

Wonderful! Ep233: The Big Guys with the Spotty Spots

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay" plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: Woof! Woof! It's those dog days of summer, I think.

Rachel: No. I don't think summer officially—

Griffin: Oh, shoot.

Rachel: ... has even started yet.

Griffin: It's all relative, inn't it? Who decided... Whoever decided summer starts on June 23rd, I think, is out of their gourd, man.

Rachel: Here's what I'll say—

Griffin: Yeah, say it!

Rachel: With—with climate change—

Griffin: Climate change, I've heard of this.

Rachel: ... maybe summer really did start back then at that time.

Griffin: Okay. Winter used to run until May 16th.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And then we had a little spring. No, it's weird. It's like wherever you live in the world it's like the seasons and times is different.

Rachel: Fair.

Griffin: 'Cause it's hot as a... It's hot as a hot dog here in Austin, Texas.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: And that's a saying that we like to use. Big hot dog people down here.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I told somebody yesterday, on a call, in like a meeting, that I lived in Austin. And they were like, "Mmm, bet you love those breakfast tacos."

And... yes...

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: There's more to it than that. We're... we're a multifaceted people, us Austinites.

Rachel: Well...

Griffin: We love hot dogs, too.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, I think it's possible that the person was just trying to be friendly. [laughs]

Griffin: I didn't even consider that, hon.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Didn't even think about that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This is a show where we talk about things we like, things we're into, things that are good. And do you have a Small Wonder?

Rachel: Uh, I am gonna say my Small Wonder is the fact that our son, inexplicably, says that he wants to be an astronaut when he grows up.

Griffin: Really good.

Rachel: Which I'm not really entirely sure where that came from. I mean, other than, you know, that's a thing that people can be.

Griffin: Some people. Yeah, it's not, I would say... There's not too much opportunity in that field.

Rachel: And then the other day he said he wanted to be an astronaut and singer.

Griffin: An astronaut singer, I believe was his—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Which is the best, right?

Griffin: That's the best of both worlds!

Rachel: 'Cause the idea is, kids get to a certain age and they want to be multiple things.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And they see no reason to, you know, whittle it down.

Griffin: Sometimes when it's lullaby time, in which I deliver the lullaby to our child, he does this sort of like slam poetry version on top of it at the same time.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I've been doing this song from *Adventure Time*, "Everything Stays", it's been like pretty hot in the lullaby rotation.

And he'll be like, "Let's go in the [emphatic] garden! You'll find something [emphatic] waiting!"

Like...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's very powerful and evocative. I... I don't... I did not... I don't... I don't have one. But I will think of one as I am—

Rachel: [laughs] Lookin' around the room...

Griffin: ... speaking, looking around the... I'm gonna say, uh, when you get in the pocket when you're like, writing, is really good.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah, it's true. We're doing a live *TAZ* that I'm going to be running here in just three or four days, and I had like, a little bit of time to prep yesterday for it. And I just got in the fucking groove and it was so satisfying to like, work for a couple hours on something and have like, eight or nine pages at the end of it. It's like—

Rachel: Griffin came downstairs and he told me some of the character names in—

Griffin: Some of the big ideas.

Rachel: And it's very exciting.

Griffin: Yeah. I can't wait. Can't wait. So exciting to be doing live TAZs again.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They're terrifying. They're the scariest thing ever, but a lot of fun.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, I go first this week.

Rachel: Fantastic.

Griffin: I wanna talk—speaking of doooowwwg days of summer, I do wanna talk about the humble Freezie Pop. Although you may call it... You may call it something else. You might call it Freeze Pop, or a Freezie, simply put.

I'll talk about all the wonderful names for this, but it is 200 degrees every day here in Austin now.

Rachel: Wait, before we get going...

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: Favorite flavor? Or color. Color sometimes is easier.

Griffin: It's funny, because I have at the end of my notes, grape or green.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I know what grape is, the green flavor is something... It's not a natural shade.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's like a *TMNT* ooze color.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Or an Ecto Cooler.

Griffin: Ecto Cooler I think is like, kinda clear. It's a little bit more translucent then... then... This is like bright—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... neon—

Rachel: I'm green all the way.

Griffin: ... radon green. It's so good.

Rachel: Always green.

Griffin: It's so good. I'll fuck with a grape, but like, you know I just want that green stuff.

Um. It is... We've started to get into more sort of aquatic outdoor fun time activities, and nothing enhances an outdoor aquatic fun time activity quite like a Freeze Pop.

Rachel: Yeah. It's wild how kids kind of intuitively know that popsicles are a funtime summer treat. And the enthusiasm for popsicles, which is ultimately just frozen juice, is through the roof.

Griffin: I mean, there's... I did not know much about the taxonomy of popsicles until I researched this topic. But a Freeze Pop, if you also don't know about the taxonomy, that's the juice in the plastic sleeve, then you cut the top off and you push it up and—

Rachel: Yeah. I love when you can buy like, big mesh bags full of `em.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And it's just like... like liquidy... like a big water balloon divided into sections.

Griffin: Yes. Mom would go to... We got pretty much all our groceries at Sam's Club like, in *bulk*. Like in a huge package—

Rachel: Yeah, I mean—

Griffin: ... and she would come back with like a fuckin' bandolier of Fla-Vor-Ice that would last us for like, three years, every time.

Rachel: Three... I can't even imagine three kids trying—

Griffin: Period. End of sentence.

Rachel: Yeah, period. But also trying to grocery shop. Like... you would have to. You would have to buy like, a hundred of everything.

Griffin: Yeah. So Fla-Vor-Ice, because of... I pronounce it that way because of the hyphens inside of it. I'm not just being a total weirdo, is maybe... It depends on what part of the country you live in.

You probably either think of Fla-Vor-Ice or Otter Pops, depending on what store your parents shopped at when you were a kid.

Rachel: Yeah huh.

Griffin: They are called so many different things depending on what country and region you're living in.

The generic name, right, in North America we got Freeze Pop, Freezies, Icees, with two Es, which I've always understood to be the Slushie brand, yes? I-C-E-E?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You see that, that's a slush—I dunno, some people just call 'em Icees, I guess.

Rachel: Huh. Okay.

Griffin: And then they got, you know, Freezer Pops, is another name for it in North America. In other parts of the world, of course, they have way more fun names. In the UK, they call 'em Ice Pops and Ice Poles. Which is—

Rachel: Oh. I mean, that's accurate.

Griffin: Yeah. In Australia they call 'em Icy Poles. India, they got Sip Ups and Pepsi Ice, which is fantastic.

Rachel: Oooh!

Griffin: The Philippines has maybe my favorite name for 'em, they have Ice Candy, which is what it essentially is.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's sug—[intense voice] sugar water! That is frozen in a sort of rail shape.

Uh, and like so many things it's impossible to know like, who was the first person to like, freeze juice and say, "Mm. I'm gonna... I will eat that now, on this hot day."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But the first brand in North America was called Pop Ice, which was acquired by a company called Jel Sert, which is a Chicago-based company, in 1963. Six years later, they would rebrand the product as Fla-Vor-Ice.

And then there was this east coast, west coast beef that happened where Otter Pops came out in the 70s. And Otter Pops were like, a west coast sensation.

Have you ever had an Otter Pop?

Rachel: No. [whispers] This just feels very familiar.

Griffin: Talking about Otter Pops? We did not... We have not talked about Popsicles or Freezies, according to—

Rachel: Okay. Maybe I heard it on a different , like a... Like a *Jordan, Jesse, Go!*, maybe or something.

Griffin: They seem like the type to talk about Otter Pops.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, I've never had an Otter Pop, because I've never lived on the west coast.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But that was like the rival. Everyone on the west coast loved Otter Pops, so you know what Jel Sert did? Acquired Otter Pops too.

Rachel: Oooh!

Griffin: Establishing a... a nationwide stranglehold on the freeze pop market.

Rachel: You know, monopolies in this country, it's unreal. Like, who else is supposed to compete?

Griffin: Well, I mean... It's frozen juice.

Rachel: [laughs] I guess.

Griffin: You know what I mean?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, I get it. And I am totally right there with you on most things.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: But it is frozen juice. We... We... I don't know the brand that we eat. The... the... You got a big fucking pack of freeze pops that are like—

Rachel: It's like... It's like Good Pop or something? It's one of those like, [boring person voice] "Unh, this is only real juice."

Griffin: It was good.

Rachel: It is good.

Griffin: They have a cherry-limeade one that knocks my fuckin' socks off.

Rachel: It is good.

Griffin: Just really good.

Rachel: I mean, the whole... The whole incentive is like—

Griffin: It's no green.

Rachel: [laughs] ... is that like, "Oh you're giving your kid a popsicle, let's make you feel like it is a healthy choice."

Griffin: Yeah. It's not the most novel thing, right? It's frozen juice.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Every country has their own brand of freeze pops, and I don't wanna list them all, because I just did that with like, the generic names.

But I do want to give a special shoutout to the brand of freeze pops in Australia that is the most popular, which is called... [laughs] which is called "Zooper Dooper."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Is very strong.

Rachel: We have a lot of listeners from Australia, I bet... I bet they will confirm.

Griffin: Shout out to the Zooper Dooper community, the Zooper Dooper fandom. I'm only gonna call them Zooper Doopers, by the way.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Sort of the same way that, you know, some midwesterners refer to all soda as "Coke."

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: All freeze pops are now Zooper Doopers and that is a legal law.

Rachel: Did you ever have those little like, plastic trays, that you could make your own popsicles in?

Griffin: Yes. I don't think I ever successfully did it, but—

Rachel: I always put orange juice in there.

Griffin: Oh, interesting.

Rachel: And it was a real treat.

Griffin: We didn't need to do that because we always had approximately 500,000 Fla-Vor-Ices just sittin' around.

Rachel: Yeah. I guess that's true. I guess when you are larger than a family of three, you... you... don't really wanna make your own popsicles because—

Griffin: You're generating enough mess everywhere, all the time, as it is.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: It's just such a simple thing, it's so beautiful. They travel well. You throw 'em in a cooler and they serve as ice packs.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it keeps your food or whatever cool until it's dessert time and then you eat the ice packs! You can't do that with a normal ice pack.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: You would get sick, probably. The fun part is with kids they have special sort of... Like, sort of demands. Uh, Henry... obviously the best part is when you have finished eating sort of the body of the freeze pop.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then you get the juice at the end.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That you can kind of like, [sipping noise], you know, wheeze.

Uh, Henry demands that we decant—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... his freeze pop into a new sort of carafe—

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: ... that he can then drink with a straw.

Rachel: Yeah, it's—

Griffin: Which I get, because the plastic sides, the like, fins, on the sides of the thing... I've definitely cut the corners of my mouth and been like a sort of icy dessert Joker or something.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like, I get it. I understand it.

Rachel: I just... I love... The thing that makes me nervous about just a regular unsheathed popsicle is like, the amount of mess. Like, the huge amount of mess. Um—

Griffin: Yes. An unsheathed popsicle.

Rachel: [laughs] And I love... I love the Fla-Vor-Ice because it's just like, you know, it's like straight from canister to mouth.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like, very little drip.

Griffin: All food should be pole-shaped—

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: ... in its own sort of—

Rachel: Like a mashed potatoes in a sleeve. Think about that.

Griffin: Yeah man.

Rachel: Or like, cereal... in a sleeve.

Griffin: Well, I mean, they have like, cereal bars, which was like—

Rachel: Nah, I'm saying like milk and like, little O's.

Griffin: Oh, that's disgusting. Yeah, that's so gross.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Maybe there could be like, a divider that you kind of like crack open and then the milk and cereal—

Rachel: I mean, how do you feel about Go-Gurt?

Griffin: How do I feel about Go-Gurt?

Rachel: Yeah. Same... Same concept.

Griffin: I had to eat it... Well, I didn't have to.

Rachel: [laughs] No.

Griffin: But I did eat two Go-Gurts on our last tour—

Rachel: And you guys really enjoyed it.

Griffin: And I got really sick the next day, though, if you remember.

Rachel: You enjoyed it though, in the experience of the yogurt.

Griffin: I mean, I did it for the Vine. I wouldn't... Have I bought Go-Gurt since then and like had it recreationally? On a non-professional basis? No. No, I haven't.

Rachel: Is there anything you would eat in a sleeve?

Griffin: I mean you... The mashed potatoes idea got me pretty excited.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The idea of a hot pop, that's just like hot mashed potatoes that you could kind of goosh up? And maybe it could have its own little gravy reservoir—reservoir? [snorts]

Rachel: Oh. Like... Like a two-channel one?

Griffin: Like a double-barrelled mash potato hot pop.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: With gravy reservoir.

Rachel: [keeps laughing]

Griffin: New from the Jel Sert company.

Rachel: Maybe you only snip one side because you want to save the gravy for the end.

Griffin: Ohhh...

Rachel: Or you snip both.

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: TM, TM, TM, TM.

Griffin: T... Don't T... I don't wanna TM, I don't want that trademark.

Rachel: I do.

Griffin: I mean you can't TM... It has to have a name to TM it. I don't know that you can just... What is a...?

Rachel: A patent.

Griffin: A copyright, yeah.

Rachel: Patent, patent, patent, patent. [laughs]

Griffin: Patent, patent, patent, patent, patent!

I think that... Like, I love all popsicles. I love a Dreamsicle, I love a Fudgsicle, I love an Itzakadoozie. We have these Jolly Rancher popsicles that are pretty dope.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But you cannot beat the simplicity of a freeze pop. and also like the nostalgia factor is off the chart, for me. I have... Any time I eat a freeze pop I am immediately taken back to the Olympic Pool in Huntington, West Virginia, where they had a concession stand where you could buy a freeze pop for a quarter. Which is the most like a grandpa I've ever sounded.

Rachel: Woah, yes. For sure.

Griffin: I gave myself chills there a little bit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think you should be spending more than a quarter on a freeze pop.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It is plastic-encased cold juice at the end of the day.

Rachel: Yeah, I feel like a whole thing of 'em costs like four dollars, so...
[laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Um, but that's a freeze pop. I love 'em. I think I went a long time without them, but now that Henry is sort of popsicle-age, I'm gettin' back into the scene and it's... it's really exciting.

Rachel: Yeah, that reminds me. We need... We need more. We're out of fruit punch.

Griffin: Let's get the real shit, 'cause I do want that green. Do you know what I mean?

Rachel: But our child and the real fruit, you know? He's too young for the green.

Griffin: I ate green. I ate green. Look at me. [sarcastic] Big and strong!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break stinger plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: Got a couple Crumple Toms here, and I would love to read the first one, if I may. May I please?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: May I? Please, may I?

It's for Lily Butt, and it's from Mama, who says, "To my Tiger Lily Puppy Cat,

LA's finest road buddy. The goofiest kitten and sweetest stinky high-school teenager in the universe. You are creative, resilient, tenacious and kind and you are ready for the next adventure.

I love you every second. I like you every moment. Who's my baby? You's my baby. Baby baby.

P.S., I spent your allowance on this Gumbo Prawn."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Pretty close, actually. I think... have I used Gumbo Prawn before? It seems, um...

Rachel: Almost certainly.

Griffin: I think it's Law of Large Numbers, I've said every sort of iteration.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Griffin: I don't think I've said Tumble Dob yet, so maybe we'll save that for the next one. I'll be honest, I forget what the real word is.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I do not know.

Hey, do you wanna do the next one?

Rachel: Yes. This message is for Sam. It is from Abby.

“Sam, you are wonderful. I love raising a couch-eating cryptid monster disguised as a bunny with you. I am so glad I married you and I can kiss you forever. And I hope whatever day you hear this is splendid.

Love, Abby and Dr. Bonks.”

Griffin: That's fun. I'm guessing that's short for Dr. Harris Bonkers.

Rachel: Noo.

Griffin: But it's possible that this is a spinoff from *TAZ: Amnesty*.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: It's a LARP spinoff, which you don't hear about a lot.

Rachel: Either way, you're coming for royalties.

Griffin: Yeah. that will be a hundred billion dollars.

Rachel: [laughs]

[Max Fun ads play]

Griffin: What you got?

Rachel: I got a, uh, round trip ticket—

Griffin: [gasps]

Rachel: ... to the Poetry Corner.

Griffin: One of these days you're gonna say something else there. You're gonna be like, "I got a round trip ticket to... Bora Bora. Gotta go."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Then we can do like a—

Rachel: Byeee!

Griffin: Byeee! And then we'll like, take a few months off while we really find ourselves.

Rachel: I don't even know where—

Griffin: I don't either.

Rachel: ... Bora Bora is.

Griffin: Nor I.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Nor I. I've seen pictures. Look bee-you-tiful.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. Let's um... Okay, hold on. Wait. [scats the Poetry Corner theme song]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I just ASMRed myself.

Rachel: You did a really good job of avoiding my two pitfalls, which is *Frasier* and "Seventy-six Trombones."

Griffin: I did... It was Frasier, and the fact that you didn't pick up on that...

Rachel: I... I heard a little bit there, but I thought maybe I was just imagining it.

Griffin: Yeah. It's like a Mandela Effect. That's not what that means.

Rachel: Is uh... [laughs] Is that what that is?

Uh, my poet is Lisel Mueller.

Griffin: No. I don't know that one.

Rachel: Okay. That's okay.

Griffin: Yeah, you're right.

Rachel: I'm not here to shame anyone for their lack of knowledge of poetry.

Griffin: Not on the podcast—

Rachel: Although... [laughs]

Griffin: ... but you should hear her when we're not recording.

Rachel: At some point there will be a quiz—

Griffin: Aw, shoot.

Rachel: ... in which I will ask you to name five to 10 poets that I have featured on *Wonderful!*

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And I will see what you can do. Unless you wanna do that now.

Griffin: Robert Frost.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: [thinking clicks] Have you done Maya Angelou?

Rachel: Of course.

Griffin: [thinking clicks] [laughs] You have not done Shel Silverstein.

Rachel: I don't think so.

Griffin: Do I get a point for that? For knowing the ones you haven't done?

Rachel: No. No.

Griffin: [tentatively] Sylvia... Plath?

Rachel: You know, honestly, I don't even know if I have or not.

Griffin: Okay. We'll say yes then.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And then Lisel Lastname, the one we're doing today, is five. Five points for me.

Rachel: I have not done Sylvia Plath.

Griffin: Now who's the poet—shit. Shit.

Rachel: Um—

Griffin: But you didn't know, so I think I should still get a point for that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Now who's the poetry master? The poet laureate? It's me.

Rachel: Uh, her last name is spelled M-U-E-L-L-E-R, which I am tempted to say is "Mew-ler", but I... could possibly be "Mill-er." Um—

Griffin: There is a Mueller Street in Austin—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... that is pronounced that way.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But Austin has a lot of streets that are pronounced in—

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... wild ways.

Rachel: I've lost perspective on what is a correct pronunciation is.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Austin just kind of makes its choices.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: So this is a poet that was born in Germany in 1924. Obviously not a great time to be in Germany. She was the daughter of teachers and her family fled when she was 15. Her father was a teacher whose anti-fascist... fascist...

Griffin: It's tough. It's tough.

Rachel: [laughs] Anti-fascist views left him kind of in trouble with the Gestapo, so he went to Evansville College which is now the University of Evansville in Indiana.

Griffin: Oh wow!

Rachel: And then in 1939 was joined by his wife and his daughters, one of which is Lisel.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So at 15 she had to pick up the English language. Which I can't—

Griffin: That's pretty late, I think.

Rachel: Yeah. I can't imagine.

Griffin: I mean, I took Spanish classes throughout all of high school and have a rudimentary understanding of the language.

Rachel: But imagine if that was like, all—

Griffin: The only like, form of communication.

Rachel: Yeah. Like every class you went to had—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. Mm-hmm. She didn't get her first volume of poetry published until she was 41.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: Which I always love to see.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: 'Cause I think, "Maybe one day."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You never know.

Griffin: Baby, you could... You could get a book of poetry published tomorrow.

Rachel: Woah. Who do you know?

Griffin: Probab—I could probably figure it out.

Rachel: I was hoping you would name another poet. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh. Well, I know Sylvia...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Shel Silv—

Rachel: Nope.

Griffin: Deb...

Rachel: Nope.

Griffin: Shoot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Dang it.

Rachel: I'm wondering who you know that told you that they were Shel Silverstein, actually, now. I'm wondering about that.

Griffin: Mmm... It probably... It probably wasn't Shel. It probably wasn't. You know what? I think it may have been Justin doing a joke on me.

Rachel: [laughs] So she said, in an interview with the Chicago Tribune in 1993 that she didn't really get invested in writing poetry until her mother passed away in 1953.

And she found that that kind of grief, like, pushed her kind of towards writing. Specifically poetry. And she wrote this great poem called, "When I Am Asked", and this is not the poem I'm featuring.

Griffin: Oh. Okay.

Rachel: But uh—

Griffin: Well then don't say anything else about it.

Rachel: [laughs] And it ends with this section, which is:

"I sat on a gray stone bench
Ringed with ingenue faces of pink and white impatience
And placed my grief in the mouth of language
The only thing that would grieve with me."

Griffin: Whoo hoo hoo hoo!

Rachel: Whoo, chills, right?

Griffin: Golly neds!

Rachel: Can you imagine just, like, "Oh, I lost somebody really important in my life. Let me bang out this incredible poem."

Griffin: Yeah. No kidding.

Rachel: So she has won the National Book Award and she has also won the uh, Pulitzer, for her collection, *Alive Together: New and Selected Poems*. And the poem I'm gonna read is from that collection.

Griffin: Great.

Rachel: And it is called, "Things."

"What happened is, we grew lonely
living among the things,
so we gave the clock a face,
the chair a back,
the table four stout legs
which will never suffer fatigue.

We fitted our shoes with tongues
as smooth as our own
and hung tongues inside bells
so we could listen
to their emotional language

and because we loved graceful profiles
the pitcher received a lip,
the bottle a long, slender neck.

Even what was beyond us
was recast in our image;
we gave the country a heart,
the storm an eye,
the cave a mouth
so we could pass into safety."

Griffin: How fun!

Rachel: Isn't that nice?

Griffin: That was kind of a fun poem.

Rachel: That... I think the context of her not being a native English speaker—

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Really kind of brings some... some fun to that poem.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely!

Rachel: It's the kind of thing, when you grow up speaking a language, that you don't always think about.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And for her to have that perspective of like, "Hey, y'all?"

Griffin: It's weird that we call things—

Rachel: "Y'all?"

Griffin: ... that having human body parts. Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. and just... And the idea that we did it to kind of solve some sort of loneliness, I really found charming.

Griffin: Yeah, I remember first time I saw a cave, I was like "I would love to hang out with... him."

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, yeah. I mean, so she has tons and tons of poetry. She passed away in 2020, but there is a lot out there, if you're interested.

Griffin: That's a good run.

Rachel: She continued to live in Illinois and in the midwest for the rest of her life. She got a house out in Lake County, Illinois, that she lived in for a long time. Right next to like, a neighbor that had 200 acres and cows.

Griffin: Beautiful.

Rachel: And so she wrote a lot of poems kind of—

Griffin: Cow poems.

Rachel: Kind of about like, domestic farm life.

Griffin: “The Big Boys, With the Spotty Spots.” See—

Rachel: [sarcastic] That was one of `em. That’s actually, did you know? That was one of the poems.

Griffin: Watch them... chomp.

Rachel: “The Big Guys with the Spotty Spots.”

Griffin: The big guys with the spotty spots
The udders that provide the sweet life
nectar!
What are you chewing on?
A mystery, for me.

Rachel: [laughs] Griffin! You are keeping the world from your true talent, which is poetry?

Griffin: Where’s the beef?. Inside you. Not yet beef, though. Still just cow parts. Yum yum.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yum yum. Gimme some... Yum yum. Gimme some of that good cow beef.

Rachel: As he signs off all of his poems, "Yum yum..."

Griffin: Gimme some of that good cow beef. The end.

Rachel: The end. This was a poem.

Griffin: This was a poem. You can't say it wasn't 'cause poems can be anything.

Rachel: Beautiful.

Griffin: Hey, thank you so much for listening. Thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description.

And thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to maximumfun.org and check out just all the great stuff that they have on there. Talking about *Depresh Mode*. I'm talkin' about *Jordan*, *Jesse, Go!* or *Judge John Hodgman*. Or any of the other many fine shows—

Rachel: So many.

Griffin: ... on the Max Fun Network.

And we have schtuff in mcelroymerch.com that you can buy. We're gonna be doin' shows for *MBMBaM* and *TAZ* this week in Boston and Mashantucket. And you should come out and see us if you live in that general area.

Rachel: And when he says we...

Griffin: I mean me and Justin and Travis and Dad.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And some kids. Some... Some arrangement of children will be there too, but they will not be performing. Uh, it'll be a good time.

Rachel: But they will participate in soundcheck rather gleefully.

Griffin: Yeah. So that'll be... You can get tickets at mcelroy.family. And please come out and see us, it'd be great to see you.

And that's it. That is it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm!

Griffin: I think that's gonna do it for us. We're gonna wrap up now.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I think it's time for us to hit the road.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Look at the clock! Uh-oh. We're late for our next appointment. So I think it's time that we probably should be gettin' on outta here.

Rachel: This has been a podcast—

Griffin: What if we wrap up now and start moving in that direction?

Rachel: Uh-huh. Alright, well, I'll... I'm just gonna un—

Griffin: We've reached a natural conclusion.

Rachel: Unscrew my microphone and put it away.

Griffin: Unscrew it?

Rachel: I'm kind of pretending like it's like a... You know? Like a tentpole or something that you have to disassemble?

Griffin: Oh! That's fun.

Rachel: Fold up.

Griffin: Yeah. I can make a badass tent.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Let's do that instead of whatever we were gonna do next.

Rachel: Okay. Hundred percent.

Griffin: Bye!

Rachel: Bye.

[theme song, "Money Won't Pay" plays]

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