

## Wonderful! 251: Frying Pan Farm Park

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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:** [distantly] put up the monitor. I wanna hear you, babe. [normal volume]  
I wanna hear—

**Rachel:** We just did sound check!

**Griffin:** I wanna *hear* you.

**Rachel:** What were you doing while we did sound check?

**Griffin:** I was thinkin'. Just my thoughts.

**Rachel:** Yeah? [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** I have a whole world in there, you know? Just a bunch of lil guys in there going on all kinds of adventures. Yeah.

**Rachel:** I believe it. I 100% believe it.

**Griffin:** I'll bet, man, I'll bet. That's the best thing about stories.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Making stories and characters, is it's just like, you can have just, like, a little guy in there. And he's just going on adventures, and you just think about him.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** This is *Wonderful!* It's a show where we talk about things we like, things that are good, things that we're into. And it's... November. It's...

**Rachel:** It is!

**Griffin:** ... Movember. It's...

**Rachel:** Are you gonna do that again?

**Griffin:** NaNoWriMo. What's that? Am I gonna grow a mustache?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I'm gonna grow a mustache, I'm gonna write a novel. What else is November? I'm gonna, uh... vote. Sure.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Sure. Gotta vote.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** We love that here. DC is basically like— they're crazy about voting, here. Like, everybody does it. They take two days off for election day.

**Rachel:** Well, no. They take one day off. The school system—

**Griffin:** The school system takes two days off for election.

**Rachel:** The school system adds a day.

**Griffin:** They add a— they're like, "Well... "

**Rachel:** And, you know, bless it. Those teachers, they deserve it.

**Griffin:** Fuck yeah they do. And you know, you gotta take the time to figure out who you're gonna vote for, you know? That takes time, it takes effort, it takes energy.

**Rachel:** Especially if you just moved here a few months ago and you have no idea. [laughs]

**Griffin:** No idea... not only who's running, but also, like, how government works in a non-state.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Still sort of wrapping my mind around that one.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh, me too.

**Griffin:** 'Cause it's not a state. It is a district. And—

**Rachel:** And those license plates will remind you.

**Griffin:** They will remind you.

**Rachel:** That you are getting taxed and not being represented.

**Griffin:** And not being represented. They're really proud of it?

**Rachel:** [laughs] I've gotta find out the story behind that.

**Griffin:** Everybody's like, "Yeah, we pay money, but not heard in government in the— in the Senate." And it's like... yeah.

**Rachel:** I think it'd be fair to say they're actually pretty upset about it, but they just—

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, but they have signs up where, like, "[distantly] No taxation without representation! Woo!"

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, anyway, yeah. It's exciting! It's exciting! Halloween was yesterday.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Henry was a Sonic the Hedgehog. I was nothing. You were nothing. Gus was nothing.

**Rachel:** Yeah. It didn't even really occur to me until I saw, you know, people posting the pictures of, like, "Here's our adorable family costume."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I think we did that maybe one year since Henry was born.

**Griffin:** I'm sure we'll do it next year. It's that Gus is too young, it was raining last night, which is not ideal, and so...

**Rachel:** I knew I was gonna have to stay home.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** We didn't really know how into it Henry was gonna be, you know? And so we just didn't invest in ourselves.

**Griffin:** I'll tell you, he got into it. That kid was a shrewd businessman...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... last night. Somebody would be like, "Take a couple pieces."

And he'd be like, "And how many a couple? Uh, two? Are we talking three pieces?"

**Rachel:** [laughs] "What does a couple mean to you?"

**Griffin:** "What does a couple mean for *you* today?" I will say this, though. Love this new neighborhood. I heard a lot of kids shouting about this— "Did you get the jumbos?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Over on that— over at that house. They got jumbos."

**Rachel:** This has been a stuff of legends. I have never as a child experienced the full-size candy bar. I heard about it.

**Griffin:** Well, you also had, like, weird— like, your parents didn't let you eat chocolate 'cause they thought you were allergic to it.

**Rachel:** Well... it was that they [laughs] intentionally didn't let me. It was that there was a supposed allergy that ended up not being true. [laughs]

**Griffin:** So sad. You're making me so— making me so sad.

**Rachel:** Uh, no, it was just that I didn't do the strategy of going to the big fancy neighborhood ever.

**Griffin:** Yeah, man. You got to.

**Rachel:** And so I never had the full size candy bar. But Henry came home...

**Griffin:** He had, like, three full size Hershey bars.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** And he ate one entire one, and then felt so shitty.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Which, like, yeah, man. I don't think anybody is— I don't think Hershey bars are supposed to be eaten fully.

**Rachel:** Well, here's the thing.

**Griffin:** I've only thought of them as an ingredient for s'mores or other sort of...

**Rachel:** But can't you say that you've eaten a full-size candy bar's worth of s'mores in one sitting? 'Cause I—

**Griffin:** Abso— crapsolutely I have.

**Rachel:** I definitely have.

**Griffin:** Yeah. But that's different, you know?

**Rachel:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** Then it's part of a healthy, balanced diet.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Do you have a small wonder?

**Rachel:** Oh, man! Um... hmm. Hmm... uh, I mean, can I say Benadryl?

**Griffin:** You *must* say Benadryl.

**Rachel:** [laughs] I, um... I have what is maybe an allergy situation going on. I mean, it would only make sense, right? After several weeks of a stomach illness, that I would go straight into an allergy attack.

**Griffin:** Yeah. You need that next vine to cling to.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, but I'm super stuffy. And Henry is too, which makes me wonder, is this an illness or is this an allergy?

**Griffin:** I think it's allergies.

**Rachel:** Either way, took a Benadryl last night, and I was so excited to do it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, man.

**Rachel:** I was just like, "I— I'm gonna drift off into that beautiful Benadryl sleep. And I'm gonna sleep pretty well through the night, without the sniffles."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I just love the stuff, man.

**Griffin:** Uh, I wanna give a shoutout. My small wonder is the group of... I think there were, like, four or five boys, age maybe 13, 14 who came to the door last night trick-or-treating.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And it was pretty late. And one of them, who I assume was the leader...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... looked up at me and said, before anything, before "Trick or treat" or anything, he just said, "Do you wanna be done for the evening?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And I— it, like, took me a second to realize what he was talking about, and I realized he wanted me to give all of our candy to this group of boys. And I was like, "Nah, man. I don't think so. We may still have some more and I don't wanna run out."

And he was like, "Oh, alright, alright."

And then I was like, "Has this worked for you yet, though?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And he was like, "No."

I was like, "Keep trying, man. I appreciate it." Thing is, I wish I had.

**Rachel:** I know, right? He was.

**Griffin:** 'Cause now we have a fucking bunch— he was the last one!

**Rachel:** They were the last ones.

**Griffin:** They were the last ones, and now we have a bunch of—

**Rachel:** That young man is gonna run for office, 100% guarantee.

**Griffin:** He is. I'm not sure he'll be a great— a gr— a— [laughs]

**Rachel:** No, but that pitch, you know?

**Griffin:** But that pitch. He'll win. He just— he may or may not be a good one of them.

**Rachel:** I also am operating of the mindset that one out of five children we run into in this neighborhood has some kind of political parent.

**Griffin:** Some sort of, yeah.

**Rachel:** So I'm just assuming, like...

**Griffin:** Do you do like me where if you see somebody wearing a suit or just any kind of, like, formal wear on, like, a Wednesday morning, it's like, "That's some sort of... delegate, some sort of... "

**Rachel:** I don't, I don't.

**Griffin:** No? Okay.

**Rachel:** But that is because, um, I remember that in business culture, people do wear suits.

**Griffin:** Not actually anymore. In 2022.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah, they don't anymore.

**Rachel:** See, we are coming from Austin, Texas where everybody, you know, kept it weird.

**Griffin:** Yeah. By which they mean wear shorts.

**Rachel:** Yeah. And so—

**Griffin:** That should be the new motto of Austin, is just "Wear shorts."

**Rachel:** Any time I saw somebody in a suit, it was a real momentous occasion.

**Griffin:** Or a funeral.



**Rachel:** [through laughter] Or a funeral, thank you. Wouldn't wanna forget that. Um...

But I imagine in DC, people— people keep it... dressed up.

**Griffin:** It's so exhausting.

**Rachel:** Out here.

**Griffin:** It's so exhausting. I mean, you know me. I'm a clothes horse. But it's exhausting, trying to keep up with this— with this— with this pressure.

**Rachel:** Well, you've got plenty of jackets.

**Griffin:** I do have so many jackets.

**Rachel:** And so that's a good start.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I do. Do you wanna tell me about your thing?

**Rachel:** I do!

**Griffin:** I can't wait. Let's hear it.

**Rachel:** I do. Uh, it is seasonally appropriate, although I kind of wish I had saved it, maybe, but it was all I could think of.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** And that is the Presidential pardoning of a turkey.

**Griffin:** I didn't know you were so soft on crime.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I thought that you wanted to—

**Rachel:** And what crime is it that turkeys commit?

**Griffin:** Gobble... gobbling.

**Rachel:** Gobbling?

**Griffin:** Gobbling. Public nuisance, they are.

**Rachel:** Ohh.

**Griffin:** Have you ever been around more than one turkey?

**Rachel:** It's loud.

**Griffin:** One turkey by itself is... okay. Not the best to look at.

**Rachel:** Can you tell me when you've been around more than one turkey?

**Griffin:** Baby... I grew up in the country. [laughs]

**Rachel:** [through laughter] Oh, did you?

**Griffin:** Look at me. That's you over there. Squeak, squeak, city mouse.

**Rachel:** [through laughter] Yeah?

**Griffin:** I'm over here, surrounded by turkeys, country mouse. Being chased by them, I think. 'Cause turkeys probably eat mice.

**Rachel:** [simultaneously] Oh, okay. Like, on your way to school?

**Griffin:** On my way to school. Just "[turkey gobble noises]." And when there's more than one, they just scream at each other nonstop. They're so competitive. They're like little round just spherical dinosaurs.

**Rachel:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** And I think that they should not be pardoned! I think that they should have to face the consequences of their actions.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** But...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... I— but I digress.

**Rachel:** Okay. [laughs] I didn't know this was your platform.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** Um, so I've talked about White House pets before.

**Griffin:** Yes. Which was one of, I would say, will go down in history as, in my books at least, one of the most mind-boggling segments that you've ever brought to the show.

**Rachel:** [laughs] I— I kind of love a tradition. Like, I loved when I was a kid especially, like, Groundhog's Day. Like, this idea that there is this inexplicable tradition related to animals in some way. And I'm always, like, kind of curious about it every year. It's like, well, what happened with that, and what's the story? And I can't wait till next year. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah. You're always like— it's, like, July, and you start, like, shuddering with excitement, and I don't even have to ask you why. It's because the Presidential pardoning of the turkeys is, like, just around the corner.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Uh, so of course I had to look into this. You know, so there— what's interesting about it, uh, there is a National Turkey Federation, which has a history of giving President's turkeys. Uh, and this started back in 1947 with President Truman, uh, and continues basically to this day, I think because of the Turkey Federation.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Of just, like, a "We want turkeys front and center every year." [laughs]

**Griffin:** Okay. I was gonna say, you're gonna need to tell me what the Turkey Federation is, and most importantly if it is a organization helmed by human beings... or...

**Rachel:** [laughs] Okay.

**Griffin:** ... not. Do you know what I mean?

**Rachel:** I mean, do you... do you think that, like, you know, milk, eggs, all of those campaigns that you see nationally are all headed by the animal that creates them?

**Griffin:** Well, probably not, like, beef, huh? I don't think that that's— I don't think that that one's—

**Rachel:** No. [laughs] We both know that's Lance Pekus.

**Griffin:** We both know that's American Ninja Warrior Lance Pekus.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That was a joke for four of our listeners.

**Griffin:** That's a joke for nobody, honey. That's just for us.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I will go— I will stand on this hill and proudly say, any American Ninja Warrior jokes we make on this show are for each other, and it's an intimate, private— it's not for— don't— hey, folks at home. When we talk about American Ninja Warrior, don't listen. That's private, intimate time for me and my wife.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That's for us. Um... so, here's the thing about Truman, though. Okay, so back then when they first started presenting turkeys to Presidents, there was no pardoning.

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Rachel:** There was just a presentation. In fact, there is record saying that Eisenhower, which followed Truman, was presented eight turkeys and did, in fact, consume all of them.

**Griffin:** No! Not all of them.

**Rachel:** Well, I mean, it says his family, so maybe he's got a big family...

**Griffin:** I would hope so! Eight fucking turkeys?!

**Rachel:** I don't think it was—

**Griffin:** Eight turkeys?!

**Rachel:** — Eisenhower by himself.

**Griffin:** Usually one turkey is good for a whole family. Traditionally, when you roll up to Thanksgiving at Papa's house, there's not, like, five turkeys.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Everybody... everybody gets one.

**Griffin:** Everybody gets their own personal pan turkey.

**Rachel:** [laughs] I love that. When you would read enough books as a kid and you'd get—

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Get enough stickers to go to Chuck E. Cheese and get your own turkey.

**Rachel:** Uh, what is interesting around this time— so, National Turkey Federation was coming out hard because in the late 1940's there was this, like, campaign for meatless Tuesday, and poultryless Thursday.

**Griffin:** *When* was this?

**Rachel:** Late 1940's when Truman was President.

**Griffin:** For meatless Tuesday and poultryless Thursday?

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** That's— that's— I would not expect that to happen in the 1940's.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Was it like a— like a... resource preservation thing? Or was it a...

**Rachel:** I don't know if it was a health thing or a resource thing.

**Griffin:** It has to be a resource thing, right? I can't imagine, like, there was enough people in the 1940's like, "Guys, it's Tuesday. Let's, uh... let's do celery today. What do you say?"

**Rachel:** I don't know, but the— the National Poultry and Egg board came out and said "Wait, you're saying poultryless Thursday, and Thanksgiving is on a Thursday. How dare you?"

**Griffin:** Yeah that's a good point.

**Rachel:** Uh, that year Christmas and New Years Day were also on Thursday. [laughs] And they were like, "Okay."

**Griffin:** Brutal, man.

**Rachel:** "Let's— let's stop this." And so that I think is when the Turkey Federation got their hands in, like, the Presidency. Like, let's make a big deal out of how great turkeys are.

**Griffin:** Man... it is shocking how easy it is to get your hand up in the pockets of the Presidency. That's what I'm learning.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** From this segment.

**Rachel:** Uh, okay. So, flash forward. So at this point, nobody has pardoned a turkey.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** The first President that was associated with pardoning a turkey was JFK, 1963. He, upon receiving the turkey, just announced that he would not eat it. Uh, and then—

**Griffin:** Was it— was that kinda rude? Like, if it was unprece— if he was the first one to do it and someone was like, "Here's a turkey. His name is Dr. Gobbles. He is so fat and luscious and you're gonna love him."

And he was just like, "[JFK impression] I'm not gonna eat that."

**Rachel:** Well, here's what I think forced his hand, is that when the turkey was presented to him it had a sign around its neck that said "Good eating, Mr. President!"

**Griffin:** That's great!

**Rachel:** [laughs] And so I feel like that kind of pushed him a little bit to be like, "Oh, you know what? Maybe I won't eat this guy, because this makes me a little uncomfortable."

**Griffin:** Yeah. Good, J. That's great, J. It's good that that made you feel uncomfortable, J.

**Rachel:** So when the newspapers reported on this, they reported that he had "pardoned" the turkey. So it was not, in fact, JFK making that move. Um, but when it became a real tradition was during Reagan. He was under examination because of the Iran-Contra scandal. There was all this talk about whether he's gonna pardon Oliver North. And he joked that if that year's turkey had not, in fact, already been destined for a petting farm, he would have pardoned him.

**Griffin:** Ah— that's— that sucks, Ron. [laughs quietly]

**Rachel:** [through laughter] I know.

**Griffin:** Ron, that sucks, dude! Listen, bud. That sucks, man. That sucks straight up and down.

**Rachel:** Uh, so it took off after Reagan. George HW Bush began the tradition. He said that the turkey had, quote, been granted a "Presidential pardon as of right now, allowing him to live out his days on a farm not far from here."

**Griffin:** That sounds like a euphemism, first. But second of all...

**Rachel:** [through laughter] I know, it definitely does.

**Griffin:** ... you don't par— you don't— okay. This is like if a serial killer or some sort of— like if Ghostface came to your teen party, killed all your friends, came to you and was, like, about to kill you, and then was like, "Ah! I pardon you."

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** This isn't a pardoning. You were going to kill and eat me, and then you didn't. I didn't do— I didn't do anything wrong. If anything, I pardoned you... from wanting to kill and eat me.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh. Well, let me tell you about a farm that, at least for a while, was known for receiving the turkeys. The name of the farm was Frying Pan Farm Park in Fairfax County, Virginia.

**Griffin:** Frying— Frying Pan Farm Park?

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Frying Pan Farm Park.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** [quickly] Frying Pan Farm Park.

**Rachel:** Isn't there a suggestion in that name that perhaps these turkeys are not created for—

**Griffin:** Are not— yeah.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Uh, from 2005 to 2009, turkeys were sent to Disneyland Resort in California, and they served—

**Griffin:** Way better— way better situation!

**Rachel:** I mean, for a turkey? You think turkeys are, like, super into Mickey?

**Griffin:** Than going to the [indistinctly] Frying Pan Farm Park?

**Rachel:** [laughs]



**Griffin:** Yeah, I think so!

**Rachel:** These turkeys served as the honorary Grand Marshalls of Disney's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Rachel:** Uh, from 2010 to 2012, they went to Mount Vernon as the, uh— the estate of George Washington.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But then they stopped accepting them because it violated the estate's policy of maintaining its own historical accuracy, [holding back laughter] and Washington never had turkeys.

**Griffin:** [snorts]

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Do they do that with, like, if a squirrel is running around?

**Rachel:** Like, "Get out of here!"

**Griffin:** Like, "Get out of here! [through gritted teeth] George Washington didn't have a squirrel!"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Get— shoo, birds! He didn't do pigeons! Go!"

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um... let's see. 2013 to 2015, uh, they went to Morvin Park in Leesburg, Virginia. 2016 to 2019, they went to Virginia Tech. Uh, they have a big, like, poultry pro— program?

**Griffin:** They got their degree in bioengineering, and...

**Rachel:** Called, like, Gobbler's Rest, where they send the turkeys.

**Griffin:** Gobbler's Rest, again, sounds like a place where you behead and devour turkeys.

**Rachel:** And then 2020, turkey is sent to Iowa State University, and then in 2021 Purdue. So these turkeys, man, they go on to... earn credentials.

**Griffin:** Big— big school— yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** Um, do you wanna know some turkey names before we close out?

**Griffin:** I must know some turkey names before we go out.

**Rachel:** Uh, so turkeys really started receiving their names, uh...

**Griffin:** What— that— what a wild way to say that, hon.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "When the— when the turkey moon hung high in the sky... "

**Rachel:** The Clinton presidency was when you first saw, like, "Here is a turkey that we are pardoning, and here is its name."

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Uh, so that was in 1999, Harry, and then in 2000, Jerry. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Alright. Guys... I get that we all had a lot of stuff going on in 1999 and 2000, but... Harry and Jerry? There's so many better options.

**Rachel:** In 2001 is when you start seeing alternates. So there are two turkeys.

**Griffin:** This is where it gets even worse for me. When it's like, "What if they're friends? What if they're family?"

**Rachel:** [laughs] Well, a tradition starts where both get pardoned. Just so you know.

**Griffin:** That's [crosstalk]— again. This is my issue.

**Rachel:** This is something... that makes me a little uncomfortable. But it was 2001. George W Bush, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks—

**Griffin:** Oh, fuck no, baby.

**Rachel:** Liberty and Freedom. [laughs quietly]

[pause]

**Rachel:** We were doing a lot of stuff back then!

**Griffin:** Listen— listen, y'all. [pause] [snorts] It sucks so bad!

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** It's so— it's— it sucks so bad. Obviously... 9/11, total drag— we're all on the same page about that. But 21 years out... it's cartoonish.

**Rachel:** It is.

**Griffin:** How fucking hard liberty and freedom... and freedom and liberty and justice and freedom, and they hate our freedom and our liberty and our fries. Like...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I'm not saying anything new, here, but that's— that's truly parodic.

**Rachel:** Now, this really drives the point home. Uh, 2002, Katie, the first ever female turkey was pardoned.

**Griffin:** Oh, good!

**Rachel:** [holding back laughter] It was a big moment in women's history.

**Griffin:** Huge.

**Rachel:** Uh, and then we get... both turkeys, the main stage turkey and it's understudy [laughs quietly] getting, like, coordinating names. So 2003, Stars and Stripes. 2004, Biscuits and Gravy. [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** That's great! I like that! That's my favorite so far!

**Rachel:** Um... all the way into Obama Presidency. We've got Mac and Cheese.

**Griffin:** Good.

**Rachel:** Um, Tater and Tot.

**Griffin:** Okay... I— it's getting a little...

**Rachel:** And then most recently during the Biden Presidency, 2021, Peanut Butter and Jelly.

**Griffin:** Okay. So they've— they've settled into a naming convention here. I almost kind of miss Liberty and Freedom. Just, like, a big swing like that.

**Rachel:** Well, you know what's— what's kind of surprising? When I was looking through this, 2011, Obama Presidency, there was another turkey named Liberty.

**Griffin:** Wow!

**Rachel:** And the alternate bird was named Peace.

**Griffin:** Well, okay. I like that better, right? [gruff voice] We wouldn't have done that in 2001.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** We wouldn't have had that one, Peace.

**Rachel:** No Peace would not have been— [laughs]

**Griffin:** Peace and Forgiveness! No. Uh, that's—

**Rachel:** There's your turkeys.

**Griffin:** Thank you for the turkey knowledge. I appreciate that. It is truly— it is bonkers, and I want to go to, um, steal you away now.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** [quietly] Thanks.

[ad break]

[music plays]

**Lisa:** I'm Lisa Hanawalt.

**Emily:** And I'm Emily Heller.

**Lisa:** Wow, Emily. We've been doing this podcast for ten years.

**Emily:** I know! But hey, don't worry. You can jump in at literally any episode and hear us talk about some of our favorite stuff. Caterpillars becoming butterflies.

**Lisa:** Martha Stewart flying around in a private jet full of trees. Yes, you heard me right: trees.

**Emily:** Neighbors becoming enemies. Just kidding. [wheezes]

**Lisa:** Whatever messed up stuff we can find on Wikipedia.

**Emily:** Our impeccable taste in everything from dogs to TV shows to bodily functions.

**Lisa:** And horses! Lots and lots of horses. Come for our horned up rants about the world. Stay for the catchy theme songs.

**Emily:** You might not learn anything, but we're a good hang.

**Lisa:** *Baby Geniuses*, every other week on Maximumfun.org.

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

**Jesse:** Hi, I'm Jesse Thorn, America's radio sweetheart.

**Jordan:** And I'm Jordan Morris, boy detective.

**Jesse:** Our comedy podcast, *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* just celebrated its 15th anniversary.

**Jordan:** It was a couple months ago, but we forgot.

**Jesse:** Uh, yeah, completely. Our silly show is 15 years old. That makes it old enough to get its learner's permit.

**Jordan:** And almost old enough to get the talk.

**Jesse:** Wow, I hope you got the talk before then. A lot of things have changed in 15 years. Our show's not one of them.

**Jordan:** We're never changing, and you can't make us!

**Jesse:** *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* The same forever! At [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org), or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music and ad end]

**Griffin:** So it's not, uh— it's not Poptober anymore. That is what I...

**Rachel:** Was that what it was?

**Griffin:** That's what I am calling it now on the other side of it. Um, 'cause you know, we got— Tay dropped a new one. We got— Carly dropped a new one. Like, it was an important month for the genre. We're one day late. It's Popvember now, but I do want to talk about another sort of iconic pop just mastermind on this week's episode, whose name is Griff. So... but it's not me. Can you imagine? If I was like, "Here's this new pop star I'm just wild about named Griff. It's me!"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "[singing] Boy, you went away every d— " I don't— I can't write pop music on the fly like that. But I'm talking about Griff. Uh, who is fantastic! I first heard her on a track called "Head on Fire" that she did with Sigrid, a frequent guest on the show, Sigrid. Uh, and that song's a bop. Go find that one. I'm not gonna play it for you today. But, uh, you know, we love Sigrid in this house.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Her voice is, like, super powerful. Uh, and then Griff comes in on that second verse and it's like, "Wow! Now that's also what I call singin'."

Uh, I'm gonna play a song of hers now at the top of the show, in case you are uninitiated, so you can just hear what a sort of powerhouse she is. This is a song called "One Night."

["One Night" by Griff plays]

**Griffin:** Uh, Griff was born in England in 2001. Her dad is a second generation Jamaican immigrant, and her mom is a first generation Chinese immigrant. And she got, as all people do, super into Taylor Swift.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** She credits— she got an i— I think an iPad shuffle with a Taylor Swift album on it in 2008 that, like, she credits for being her launch pad.

**Rachel:** It's such a reminder of how old we are.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** When there are people that are coming up in the music scene that have just never lived a life without Taylor Swift. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Sure, yeah. I mean, that— in 2008 she would've been seven years old, listening to Taylor Swift on an iPod shuffle. And, like, that really turned her on to music, so much so that she started learning how to make her own music via YouTube tutorials.

**Rachel:** Wow!

**Griffin:** And, like, Logic on her older brother's laptop. Which is, like, very— I very much enjoy that.

**Rachel:** Love that, yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, when she was in university she was making music the whole time, but she was keeping it basically a secret. She has some quote about, like, "Nobody wants to hear about how you want to be a singer." And so, like, just nobody knew about this secret life that she had going on. She told the faculty that she was gonna take a gap year, and during that she started to perform and release music as Griff. Her real name is Sarah Griffiths. And she has a quote where she said "Sarah Griffiths isn't that glamorous. I sound like I have a mortgage and four kids. It's very corporate."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Which, like, I don't know that I agree with that.

**Rachel:** Yeah, no! That just—

**Griffin:** Sarah Griffiths does not sound— it's—

**Rachel:** That doesn't, like, motivate any kind of particular image in my mind.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It doesn't sound particularly businessy to me. So in July 2019 she signed with Warner Records while she was, like, taking this gap year. And then over the next few months she just made this colossal splash in the UK pop music scene, started to perform and tour like crazy. She released her debut EP last year called *One Front in Front of the Other*, which is, like, the extent of her discography. It's just that and a few singles. Uh, the EP she called a mixtape. I don't know if that's an actual, like, category of releases in the music industry now?

**Rachel:** Yeah, that was not anything I was familiar with. Um, until recently.

**Griffin:** Yeah, okay. Well, it's just her, as far as I know. A mixtape for me is like a bunch of songs that you record off the radio 'cause you're... 500 years old. Um, but I suppose it can mean anything these days.

Uh, she's just super duper duper impressive. I love a self-starter in the music space. Um, especially in pop music where, like— pop music gets a bad rap for being, like, extremely manicured, very, like, um..

**Rachel:** Like, produced. Yeah.



**Griffin:** Produced. Not just the music, but just the public persona, and the songwriting, and all of this stuff. Uh, and that is an unfair characterization of the genre, I think, these days especially. But, like, she produces her own music. She is, you know, a vocalist and songwriter. She has directed her own music videos and choreographed those music videos. She's also, like, a fashion designer? She has made her own, like, dresses and outfits that she's worn to, like, awards shows that are... like, outrageously great? Uh, and she just, like, does it all. Which is radical.

**Rachel:** I'm glad that a lot of attention has been brought to this idea of, like, creators and people being creative. This idea that, like, there are many ways to make something and share it, and that often people that have that inclination, like, can do it across multiple areas, you know? Like, as a kid I feel like you and I— like, we were really taught to specialize, you know? [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** Absolutely!

**Rachel:** Like, "Figure out your thing. Pour all your effort into that thing. And be an adult." And now it's like, "Hey, you can do lots of things, and all of it can be valuable to you, and enriching, and don't limit yourself."

**Griffin:** Well, and it's also like— we're talking about, uh, you know, the generational sort of creative difference. Like, I don't know that it— this— this kind of creative, like, diversity would be as achievable when we were younger when, like, you couldn't get on YouTube and get on your brother's laptop with Logic on it and just, like, make— make stuff. Every step of that process, the making the music, the finding out how to do it, like, all of that stuff wasn't really available to us when we were kids? Aside from, you know, [through laughter] a— apprenticeships? That makes it sound like we grew up in the— in the— in the Dark Ages, which isn't true.

**Rachel:** Well, I mean, or you could do what you did, which is, like, print out stuff on the school printer.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I mean, that was mostly, like, walkthroughs for Pokémon Gold and Silver and stuff like that. But yeah, I appreciate what you're saying, and trying to make some sort of comparison here between me and this, uh, pop— pop star.

On top of, like, all of that, on top of, like, how impressive an artist she is, just the music is so incredible!

**Rachel:** It is.

**Griffin:** I don't know how deep a dive you did after I sent you some of the tracks.

**Rachel:** Just the songs you shared me.

**Griffin:** Uh, just the hooks are so catchy! Like, I can't get them out of my head, and it's the kind of catchy where if I'm in the car I'll just, like, throw 'em on, because I can't stop thinking about them and need to sort of, like, scratch that itch. It's that sort of, like, satisfying type of catchy. The harmonies have layers upon layers upon layers. Her voice is amazing. Uh, and... yeah, she's just great. Here's— I'm gonna play another one of her big singles off that mixtape that I mentioned earlier called "Walk" which I've especially been listening to nonstop this week.

["Walk" by Griff plays]

**Griffin:** Uh, that's Griff. I think she's really, really, really talented, and she's gonna be I think the biggest thing... ever? Uh, is already kind of like—

**Rachel:** Whoa, here we go!

**Griffin:** I think she's already getting there, but she has had this crazy meteoric rise over the last, like, year and a half even, and I think there's nowhere to go but up, and I can't wait to hear more tunes, more tracks.

**Rachel:** And that's a Griffin McElroy guarantee.

**Griffin:** That's a guarantee from me. You can— you can... bet money on it.

**Rachel:** 2023.

**Griffin:** 2023 is the year of Griff. And I'll get a little, like... that'll be benefit me somewhat. They'll be like, "It's your year?"

And I'll be like, "No, it— no. But, um— "

**Rachel:** Maybe you'll start seeing a lot more kids named Griffin.

**Griffin:** No, probably not. No... what about Griffin— Griffin Griffiths? That would be a strong— Griff-Griff.

**Rachel:** Griff-Griff. [laughs] That just reminds me of the *Ruff-Ruff Tweet & Dave Show*.

**Griffin:** [singing] *Ruff-Ruff Tweet & Dave!*

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [singing] That magical Da— [speaking] Okay. Anyway, that's it for this episode. Thank you so much.

**Rachel:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** Thank you. We never say that, do we.

**Rachel:** I think we do!

**Griffin:** I've never thanked our audience.

**Rachel:** I'm pretty sure we do!

**Griffin:** We appreciate the hell out of you.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Thank you for your... patience. This episode's not late, so I don't know why I'm thanking you for that, but...

**Rachel:** Uh, thanks to everybody that sent me real nice messages after the intense poem I read last week.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** A lot of people really enjoyed it, and I always like hearing that.

**Griffin:** A lot of people was like... "It made me sad?" And so I think—

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean, there were tears.

**Griffin:** And it's like...

**Rachel:** But that's good.

**Griffin:** Well... but I like happy better. You know what I mean?

**Rachel:** Oh, I know.

**Griffin:** That's kind of my thing.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it is your thing.

**Griffin:** Like—

**Rachel:** Not me, though.

**Griffin:** If I have a choice... I do happy, 'cause that's the good-feeling one?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I don't know if you've seen this movie, *Inside Out*, and in it you learn that basically happy is better than sad.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah, that is how it ends. [laughs] Where— where Joy goes through and just destroys all the other emotions and then stands on top of their bodies.

**Griffin:** And then the girl is— and then the girl is happy all the time! It's like, you know what I mean?

**Rachel:** [simultaneously] Yeah, and there's no downsides. No downsides.

**Griffin:** Like, it's just good.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's just good to be happy. Um, but [through laughter] thanks to Maximum Fun.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [through laughter] We've never thanked Maximum Fun before.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [inhales] For having us on the network. Thanks 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. Uh... hey, we got a show coming up next week. I mean, we got lots of shows coming up next week

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But we, me and Rachel, we gotta get that shit ready, huh?

**Rachel:** I know!

**Griffin:** We're gonna be performing here in DC next week at the—

**Rachel:** I was thinking I should've saved Thanksgiving turkey for that one, but I'm sure there's plenty more things to talk about.

**Griffin:** I mean, we gotta talk about the District, baby! We gotta talk about— we have not lived here long enough to be able to extol its virtues. We'll figure something out. Yeah, we're gonna be at the DAR Constitution Hall here in DC. I think *Sawbones* is also gonna be opening with us for *MBMBaM*

**Rachel:** Oh, cool!

**Griffin:** Yeah, I'm excited. Uh, and we're gonna be doing *MBMBaM* in Cincinnati and Detroit, and then we're gonna be doing *MBMBaM* here, and then we're gonna be doing *Adventure Zone Dadlands 2*, with special DM Brennan Lee Mulligan.

**Rachel:** I can't wait, man.

**Griffin:** I cannot fuckin' wait. It's gonna be a hoot. So go get your tickets for that. Go to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family). We'll have links for you there. And that's it! That's it! Have a good, uh— have a good one everybody. Have a fresh Wednesday. Keep it light. Keep it, uhhh... what's wrong?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I'm just trying to... people listen to this show 'cause they need a little, like, huh! A little— you know what I mean?

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** A little, like, "Hah!" And...

**Rachel:** And I feel like they lose that a little bit when at the end you're like—

**Griffin:** I say "Keep it light, keep it tight, uh... "

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** "Keep it— keep it light, keep it tight, keep it so right... going all night... "

**Rachel:** [laughs quietly] Uh-huh. Drink— drink Sprite.

**Griffin:** And this episode is sponsored by Sprite, the Sprite company.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. I like the Sprite in you.

**Griffin:** I like the Sprite in you.

[both laugh]

**Griffin:** What if we had the courage to end every episode like that?

**Rachel:** [laughs loudly] I like the Sprite in you.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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