

## Wonderful! 257: Forget About the 'Bloids

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:** Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is *Wonderful!*

**Griffin:** This is a—ininit? This is the one!

**Rachel:** The year-end spectacular.

**Griffin:** The year-end speckle-er. Speculum. And it's hu—[sighs]

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** We're gonna... s—spread this year—

**Rachel:** [through laughter] Okay.

**Griffin:** —wide open.

**Rachel:** Whew. [hisses]

**Griffin:** And take a deep look inside.

**Rachel:** Whew...

**Griffin:** I wanna congratulate everyone on getting to hear this incredible voice that I'm working with today. Um, what a treat it must be.

**Rachel:** Can I ask you, have you tried clearing your throat?

**Griffin:** [clears throat distantly] How is that?

**Rachel:** Oh. Same.

**Griffin:** Nothin', huh?

**Rachel:** Wow.

**Griffin:** It must not be throat-based. It's a deep... deepness.

**Rachel:** We are having trouble adjusting to the climate.

**Griffin:** It's int—they don't tell you that when you move across the country, but that, because the whole weather and everything is different, your body dies.

**Rachel:** Well, yeah, right? We though, "Okay, it's gonna be colder." Period. We'll just have—

**Griffin:** We can deal with the cold.

**Rachel:** We'll have more winter clothing. Period. We did not realize, like, the whole humidity and the—the rises and falls, and the consecutive days of coldness would—

**Griffin:** And the constant pumping furnace sort of turning me into a jerky man.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Anyway, we're not gonna complain about being jerky men.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** We're not jerky boys today. Today we're... MCs. Of the year-end spectacular.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** A very special thing we do definitely every year on *Wonderful!* for sure, I bet.

**Rachel:** I think we do, actually.

**Griffin:** Maybe.

**Rachel:** We are going to be talking about our favorite hits from episode 211 to episode 256.

**Griffin:** I've also sort of organized mine into broad categories.

**Rachel:** Oh.

**Griffin:** To celebrate this year of ours. Before we get into that, do you have any of the small wonders that I—I need in my life? I'll say, uh, over at Nationals Park where the Washington Nationals play bazeball, uh, they did, like, a huge Christmas lights display called, I believe, Enchant.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Is the name of it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it is.

**Griffin:** It was dope!

**Rachel:** They had Enchant merchandise, and I really had the thought of like, it would be kind of fun to walk around wearing something that said "[dramatic] Enchant... "

**Griffin:** "[dramatic] Enchant... " It was great. They had, like, a billion lights. It was very festive and dreamy, and—

**Rachel:** It's so smart. I mean, I imagine it is a huge production. But it's like, a lot of towns have a baseball stadium that they're not doing anything with in the wintertime.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** It'd be kinda neat to...

**Griffin:** Fill it with Christmas lights, man.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That's the tip. Yeah. There's also ice skating there, but we didn't do that.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** 'Cause I recently learned that it hurts my feet so bad.

**Rachel:** I thought of my thing.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** And it is, uh, when your child gets a haircut.

**Griffin:** I love when your child gets a haircut.

**Rachel:** It's like, uh—it's just—it's interesting, right? 'Cause you get used to your kid having a certain kind of hair. And then when they switch it up...

**Griffin:** It's like a new kid! Who's this new kid in my house?

**Rachel:** Yeah. You have this moment of just like, "Oh, they're... the time is passing."

**Griffin:** Oh, that's good for you?

**Rachel:** "They're getting so old."

**Griffin:** That's not good.

**Rachel:** I don't know, I kind of like it!

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:** Like, here we are in a new phase, and this is what you look like at this phase.

**Griffin:** Yeah. You're not a hungry lil' caterpillar anymore. You're a big caterpillar.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That said, our small son has not had a haircut yes.

**Griffin:** No, he still has all his power.

**Rachel:** That first haircut is pretty emotional.

**Griffin:** Is it?

**Rachel:** Yeah, 'cause they have, like, all the baby hair, and then it's gone forever.

**Griffin:** Then it's gone on the floor. They'll make a—we should make a little doll out of it. We should make a little hair doll.

**Rachel:** We should open an Etsy store and ask people to send us their baby hair and we'll make a—

**Griffin:** Or we just sell our baby hair at a premium. This is podcaster baby hair. And it's costs...

**Rachel:** Oh, okay, okay.

**Griffin:** 50—this is the new gamer girl bathwater. It's podcaster baby hair.

**Rachel:** Okay. You know that first thing you said is not something I'm familiar with, and it's really disturbing.

**Griffin:** I'll explain it. I'll give you your answer off the air.

**Rachel:** Whew, man.

**Griffin:** Do we wanna do this dang thing?

**Rachel:** Yeah, let's do it.

**Griffin:** Can I start with what I think will be a pretty long—this is, like, half my shit right now.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** And so I figure we can have a pretty extended convo about this.

**Rachel:** Let me settle in.

**Griffin:** Settle in, get comfy.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** You ready?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** I think this was the best year of television since I've been alive.

**Rachel:** Whoaaa!

**Griffin:** I think this was the best TV year in my whole-ass lifetime. And we talked about a lot of it on this show. Most of it relegated to the small wonders segment, with a few exceptions. But when I was going through that list, I was like, "Wow. That's a lot of good TV. I wonder even if there's stuff we didn't talk about." And then I started to look at, like, other best TV of the year lists, and I was like, "Yeah, there is!"

There's so much great—

**Rachel:** That's interesting. You know—

**Griffin:** Just off the top of your head, can you recall the great TV that we have discussed on the show this year? Maybe while take a little time to say [crosstalk].

**Rachel:** [simultaneously] Okay. Uh, *Severance*.

**Griffin:** *Severance*. The fuckin' best finale... of any TV—best season finale I've ever seen.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah. Oh, man.

**Griffin:** Had me jumping up and down screaming. What a great show. Brilliantly acted. Just a masterpiece of a show. Probably my favorite. *Severance*.

**Rachel:** There was the show that was on the network that not a lot of people have that we really liked.

**Griffin:** Wow, wow, wow. So that's Peacock. You're talking about *The Resort*, I think.

**Rachel:** Yes. [laughs]

**Griffin:** With Cristin Milioti. Yeah.

**Rachel:** Yes. *The Resort*. Very good.

**Griffin:** Great! Great mystery. Uh, lots of cool vibes on that show. Neat little time-travel kind of stuff happening.

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** Really good show! *Lost*—*Lost*-esque, noodle-scratcher.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Love *The Resort*. Gotta watch *The Resort*. You are actually going down my list beat for beat.

**Rachel:** In order?

**Griffin:** I wonder if you can pull the third one.

**Rachel:** Uh...

**Griffin:** Other great TV we've talked about on this show.

**Rachel:** Uh, I think I'm out.

**Griffin:** Really?!

**Rachel:** I mean, if you give me a hint?

**Griffin:** Uhh... Nathan Fielder did this one.

**Rachel:** Ohhh, *The Rehearsal*.

**Griffin:** *The Rehearsal!*

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** What a—groundbreaking.

**Rachel:** I still maintain that that holiday episode with the snow and the shot—

**Griffin:** Where he secretly gives the child sort of Jewish lessons?

**Rachel:** Yeah, and the shot of them, like, very carefully placing all of the snow in, like, a circle around the house—I mean, it's just a beautiful episode.

**Griffin:** It's maybe the most ambitious show.

**Rachel:** We should watch that again now that it is the holiday season.

**Griffin:** Yes. I would be totally down for that.



**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Ethically choppy waters, *The Rehearsal*.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Griffin:** But some of the funniest shit I saw on TV this year, and also just, like—the production of this show is just a marvel.

**Rachel:** So, so ambitious. Like, just unreal, like, what he takes on in that show.

**Griffin:** We are not even halfway through my list.

**Rachel:** Okay, I'm sorry.

**Griffin:** How about *Only Murders in the Building* season two?

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** Fuckin' fantastic. As long as we're doing future seasons, *Stranger Things* season four I thought was killer this year.

**Rachel:** It was really good.

**Griffin:** I had a good time with that.

**Rachel:** We, like, put off watching that season because we were kind of, like, trying to remember, what is it we were super excited about with this show? And then that season just knocked it out of the park.

**Griffin:** It really reminds you. Really reminds you. *Murderville. Murderville.*

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** And while we're on the topic of *Murderville*, there is a holiday special.

**Rachel:** Oh my gosh, yes.

**Griffin:** *Murderville* is the somewhat improvised Will Arnett procedural cop drama where they bring in a celebrity every week—or I guess they've only done, what, like eight episodes or something like that? So not every week. But every episode brings in a celebrity, and they're the only ones who don't have a script for the episode. So they have to improvise and try and solve the murder while everybody else is working with a script. The holiday special stars Jason Bateman and Maya Rudolph and a third guest that they kind of keep the surprise, so I won't spoil it, I guess.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean, there's more celebrity guests, too.

**Griffin:** There's more celebrity guests, too. Marshawn Lynch makes a cameo coming back, who is the fucking funniest dude from the first run of episodes.

**Rachel:** If you are a fan of the deep friendship of Will Arnett and Jason Bateman, this special—this special's for you.

**Griffin:** [simultaneously] And Sean! Sean shows up too.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's—god almighty, I was dying. None of the celebrities know that the other celebrities are gonna be there.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And so when Maya Rudolph shows up there's, like, a nice beat where Jason Bateman and Maya Rudolph are just, like, excited to see each other?

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's—it's, uh—it's marvelous. I got *Bluey* on here. Just, like...

**Rachel:** Well, yeah.

**Griffin:** I think perennially you can just kind of have *Bluey* on anything.

**Rachel:** Yeah, *Bluey* would be every year.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Uh, *Andor* I know you didn't watch, but one of the best Star Wars things I've seen, period. *The Bear*!

**Rachel:** *The Bear*... oh, man.

**Griffin:** Special commendations for that one, like, 17 minute episode of *The Bear* that's a one that is very intense, and really, really, really good. Just that one-shot episode was one of the coolest things I saw on TV this year. Barry season three.

**Rachel:** Wow, yeah!

**Griffin:** This was all this year!

**Rachel:** That is kind of crazy.

**Griffin:** It's fucking wild! I'm not even done yet. *The Afterparty* was this year.

**Rachel:** Oh my god!

**Griffin:** *The Afterparty*, the murder-mystery show on Apple TV.

**Rachel:** With Ben Schwartz.

**Griffin:** With Ben Schwartz. I'm gonna fail at pulling every—

**Rachel:** Sam Richardson.

**Griffin:** Sam Richardson was in it. Oh my god, who's the lady—

**Rachel:** Ilana Glazer.

**Griffin:** Ilana Glazer. Who was the lady who plays the cop? Why can't I remember her name?

**Rachel:** Tiffany Haddish.

**Griffin:** Tiffany Haddish! So fuckin' funny, and another great mystery! What a good year for mysteries! *Our Flag Means Death*.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Sure. I think that may have been on last year, but we watched it this year, so I'm gonna give it [crosstalk].

**Rachel:** Yeah, that's fair.

**Griffin:** That's... wild that all of that happened this year.

**Rachel:** That is crazy. Well, and it's, like, all, for the most part anyway, new. Like, new stuff. Like, new shows that we just kind of stumbled into, and absolutely loved.

**Griffin:** I didn't even go—like, I know there's a lot of shows that we don't watch that people are huge fans of. Apparently people are wild about *White Lotus* season two. I didn't watch season one. You did. Uh, it's—it's just—I don't know why the stars have aligned in this way, but it is the best year of TV I can—not even that I can remember. I will say definitively in the 35 years I've been alive, there have not been—

**Rachel:** Wow!

**Griffin:** —this many kickass television shows. Uh, I feel like our plate was never empty. Between this and hockey, and our usual reality trash—

**Rachel:** Reality garbage, yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] I'm glad that we both landed on that some place. *Survivor* kicked ass this year. *Amazing Race* kicked ass this year. The Blues are starting to get fun again to watch. It's just—man. Thank you, TV. Well done.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That was a big segment.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I know, right?

**Rachel:** I want to talk—I talked a lot about television too, but in kind of a novelty way?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Um, I talked about the cheese pull. That's how I kind of started this year, more or less.

**Griffin:** That was the vibe you were in when we started the year is the cheese pull.

**Rachel:** It's so fun to, like, know about that phenomenon now and, like, see it everywhere.

**Griffin:** Can you describe the cheese pull? 'Cause this was a year ago.

**Rachel:** I mean, it's the technology and the effort that goes into, like, for example when you pull a piece of pizza out of its... brethren. [laughs] And the cheese—

**Griffin:** Whoa!

**Rachel:** —the cheese that stretches to say "Don't leave us, pizza."

**Griffin:** When you remove it... from its commune.

**Rachel:** [through laughter] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** From the coven.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** The pizza coven.

**Rachel:** [laughs] It's that last gasp of like, "Wait, wait, wait!"

**Griffin:** "Wait, wait, wait! Don't let me go!"

**Rachel:** "[pained sound]" That's a cheese pull.

**Griffin:** That's said. You made cheese pull sad, kind of.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, I also talked about Cletus the football robot. You remember that?

**Griffin:** From the NFL's, like—

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah!

**Griffin:** —interstitial cuts, graphic, motion graphics? Yeah.

**Rachel:** I looked to see if there was any updates on this. There is not. There is no new, to my knowledge, football robot in the works.

**Griffin:** No?

**Rachel:** Yeah, no.

**Griffin:** Oh, man. Bring it—come on, Pixar.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I assume Pixar made the first one. The graphics are just outta sight.

**Rachel:** I also talked about the McDonald's theme, which you did not know the lengthy history of.

**Griffin:** No!

**Rachel:** Um, which is great. Uh, and infomercials, too. I talked about kind of the phenomenon behind the infomercial. Um, so yeah. So mine, more on the fringe. Oh, *The More You Know*. I also talked about *The More You Know*.

**Griffin:** A lot of jingles.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean, I guess that's powerful for me.

**Griffin:** Oh, can I jump in here and say, I don't even think I talked about this on the show. Defunctland did an episode about the Disney Channel four note kind of, like, stinger that they play in every sort of, like, "Coming up next on—"

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Uh, and it ran for, like, forever, and Defunctland did a special about who wrote that four note stinger. Uh, that was, like, one of my favorite things. It's on YouTube, it's free. It's like an hour and a half long. It's great. It's in a very similar vein to the McDonald's theme song.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, yeah. I think that was it for, like, weird TV stuff that I wanted to talk about. But man, I love that stuff.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Big fan.

**Griffin:** I'm gonna say space had a good year.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** We had the James Webb telescope. I forget the name of it. But we took our first deep field photographs with that bad boy this year, and got some truly just awe-inspiring glimpses of the heavens, of the cosmos. And that was very, very exciting to me. Also, we did crash something into an asteroid. Very far away, very fast with NASA's DART mission. And that

was pretty radical, too. We got my two favorite things about space: the glory and majesty of discovering the infinite expanse...

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

**Griffin:** ... and get that good sort of, like, uh... small blue dot just kind of, like, existential wonder. And then also the assurance that if a asteroid tries to come correct at *our* planet? We can blow that shit up. Kind of.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Maybe. Theoretically. If someone tries to—if some comet tries to—

**Rachel:** Does that bring you comfort?

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** Okay. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Have you seen—sorry. Have you seen *Deep Impact*?

**Rachel:** No, actually.

**Griffin:** It's the scariest movie I've ever seen.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** No spoilers. But Téa Leoni... gets blowed up. [wheeze-laughs] By an asteroid.

**Rachel:** That seems—that seems like a pretty big spoiler, actually.

**Griffin:** Toodly Doodly gets completely blasted.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Why did we start calling her Toody Doodly? Do you remember that?



**Rachel:** I mean, I don't think that was our show, was it? [laughs] It seems like—it seems—

**Griffin:** It wasn't a show. Like, we—we—

**Rachel:** It seems more MBMBaM. Oh! You mean—

**Griffin:** No, it was because she was on *Madam President* and, like, was showed up at the top banner of Apple TV every time we turned it on for, like, a year. And would be like, "There's Toody Doodly here waiting for us."

**Rachel:** [laughs] Oh, so you don't—you think that was just, like, an us thing.

**Griffin:** *Madam Secretary* was the name of the show, not *Madam President*, yeah. That was fuckin' eight years ago. I don't know why I... my brain. [laughs] My drug-addled brain. My Sudafed-addled brain. Anyway.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah. Um, we also did I believe two live shows this year. We did St. Louis and Washington, DC.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** Obviously you did a lot more. But, like, as far as *Wonderful!* The podcast.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Uh, and that St. Louis show, man. Like, I still think about that one.

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah, dude! Me too!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I think about—can I pull the movie theater chain?

**Rachel:** Ooh, this would be impressive, 'cause this did not exist outside of the Midwest.

**Griffin:** It's—[stammering]—it's like, Bren—Brendon Burr—Bren—  
[crosstalk]—

**Rachel:** There is Berg at the end.

**Griffin:** Berg.

**Rachel:** I don't see how you're gonna get the first part.

**Griffin:** Let me whisper it.

**Rachel:** I mean, if you can remember the song.

**Griffin:** [whispering] Berg. Bren—Bra—Bray Berg. [loudly] Fuck! No, I can't. What is it?

**Rachel:** Wehrenberg.

**Griffin:** Wehrenberg. [whispering] Wehrenberg.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [whispering] Wehrenberg.

**Rachel:** I didn't realize that you probably had this experience, since you have performed in Huntington. But the insider knowledge I had about St. Louis...

**Griffin:** Intoxicating.

**Rachel:** It was just so lovely to bring that on a stage full of people who were going to, like, be right there with me.

**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah, I talked about Wehrenberg Theaters, I talked about Spuds McKenzie, i talked about Vest Soda. [laughs] These are all very niche—although Spuds—you knew about Spuds, right?

**Griffin:** I knew about Spuds McKenzie. I mean, vaguely. I wasn't like a huge follower of... of Mr. Mckenzie.

**Rachel:** The DC show, also great, but I was super insecure the whole time.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Because we are so new on the scene to be like "Let me tell you what your city's good at." [laughs]

**Griffin:** We also wildly over-prepared for that show, and so we were, like, zoomin' through some—I think you had a topic that you didn't even get to, the gargoyles.

**Rachel:** Yeah, uh-huh.

**Griffin:** But we got there. We talked about them gargoyles. Rachel loves the cartoon *Gargoyles*.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, hey, let me steal you away, and then we'll knock at the rest of the year in the back half.

**Rachel:** Okay.

[ad break]

**Griffin:** Oh my god, we have a grumblebob here. It's been ages. This one's for Eleanor. It's from Corrine, who says:

"Eleanor! My love, my life, my DM, it's Corrine. Hey! Thank you for being the kindest and most wonderful, lol, partner I could ask for. I love being queer as heck with you. Since we first bonded over Monster Factory, #finalpam, I

found it only fitting to have a McElroy [increasing intensity] ask you this question for me. Will you marry me?"

**Rachel:** [laughs] As you can tell, we don't read these before we say them.

**Griffin:** What the hey! That's huge! Congratulations! I mean, I'm assuming... I'm assuming you said yes. Congratulations!

**Rachel:** And they—they met...

**Griffin:** December 23rd, 2022. We're a little early. I hope that's... I hope that's okay. You have to know when the episodes come out, yes? This is huge for me! It's been so long!

**Rachel:** It really has! Well, should we leave some space?

**Griffin:** Oh, they definitely already answered. It would be wild if they were sitting there waiting for the two audio voices—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** —on the audio—on the mp3 they're listening to to respond. I guess—okay. Here's your chance.

[brief pause]

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Rachel:** Congratulations!

**Griffin:** Congratulations.

**Rachel:** Either way. [laughs]

[music plays]

[dog barks]

**Ella:** Hi, everyone! I'm Ella McLeod.

**Alexis:** And I'm Alexis B. Preston.

**Ella:** And we host a show called *Comfort Creatures*. The show for every animal lover, be it a creature of scales, six legs, fur, feathers, or fiction. *Comfort Creatures* is a show for people who prefer their friends to have paws instead of hands.

**Alexis:** Unless they are raccoon hands. That is okay.

**Ella:** That is absolutely okay, yeah.

**Alexis:** Yes. Every Thursday, we will be talking to guests about their pets, learning about pets in history, art, and even fiction. Plus, while discover differences between pet ownership across the pond. It's gonna be a hoot, on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

**Justin:** Hi, everybody! My name is Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:** And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:** Dr. Sydnee McElroy, you mean.

**Sydnee:** That—that is true.

**Justin:** It's important in this context, because we host a medical history podcast called *Sawbones*.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] *Sawbones*.

**Justin:** Oh, I thought we were gonna—we should've worked on that.

**Sydnee:** *Sawbones*.

**Justin:** *Sawbones* isn't afraid to ask the hard-hitting questions, like are vaccines as safe as reliable as they want us to believe?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** Do I have to get a flu shot?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** O—okay. Is science a miracle?

**Sydnee:** No?

**Justin:** We have a lot of great history for you, and a lot of laughs, and sometimes the history is so bad that there's no laughs. But...

**Sydnee:** You'll learn something. You'll feel something.

**Justin:** And it's always *Sawbones*.

**Sydnee:** That's right.

**Justin:** [through laughter] Every week on Maximumfun.org.

[music and ad end]

**Griffin:** Can I say... TV? Best year ever.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** We didn't get out to the theater so much.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** For this one. We do have a baby, and that makes it hard to... do anything.

**Rachel:** Yeah. We got on a path for a while of, like, finding time during the day to go see a movie, but we haven't done that since we moved here.

**Griffin:** No, no, not at all. I think the last movie I saw here—I think the only movie I've seen here was the *DC League of Super-Pets*.

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah!

**Griffin:** With Henry. Great flick. Had a great time at that one.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Did I go see *Buzz Lightyear? The Light*—no, that was before we moved here. Anyway...

**Rachel:** Was that before we moved?

**Griffin:** I think so? Maybe it was here. Anyway...

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Couldn't matter less. But my favorite of all time came out this year. It was *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. The best movie I've ever seen. The most fun I've ever had in a movie theater seeing a movie was this movie. What a—

**Rachel:** That was an incredible movie.

**Griffin:** What a great film... to witness with your human consciousness. But also that it, like, blew up in the way that it did was really delightful for me. I think about that movie all the time, even though we haven't rewatched it. I have wanted to, but it also feel—I'm worried I won't like it as much the second time around? That's probably a silly concern. Uh, but yeah.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah. I mean, it's just such an epic movie. You go on such a huge journey that it does seem a little daunting to watch it again.

**Griffin:** It does. I'm not saying, by the way, that no other good movies came out this year?

**Rachel:** Yeah, that's just the one we say. [laughs]

**Griffin:** It's just the one that we did see was that one. Maybe [crosstalk].

**Rachel:** We really prioritized that one, too. I feel like we were like "We have to figure out a way to see this."

**Griffin:** Even though we didn't, like, know much about it. We saw a trailer and were like, "That looks cool." And then we went to it, and it was the best movie I've ever seen. My favorite movie.

**Rachel:** I got confused—I don't know if you noticed this on wonderful.fyi—Travis was in our list. And I was like, "What was that? Why did we—" and then I realized we put out a call on our Facebook site, or at least I did, that was like "What haven't we talked about that you want us to talk about?"

And I think I tweeted it, too. Because I was like, "Why did I talk about what it looks like after it rains?" Then it was like, "Oh! That was recommended to us."

And when I tweeted it, Travis was also like, "Hey. You should get—you guys should talk about me." And we did! It was nice.

**Griffin:** Yeah, and we did. [fake angry] But I'm not gonna do it again. He got his!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [fake angry] He knows how I feel about him. I love him very much. Justin, too. Dad's alright. [normal tone] No, I'm kidding.

**Rachel:** Are you saying that so, like, they don't do a gotcha thing where they pull a quote out of context?

**Griffin:** In what... like, when we see them for Christmas next week?



**Rachel:** [laughs] No. Like, if, you know, and then the news would be like, "Griffin McElroy says he doesn't wanna talk about Travis anymore."

**Griffin:** Ohhh, the tabloids.

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

**Griffin:** I always forget about the 'bloids.

**Rachel:** Yeah, they're always—I mean—

**Griffin:** The 'bloids are always trying to trick me.

**Rachel:** They're right outside of our door at all times.

**Griffin:** I don't like it. Uh, music. You got any music stuff on your list? I feel like I talked about a lot of—

**Rachel:** Uh, Lawrence.

**Griffin:** Lawrence was on here too. Yeah, baby.

**Rachel:** They're on tour right now, actually. They're doing a New Year's Eve show in New York.

**Griffin:** [whispering] *Fuck*, I bet that would be fun.

**Rachel:** I know. It would be really fun.

**Griffin:** There's no way. There's no way.

**Rachel:** No. There's no way.

**Griffin:** There's no way.

**Rachel:** There's no need—

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly] As long as we both acknowledge that.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Why even think about it?

**Griffin:** Yeah. The “Don't Lose Sight” sort of live performance video that you brought to the show actually came out last September. But I have watched that video... 30 times?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So good. So powerful.

**Rachel:** Very good.

**Griffin:** And then I've got sort of their tunes on rotation. I brought Indigo De Souza this year. I don't think she had an album out in 2022, but a lot of listening. I'll tell you what did come out this year is Montaigne's *Making It* came out this year. What a jam. What an album full of jams. My favorite track "Now In Space." The music video is so fun. Just Montaigne going on outer space adventures. You gotta watch that one. You gotta bump to the song.

Also gonna give special shoutout to the team up from Griff and Sigrid, two artists who I have individually brought to the show before. A track, "Head on Fire," did come out this year. That is one of my favorites of the 2022. What else—what else you got?

**Rachel:** I mean, obviously a lot of really good poets.

**Griffin:** Oh, sure.

**Rachel:** It's kind of—you know, not like I'm gonna, like, read the poem again, so it's difficult to kind of, like, talk about it again. I did start out the year with Maggie Smith, who wrote that poem that was just so widely circulated about, like, trying to present the best world possible to your kids.

**Griffin:** Oh yeah. Good Bones?

**Rachel:** That—yes. Exactly. That really brought a lot of people into poetry, which was exciting.

**Griffin:** I think it speaks to the power of that poem that I remember the title of it.

**Rachel:** Yes! Yes.

**Griffin:** Like, 11 months later.

**Rachel:** I shouldn't have left music, though, because I did talk about *Jock Jams* this year. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Dammit! Now let's go back to music. Come on in, *Jock Jams*. You're here. I love all the new 2022 *Jock Jams* that came out. I think that they were...

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

**Griffin:** I think they have really evolved their craft, in a way.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I don't know. Do you have more?

**Griffin:** I do. I mean, late entry, but the Huracan Sterrato commercial has really, I would say, spoiled my brain meat. Like a ham left out in the hot summer sun.

**Rachel:** I need to watch this one again. I don't know if you have this experience—

**Griffin:** "[gruff voice] This one's—" oh, my voice! I could maybe do it! "[gruff voice] This one's for you."

**Rachel:** [laughs] That's really good. [laughs] Um, when I watch something that's really absurdist, it's very difficult for me to remember it after it's over, and that is definitely true with that commercial. Is that if you had to ask me what happens in it, I would just say that it's very dusty.

**Griffin:** It is quite—it is quite dusty. I was trying to find, like, a whole transcript of the commercial to see if I could...

**Rachel:** Do the whole thing?

**Griffin:** Here it is, here we go. "[gruff voice] This one's for you. Concrete yearner, tamer of curves, master of speed. Wear your finest suit. Dirt is made for it." Dirt is made for my finest suit?!

**Rachel:** That's confusing, I think. And I would imagine that a lot of people would say a Men's Warehouse would say no.

**Griffin:** No, don't do that.

**Rachel:** Don't do that.

**Griffin:** "[gruff voice] Let the show-off begin!" Fuckin' the best. "Let adrenaline and fun collide, spraying grans of dust aside. It's no fill, this is design. Any amount of grime is fine."

Let those words carry you through 2023.

**Rachel:** So confusing! When it starts rhyming and you're like, "Wait! Has it been rhyming the whole time? Or did it—"

**Griffin:** It hasn't!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** It has not. "Dust is gold. Dirt's for the bold." The best ever. I'm also gonna say *Kirby and the Forgotten Land*.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I played that game so much with my darling son, Henry. And it really taught—he did not play video games that were, like, I don't know, not sort of iPad games or—

**Rachel:** Yeah, and he hasn't really much lately at all. I mean, we've done a little *Minecraft*, but I would say—

**Griffin:** I did some *Minecraft*, a little *Roblox*.

**Rachel:** —the times that he was playing *Kirby*? I mean, it was like every day.

**Griffin:** It was every day. And the fact that it was a co-op game meant I could get in there too. And it was really fun—one, playing the game. It's an excellent game. Two, playing games with my son. Fantastic. But watching him also kind of learn how to play games through this one game is, like, really neat. 'Cause I can think about those, like, the original *Super Mario Brothers*, like, *Final Fantasy II*, like, I can think of these games that were very foundational for me, that were like the first one I played. And it's cool that, like, that one was definitely his, and it's neat. That was this year.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Anything else? Anything else you want to say about the year? I know we're—

**Rachel:** I mean, we moved here. That's pretty big.

**Griffin:** We moved to Warshington DC.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, boy. Miss Austin something fierce. Miss all of our friends there.

**Rachel:** Yeah. It's mostly, honestly, like 95% our friends I think that we miss.

**Griffin:** I would say 99% our—I would say 95% our friends, 5%... the tacos here aren't quite as good.

**Rachel:** True.

**Griffin:** That's maybe it?

**Rachel:** I mean, there is, like, a vibe to Austin. Because the weather is so livable most of the year, there is a very, like, outdoor patio, margaritas on 3 PM on a Sunday kind of vibe.

**Griffin:** [simultaneously] I do love that kind of vibe, yeah.

**Rachel:** A lot of, like, breweries with, you know, places to put your kids so you can drink a beer.

**Griffin:** I miss HEB. Miss Central Market. Wegmans is growing on me, though.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I do love Wegmans.

**Griffin:** Big fan of a Wegmans, DC.

**Rachel:** I know. We were so critical of their chips.

**Griffin:** Well, they make shitty chips.

**Rachel:** Except we haven't gotten the brown bag chips that are supposed to be...

**Griffin:** The brown bag chips are supposed to be dope.

**Rachel:** We haven't had any.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Miss Austin. Oh, the hard—the large hardware store experience in Austin beats the shit.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Going to a Home Depot or a Lowe's or an ACE here in DC sucks the moon out of the sky.

**Rachel:** It's just—it's a very dense city. Like, we haven't had the experience as adults with children of living in a dense city like this, and so we didn't realize, like, there's only one location of a particular store, and everybody goes there. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Everyone goes there, and it's a nightmare. Other than that, DC, unmitigated success,

**Rachel:** Yeah. No, we—I mean, everybody we—

**Griffin:** [simultaneously] This move. Public transit, we love it. Museums, so good.

**Rachel:** Everybody we've met has been, like, super friendly and excited for us to, like, be in their city, and I feel like Henry has adjusted really, really well. And Gus would... probably we could put him anywhere. He'd be okay. [laughs]

**Griffin:** We could put that kid anywhere. He's pretty chill, yeah. One of my highlights of the year museum-wise was the Children's Museum here in DC which kicks ass year-round. Had this *Inside Out* exhibit that was all about your feelings!

**Rachel:** So good!

**Griffin:** And you got to, like, draw your favorite memories on these sheets of paper and slide 'em into these little slots, and the balls would light up in the color of the type of memory that you're telling? Oh my god.

**Rachel:** So well done. That's ending, too. That is a temporary exhibit, so I'm glad we got in there.

**Griffin:** I'm not sure when it's—is it still open? If it's still open and you live in DC and you have kids, or even if you don't and you love—actually, I don't know if they'll let you into the kids museum without kids. But yeah, it was a... exhausting... probably one of the more ambitious and exhausting projects we've ever taken on.

**Rachel:** Moving here.

**Griffin:** Is moving our entire family... across, like, halfway across the country, quite literally. But it's very, very cool to—I still am very excited to live here, like, every day.

**Rachel:** Yeah, me too.

**Griffin:** And that is... that's super great. And also we're gonna drive to Huntington here in a couple days.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** And that's fun. We haven't done that.

**Rachel:** To be continued on that one. We'll see.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** We'll see.

**Griffin:** So we are doing this special now because we are not going to have an episode next week. Pretty much all the shows are taking next week off so that the whole sort of extended staff of our company can enjoy the end of the year. So this is it for us. We will be back in 2023. Anything else you want to say before we part? I mean, obviously thanks to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." Which this week you can't find a link to that in the episode description. Just kidding, you can.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's one of my last pranks of the year.

**Rachel:** Oh! I want to remind people, if you haven't purchased the Oops! All Poetry Corner episode of *Wonderful!* you can still do that.

**Griffin:** Yes!



**Rachel:** Um, if you go to McElroy Merch, you can find it there. And, you know, the requested donation amount is a dollar, but you can give more if you would like, and it is a—basically a full episode of *Wonderful!* Except it is all my favorite Poetry Corners since the beginning of the Poetry Corner.

**Griffin:** It's amazing.

**Rachel:** And it is lovely, and I would recommend it.

**Griffin:** We also—you can still watch on-demand the Candlesnights special. If you missed that, [bit.ly/candlesnights2022](https://bit.ly/candlesnights2022), I think through January 2nd, I want to say. So if you weren't able to watch that last Saturday, you should watch it, because I think it's really great, and—

**Rachel:** We are particularly proud of our segment, I would say.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Um... so that's it. Thanks to Max Fun for having on the network. Hey, thanks to Rachel Jacobs, who edits our show.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** We thank her on a lot of our other programs, but we fail to do so on this one, partially I think because... she has the same first name as you, and that can get super confusing for people.

**Rachel:** It does get confusing! People are like, "Oh, are you editing the podcast?" And I'm like, "I wouldn't even know how to start."

**Griffin:** No. But Rachel does an amazing job with our show, and all of our shows, and we're so grateful. Everybody we work with.

**Rachel:** Yeah, thank you to Amanda. Amanda is the one that put together that special episode of *Wonderful!* That turned out so well.

**Griffin:** She does so much. She does so much for our business. And the fact that she also put together that very special episode was, uh, just—just excellent.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Well, and the fact that everybody listens to the shows! I don't know why that surprised me. I imagine that wasn't a requirement when you hired people. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like, "You have to listen to all of them." But it's so—

**Griffin:** No, we don't have a sort of sycophant clause.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [laughs] But it's so nice to, like, to hear from the folks that support y'all.

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah. It's been a, uh, a wild year. But I would say it's been a very exciting year, 2022.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** 2022 got me excited.

**Rachel:** To take on something like this, like, I really—and I've told this to Griffin a few times. Like, when I left Chicago I was like, "Well, that's the last time I'm gonna live in a big city. That was my 20's. I guess that's not a thing that I can do."

**Griffin:** Austin's a big city, but it's not, like...

**Rachel:** But, like, a dense, very urban area.

**Griffin:** Metropolitan, yeah.

**Rachel:** Yeah. And then Austin—I mean, Austin got to be real easy for me in the sense that, like, I knew where everything was, I knew how long it took to get there. Like, if I needed something I could find it. All my doctors or whatever. And I was just like, this—this could be very easy to settle in here, and be, you know, happy. And then we made this decision and I'm really glad we did.

**Griffin:** It's funny. Where we lived in Austin, everything was 15 minutes away. And I think no matter where you live in DC, everything is 30 minutes away.

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

**Griffin:** [through laughter] So it's a little bit longer.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But there is a lot of stuff, so. A lot more stuff. So it's—you know, it's a trade-off. It's a trade-off.

That's it. Thank you all so much for listening. We hope that you have a great holidays. We hope you enjoy the rest of your year. We hope you can get by without us.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I don't know if that's... shitty to say. Um... but that's—that's it. We sure do appreciate you.

**Rachel:** Thank you to Maximum Fun, if we haven't—

**Griffin:** I already said that. I think.

**Rachel:** Alright. Well, thank you again.

**Griffin:** Thanks again, Max Fun.

**Rachel:** Great network.

**Griffin:** Great, great network. One of the best, I would say. One of the best podcast networks. Top—top 10. No, it's the best.

**Rachel:** And, you know, everybody enjoy this very cold, but very, as our son would say, heartwarming time of year.

**Griffin:** Yep. Goodbye!

**Rachel:** Bye!

[theme music plays]

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