's just no good segue, but maybe we could make a little bit of money.

**Rachel:**

Hmm... [vocalizes]

**Griffin:**

Is that a fish? Little fishy.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, sure. It's whatever you want it to be.

**Griffin:**

Just like poetry.

[ad break]

**Griffin:**

You wanna read the first Jumbotron for me?

**Rachel:**

Yeah. This message is for Caleb Zane Hewitt, it is from Austin. "I am so proud of you for getting your book published. I won't say the name of it, so that this still counts as a personal message." [laughing].

**Griffin:**

Oh, no!

**Rachel:**

"But I'm sure motivated audience members can find it. Thank you for reminding me that magic is easy."

**Griffin:**

That's the name, is that's the name of the book?

**Rachel:**

I think so.

**Griffin:**

Magic is easy, but oh, that's if that's the name of the book, this is the best, like "Wehadababy It'saboy" shit ever and I'm so into it.

**Rachel:**

"I love you immensely. And I'm so excited for your next book."

**Griffin:**

We all are. That's so wonderful.

**Rachel:**

Congratulation, Caleb.

**Griffin:**

Thank you for sharing that with us from one published author...

**Rachel:**

Here we go.

**Griffin:**

... to another, listen, a lot of the, a lot of folks don't get this, but when you're part of the literate elite.

**Rachel:**

Do you wanna say what the book is or your story?

**Griffin:**



Yeah. I wrote a short story for a Star Wars short story compilation called A Certain Point of View and I have no problem promoting it cause all of the proceeds are going to charity. So I'm not making any money off of it, but it's a really cool project and I was very honored to be included. So thank you, Star Wars.

Uh, here is a message. It's for Maddie and it's from Kate who says, "Dear Maddie, thank you for being an excellent cousin and friend for watching Dumb Space Nerds and Dwayne, the Rock Johnson related products with me. And thanks for hassling me to listen to so many McElroy products, you got me. Happy nearest life event to airtime from Kate, Griffin, Rachel and everyone's good, good son Ango. Keep it up!"

And they wanted this in early October, so like, I don't know. It's probably your birthday. Uh, happy, very Spooky Halloween. Um, God, we have to figure out costumes. Uh, I wish there was a service you could just pay to like have them figure out the costumes for you cause it brings me so much anxiety and dread.

**Rachel:**

I mean, it's call just going to Amazon.

**Griffin:**

... I know, who's got the time. Uh, congratulations on whatever holiday means the most to you right now, Maddie.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

[Max Fun ad]

**Oliver:**

How's it going everyone? I'm Oliver Wang.

**Morgan:**

And I'm Morgan Rhodes. We have a brand new show on The Maximum Fun Network that we'd love to share with you. It's called Heat Rocks.

**Oliver:**

Morgan, we should probably explain what a Heat Rock is?

**Morgan:**

It is a banger, a fire track, true fire.

**Oliver:**

Right? Dope album. Each episode, we will bring on a special guest to join us to talk about one of their Heat Rocks. It might be a musician.

**Morgan:**

A writer.

**Oliver:**

Maybe a scholar.

**Morgan:**

I mean, I would've been happy to just talk to you about your Heat Rocks, but this is a different show. So...

**Oliver:**

Yeah, I think people might enjoy hearing maybe the guests instead.

**Morgan:**

To do that, you'll have to go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). So if you wanna talk about hot music, you should check us out.

**Oliver:**

Heat Rocks.

[ad break ends]

**Griffin:**

Do you wanna hear my second thing?

**Rachel:**

I do.

**Griffin:**

You've broken my computer in a way that I don't quite understand.

**Rachel:**

I pressed the down arrow.

**Griffin:**

Oh, my God. You pressed the down arrow. How could you do this? The second thing that I wish to discuss on this week's episode of Wonderful. Why are you laughing at me?

**Rachel:**

[laughing] You're so formal.

**Griffin:**

Is getting a haircut.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

I bring this up cause I'm getting a haircut tomorrow and I could not be more excited about it. And thinking about that, I'm almost always excited to get a haircut when I've scheduled a haircut. And I got that hair haircut appointment on the books, I just know like I'm in for a pretty good time.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Whenever I come around...

**Rachel:**

I know that is a good point cause you and I both push it.

**Griffin:**

I push it.

**Rachel:**

We both go as long as we can until we literally hate looking at ourselves in the mirror—

**Griffin:**

[laughing].

**Rachel:**

And then we get haircuts.

**Griffin:**

My hair is doing, I don't know if you can see it's doing that, I like flip up over the— Maybe the headphones has been pushing it down. I, um, uh, my hair grows in real fucking thick, real fast. I am at basically, once a month, uh, every, every four weeks I need to go in to get my, my touched up.

**Rachel:**

Griffin, Griffin has hair, unlike anyone in his family and unlike anyone I've ever met before.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it grows out and up. It's unique. I don't know why I was given this, this blessing, but the result is that, like, my hair doesn't get longer, it just gets thicker and thicker and thicker and thicker and thicker and thicker. So I think I in particular like am genetically suited to enjoy a good haircut for so many reasons.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

I will never forget, I let my hair, uh, I used to go to a place that my mom picked out for all of us, a, a hair salon in Huntington called Happy Hair Boutique...

**Rachel:**

[laughing] Wow, a boutique.

**Griffin:**

What's up? What's up, HHB? Because the woman who worked there worked at church and I assume gave us a, some pretty good rates. Um, and I would never get my hair cut, I would only get it thinned out ever, ever. I would only get it thinned out. So they would use the thinning scissors to, like, thin the hair, but they would never actually cut it. And the result of that is it was thick like a briar patch.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

Thick like molasses of on top of my head and it looked awful. It looked so bad.

**Rachel:**

Didn't it get super long though?

**Griffin:**

It didn't get, like, long. It didn't like go down it just went out. Right? Uh, and I let it, I, that was like my style cause I kept going back to the HHB through, like, college, to like my senior year of college and then my senior year of college, my brother was friends with a woman named Mo who was a hairstylist who worked in this place downtown. Um, and she like cut all of Travis's friend hair. And I was like, "Okay, well, you know, I've been doing the same thing for 15 years, basically as, as long as I've been getting haircuts, why don't I see how the other half lives."

And she cut my hair and she cut it all the off and I was like, "Oh my God." It was the most liberating day I'd ever had my entire life. And I like went to school, like I had class at, at Marshall that same day. And people were like, "What?" Because I literally had my hair like puffy and out and terrible for...

**Rachel:**

How old were you?

**Griffin:**

20?

**Rachel:**

Oh, my gosh.

**Griffin:**

21?

**Rachel:**

Griffin.

**Griffin:**

Um, and so like since that day, like I just always love a good haircut and for a lot of reasons, first of all, I think haircuts feel good as heck. Like the actual act of getting your hair cut feels good, like a scalp massage element to it. That is good. I think there's a lot of people who dig on like the, as ASMR-y sort of parts of it, like scissors making the snippy sound around your ears. Um, and I just think it feels good to get your hair, especially when you have like a, um, this, this has nothing to do with like the tactile feel of it. But like, it is nice when you have a hair stylist with whom you have not only rapport, but trust? That is the jam.

**Rachel:**

Griffin like, and this is interesting to me, cause I never think about this, but Griffin is really concerned about his ability to make polite conversation with the person cutting his hair...

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

... and always feels badly if he's not able to do so.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. There's this thing that is like, uh, it's this new thing that like, it's just sort of starting to catch on, uh, gain sort of a popularity called just, like, huge social anxiety.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like overwhelming social anxiety and literally every circumstance where I leave the house, not a joke. And so like, uh, yeah, I stress out about that. And, and so it is nice to like, not just have somebody you can talk to, but somebody who you know, is gonna do a good job and you know, is like, there's just not gonna be like uncomfy gaps in the convo.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Um, and so like that, that is really nice. Just like having a person who not just with hairstyle, it's just like anything where you have a trusted source that you can go to and build rapport with, whether that is the butcher around the corner or the barista at the coffee shop, you like to go to when you, or the record store owner, like any person that you go to their like business or whatever and form a rapport with them, I think is awesome. And, and this is like a very common form of that. Um, and then you get your haircut and you look way different isn't that...

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

... you're laughing, but like it is, thinking about it, wild to me that we have this stuff that grows on our head for a lot of us, there are folks who, who do not have hair that grows on their head. Um, but for a lot of us, you, you have this stuff that grows on top of your head and then...

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

... you go to somebody...

**Rachel:**

I'm laughing because this whole episode sounds like we are wicked high.

**Griffin:**

We're super not high, I promise.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

I think that, like, there is something to, like, when you get high, it opens up your mind in a way where you start to appreciate things that have always been actual kind of awesome.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

And one of those things that we have, this stuff that grows on top of our head, that we go and we see somebody and they cut it and then the whole, like our whole visit looks different now. That's great. That's really wild to me. And if they do a bad job, it's just gonna keep on coming, It's gonna come on back. Who cares?

**Rachel:**

I will tell you the other thing I appreciated about a haircut, 'cause I am right there with you is, um, that it, it will kind of class up whatever you do anyway. So I, um, I'm not somebody that puts a lot of time into, um, like a, like a beauty routine.

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I kind of need my hair to look as if I did something to it. And a haircut can definitely do that for you. And a lot of times I just feel anxiously feel like more, um, presentable and professional just...



**Griffin:**

But even if you can't go to like the salon and get like a nice service or whatever, just like getting your haircut and looking different because of this stuff, that's on top of your head that you changed.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

That's really cool. That's really, really neat. And then when people talk, like tell you, people recognize that you got a haircut or say something about it, that's the best too.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. That is really nice.

**Griffin:**

That's really good. Do that, whenever you see somebody and you know, they got their haircut or you think they got their haircut. I pull that trigger all the time and I miss a lot of the time, but it doesn't offend people when you're like, "Did you get a haircut?" and they say no, but they love it when it's true.

**Rachel:**

I will say Griffin says that to me a lot. If my hair is particularly dirty, um...

**Griffin:**

I did not mean— Okay, do you know about the barber pole? Do you know the origins of it? Are you interested to hear the origins? I tried looking up like the history of haircutting and...

**Rachel:**

I do. I do. I think I do. Can I, can I try it?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, shoot it, shoot it.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so barbershops used to also deal in, um, like bloodletting.

**Griffin:**

Like surgery sure.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And so the barber pole is supposed to represent like, like blood.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. The red stripe is blood and the blue stripe is like unoxygenated blood and the white stripe is supposed to be a bandage. It has meant several different— It's meant several different things throughout time, but that is the original.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

.Baby, you passed the test, you solved my— I thought that was gonna be like a fun new trivia segment, but you just crushed it.

**Rachel:**

I can't memorize poems, but I can memorize things like that.

**Griffin:**

All right. Well, that's the end of my segment. I wanna hear what your second thing is.

**Rachel:**

Okay. This I think will be fun. So I, today when I was coming up with things to talk about, I was thinking about the movie Breaking Away, which...

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

I had you watch? That's not actually what I'm talking about.

**Griffin:**

Wait, did I watch Breaking—? Oh yeah. The biking, the biking movie. Okay. With Daniel Stern.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. It's, it's a movie from 1979. Daniel Stern, I think is one of the only recognizable actors in it. But it's a movie about a bunch of townies who participate in this college town bike race. Uh, and I was just thinking about, do I wanna talk about that? And so I was researching it a little and then I found that the American film Institute has a list of top 100 most inspiring movies.

**Griffin:**

Oh, my God. Are we gonna just do the damn thing?

**Rachel:**

Well, so I obviously, I'm not gonna read all 100.

**Griffin:**

Can we have an episode that's reading all 100 of the most inspiring movies. That episode would be intolerable, cause it would just be us saying, like, "Oh, shit, Rudy!" Yeah. You know, Rudy's number one.

**Rachel:**

Here's the, I knew you were gonna mention Rudy. And so I specifically looked where it was listed on it's not even in the top 50, it's like 53...

**Griffin:**

You know what? Fuck this list.

**Rachel:**

Okay. Hold on, Griffin, Slow down.

**Griffin:**

No, I'm gonna take it, I'm taking the offense position down. No, I can't slow down cause Rudy's the most inspiring.

**Rachel:**

Let me tell you the criteria.

**Griffin:**

Can't have Sean Astin in it.

**Rachel:**

Okay. So starting in 1998, uh, the American Film Institute did a series where each year they would release a new list, um, including like top heroes and villains, top comedies, top scores, top, uh, musicals, etc. And this is top cheers. Uh, so the criteria is movies that inspire with characters of vision and conviction who face adversity and off and make a personal sacrifice for the greater good.

**Griffin:**

You're literally describing Rudy.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

**Griffin:**

Go ahead.

**Rachel:**

Whether these films and happily or not, they're ultimately triumphant both filling audiences with hope and empowering them with the spirit of human potential.

**Griffin:**

Still sounds like Rudy with, uh...

**Rachel:**

But listen. Okay. So listen to the top, listen to the top 10.

**Griffin:**

All right. But I'm maybe coming at these hard, they better be bangers.

**Rachel:**

It's a Wonderful Life.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Alright.

**Rachel:**

To Kill a Mockingbird.

**Griffin:**

I never actually saw that.

**Rachel:**

Oh, Griffin.

**Griffin:**

Hey, I've never seen it.

**Rachel:**

You have to!

**Griffin:**

I've like read it. I just never seen it.

**Rachel:**

Oh, we have to watch it. It's so good.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, Schindler's List.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Rocky.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. That one's really good.

**Rachel:**

Here's one that I can see, but surprising.

**Griffin:**

Oh, this is the weak point I'm coming for you.

**Rachel:**

Number six, ET.

**Griffin:**

Ah, no, no, but not, it's not, it's not inspiring and it's not even close to Rudy inspiring.

**Rachel:**

Uh, seven is Grapes of Wrath. Eight is Breaking Away.

**Griffin:**

Wow. Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, not as good as Rudy.

**Rachel:**

9, Miracle on 34th street. 10, Saving Private Ryan. 11, a movie I'd never heard of from 1946 called the Best Years of Our Lives.

**Griffin:**

I don't know that one.

**Rachel:**

Uh, Apollo 13 is number 12.

**Griffin:**

See.

**Rachel:**

Hoosiers, number 13.

**Griffin:**

Hoosiers, Hoosiers above Rudy. Come on guys.

**Rachel:**

Bridge on the River Kwai for number 14 and for number 15, Miracle Worker.

**Griffin:**

So is it the thing that you're bringing just, like, this list of super inspiring movies?

**Rachel:**

I just love that it exists!

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it's very good. I mean, it's the criteria are bullshit, but it's also very cool that— [laughs]

**Rachel:**

Griffin.

**Griffin:**

Rudy's so good!

**Rachel:**

I think here's what I think. Rudy, universally, men love that movie.

**Griffin:**

It's too obvious.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, it's too obvious. And also it appeals mostly I think to men.

**Griffin:**

Untrue, falsehood, not true, hateful. A hateful thing to say.

**Rachel:**

I think it's, it's, it's more exclusive. It's not as much about the human experience maybe as it is about the, um, small boy experience. [laughing].

**Griffin:**

It is about the small boy experience, but it is also not a football movie at all.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

Because there's not— This is actually, I remember the first time I watched the movie, I was, and I'm so sorry to have hijacked your thing, but I remember thinking like at some point certainly the boy will play, football, right? And he doesn't until the very end, he plays a little bit of football and that's enough. That's what's great about that movie. It gives you no football, no football, no football, no football. And at the end it's like, here's a little football and you're like, "Yeah!" It's the best.

**Rachel:**

I just think...

**Griffin:**

It's a Wonderful Life is number one, though?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I mean that, that, oh, Jesus that movie.



**Rachel:**

Like inspiring. Like you watch it and you feel like my life could be okay.

**Griffin:**

I became a better person after I watched that movie for the first time, I watched that movie for the first time when I was— It was like late college for me. And they had a showing of it in December, um, at an old movie theater in Huntington.

**Rachel:**

You didn't see It's a Wonderful Life 'till late college?

**Griffin:**

We've talked about this before. Like we did not watch that many classic movies in my house. The classic...

**Rachel:**

That's interesting because the McElroy tradition now is exclusively to watch Christmas movies the entire month of December.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. We would watch Christmas movies. It just It's a Wonderful Life was not on the rotation.

**Rachel:**

So weird.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I, no, it's strange. I do not know why that was a— Probably because like the three of us just were like, "Ugh, black and white. Nope. No thanks."

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

Uh, yeah, we watched a lot of classic Doctor Who, but not a lot of classic movies.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

**Griffin:**

Um, that movie. Yeah. I, we watched that, I watched that in a theater when I was like 19.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

And I remember walking out of it like, "Oh, my God, like that's what holiday movies should be like." Like—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, man.

**Rachel:**

The relationship. This is not the point of my topic, but the relationship between, um...

**Griffin:**

The two leads.

**Rachel:**

Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, I think?

**Griffin:**

I think so. Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, it holds up.

**Griffin:**

It's the best.

**Rachel:**

Griffin and I watch that every year and I am still charmed by their pairing.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. It's timeless.

**Rachel:**

So good.

**Griffin:**

Timeless.

**Rachel:**

So, yeah. So, uh, if you're interested in the other movies that made the list again, it's the American Film Institute and I just, I saw that and I thought like, this is how I'm gonna pick movies the next time I'm feeling the need for some...

**Griffin:**

Some inspiration?

**Rachel:**

Some triumph. Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I would say maybe go a little bit further down the list.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

For an inspirational movie for spot number like 53. Say for instance...

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

Ol' film with Sean Astin and uh, oh, who's that dude who plays Lucky in the iron man movies?

**Rachel:**

John Favreau?

**Griffin:**

John Favreau's in that one.

**Rachel:**

What other movies has Sean Astin been in?

**Griffin:**

The Lord of the Rings films? The Goonies...

**Rachel:**

Oh, yeah. Okay, okay. All right.

**Griffin:**

What were you about the— Sorry, were you, were you looking for evidence right there? What was going on right there? I know that you weren't about to go after Sean Astin, my dude, there was a great thing with Sean Astin in, um—

I saw the Goonies late too. I saw the Goonies pretty late. The first time I watched it was on a DVD that was like the special edition of Goonies. And I fell in love with it instantly 'cause it's a great film and that DVD has a, uh, a video commentary track where like all of the stars of the movie would like pop in and, and talk about stuff.

And what is really great is they recorded that while Sean Astin was filming the Lord of the Rings movies and so there was at one point during the commentary was like, okay, well, sorry, everybody I have to go, cause I gotta go shoot Lord of the Rings. And everybody else sitting there was like, "Well, I don't have anything else to work on right now," and they gave him such a hard time and then they popped out a little Samwise Gamgee action

figure in his place and put it up on the table instead of him. It was very good.

Uh, Hey, I have a few submissions here, I'm gonna read him real quick. Uh, uh, here's one from Zach who says, "I am a teacher at an English school in China and my students, mostly middle or high school aged kids, get to pick their own English names. Some of my favorite have been Salt, Sailor, Meat, Gorilla, Master, Verac, Lucifer, Duke, Big Gun, Ramstein, uh, Summer Boy, and Philip Underwood. I love this self expression and it always makes my day to go through attendance."

**Rachel:**

That's awesome.

**Griffin:**

That's the best ever. Uh, here is another one from Rachel and Casey who saying, "My husband and I agree that a bed made with clean sheets tops our list of wonderful things. The clean smell of the detergent and the crisp feel of the sheets is one of the best things in life. Bonus points if the sheets were a line dried on a breezy sunny day.

**Rachel:**

A lot of people write about sheets.

**Griffin:**

Sheets are very good and very important to a lot of people. Uh, Cameo says, "Guys, I'm so pumped about Halloween cereal. It's the only time of year they make Boo Berry. So I buy a ton at once, it's my favorite." Um, what's your, do you like? I don't really— I know Boo Berry very, very well. I'm very intimate with Boo Berry, but I don't really know like Count Chocula or anything like that.

**Rachel:**

I don't really have connection to surgery cereal.

**Griffin:**

You don't really like sugary cereals?

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

Uh, but it is very exciting. Thank you Cameo. Here's one from Brett who says, "I love shoveling snow, the whole world is quiet except for the [snow crunch sound effect] of your boots with every step." There's some Robert Frost for you.

**Rachel:**

[laughing].

**Griffin:**

Because it's poetry, not because I was making a Frost pun. Uh, "It's cold and hard work sometimes, but it's wonderful when I get back inside, have a steaming shower and snuggle back into bed." Now that's the best that part I can get into. Living in Chicago, I shoveled snow once and I said, "Never again," but I did like the shower and bed afterwards, it was extremely good.

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**Rachel:**

No, that's it.

**Griffin:**

Okay. We gotta go cause the baby just woke up. So we'll talk to you next— This could be our new outro, "Baby woke up. Bye!"

**Rachel:**

Bye!

[theme music plays]

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