

## Wonderful 10: Undertaker Battle

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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:**

It's a great show, everyone says.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I'm so grateful to you, Rachel, my wife, and I'm not gonna say it the way that you want me to say it. You know, the Borat way.

**Rachel:**

Oh, please don't.

**Griffin:**

Everybody wants me to do it right now, but it's... Right now, I'm just gonna deny you that pleasure. I'm so excited that you waited until I was done doing my big, big stretch before you started talking 'cause I know sometimes you like to put me on the spot.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I was doing the biggest stretch ever, like a kitty cat in the sun.

**Rachel:**

No, I want you to do more stretching.

**Griffin:**

So does literally every medical professional that I've ever talked to.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I think your life would be vastly improved.

**Griffin:**

I was— I was talking to Rachel about this just before we started recording. I've been doing baby lifts where I— When I pick up and drop off Henry at daycare, uh, it... Our baby is not a huge baby, but in the car seat, the whole production...

**Rachel:**

Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:**

... weighs about 75-100 pounds.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

So, I'll just do some lifts in there to get yoked 'cause the Undertaker... You know him?

**Rachel:**

Uh, the wrestler?

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

He challenged me to a big fight.

**Rachel:**

Ooh.

**Griffin:**

Uh, not televised wrestling, like an actual punching and hitting fight. And I don't know if you seen, he's about 60 years old and so I do have that in my corner. But he's 60 years of just pure muscle mass and so I'm trying to get my gains where I can 'cause I don't— He is the Undertaker.

**Rachel:**

Didn't we hear he lives in Austin?

**Griffin:**

He lives in Austin, of course. That's... And that's why I wronged him. We were checking out the HEB, I grabbed the last box of Tic Tacs and he was like, "I want those."

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

And I was like, "Mr. Taker, you need to chill the fuck out, dude." And he was like, "I'm gonna do a punch fight on you November 10th," which is coming up. I don't have much time. It's like three days from now.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that's real soon.

**Griffin:**

So, I gotta get strong and I've been doing the baby lifts and it requires a lot of stretching. 'Cause if I lose the fight, you know he is, like, the coffin man, and he'll put me right in one.

**Rachel:**

Oh, gosh. He got the scariest little things that he does, you know.

**Griffin:**

Well...

**Rachel:**

With his eyes.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, the eyes thing is pretty good. The just making your neck bulge out until new sort of uncharted veins... Every time he does his entrance, like, there's doctors watching him like, "Mm, mm, new veins, new veins. Interesting." They're writing down in their little nerd notebooks.

**Rachel:**

They're naming, they're naming the veins after him.

**Griffin:**

But when you're a 60, 70 year old, uh, professor— Uh, professional wrestler, I don't know, it's less...

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Professor of wrestling.

**Griffin:**

Professor of wrestling.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, I don't know, it's less intimidating. More like, "Whoa, dude, chill. You just slow down." And that's the thing I've got to contend with, what if I get way too baby strong and I kill the Undertaker in the fight we have?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I have heard... I'm a big My Brother, My Brother and Me fan, and I feel like I have heard...

**Griffin:**

Oh, shit. You're right. Take it back.

**Rachel:**

I have heard you say this before, that you are afraid that the fight you get into, um, will be the one where you accidentally kill someone.

**Griffin:**

Is that true? Oh, I thought you were talking about my longstanding feud with Goldust, which I did mention on the show.

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

No, that's Travis'... That's more Travis' thing.

**Rachel:**

Oh, really?

**Griffin:**

'Cause Travis thinks he's so strong he would punch somebody to death. But this is not a hypothetical situation, this is my... What, today's the 7th and it's Tuesday? Eight, nine, Friday. Yeah, I— It's kill or be killed, me and the Undertaker. So, either this is the last episode of Wonderful or WrestleMania's gonna be a little disappointing this year, I guess.

**Rachel:**

Well, it's, you know, it's funny you should mention that because I did have a conversation actually with the Undertaker.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

And if he wins, I'll just do Wonderful with him.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

So, don't, don't worry, listeners...

**Griffin:**

You gonna marry—

**Rachel:**

Don't worry.

**Griffin:**

Hey, are you gonna marry him?

**Rachel:**

No, of course not.

**Griffin:**

You're never gonna remarry, right, after the Undertaker takes me into the ground?

**Rachel:**

I'm not planning on it.

**Griffin:**

Oh, you better not...

**Rachel:**

I'd say—

**Griffin:**

... 'cause I'll come back a vengeful spirit.

**Rachel:**

... I'd say about 88% sure.

**Griffin:**

Every episode of Wonderful after this one, 'cause let's be honest, I'm not gonna win.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Unless I start doing some, like, really serious baby, you know, crunches and lifts right now. Um, every episode, you're gonna hear... Home listener, you're gonna hear a weird crackling in the background. That's me haunting it because I've come back as a vengeful spirit 'cause you're hosting it with my killer, who is the Undertaker.

**Rachel:**

And he'll be like, "Hey, Undertaker, get away from [Borat voice] my wife."

**Griffin:**

And then, but then, I'll be like... And then in the background, you'll hear like... [imitates static crackling]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Who goes first this time?

**Rachel:**

I think it's me.

**Griffin:**

I think it is you.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. So, Griffin and I again had the same fear that we would be covering the same topics, but I don't think, I don't think we have to worry that.

**Griffin:**

I think this is the one, dude.

**Rachel:**

I don't think so.

**Griffin:**

I think this is the one.

**Rachel:**

'Cause I feel like I know what you're gonna say.

**Griffin:**

Okay. Let's see what you got to say.

**Rachel:**

Let me pull out my...

**Griffin:**

I'm saying if it's— If we—

**Rachel:**

... typed up piece of paper.

**Griffin:**

We've been on a streak now of, like, talking about things that we have been experiencing in the past week. And if we do that, we're gonna double up.

**Rachel:**

I don't think it's happening.

**Griffin:**

All right, do it.

**Rachel:**

The League of Women Voters. [laughs]



**Griffin:**

Okay, not my... I do love the League of Women Voters, but that was, I will admit, not my thing.

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

Uh, League of Women Voters. I... So, two things. One, uh, I know they're very helpful in helping me stay informed on some lesser known topics...

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... when election season's rolling around.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Especially in years like this one, uh, where there's not like a ton on the Texas ballot. Uh, by the way, I hope you all voted. This is our election special. And you missed it if you didn't. Shoot.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Not exactly time... [crosstalk]

**Griffin:**

The other things, I get 'em confused with the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen with...

**Rachel:**

Oh, that's fun.

**Griffin:**

... Sean Connery in it.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

But it's not that.

**Rachel:**

Or the Justice League.

**Griffin:**

Or the Justice League or, um...

**Rachel:**

League of Their Own?

**Griffin:**

League of Their Own is another thing with league in it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It... Um, Major League with, uh...

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Television show The League. Legally Blonde. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

No, that's a different... Uh, tell me all about the League of Women Voters.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

The League of Extraordinary Women Voters.

**Rachel:**

And so I actually like it for the same reason Griffin does. Um, around election season, I always go to their website because they put out, uh, non-partisan information about the elections. And this group was actually started in 1920. Uh, it was just six months before the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. Uh, and the whole purpose of the league was to help these 20 million new women carry out their responsibilities.

**Griffin:**

Well, these 20 million new women voters.

**Rachel:**

New voters—

**Griffin:**

[laughs] They didn't... Okay, 19th Amendment passes and then 20 million women crawl out of their bio-pods.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"Yeah, it's time."

**Rachel:**

Metaphorically!

**Griffin:**

Well, yes, but not...

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Yeah. So, all these women now had the right to vote, uh, and the League existed to help them become informed. Uh, and so it was an experiment at the time. I don't know that they anticipated it would have the longevity that it did. Uh, but the League was, uh, an organization, uh, that was non-partisan and was founded on the belief that, uh, maintaining a non-partisan stance would protect the organization from becoming mired in party politics. Uh, so League is all about sharing information. So, for example, on this most recent election day, if you needed information about

the different propositions because often you do, uh, the League was a great resource. And they have them, uh, all over the country. There are 50 state Leagues and over 1000 local Leagues.

**Griffin:**

Wow, I didn't know it was quite that...

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

They had splinter cells.

**Rachel:**

So there's one for Texas and there's one for Austin.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and just so you know, in their 1974 convention, they amended the bylaws to allow men to join the League as full voting members.

**Griffin:**

That's fantastic.

**Rachel:**

So, it's not just for the ladies.

**Griffin:**

Finally, uh, like, an opportunity for us.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I guess sounds... I feel like this may sound weird on paper of why do you need somebody to tell you how to feel about a certain political issue.

**Rachel:**

Well, and then that's not what they're doing at all.

**Griffin:**

It's super not... I wanna stress.. Well, there might be people who aren't familiar with the League of Women Voters and sort of this, this report that they put out. Um, this year in, uh, Texas, in Travis County, uh, the ballot included a lot of things that were, like, a lot of shit that you don't really know about as a usual—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

A lot of very granular, very specific stuff like, for instance, should sports organizations have a cap on, uh, charitable donations received through raffles? And it's like, "I don't... On paper, yeah, sure, that sounds good. But what are the drawbacks? 'Cause there... Uh, there's a reason why this hasn't happened yet, I bet."

And the League of Women Voters comes in and says, "Well, here's why people are supporting this and here's why people are against this." And then you can make up your own mind. It's not like, "Who should I, who should I vote for? Who's good? Who's the good one?" It's like, "Oh, here's, here's details about this thing," a lot of which are very granular things.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And I think the point that you made about making up your own mind is what I appreciate so much about it, is that, you know, you can have friends and family members you trust tell you how they're voting, but if... I think there's real power to walking in and, and making a decision based on how you interpreted the information. Uh, and I think that was the whole point...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... of having everybody have their own vote, so.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:**

Uh, one thing I wanted to say, there's a website called Vote411.org. And if you go to that website and enter your address and zip code, it will show you everything that's on your ballot specific to your location. Uh, and so if you can't, for whatever reason, find a League of Women Voters in your area, you can just go to Vote411.org and enter your location and it'll tell you what's coming up. So, I recognize now [laughing] it's a little late to have this information.

**Griffin:**

I mean, it's always... Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, but I really appreciated it and I continue to appreciate it every election season, and then I wanted to share it in case people didn't know it was a resource.

**Griffin:**

For next time.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Just lock this one in the Disney vault for a little bit until the next election rolls around. Uh, no, that's a really good one. It's a really good service that they put out.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Also, I'm so lazy and so, like, having a, you know, an organization sorta do some of the research legwork for me is...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, 'cause so many times I voted and I've gone in there not knowing anything about what's on the ballot.

**Griffin:**

Well, propositions sometimes, especially, like, county level propositions, will sneak the fuck up on you.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And I know we sound like we are politically disconnected right now, but just realistically speaking, during, especially major elections, are when I feel like they get the, the shortest shrift and then I make up my mind and, you know, I try to read the different papers and what they're saying about different candidates on the more local elections and more, like, weird sort of, you know, dog catcher level... Obviously that's not one of them. I'm speaking florally. Um, and then I press that big, you know, gray next button to move on to the next thing. It's like, "Oh, here's 20 propositions."

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

"Oh, you didn't know about these? Well, anyway, uh..."

**Rachel:**

It's such a terrible feeling to be in there and recognize that you have this great constitutional power and you have done absolutely no homework.  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**

On some of it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Like, I feel good about the homework I did, but then a prop pops up that's like...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

"Should we spend \$20 million renovating our city's speed limit signs?" And it's like, "I don't know."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That, that sounds like an important thing. It tells people how fast to go. Um, yeah, it's good stuff. Do you want my first one?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Okay. My first thing is pecan pie.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

Pecan pie.

**Rachel:**

This is what you thought I was gonna do.

**Griffin:**



I made a pecan pie. I made a test pecan pie this week 'cause I, you know, I have my pecan pie recipe.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Uh, it's actually a caramel pecan pie that I usually make. But, uh, because Rachel is not eating dairy, uh, because of our son, I have had to alter it somewhat. So, I came up... I found a dairy-free, uh, pecan pie recipe and made it just to see if it would be good.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

'Cause we're on the, we're on the books to make pecan pie for our, uh, Friendsgiving that we're doing here in town. And I'm pleased to report that the experiment was a massive success.

**Rachel:**

It's delicious. Yeah, I was telling Griffin the other day that pecan pie is my all-time favorite pie and maybe all-time favorite dessert.

**Griffin:**

I— Okay, the, the thing I said to you, which is why I wanted to talk about it, is that I think pecan pie... I have other foods that I think I like more. I don't think pecan pie's my favorite food. It is my favorite flavor.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

The flavor of pecan pie. Science, food science recognizes the five major flavors of sour, sweet, savory, bitter, and ooh, mommy.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I would, I would put forward that there is a sixth secret flavor and it is simply pecan pie. 'Cause pecan pie, yeah, it's sweet and you get that earthy note from the pecans, you get some of that umami.

**Rachel:**

Will you, uh, will you pull out... Will you extract that umami, uh, that you just did so people can make it their ringtone?

**Griffin:**

I'll sell it as a ringtone. I'll sell it as a ringtone for 99 cents, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Oh, sell it. Okay. Mm-hmm. That's good. That's good.

**Griffin:**

Um, because I don't think it tastes like... I don't think there's another flavor that I can really equate pecan pie to. When I eat pecan pie, I get so psyched and I think it's because... Unless you're making, like, pecan squares or whatever. Don't be a jag. Um, it's like the only thing that really tastes like that, I feel like, and it's very, very exciting. So, pecan pie is a great pie.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I almost went into, like, what a pie was.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, the, the recipe's like any recipe. It's usually, uh, pecans, eggs, butter, and then some sugar. I... Uh, so the big thing...

**Rachel:**

What we use, by the way, in this recipe, uh, as a replacement was margarine.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, we used soy-based margarine and almond milk and it still turned out really fucking good. Uh, it's the eggs that really sort of make it that, that good creamy stuff. Usually the sugar that people use, I didn't know this... I've made a lot of pecan pies and this is apparently, like, where they got popularized, uh, was corn syrup is the sort of sugar material that people use for it.

And this is... I'm speaking, I'm revealing my own ignorance here, uh, because I think Karo, uh, Syrup, like, put out, like, a bunch of ad campaigns back in the '30s like, "Yo, pecan pie, check it out. It's totally happening and you gotta use this corn syrup for it." And that is sort of, I guess, the main Southern style way of cooking a pecan pie.

**Rachel:**

Huh. Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I always do brown sugar with a little bit of white sugar in there. Um, and the origins are a little confusing. Um, some have stated, like, specifically— Not—I'm not talking about, like, uh, eating pecans, but the specifically pecan pie. Uh, generally, people think that the French, uh, sort of figured it out after they settled in New Orleans after they were introduced to the, uh...

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

...pecan nut by several, uh, Native American tribes in the region. Uh, like, it kind of has a European origins in that it's basically a treacle tart, uh, but obviously there's pecans all up and over it. Uh...

**Rachel:**

Can I ask you a question?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

Do you know anyone that says pee-can?

**Griffin:**

I'm sure. Uh, we live in Texas, so, like, we recognize we are in the minority here, I believe.

**Rachel:**

Well, no. See, I don't think it happens in Texas. I think it's actually more of an Eastern thing.

**Griffin:**

Oh, really?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Oh, I didn't... I— Then I don't think I've ever... I don't think I know anybody who says that.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I would be delighted to 'cause it's a very fun way to say a word wrong.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, but, yeah. Like...

**Rachel:**

Do you know anyone that says whale-noot instead of walnut?

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I know... I actually say whale-noot and I say pee-ah-noot.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I say, uh, ale-monds.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

And, uh...

**Rachel:**

Haz-lenoot.

**Griffin:**

Uh, pie-stachios.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

You know that one?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Where I say, "Crack open that shell for me, baby, 'cause I wanna get my grubby hands on that green pie-stachios." [laughing]

**Rachel:**

See, that one's hard to say differently.

**Griffin:**

Uh, differently than what? The way, the way I said it?

**Rachel:**

Uh...

**Griffin:**

Make-Donyald.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, so the recipe for pecan pie was first published in Harper's Bazaar in 1886 and that was sort of the first recorded instance of... It's funny going back through, like, histories of things. It's funny how much of it is sort of firmed up and established by, "it was finally published in a magazine."

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

'Cause magazines used to be the only thing people did back in the day. And so it was like you got in a magazine and everybody read it, and there was no other way for them to, like, figure this shit out. And so it was like, "Oh, it was in a magazine, so it's..."

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

"Now it's official." Um, there's just, there's just something about a pecan pie. It has, it has every texture, I feel like, imaginable. You get that, like, flakiness at the bottom.

**Rachel:**

Mm.

**Griffin:**

And then you got just a mantle, like a mantle of goo, just that sweet fucking great goo in there.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

And then surprise, a big, big crunch right on top. [laughing] Just a big old cronchy little fucking, just, surprise there at the top. And that, that cronch is made up of candied pecans, which, uh, on their own, you could pick them off the top of the pie and just eat those and it's still a balling dessert.

**Rachel:**

It's delicious.

**Griffin:**

Candied pecans rule. They sell them in movie theaters and I was working in a movie theater, like, when that sort of started to...

**Rachel:**

I don't remember that.

**Griffin:**

They sell them in some movie theaters. Um—

**Rachel:**

Like, in a box or, like—

**Griffin:**

No, in a little, uh, paper cone sort of situation.

**Rachel:**

Oh. That is unique. That is not something they do everywhere.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay. Well, I was working at a, a movie theater when that sort of machine was installed.

**Rachel:**

That's cool.

**Griffin:**

Then I've seen it in a lot of other places too. And I cannot tell you the... My olfactory experience working that job eight hours a day, from stink ass hot butter, which is— If you— I love buttered popcorn now, but it took me a long time to sort of get back into the game because between the burnt popcorn smell and the, like, butter everywhere smell, it was, like, just a bad situation all the time. And then to have this [laughs] fucking non-stop pecan just sugar potpourri in the air...

**Rachel:**

Mm.

**Griffin:**

... like, really, really made that job much, much better. Um, and I don't know, it's only served during holidays, right? You never really hear of it outside of the sort of the November, December region, so it kind of gets me in that holiday mood, and you know that I love that. And it's just such a hearty, hearty dessert, and it doesn't make me feel like garbage every time I eat it, which I say about a lot of pies. I love a pie, love making pie, and I love eating pie. But...

**Rachel:**

Yeah. See, this is why I'm a pie person. Griffin and I, when we started dating, he told me about his family's longstanding debate on whether you're a pie person or a cake person.

**Griffin:**

Cake or pie, right. And this is... I feel like this has really hit the mainstream and we invented it and never got any royalties.

**Rachel:**

I'm 100% pie.



**Griffin:**

I used to be team cake a lot.

**Rachel:**

I cannot believe that about you.

**Griffin:**

Well, I love... Here's what I would say...

**Rachel:**

What cake would you like?

**Griffin:**

... in my cake— Well, we can get into semantics and the semantics are like, well, is, uh... Are pancakes cake? Yes. Is pizza a pie? Whatever.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, I like cake. I still enjoy a good cake, right, but then I would say like, "Well, but I don't like it when there's a lot of frosting."

**Rachel:**

If I had...

**Griffin:**

And if that's what I'm saying, then what the fuck, team? Why are my allegiances so firm in this...[crosstalk]?

**Rachel:**

If I had to name a cake that I liked, it would be difficult for me.

**Griffin:**

Strawberry cake, Heath cake, any poke cake, like, I get chocolate. Do you know chocolate cake? Have you had that one before? Um, anyway... I was saying...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I can eat pecan pie and I don't feel like shit. I love pies. I think they're very— It's a fascinating food and it's really fun to cook and I genuinely love pies. But a lot of pies, especially like... First of all, I don't mess with, like... I don't like to... Like a chocolate pie or a peanut butter pie where the thing you're eating, you just feel like you're eating just a big glob of chocolate. Like, that's not my favorite. Uh, and a lot of fruit pies, the problem is you're just eating so much fruit, so much, like, sugar-reduced fruit, that it gets, like, super acidic and then I feel kind of bad. Like, a cherry pie, I'm actually not that into...

**Rachel:**

Oh. See, I love a cherry pie.

**Griffin:**

I'm not that into it 'cause I eat a bunch of it and then I don't feel good. But pecan pie, it sticks to your ribs and then it just doesn't, like... I don't know. I don't feel super shitty after I eat it. It is the best pie and it's my... one of my favorite foods and my favorite flavor and I'm excited that I did this test pie 'cause we ate a lot of it. And I know here in a couple of weeks, I'm just gonna make another one of these fucking things. It's really exciting for me.

**Rachel:**

Me too.

**Griffin:**

I'm gonna have to make two of 'em. We got a lot of friends coming to Friendsgiving, I think.

**Rachel:**

That's true.

**Griffin:**

Yes!

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, hey, babe?

**Rachel:**

Yes?

**Griffin:**

Can I steal you away?

**Rachel:**

Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble...

**Griffin:**

Okay, stop, stop, stop, stop, stop. You're... [laughs] You're blowing out your mic super, super hard. [laughing] It was so loud. It was so loud, babe. I just turned up my... The monitor was kind of low and so I turned it up a little bit...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... 'cause I realized, like, I wasn't hearing what we were saying super good. And you assaulted me. Babe... No, don't be embarrassed. It,,,

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... it literally physically hurt my body.

**Rachel:**

[quieter] Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble. Gobble, gobble, gobble.

**Griffin:**

See, it's really good. And I don't want you to think I didn't think it was good. [laughing] It just, like, you went from being far away from your mic...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... to inside of the— You, um, got shrunk down with the Innerspace machine and then you were inside the mic screaming into me and on me.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I love, I loved it.

**Rachel:**

Thank you. Maybe a little early.

**Griffin:**

I also love... It's a little bit early. We've been talking about our Thanksgiving special and I'm excited to get there. And maybe this time, you know, you won't go into labor. It was really— Now that we're almost a year out, can I just say, little rude.

**Rachel:**

Mm. Well, I waited. At least we had one Thanksgiving meal.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, but we had two Thanksgivings.

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

And we were gonna go to the Plants and you know the Plants don't fuck around with Thanksgiving.

**Rachel:**

I know. I missed the second Thanksgiving.

**Griffin:**

I literally brought the fork up to my mouth, and that fork had the most luscious turkey dripping with gravy, a pile of tatos right on there, and it was like, "Aw, ring, ring!" Uh, you know, my diaphragm or whatever, uh, my...

**Rachel:**

And you're... And I think, as a listener, you must be wondering, "Why were Griffin and Rachel apart?"

**Griffin:**

Uh, do you— I'll— We can say. It's because you said...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Do you wanna do this? You said, "Go on over. I'll be over later. I feel like I have really bad gas right now."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I said, "It's not... You're sure you're not going into labor, right?" And you're like, "No, no. It's just gas. I'll text you if it's labor." And then turkey... Oh, the smell, the turkey, like, hit my nose and I felt, like, true happiness and relief for the first time. And then... Ring, ring. "It's labor. Oh, no."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"It's not farts!"

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That's what it said, "It's not farts," and that's how I knew I was gonna meet my son.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"It's not farts. Oh, I can't wait to meet him. What's he gonna be like?"

[ad break]

**Griffin:**

Got a couple of Jumbotrons real quick. Special thanks to everybody who, like, sold out our Jumbotrons basically instantaneously.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that was incredible.

**Griffin:**

Uh, I... Means a lot that you all think so highly of us and want us to say stuff like... This message is for Elise and it's from Kyle. I said it like that because they provided the most, like, hardcore phonetic pronunciation ever where it's like capital E, capital E. EE-lise.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And it's from Kyle, who says, "Hey, best friend. I thought it would be a nice surprise to have Griffin and Rachel wish you a happy birthday, and good luck on your law school exams. You're the smartest person I know and you

impress me every day. Thanks for sharing your love for all things McElroy with me and for saying, 'Yes,' when I asked you to marry me."

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

"I love you most and best."

**Rachel:**

Happy birthday, Elise!

**Griffin:**

And good luck on those law school tests. Here's a cheat sheet for you, so just plug these. She's got the earbuds plugged in right now. [laughs] She's taking the test. Jurisprudence is a legal term.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Habeas Corpus means the big corpse.

**Rachel:**

Torts.

**Griffin:**

Torts are delicious. Here's one from, uh, uh, Ruth and it's for my good, good adjective boy Dave, who says, uh, "I'm sorry I'm so far away, but fear not, uh, I will be home for your birthday. I'm so excited to see you. I wanted to tell you that you are the most beautiful person I know. You listen to me always. You make my brain quiet when it's loud, and you hold my hand when I'm scared, even from thousands of miles away. I love you so much, bear. Zig on 'em." [laughs] Well— Even that is kind of a zag, which I appreciate.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, and also I just love that we've had our first message for, uh, Stretch Arm Strong Cyber Mutant. They can reach their arms out thousands of miles...

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

...and it's really incredible.

**Rachel:**

Griffin.

**Griffin:**

The other day, I was out walking the dog. We don't have one of those. I was out walking the... me, and I looked up and I just saw a big, fleshy arm just stretching across the sky, and I knew. I knew.

[Max Fun ad]

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[Max Fun ad ends]

**Griffin:**

You wanna tell me about your second thing?

**Rachel:**

I do. My second thing, I was really excited about this one 'cause it was only a matter of time before I brought it up. And I am bringing it up this week because November 10th is the 25 year anniversary. It is the R.E.M. album, Automatic for the People.

**Griffin:**

All right.

**Rachel:**

They're doing a deluxe reissue on November 10th of this album and I will have to get it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, for sure. I know R.E.M. and I like R.E.M. I don't know anything about them or I don't know what songs are on what albums or anything. And I... I'm so excited for the history lesson.

**Rachel:**

You're gonna learn so much.

**Griffin:**

I'm so psyched.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so this album came in 1992. It has such hits as Man on the Moon.

**Griffin:**

I know that one. Wait, I thought that was on the... For the soundtrack to the Jim Carrey movie. Wait. No, that came out way after.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Jim Carrey, uh, Andy Kaufman movie.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

So, they just used that song.

**Rachel:**

That song was about Andy Kaufman, so it was very appropriate for that film.

**Griffin:**

But they made a new music video for the film that had scenes from the movie in it, I feel like. Maybe it was just a special...

**Rachel:**

That's not unusual.

**Griffin:**

I guess not. Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, Everybody Hurts...

**Griffin:**

Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:**

... is on that album. Uh, and then a few other songs that I personally love, um, like Drive, Nightswimming...

**Griffin:**

Oh, Nightswimming.

**Rachel:**

... Sweetness Follows, and Find the River. Um, I may ask you to put a little clip of Sweetness Follows in here.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, Sweetness Follows. Tell me, tell me which one and I'll drop it in.

**Rachel:**

Well, either Sweetness Follows or Nightswimming. I think maybe Nightswimming.

**Griffin:**

Why don't we close with Nightswimming 'cause it'll put us in, like, a good mood?

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

And we'll do Sweetness Follows right now.

[Sweetness Follows clip plays]

Lyrics:

"I always knew this altogether thunder/Was lost in our little lives/Ooh, ooh, sweetness follows."

**Rachel:**

So, this was their eighth studio album. It came right out after...

**Griffin:**

Eighth? Seriously?

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Yeah, they were around for a long time before they hit it big.

**Griffin:**

I love bands that are like that.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Uh, but the previous album was Out of Time, which had Losing my Religion and Shiny Happy People on it...

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

... which were huge hits. So, when Automatic for the People came out, they kind of had this license to be a little more experimental 'cause they knew they were gonna get radio play no matter what because of the last album.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Which one had Orange Crush?

**Rachel:**

Uh, I think that's Monster?

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Which came after Automatic for the People.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Not a very popular album. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

I like Orange Crush.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I do too. Uh, so here's the thing. I got really into R.E.M. when I was in middle school, uh, which was kind of early '90s, right around when alt rock

was a big thing. Um, and what I liked so much about alternative music was that what was popular at the time wasn't really speaking to a lot of people.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I mean, that's why alt...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... alt music and grunge and everything sort of, "Oh, that's... Oh, it can sound like that." [laughs] Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. So, here's—

**Griffin:**

"That's so... That's a lot better."

**Rachel:**

This is what's interesting. So, I looked up from 1992 when this album came out, the top singles.

**Griffin:**

Oh, boy. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

Uh, Whitney...

**Griffin:**

I say, "Oh, boy." I was five years old, so I don't know that this really gonna...

**Rachel:**

Whitney Houston, I Will Always Love You.

**Griffin:**

I will not talk any shit about that, and if you do, I'll quit the podcast. I swear to God.

**Rachel:**

Mr. Big, To Be With You.

**Griffin:**

That's also a really good one.

**Rachel:**

Snap!, Rhythm is a Dancer, uh, Boyz II Men, End of the Road, and then Nirvana, Smells Like Teen Spirit.

**Griffin:**

That was number five?

**Rachel:**

I'm not saying these in any order.

**Griffin:**

I was gonna say I thought that was, like, the biggest song of all time ever.

**Rachel:**

No. Uh, the reason I bring all that up is that these songs with the exception of Nirvana, Smells Like Teen Spirit, were all very kind of produced, very, like...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

You know, like, uh, kind of a late... almost a late '80s sound. Like, especially Mr. Big, To Be With You, like...

**Griffin:**

I'm blown away that that song came out in the '90s. I thought for sure, like, it was out before I was born.

**Rachel:**

So, then Automatic for the People comes out and, uh, Smells Like Teen Spirit, and it's just this very, very different thing.

**Griffin:**

Were you into Nirvana?

**Rachel:**

A little bit, but...

**Griffin:**

It was a little bit before you, right? Like...

**Rachel:**

Well, yeah. There were some middle school kids that I knew that were in Nirvana, but I wasn't exactly there.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

All that to say when I was in middle school and feeling like I didn't fit in, to have music that was kind of welcoming those people and saying like, "Hey, yeah. No, no, that's not all that weird actually. There are a lot of us," I really appreciated... Uh...

**Griffin:**

And also Michael Stipe is so sexy.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] No.

**Griffin:**

Hey.

**Rachel:**

That was never, that was never my reason. But I did love Michael Stipe.

**Griffin:**

I... What's not to love?

**Rachel:**

He's incredible. Actually, I have this quote. It's specifically about Everybody Hurts, which was a huge hit. Uh, it was released as a single in April, 1993.

**Griffin:**

An unlikely fucking hit though 'cause the song's literally called Everybody Hurts and it's the saddest song ever.

**Rachel:**

No, and that is wrong.

**Griffin:**

[gasps]

**Rachel:**

That is wrong because the whole message of the song...

**Griffin:**

I guess I don't know very well.

**Rachel:**

... there's all these lyrics that say like, "If you feel like letting go, you're not alone. So, hold on, hold on," over and over again.

**Griffin:**

It's not as... Okay, then it's not...

**Rachel:**

So, there's this hopefulness to it.

**Griffin:**

It's a very hopeful song, but it's... I'm saying, like, it's on some Brick, Ben Folds Five, level. Like, this is the most popular song in America right now.



**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And it's not about, like, how much you, you know, love your significant other or really, I guess that's the only song that most of the time hits, hits the singles. It's about a pretty serious subject.

**Rachel:**

It is, for sure. And, and definitely you'll see this message, I think, more frequently in songs of today. And at the time, you know, Whitney Houston was singing that, "I will always love you," and...

**Griffin:**

Mm. Oh, we can't say anything, anything...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

...even remotely, even a little bit, even a smidgen against that song.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so here's what Michael Stipe said. Um, he said that a lot of people, specifically about that song, have talked, um, so honestly with him about how it, it saved their life and it was there at a time when they needed it. And he said there's many of these songs that either are very overtly or kind of quietly speaking to the island of broken toys.

It's the people that are for whatever reason, outsiders, people that feel like they don't fit in in one way or another, these songs are there for them.

"These are my people, you know? The songs are for us." And I really appreciated that because that, that was very much the feeling that I had when listening to that album. I mean, it's very beautiful and vulnerable. You know, there's all this, like, string element to it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

And apparently the string arrangements were put together by the former Led Zeppelin bassist, John Paul Jones.

**Griffin:**

Holy shit. I didn't know that.

**Rachel:**

Which I didn't realize.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

There's a lot of strings on this album. Uh, but it's, it's just it's very raw, uh, and it feels very intimate listening to that album, uh, specifically the song Nightswimming, uh, which is part of the reason that I love that song so much.

Um, but I would say this is around the time when I first started buying albums and I would always get really disappointed because there was always, like, three or four songs on an album that I was like, "Oh, got to skip this one."

**Griffin:**

It... This was the first album that you were like...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... front to back.

**Rachel:**

I could just listen to it over and over and over again. Um, so, yeah, I was excited that they're reissuing this album, that it's somehow been 25 years. [laughs] Um...

**Griffin:**

Does that kind of freak your bean a little bit?

**Rachel:**

Well, here's the thing. Like, I was a little late to it. I was maybe a couple years late and I recognize that I was kind of on the young end of their audience. So, while 25 years is a long time, it's not like...

**Griffin:**

It's not that... Yeah.

**Rachel:**

It's not like I was in high school or in college. You know, this is...

**Griffin:**

No offense if you were. It's— Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. It was just, like, for me, I was a kid, so being a kid feels like a long time ago.

**Griffin:**

I really sometimes do wish I was a little bit older during this era 'cause we watched the... Inexplicably, we just kind of put it on on a lark. There's a Foo Fighters documentary, I think on Netflix. And man, it did... When this scene was coming up, I can't imagine how fucking exciting that must have been.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

'Cause obviously it had origins in things that were accessible to you if you lived in the right parts of the country or whatever. But to have them be colossal and then all of a sudden so, um... There, uh, just having there be so many bands with so many, like, songs and this style of music that was before kind of tough to get at. I don't know, I think it would have been really, really exciting.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, honestly, it was such a perfect time to be a teenager, be—

**Griffin:**

Yeah, 'cause it spoke to that shit specifically.

**Rachel:**

Exactly, just this feeling of being an outsider, um, and having these emotions that kind of pitted you against anything that was considered, you know, mainstream. Um, and so I don't— It just felt important.

**Griffin:**

It's so hard to talk about this...

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

... without sounding like a huge... Not that you sound like a huge anything, but like—

**Rachel:**

Yeah. No, you just... It felt important to listen to and it, it validated all your feelings. Um...

**Griffin:**

It feels douchey to talk about it like that now, but it was absolutely how, like, I thought about it when I was a kid.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Like, "This is it."

**Rachel:**

I will say I was also a member of the R.E.M. fan club.

**Griffin:**

What did... What benefits did that give you?

**Rachel:**

This was a time period when a lot of bands... And just, like, I was also a member of the Pee-wee's Playhouse fan club, uh, The Mystery Science theater fan club.

**Griffin:**

That was a good fucking fan club though.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. So, you would get, like, newsletters and, like, little stickers in the mail occasionally. Um, it was, it was all mail-based. It was just...

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

... things would come to your house, uh, that would give you, like, insider information...

**Griffin:**

I love that.

**Rachel:**

... because this was kind of before the internet.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

So, you would— This is how you would find things out.

**Griffin:**

Uh, let's play Nightswimming and move on to the next thing. Here's Nightswimming by R.E.M. I... Did I pronounce it right?

**Rachel:**

No, Griffin. No.

[Clip of Nightswimming by R.E.M. plays]

Lyrics:

"Nightswimming deserves a quiet night, deserves a quiet night."

**Griffin:**

All right. I'm gonna do my last one real, real quick. My thing, my second thing, is the humble, unassuming deck of playing cards.

**Rachel:**

Ooh.

**Griffin:**

Deck of playing cards. You know about playing cards. Everybody loves 'em. You can do stuff with them. 13 cards in four suites for 52 total cards, it's great. I started to look into the history of it and then I realized that it's so vast [laughs] and horrifying...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... uh, that it wouldn't make for a very good version of the show. But needless to say, like, it has ancient roots and then was— Uh, you know, adapted and, uh, just sorted of moved around the world through different cultures in ways that still kind of resonate today.

What we play with is sort of the French modern set of, uh, 52 cards, four suite with 13 cards in them with jack, king, queen, and ace face cards along with jokers. And then manufacturers include rule cards, but that's not necessarily the case.

There is, um, there's a, like, a Spanish symbol deck and those use cups, coins, clubs, and swords. German, uh, playing cards, uh, could use hearts, bells, acorns, and leaves...

**Rachel:**

I had no idea.

**Griffin:**

... which is extremely good. Not that that's what they use, but that is sort of the... I don't know if that's what they use or not, but that is sort of how... That's just to illustrate that cards everywhere are different. I think also there's a Tarot French set of playing cards with Tarot cards in them.

**Rachel:**

Ooh.

**Griffin:**

Not necessarily traditionally what you would think of as Tarot cards, but, uh, just different cards that they use for different match-taking games. Um, anyway, that's all to say that just Google the history of playing cards and different versions of playing cards 'cause it's buck wild and it was— I could have, I... It would be like reading a full, like, novel [laughs] in order to prep for this topic.

Um, I did find this one thing. Uh, do you know, uh, the ace of spades in a deck will often have the manufacturer or the company that makes the cards, their, their logo on it?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, that is a holdout from, uh, from the reign of James I in England who passed a law requiring an insignia on that specific card as proof of payment of a tax on local manufacturer of playing cards.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

So, like, to this day...

**Rachel:**

Interesting.

**Griffin:**

There's a lot, there's a lot of, like, shit like that, but this was the first one... This was the first time I'd heard that and thought it was interesting.

**Rachel:**

I am surprised that you went as big as playing cards because what would have surprised me less is if you had promoted the game euchre...

**Griffin:**

Thank you, babe, for bringing me to euchre.

**Rachel:**

... which you always...

**Griffin:**

This was a clever ploy on my part.

**Rachel:**

... always aggressively trying to get me to play. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

I don't know why you hate euchre so much. It's a very good game. It's a—

**Rachel:**

It's because every single time we play, I need to be taught how to play.

**Griffin:**

It's so simple, babe. It's a trick-taking game where you use the cards nine through ace of all four suites. The jack of the trump suite is the left bower and it's the most powerful card. Then the jack of the same color is the trump suite is the right bower.

**Rachel:**

Oh, and you have a partner.



**Griffin:**

You have a partner. And then it's ace, king, queen, the usual stuff going down. You have a partner and you have to take tricks. And if you think you can go solo, then you try to take all the tricks yourself. But if they take more tricks than you, then they get two points.

**Rachel:**

And then you can shoot the moon, right?

**Griffin:**

You can shoot the moon. There's lots of different rules in euchre and there's so good.

**Rachel:**

Hoo.

**Griffin:**

It's the best fucking game. Anyway...

**Rachel:**

Griffin loves rules. You should do a segment on Wonderful.

**Griffin:**

Just about euchre?

**Rachel:**

No, just about rules. [laughing]

**Griffin:**

Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:**

I know how much you love rules. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

I could do that. When you have a deck of cards in your hand... The reason I didn't do euchre and instead did a deck of cards, when you have a deck of

cards in your hand, you basically are holding a infinite entertainment device because you can play anything from, like, gambling games like poker or blackjack to more traditional games like rummy or gin, gin rummy, uh, euchre...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... hearts, uh, crazy eights, war, go fish, solitaire, BS, fucking, uh, ERS, like, anything. Like, it... There's, there's so many, so many, so many games. So, like, you have one and it's just infinite games that you could play on so many different occasions.

Uh, maybe you're just, like, hanging out at a beach house and you just came in from the sun and you're there with some friends, and then there's a deck of cards. It's like, "Oh, well, let's cool down, play a few hands of hearts," and that's really good.

You can also... There are games that, uh, are for one person, solitaire, two people, three people, four people, however many people you have. Like, this small thing that you can hold in your hand will generate a game for your group to play no matter what.

**Rachel:**

Maybe you wanna do a drinking game...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... with your party friends 'cause you're partying.

**Griffin:**

Maybe you wanna do a partying drinking game. That's— There's plenty of those also.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

The only other logical response when you see somebody pull out a pack of cards is, "Oh, shit. Someone's about to do a card trick." And the good news is that's great also.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

When you see someone with a deck of cards, it's either time to play a card game, great, or they're gonna do a card trick, also great. [laughing]

**Rachel:**

[crosstalk]

**Griffin:**

It's the only object that when I see somebody brandish it, I think, "One of two great things is about to happen."

**Rachel:**

And Griffin has a card trick he can do. Is there...

**Griffin:**

I have a few.

**Rachel:**

Is there a name for the card trick that you do?

**Griffin:**

Uh, it's like palming it. It's not really... It's, it's more sleight of hand. I can do card tricks, like traditional card tricks. Um, but then, uh, the one I do is where I make it disappear in my hand just by like sort of flicking...

**Rachel:**

When Griffin was younger, he studied the magic arts.

**Griffin:**

That's not true. Why would you say that?

**Rachel:**

Well, because you can do a magic trick and... [laughs]

**Griffin:**

That doesn't mean I studied it. I didn't go to fucking Hogwarts. No, I learned it from Richard Fredeking. He was the magic trick kid at my school.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Did you have a magic trick kid at your school?

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

That's not that unreasonable.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

When... In the David Blaine era... You didn't go to high school in the David Blaine era.

**Rachel:**

That's very true.

**Griffin:**

And in the David Blaine era, there was a magic kid at every fucking school, no matter what, and Richard was that for me. And I had lunch with him for like one semester and he taught me the how to palm a card or whatever it is, the when— You put it behind your palm. So, anyway...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, euchre is the best card that's on here. Uh, it... I think it would be my, like, desert island thing other than a hatchet.

**Rachel:**

Oh, that's smart though.

**Griffin:**

A hatchet's really smart 'cause... Yeah, I agree 'cause you can do...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

You can, like, shave down the [crosstalk].

**Rachel:**

No, but the deck of cards, I wouldn't have even thought of that.

**Griffin:**

But then like a deck of cards, you have a deck of cards and it's literally any... You can do anything with it. And I love games and I love toys and I love all that shit.

**Rachel:**

And you can use it to spread things like a knife.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. You...

**Rachel:**

Like, if you found an island fruit that you wanted to spread.

**Griffin:**

Spread, yeah.

**Rachel:**

You could use a card.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, then you just don't get to use that card anymore.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And then over time, the loss of that one card would drive you slowly insane.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Until you made more cards.

**Griffin:**

Out of palm leaves.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

And it's like, "What's he got in his hand?"

"It's a straight flush."

"Well, one of those is a palm leaf."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"I know the palm leaf is the nine of clubs 'cause Jerry over here used it to spread some fucking durian, so I don't know."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, deck of cards, infinite, awesome...

**Rachel:**

Good one.

**Griffin:**

... system for anything.

**Rachel:**

Good one.

**Griffin:**

Uh, let's wrap up, huh?

**Rachel:**

Yes, please.

**Griffin:**

Wanna hear some submissions?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Uh, here's one from Nate that I loved. "Field trips are the greatest. I loved them as a student and love them even more now as a teacher. I brought my students to a state park last week to take in nature, and the look of awe in their faces and the fantastic questions they raise make the small bit of anxiety about losing a kid absolutely worth it." [laughs] Don't lose a kid in a state park. There's probably bears. Uh, "They are getting experiences that they might never get and this is certainly what they're gonna remember in 10 years." Hell, yeah.

**Rachel:**

That's so exactly true. It's nice to hear a teacher actually appreciates those 'cause I always felt like we were kind of punishing our teachers. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

You know which one I remember the most?

**Rachel:**

Which one?

**Griffin:**

We went to the, uh... I forget the name of it, but there was a system of locks and dams in, around Huntington, and we went to it. I was blown away. The machines were so fucking big and I watched them, like, pull the lever to, like...

**Rachel:**

That's cool.

**Griffin:**

... shoot all the water out. And the water moved so fast and there was so much water, I was, like, mind-boggled. Um, here's one from Brian who says, "NaNoWriMo is wonderful. National Novel Writing Month is every November and to participate, you try to write..."

**Rachel:**

Oh, my gosh. I forgot.

**Griffin:**

"... a 50,000 word novel in 30 days. I've completed it successfully a few times." That's buck wild that you've done that. Uh, I... It's a huge accomplishment.

Uh, "But I haven't done it in the past few years. This year, for some reason, the madness is overtaking me again and I'm going for it. It's kind of silly since it essentially means piling work on yourself for a month and the only tangible reward is a, uh, rushed, badly written novel that you'll never wanna show anyone because it's bad. But doing it gives me an amazing sense of satisfaction and accomplishment."

**Rachel:**

I always forget about that until the month is, like, well into it.

**Griffin:**



Yeah. I have ideas for novels and I wanna do 'em, but... And maybe this is the only way I will ever actually...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I mean, even if you only get...

**Griffin:**

... like, force myself to do it.

**Rachel:**

... a few ideas out of it, it's still seems worthwhile.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, totally. Uh, here's one from Mark who says, "I wanted to tell you something, uh, that gets me excited every year: high school band competitions. The marching band season is ending right about now and I already can't wait to start teaching next year. Seeing a bunch of kids pour themselves into a niche musical passion under the lights, in the cold creates a kind of magic that only comes every October." Fuck, yes.

**Rachel:**

Oh, my gosh. I loved marching band. I was in marching band all four years of high school. I played the flute. And we had a really passionate band director who became one of my favorite teachers, uh, and just made it such a great experience for all of us.

**Griffin:**

That's so good. And the way that they describe, like, the sensation of, like, the season of band competitions...

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... it's like, "Oh, my God." The feeling of, like, a cold bleacher under your butt and...

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... then you're just, like, bumping when the music comes on, like, oh, man. It's a... I mean, I was a spectator.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I was never in marching band. I did go to a collegiate marching band competition called Drums Across the Tri-State every year with my dad 'cause he emceed it. And it was the best...

**Rachel:**

That sounds cool.

**Griffin:**

... 'cause you kept on seeing people bring out their fucking, like, game face and just go so hard.

**Rachel:**

I mean, it's a performance. Like, you can identify with that. Like, you're...

**Griffin:**

Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:**

... with a bunch of people performing something. It's cool.

**Griffin:**

Last one, it's from Angela who says, uh, "So, my wonderful thing is birdwatching, also known as birding by those in the hobby. Best description so far of why it's wonderful comes from my husband who says, 'You get to be outside and know things,' and I like both of those. It's basically like real-life Pokemon, only it can only be played, uh, anytime, any place, without anything electronic.

"Here's why it's really wonderful. I have an almost three-year-old and when he was about two, he started noticing birds. I'd put my birding hobby on hold pretty much since pregnancy, but was starting to put up bird feeders again and, uh, find out what birds were in our yard. Uh, around, uh, about when they were two and a half, uh, he started being able to identify them on his own. We're not talking, 'Bird, blue,' here. We're talking, 'That's a Steller's jay.' It is so amazing."

**Rachel:**

That's so great.

**Griffin:**

That is really great.

**Rachel:**

I have an aunt that's into birding.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I never really got it. And then we were walking through Central Park and she was just like, "That's that bird. That's that bird, that's that bird. That's that bird."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I was like, "Oh, wow." She...

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Yeah.

**Griffin:**

She took us to one tree and she was like, "There's a family of, like, owls or something that live up there. Oh, they're not there today." It's like, "You know which tree the owls are in?"

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That's wild.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. It would be very cool to live in a place that would give you access to that kind of variety.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Man, this is a long one. Thank you all so much for listening to Wonderful. Thank you to Ben and Augustus for the use for our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find the link in the episode description. Uh, you wanna thank Max Fun for us 'cause I'm very thankful?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I would like to thank Max Fun. Uh, thank you very much, uh, Jesse Thorn, uh, and all the great shows at Max Fun. Uh, shows like Bullseye, shows like Stop Podcasting Yourself...

**Griffin:**

I listened to that 500th episode, by the way.

**Rachel:**

Wasn't it wonderful?

**Griffin:**

Holy shit, it was so funny.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] They're really great guys. Uh, and any, uh, number of shows on the network. You can find all of them by going to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org). Uh, you can also find other McElroy shows at [mcelroyshows.com](http://mcelroyshows.com).

**Griffin:**

I think that's it.

**Rachel:**

That is it.

**Griffin:**

All right. Well, we'll talk to you next week, all right? Take it easy back there in the back.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

**Griffin:**

I wanna see you with your hands up, people in the back.

[theme music plays]

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