

Wonderful! 14: Tomorrow's News

Published December 6, 2017
Listen here on themcelroy.family

[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful!

Griffin:

The role of Griffin in this evening's performance of Wonderful will be played by somebody who didn't just eat a pound and a half of kimchi fries.

Rachel:

Babe, do you realize that last week, you talked about the burgers...

Griffin:

Well, we make...

Rachel:

...and this week...

Griffin:

...mistakes often. There's— The nature of the Wonderful recording schedule is this. Tuesdays, we've got to do the show at night, after getting Henry down, so we don't have time to cook, and so we usually get food from places outside our house, and those places usually give us... This place, they serve what they call a Garbage Bag Full of Kimchi Fries. That's how it shows up on the menu, and you see that and you think, "Disgusting." But then you eat all of it.

And so this week's performance will be played by Patrick Stewart. [imitating Patrick Stewart] "Hello? I'd like to talk about my favorite thing: tea, earl gray, hot." And who do you want... And you can do a character, too. Because you ate a bunch of fries too and I watched you. Rachel's too embarrassed to admit [laughs] she ate so many fucking fries. So who's it going to be this time?

Rachel:

Um, I can be myself.

Griffin:

Oh, play with me though, in the space that we've made.

Rachel:

Because I'm a professional.

Griffin:

Okay. But you're a professional that ate a bunch of kimchi fries. Wouldn't it feel good to take a week off? "Yeah. Come on. It's me, Patrick. You don't want to be on a show with me?"

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

"Engage."

Rachel:

[English accent] "Hello?"

Griffin:

"Engage with me."

Rachel:

"Hello. Hi, I'm a character, also."

Griffin:

Oh, is this an OC?

Rachel:

"And, uh, my name is Julie."

Griffin:

This is Rachel's British OC and we've very excited for her debut. We've... I've heard a lot of rumors on the internet about Rachel's new character that she's been working on. Give me the name again, one more time?

Rachel:

"Julie."

Griffin:

Julie. Okay. And so what's Julie all about, I wonder?

Rachel:

"She likes purple."

Griffin:

Okay. Does she eat a lot of kimchi fries? Or is that...

Rachel:

"She ate a lot of kimchi fries."

Griffin:

Oh, then what's she... [laughs]. What's she doing here? The whole point is to get fresh hosts who... "I've never even heard of kimchi fries."

Rachel:

"She's here to clean your chimney."

Griffin:

What are we doing?

Rachel:

You started it.

Griffin:

Yeah, but you encouraged it. And that's even worse...

Rachel:

Okay. [laughs]

Griffin:

... in a lot of ways. This is Wonderful. It's a podcast where we talk about stuff that we're just, like, really enthusiastic about right now.

Rachel:

It's your turn to start.

Griffin:

I think it's my turn to start.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

And I would love to talk about something that I had to— I actually spoiled it to you, because I had to check. Because it felt like I had talked about it before, but apparently not. I want to talk about... Let's go. We can do it like this. [singing] Let's talk about chess. Like Sex.

Rachel:

Oh. [singing] Let's talk about brooks and ponds.

Griffin:

Hey!

Rachel:

[singing] Let's talk about all the good things and the bad things that may spawn.

Griffin:

Is good— Is all the good things and all the bad things part of the song, Let's Talk About Sex?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You do such bad things, like sometimes you make an awful mess. So...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Chess is the opposite of sex in a lot of ways, if you really think about it. Um, I'm a pretty new, uh, fan of this here mind sport, that we call Chess, or some people call Shess. Um, but it really boils down, everything that I really love about games into this, like, simple rule-set with infinitely deep implications. And my goal for including it on the show is to get you, Rachel or Julie, I don't know who's in there right now...

Rachel:

Rachel's here now.

Griffin:

...really excited about Chess. You'll start playing it with me. Um, so Chess...I have notes here on what fucking Chess is. Um, but it really is very, very simple. There's only six pieces. Right? Pawn, Rook, uh, Knight, Bishop, King and Queen. And everybody's got 16 pieces. You've got a bunch of pawns and less of the other ones. And the point of the game is to trap the opponent's King in an inescapable position, putting them in Checkmate. That's it. That's more or less it. I mean, there's some other shit.

Rachel:

Did you say King or Queen?

Griffin:

King. The Queen can move around however she wants. She's like your best piece.

Rachel:

Hmm.

Griffin:

Which is true, I feel like, in so many ways. Um, the game has pretty ancient origins. Uh, it's presumed to have originated in India before the 7th Century. Um, and those origins kind of actually... As is the case with so many things, especially like, uh, games and folk games, inspired very, very similar, but just slightly different versions of Chess, uh, in different countries throughout the world.

Um, but what I think is so great about Chess and the reason that I think it's a very, very good game and the reason that I kind of got into it, uh, I got into it for the first time, basically right when Henry was born and we had these overnight shifts where he just wasn't sleeping, and so we would stay up.

And he would be asleep in our arms and we couldn't really do anything with one of our arms. And so I'd use the other arm to play Chess, because you can do that with just one hand. What I find so fascinating...

Rachel:

On his phone, by the way. Not...

Griffin:

No. Me and Henry would play very, very—

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

He's— He is actually— He's like Grand Master level. Um, so, Chess. I promise it's going to get interesting here real soon. What is so cool about Chess is that... It looks really simple, right? Each player has 16 pieces. That's 32 pieces total on a 64 square board. Uh, and all you've got to do is capture the other King, or put them in an inescapable position. But, uh, despite the fact that the game seems so simple and there's, you know, only 6 different types of pieces, it can play out in so many different ways.

And so this is a thing I found, uh, on a publication called PopSci, which says, "Almost nothing looks more orderly than the Chess pieces before a match

starts. The first move; however, begins a spiral into chaos. After both players move, 400 possible board setups exist. After the second pair of turns, there are 197,742 possible games; and after three moves, 121 million. After every turn, players chart a progressively more distinctive path and each game evolves into one that has probably never been played before." There's...

Rachel:

Oh, that's kind of cool.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's really, really cool. Like you look at the board and it's like such an iconic sort of game. Right? I feel like a lot of people know or think they know exactly how they feel about Chess, um, because it's just like, "Oh, you look at it, and you think you understand it."

Um, there are some statisticians who estimate that the total number of possible Chess games, uh, that are conceivably possible for, to be played out, is, uh, 10 to the order of 100,000, which is more atoms than there are in the universe by a pretty significant total.

It is this— It is a nearly infinite sort of game where every time you play it, you're probably maybe even playing it in a way that nobody else has before, especially if you're very bad at Chess and you make all kinds of illogical choices. Because there's about 15,000 or so, um, according to this article I read.

About 15,000 or so, kind of, like, fairly common games that play out. Uh, usually it takes about 30 or 40 turns before one of the players gets the other one in checkmate. But, I mean, it can go anywhere.

Uh, and I just find that so fascinating, from a game design perspective. Because I talk about that. I talk about— Uh, I feel like I talked about that when we, uh, talked about Splendor, which is another game that I think is very, very cool. And I like that in a game. Where it's a simple game to understand, but there's lots of different ways it can play out. I think Chess probably has that one on lockdown, because there's more ways that Chess can play out than there are atoms in the universe, which is kind of bonkers. Um, but that makes the game sound, like, super chaotic and probably not very accessible. Uh, what I like about it and why I've gotten really into it, um... I used a website called chess.com, which I kind of thought about actually bringing as my favorite thing, just this website chess.com, uh,

because it's a very, very good website. Uh, but it teaches you just sort of different strategies.

And I'm not talking about, like, "Oh, you must understand the Bertolucci opening before you can take part in professional Chess." Uh, things that are like really common sort of strategies, that you have to do in every game. Things like trying to get a material advantage by having more pieces on the board than they do, or setting up your opponent in a position where they are going to lose a piece no matter what they do on their next turn. And it teaches you, like, common ways to do that, and it teaches you like traps that you can set for your opponent. It probably...

For example, it's possible to win a game of Chess in, I think, four moves, is the least amount of moves. And so it teaches you, like, "If they make this mistake and then they make this mistake, you've just won at Chess."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, which I think is like— It's— It has made the game, which I feel like I respected before, as like, "Oh, this is for geniuses, like who want to memorize different openings and different things," which is still, yes, very true. But there's also, like, very common sort of threads that connect these 10 to the 100,000 power games.

Rachel:

I think what has always been hard for me about Chess is that when I play a game, I tend to only be playing my own game? Like I'm coming up with my own strategy...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... my own approach. It's very hard for me to do the thing that Chess asks you to do, which is play your opponent's game at the same time, too. So for every move you're considering and every strategy you're building, identify

what your opponent might be doing. Uh, and that's always been really challenging for me.

Griffin:

It is. Uh, and it's something that I struggle with. I don't play as much anymore. Actually, I actually just started playing again. Uh, because I had a day where I wasn't really doing much. I was editing a podcast and I was like, "Oh, I'll go to chess.com and see what's up."

And now I'm kind of back into it. Um, and I get my ass kicked a lot, when I play against other players. Or they have like an AI you can play against and change like the difficulty settings, which is... It's such a fucking cool website. Um, but the— It is a game sort of about you, trying to think a few moves in advance while your opponent is also trying to think a few moves in advance. And then they will make a move that sort of throws your whole plan into the toilet, and flushes it to be in the sewer with all the poop. But, um, the, like, most common successful strategy is to just put your opponent in a position where they have to do something.

It's really a race to see who can be the first person to put pressure... For example, the big sort of mechanic in Chess is you put the opponent's King in check, by endangering them. So if you move a piece that can capture the King, before the other player can do anything else. They have to move their King or capture the piece that's endangering their King or they have to move another, uh, piece into the firing line, so to speak.

Um, and using that, like, form of pressure. Like, "Oh, I'm guaranteeing that you have to do something about this. It's impossible for you to do something about this other thing that I'm also endangering. So I know you're going to use your move to get your King out of danger, and so on my next turn I'm going to screw you over in a way that you can't prevent."

That's like sort of the main sort of hook. And that's something I did not appreciate at all about Chess, until I, until I started to kind of learn how to play it. And it makes it like a really, really fascinating game about sort of lateral thinking about, like, every single turn. Um, also. I have a section here. I want to talk about chess.com. It's really good.

One of the things I like is I don't actually play that much Chess anymore. Uh, chess.com and a bunch of different Chess websites will give you daily puzzles. So it'll just show you a board in the middle of a game and you have to try and figure out what the best move is.

Rachel:

Oh, that's smart.

Griffin:

It's so great. And you get, like, points. If you do good, you get points.

Rachel:

Oh, I know you love points.

Griffin:

But if you do bad or you take too long, you lose points.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

And it's a constant score. My score at one point was like 1,600. It was so good and then I just... It got hard and I started doing really bad. And now it's like below 800. Shoot!

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but, yeah. I think Chess is really great. And it's a fun game for two players, and for lovers, and for new parents. Uh, I was reading another Chess article on seriouschess.wiz.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

And it said that it's good for new parents, because it helps you stay in love longer and...

Rachel:

Oh!

Griffin:

...make you live longer and be stronger. So, and—

Rachel:

I think I have what I'm going to call a Millennial disease, which is where if I'm not good at something, uh, the first few times I play it, I lose interest very quickly.

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

Uh, so I'm just going to warn you. I'm willing to play it.

Griffin:

Hell, yeah. Right after we finish recording, do you think?

Rachel:

No. Um, but if...

Griffin:

Tomorrow lunch, come home?

Rachel:

If you continue to beat me over and over again, I may lose interest in the game.

Griffin:

Well, here's the problem, is I'm going to come at you with the fury of a storm every single time.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

And you know that.

Rachel:

I know that.

Griffin:

You wouldn't like it if I didn't come at you with the full fury of the storm and the brunt of—

Rachel:

Are you going to do, like, one of those things, where I'm going to move a piece and you're going to go [laughs]?

Griffin:

[laughs]. Yeah. Like an anime villain, every single time.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs]. Into my trap.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

To be swallowed up by my mighty army.

Rachel:

And do a lot of, like, "Oh, interesting."

Griffin:

"Oh, you went with that, huh?" And then I'll get up and hammer dance.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Chess.

Rachel:

Chess. I mean, you know, I respect it. It's- it's always seemed like a game of intellectuals, uh, which I appreciate about it.

Griffin:

You're smart. You like games with smart games for...

Rachel:

Yeah. But, you know, I'm street smart, I would say.

Griffin:

That is the problem.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That's why you love Monopoly. Monopoly requires all kinds of street smarts.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

To walk around Boardwalk at night. Good luck. And go to jail.

Rachel:

Yeah. It's like Operation. Like I'm used to, uh...

Griffin:

Yeah. Street surgery, baby.

Rachel:

...having to get stuff out of small places.

Griffin:

Yeah. Stepped on some broken glass in an alley. You got to do street surgery.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

You know how it goes.

Rachel:

Have you seen that, um, NCIS Street Surgery?

Griffin:

Uh-huh.

Rachel:

It's really good.

Griffin:

Because NCIS is probably my favorite medical show.

Rachel:

No. They're doing—

Griffin:

Surgeons. Street surgeons...

Rachel:

They're doing street surgery.

Griffin:

...by day. At night.

Rachel:

They're not medical professionals.

Griffin:

Okay. [laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

This is a very confusing pilot, you've come here to pitch me today.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

For NCIS Street Surgery. And who were you going to cast? Who were you thinking is the lead in this one? I'm thinking sort of a crossover Bakula, maybe an origin story, for New Orleans?

Rachel:

You know, I knew you were going to expect Bakula, so I don't want to go there. Um, I think I'm going to go Fred Savage. [laughs]

Griffin:

[pauses] So we could do that. Um, just like, "Yeah. A fire escape ladder fell on this guy's butt. We got to get it out of there. Some good street surgery." And then we can get like a voiceover, like...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... "I was ready to perform street [laughs] surgery on the man's butt with the ladder on it, but I was afraid. Because..."

Rachel:

That's, you know—

Griffin:

"...I was in love with my neighbor..."

Rachel:

That's not good.

Griffin:

...and my brother just died."

Rachel:

No. Let's not get too prescriptive about how this should go. Let's just kind of get some good talent in the room and see where it takes us.

Griffin:

Fred, get at us. What's your first thing? I feel like we're stalling.

Rachel:

[laughs]. My first thing, uh, is a website...

Griffin:

Oh, boy.

Rachel:

...actually. And it's snopes.com.

Griffin:

Checkers. Checkers.biz— Oh, Snopes!

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Snopes. Is it called Snopes because it sounds like, "Psst. Nope,"? And I don't know what the second S is for. But it's like, "Hey, is it true that, uh, President Barack Hussein Obama... A lot of people forgot the Hussein. Is actually an alien from Benghazi?"

"Psst. Nope."

Rachel:

Uh, Snopes is the name of a family of often unpleasant people in the works of William Faulkner.

Griffin:

Okay!

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

So this is— It's like a fictional guy who's coming down. He's like, "Chemtrails, dude? Shut the fuck up."

Rachel:

Uh, David Nicholson and his wife created the site in 1996, which used to be called the Urban Legends Reference Pages. Uh, it was an early online encyclopedia focused on urban legends, and then the site grew to encompass a wide range of subjects.

In 2002, the site had become well known enough that a television pilot called Snopes: Urban Legends was completed with American actor Jim Davidson as host.

Griffin:

Wait. Who?

Rachel:

Jim Davidson.

Griffin:

Who's that?

Rachel:

I don't know who that is.

Griffin:

Uh, to the Google. I do not know who this man is. He's like a game show host.

Rachel:

Yeah. I don't think— I mean—

Griffin:

This is— I mean, it's not important.

Rachel:

Yeah. No. My Wonderful thing this week was not Jim Davidson. [laughs].

Griffin:

A pretty cool series. Let's hear more about Snopes though.

Rachel:

Okay. So I am a big fan of Snopes, uh, especially when you'll see something on Facebook or when you used to get those email forwards from people.

Griffin:

I don't get those as much anymore.

Rachel:

No. Me neither. But I'm gonna... I'm going to throw out some of my old-time favorite urban legends.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Um...

Griffin:

God, that term is... By the way, can we just take a second and talk about...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... how quaint that term is?

Rachel:

I know. It is.

Griffin:

Because I feel like Snopes whole sort of domain is like fucking actually combating the misinformation campaign that is being sort of...

Rachel:

The fact that there's a whole concept of fake news now.

Griffin:

That like half of the people actually think is real.

Rachel:

Yeah. These will bring you back. "Can you die from drinking Mentos or Pop Rocks in Coke?"

Griffin:

Yeah. I mean, I wish—[laughs] I wish—

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I'm sorry to be a downer, but I wish that was like still the subject on everybody's lips.

Rachel:

"Did George Washington have wooden teeth?"

Griffin:

Yeah, again. Great, but...

Rachel:

Uh, "Has Walt Disney's body been cryogenically frozen?"

Griffin:

Yeah. I mean, that's a good one to talk about. But now they're doing like...

Rachel:

Play with me!

Griffin:

Okay. Yes. It's fun to be back here. Tell me about the dress. Is it blue and gold, or is it the other two colors?

Rachel:

"Did Marilyn Mason have ribs removed?" Do you remember hearing this rumor?

Griffin:

For herself.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Self stuff.

Rachel:

"And was he Pa from the Wonder Years?" [laughs]

Griffin:

Now that one's actually...

Rachel:

Also— [laughs].

Griffin:

Snopes missed the mark on that one, I felt like.

Rachel:

"Did Sinbad play a genie in a movie called Shazam?"

Griffin:

Okay. Do you know about this?

Rachel:

I have learned about this very recently.

Griffin:

This is like a mass hysteria...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... level. Everybody just thinks Sinbad was in a movie called Shazam.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

Not Kazam.

Rachel:

It was kind of— It was kind of like that...

Griffin:

Do you know the movie?

Rachel:

No. Well, I'm... [laughs]

Griffin:

Okay. I thought you were going to be like, "Yeah. I saw it, and there was a scene where they were at a theme park and he casted a spell..."

Rachel:

No, it was a time period...

Griffin:

"...and the roller coaster was flying through the sky."

Rachel:

It was a time period where movies like Antz and A Bug's Life would come out at the same time.

Griffin:

You thought there was a Kazam...

Rachel:

So everybody thought—

Griffin:

...and a Shazam?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

And a Bablam!

Rachel:

[laughs] Um...

Griffin:

Michael Richards plays a very funny... By the way, it's 1996. Michael Richards who in 1996, again, gang, like we— It was— Okay, I mean, it wasn't okay, but we didn't know any better. He plays a wacky genie who summons a bunch of fast-food, but this time it comes up through the sewer.

Rachel:

"Was Richard Gere taken to an emergency room to..."

Griffin:

Oh, this one's just—

Rachel:

"... have a gerbil removed from his butt?"

Griffin:

How did that get all over?

Rachel:

I don't know. Everybody knows it though.

Griffin:

That one was— That one made it—Okay. Here's the weird thing. Maybe we should just do an Urban Legend one. But maybe not...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... because they're all kind of mean-spirited, in a way.

Rachel:

Yeah. No. I know.

Griffin:

Because this one got sort of transmogrified in Huntington, West Virginia, where...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... it was, sort of, spread around, uh, about a local, uh, weatherman who—

Rachel:

Oh, no.

Griffin:

The rumor was just was putting gerbils up in the, up in his, you know, his goose. And so people would— It literally— Like people talked about it and people talked about Richard Gere, and this was like pre-internet. Like this...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... this was definitely pre-internet, so I don't know how this stuff was getting out there.

Rachel:

I don't know either.

Griffin:

National Enquirer, I guess?

Rachel:

Um, maybe. Yeah. Maybe Weekly World News, or whatever. Here are some other ones, uh, that I am familiar with. "Can you get drunk from a tampon soaked in vodka?" The answer is no.

Griffin:

Really?

Rachel:

But I did know a woman in college who thought that was true.

Griffin:

Oh, hold on. You're talking about a tampon, not that you wring out to drink the vodka?

Rachel:

[laughs] No.

Griffin:

Oh, no!

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's probably not healthy. Huh?

Rachel:

No. It's real bad. It's real bad for you.

Griffin:

Probably real bad.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's a temple.

Rachel:

Um, anyway, there's any number of other urban legends, um, on the website in addition to, as Griffin mentioned, current...

Griffin:

The shit you're on—

Rachel:

...fake news stories that are circulating.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

The thing that I always like about Snopes, is any time that I saw something that was suspect on Facebook or we would get an email forward, I would immediately go to Snopes, look it up. And they do the research. They interview actual people. They make phone calls. They're actually real journalists and they will get you the information you want.

Griffin:

Oh, it's a good service.

Rachel:

I'm just... I'm just glad that Snopes exists, and it's been around for so long.

Griffin:

Thanks, Snopes.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Keep it up. You're the only ones, I guess. Keep it— Keep it going.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Boy, I'm feeling bleak.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Yeah.

Griffin:

Just talking about...

Rachel:

I'm just trying to—

Griffin:

I know. Snopes is—

Rachel:

People want to talk about gerbils in butts.

Griffin:

No, I know. And it's very still— What's crazy, is it's still super funny to me, the thought of just putting a... In it's— It's not though, is it? It's sad for the gerbil.

Rachel:

It's very sad for the gerbil.

Griffin:

It didn't happen. It absolutely didn't.

Rachel:

No, it didn't.

Griffin:

It crabsolutely didn't happen.

Rachel:

At least not to Richard Gere.

Griffin:

Not to anybody. Because how would you even... Let's dig into this.

Rachel:

No, let's not.

Griffin:

Is what the gerbil said. [laughs]

Rachel:

Hey, Griffin. Uh-oh. Hey, Griffin?

Griffin:

Psst. Nope. Yeah, babe?

Rachel:

Can I steal you away?

Griffin:

Please, God, get me out of this segment.

Rachel:

No. I've got— I've got a thing. Let me know if it picks up. Okay?

Griffin:

All right.

Rachel:

[making kissy noises]

Griffin:

Was that just a bunch of kisses?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

All right! I needed that after the last—

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

After the Snopes segment.

[ad break]

Griffin:

Uh, can you read me that first Jumbotron with your, just soft and sinuey voice?

Rachel:

Uh, this message is for John, the Bunyip Handler. It is from your bestie, Makayla. "Happy Birthday, John. Here is a message from your number one baby boy, Griffin."

Griffin:

Hey, hey, hey, it's me. I'm doing a Rachel impression. Bazinga!

Rachel:

"I love you so much and...

Griffin:

I love you so much and...

Rachel:

...I'm so proud of you.

Griffin:

...I'm so proud of you.

Rachel:

Congrats on another year of life."

Griffin:

Congrats on another year of life.

Rachel:

Kerblam!

Griffin:

Kerblam! Well, let me give... Let me give you a clean... Kerblam! So.

Rachel:

Uh, so, happy birthday, John. [laughs].

Griffin:

Yeah. What are you laughing at? You're looking at something and laughing. Is there something... A funny coded message in John's...

Rachel:

Griffin and I talk a lot about how now that we have a child, we have no awareness of what time of year it is. And so I read that the preferred time frame was December 7th. And I thought, like, "Oh, we are way off base on that." And then I—

Griffin:

And then you realized that that is...

Rachel:

I realized—

Griffin:

...uh, fucking Thursday.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Yes.

Griffin:

Our anniversary, babe!

Rachel:

Our anniversary.

Griffin:

Did you not get me a present? Because you didn't think it was this close?

Rachel:

I have gotten you one present.

Griffin:

Oh, man.

Rachel:

I am working on a second. I don't ever like to put all my eggs in one basket.

Griffin:

While we're recording this, there's a big present right next to you, sitting on the couch. You see it?

Rachel:

Yeah, I do. I see it.

Griffin:

What do you think's in there? It's a pretty big box. I would say about, uh, two feet by two feet, in, uh, all directions, length, width and height.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. Um...

Griffin:

What do you think's going on in there?

Rachel:

Maybe a globe.

Griffin:

Fuck!

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

It's another Yahoo— [laughing] Another Yahoo fuck!

Rachel:

[laughs]. Oh, no.

Griffin:

This Yahoo, uh, Jumbotron was, uh, is for Camille, uh, and it's from Mary, who says, "Happy early birthday/late Christmas" Hmm. Hmm. Now, this is a pickle. This one's a real conundrum.

Rachel:

Was the preferred time frame for this message after?

Griffin:

Next available. So it might just be a very late 2016 Christmas.

Rachel:

I think they assumed we would, uh...

Griffin:

Yeah. All right. "Happy early birthday/late Christmas, early Christmas to the most wonderful person I know. We've been friends through five wild years. Here's to 50 more calm ones." Please calm down. "Thanks for encouraging me to, uh, listen to podcasts, in general, and Rachel and Griffin's, in particular. And of course, thanks for being a wonderful best friend. Glad I got this new job, so I could finally afford this. Hell, yeah!"

Rachel:

Well, what a nice way to spend your new money.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's a really sweet message. A very, very nice thing you've done. Please don't ever step to us about our timeliness on these messages again, or we will humiliate you. My acid reflux is just really going wild. I really wish Patrick could tap in here for me.

Speaker:

Max Fun Con tickets are on sale now at MaxFunCon.com. Watch standup comedy on a mountain, roll out of bed after a dance party to see a live podcast taping, take classes from amazing teachers with the most supportive group of people you'll ever meet. Make a bunch of friends and eat a ton of S'Mores. Come to Max Fun Con at Lake Arrowhead, California, the second weekend of June, for friendship, comedy, and creativity. Get your ticket now at MaxFunCon.com.

[ad break ends]

Rachel:

Do you want to talk about your second thing?

Griffin:

I think I'm going to talk about my second thing. What's that noise? Do you hear it? Do you hear the sounds on the rooftop?

Rachel:

Oh, is it reindeer?

Griffin:

It's little reindeer hooves.

Rachel:

It's too early, Griffin. We can't. We can't go down this path.

Griffin:

Shh, shh, shh, ching, ching, ching, ching, bells. [laughs]. Christmas bells. Bells, bells, bells, ching, ching, ching.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Ching, ching, ching. Christmas bells. There's no good way to do that with your mouth? Huh?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Ching, ching, ching. Christmas bells. I want to talk about...

Rachel:

I mean, jingle jangle is usually...

Griffin:

Jingle, jangle, jingle. That's not how they sound at all, even a little bit. I'm trying to be onomatopoeic over here. I want to talk about Sufjan Stevens' Christmas music.

Rachel:

Oh, I thought you might go here. But I thought you were save it until we got closer.

Griffin:

I can't save it. I can't save it. Because I've been... Baby, you see me fucking laying down on the couch with an IV running into my veins through Spotify to get this. Because my spirits, babe? They've been low.

Rachel:

Not always.

Griffin:

Not low. Not low. It just takes some work some years.

Rachel:

The McElroys as a family start pounding Christmas content immediately after Thanksgiving.

Griffin:

Oh, yum, yum, yum.

Rachel:

And it's on a daily basis.

Griffin:

You think I'm all full up from the turkey, but no. There's some room for some mistletoe in there.

Rachel:

Did you see Travis tweeted, I think, that he's already watched like several dozen holiday movies?

Griffin:

That's my blood, right there.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I want to talk about Sufjan Stevens' Christmas music. I love Sufjan Stevens. You should know this. He is a genius.

Rachel:

We went and saw his Christmas show together.

Griffin:

So we went and saw his Christmas show together, and it was one of the best like holiday things...

Rachel:

It was wonderful.

Griffin:

...I've ever, ever done. And I want to talk about that, sort of a little bit later in the segment. But, um, so, I'm talking specifically about, uh, Songs for Christmas, which, uh, came out, I think, in 2006, and it is a five-disk compilation of, uh, holiday music that he released between 2001 and 2006. And then he followed that up with another five-disk compilation of holiday music, uh, called Silver & Gold, which was a collection of music he made between 2006 and 2011. Hey, Sufjan, it's been more than five years, bud. We're all waiting on it. I know you've been busy, but we are ready for the new shit.

So I love Sufjan Stevens and I have for a very, very long time. Um, his music is very, like, emotional and very earnest. Um, and I adored all his old stuff, uh, like Illinois, and Michigan, and, uh, Seven Swans. Was that... Was the name of the album, Seven Swans? I think it was. Um, and just basically everything he's ever done.

Um, his latest album that he released called Carrie & Lowell is all about him trying to come to terms with the death of his mother, which is, you know, a very emotional album, which resonated with me, for obvious reasons.

But his music isn't just, like, sad emotions. And I think that's kind of what makes him so interesting, is that he has this huge catalog of Christmas music that is just like unabashedly joyous, happy, happy, happy music. Um, and... I don't know, I just really appreciate that sort of way that he handles doing Christmas music. Like nothing feels like a, you know, a shitty cash grab. Where it's just like, "Hey, everybody. Jingle bells, jingle bells..."

Rachel:

Do you know what I think is interesting? There is something about that kind of unabashed positivity. It feels like a little punk rock. Doesn't it?

Griffin:

It does, because it also doesn't feel, like, twee. Like it doesn't feel, like, fake.

Rachel:

It's kind of, like, an act of, like, rebellion of just, like, "I'm going for it, guys."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

"I know shit sucks, and I'm leaning into..."

Griffin:

I don't even think it...

Rachel:

"...old school joy."

Griffin:

I don't even think... Yeah. I don't think it even addresses that shit sucks.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I think it's just, like, "It's Christmas!"

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Like it's literally just voice just screaming like... It's like Elf. It's like a Buddy from Elf as a, like, musical sort of style of arrangement. So, uh, these albums are very, very eclectic. I think there's something like 100 songs

across all 10 of these disks. Um, and there's a pretty eclectic mix between these 10 disks. There's sort of like three main, uh, types of songs on these albums, and the first is sort of arrangements of holiday classics. Uh, and like I said, they are not shitty, straight forward cash grabs.

They are— If you listened to his other albums, like they are usually these huge orchestral arrangements like you would hear in, uh, some of his songs like Chicago or the, anything off Illinois or his earlier albums.

Um, or they are just like wild techno jams that are coming at you like really, really heavy. Uh, he does a version of Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas in just— It's just this like booming Christmas assault and it opens up one of the disks on Silver & Gold. And it's just really so energetic but it's also kind of sweet, which is true of virtually every Christmas song he's ever done.

Um, there's another version of, uh, We Need a Little Christmas, that sounds just like a fucking parade through Christmas Town. Um, but I want to play a clip from, uh, his arrangement of my favorite holiday song, which is O Holy Night. Uh, because it's, like, the only holiday song with a drop, I feel like. And this is that sick drop from Sufjan Stevens' arrangement of O Holy— Well, one of his. He's done several. But one of his arrangements of O Holy Night.

[clip of O Holy Night plays]

These albums also contain just, like, straight up non-Christmas hymns, that explore a kind of, like, religious, like, fascination or curiosity and, like, near reverence that I think is kind of present throughout like all of his albums.

Uh, especially like Seven Swans, deals with these themes a lot. Uh, Carrie & Lowell has a song about the shade of the shadow of the cross or something.

I just butchered that, but... Um, these songs, like, aren't explicitly Christmas songs, but they still, like, they still feel very like warm and accessible, in a way that I feel like Christmas songs or Christmas hymns do.

Um, a lot of them are just paired-down arrangements and kind of pretty and I think I like them because growing up in church, like, I always sang and heard these songs a lot but I don't think I appreciated them in any way musically until I heard them arranged by a musician who I respected and admired a whole lot like Sufjan.

Um, so there's a really great version of Amazing Grace, and there's been like a billion versions of Amazing Grace, and so I feel like that's kind of laudable.

Uh, that's just like harmonies and banjos and that's more or less sort of the case for a lot of these hymns.

Uh, he does a soft duet of Holy, Holy, Holy that's really nice. Um, but I want to play a clip from Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, which is again, not a Christmas song, but like played amongst the other Christmas songs. Like, I don't know. It just makes you feel like... I don't know.

Rachel:

Yeah. I don't have that background. So a lot of these songs are not familiar to me, but they are beautiful.

Griffin:

They're so nice— They're so beautiful and like... Uh, I don't know if ever sang this particular one in church, because it's pretty old school, but it's still like... I don't know. None of these songs that I ever, like, while I was hearing them in church, thought like, "Oh, that's a banger!" But now that I've heard this really good arrangement of it, I'm like, "Oh, okay. I do appreciate this," in a different way. So this is Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.

[clip of Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing plays]

Um, and then these albums also contain, uh, Sufjan's original holiday songs, which are maybe a little bit more hit and miss than the other ones, but it's all worth it for Christmas Unicorn.

Rachel:

Yeah. We were listening to this the other day in the car, and I forgot just how, uh, long it is.

Griffin:

It's a 12-1/2 minute [laughs] long song, sung from the perspective of this supernatural ultimate Christmas being, and it's just like the most Sufjan Stevens' shit like ever. And the last basically two-thirds of the song maybe, is this long orchestral breakdown, uh, that sort of repeats the chorus of the song, of being a Christmas unicorn. And then it adds in a refrain from Joy Division's, Love Will Tear Us Apart, for some reason. Because why not?

I feel like it represents sort of this whole idea of Sufjan's Stevens having this huge focus on writing non-hyper-commercialized holiday music. And that it's just like, "I think the holidays are great, and you can have a lot of fun with them and appreciate them in any way that you want, and also here's some fucking Joy Division, because I'm in charge here."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

And that's what's up. So this is a little bit of Christmas Unicorn.

[clip of Christmas Unicorn plays]

So, yeah. There's like 100 of these songs, and they're all... Most of them are pretty good. I mean, some of them aren't, but there's 100 of them, and that's a pretty high hit rate. Um, and... Yeah. I just really appreciate how like genuinely psyched this dude is about the holidays, and that is just not...

Rachel:

I kind of love Christmas albums, I think. Like I am obviously am not speaking about all of them. And I don't have a comprehensive knowledge. But there are so many good ones.

Griffin:

There's a lot of good ones. I do not mean to say that these only good Christmas albums, because I could go on and on, and on. And God knows like, if I don't have a whole segment about the Vince Guaraldi Trio, Charlie Brown Christmas album, which I have maybe actually pound-for-pound listened to more than Sufjan's music.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, no. I'm not saying that. But I am saying like a lot of the times, the shelves are just... I mean, fucking Love, Actually, no matter what you think

of that movie, like, actually... I really feel like it kind of encapsulates this idea, just like, "Oh, it's Christmas. I don't know. Just get the fuck out there and sing."

Can we do— Have you done, uh, All I Want For Christmas is You, in just like a smooth jazz style? Because that kind of that sucks. But there's a lot of Christmas music where you can actually feel like, "Oh, this person's kind of psyched, and they're like getting that excitement out there." That, I don't know, I really enjoy. And I feel Sufjan's stuff is sort of the epitome of that. What else is good Christmas music?

Rachel:

I mean, we've listened to a lot of— You have a whole Christmas playlist.

Griffin:

It's all Sufjan and Vince Guaraldi. That is—

Rachel:

That is not true.

Griffin:

It's mostly Sufjan and Vince Guaraldi.

Rachel:

What's that song we love so much? Um.

Griffin:

Oh, This Christmas, by Donnie Hathaway?

Rachel:

Yes. Oh, that's so good.

Griffin:

That's a good one. And is this just our Christmas music block? It's kind of starting to feel like it.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Vulfpeck has a song called Christmas in L.A. that—

Rachel:

Oh, I heard that for the first time.

Griffin:

Stop this podcast right fucking now and go listen to Christmas in L.A. by Vulfpeck. It is so good.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

All right. Anyway. Sufjan, thank you.

Rachel:

Can I do my thing?

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Okay. In honor of our anniversary—

Griffin:

[gasps]

Rachel:

I didn't want to get too sappy.

Griffin:

Oh, boy!

Rachel:

I, instead of talking about our wedding, which was wonderful.

Griffin:

[whispering] Should I have done it? Hold on. Wait. Pause the—

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

[whispering] Hold on. Should I have done an anniversary one?

Rachel:

No. I was worried you were going to, though.

Griffin:

[sighs]

Rachel:

No. Mine is not— I—It is not sappy.

Griffin:

Is it me?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

I'm always still waiting for the week where you just like...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs]. This is it. It's Griffin.

Rachel:

We have plenty of opportunities for that coming up.

Griffin:

Oh, I guess.

Rachel:

For this episode, I wanted to talk about the menu at our wedding.

Griffin:

Oh, okay. [laughs].

Rachel:

Which was also wonderful.

Griffin:

Very accessible. Uh, I love it.

Rachel:

I didn't want to get too...You know?

Griffin:

No. It's combining our two favorite things, which is loving each other...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... and loving the, uh, lots and lots of leftovers that we had for about a month and a half after our wedding.

Rachel:

So I went into my email and got the exact menu.

Griffin:

Fuck, yeah. Take me on this trip down Memory Lane. We can sort of do a play-by-play. By the way, if we do a quick debrief? Did you... I loved planning a wedding. This was a all-hands-on-the-ball affair, by the way, folks. There's none of that fucking gender barriers bullshit. Rachel and I were both like, "Hell, yeah. The biggest party we're ever going to throw. Let's get gnarly on it."

Rachel:

Well, I think... And part of it was neither Griffin nor I had a big plan going into this.

Griffin:

No. But we developed them as we learned about the options...

Rachel:

Once we found the venue, I—

Griffin:

...which I enjoyed. Yeah.

Rachel:

I found that finding a venue was the terrible part.

Griffin:

Yeah. That part was really rough.

Rachel:

Because we had to go to all these venues and talk to these people that we did not like. Uh.

Griffin:

There was a dude at this one venue, who...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... by the way, they had the crosses on Gethsemane or whatever, like overlooking the wedding site, which was rad. And, uh, they were showing us the ceremony site and he was like, "When she walks down the aisle—" Well, let me do the accent.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

[southern accent] "When she walks down that aisle, bud, I don't look at her. I never look at her. I look at you. When I see the tears in your eyes? That's how I know." That's how you know what, dude?

Rachel:

He also said that he liked to keep the bride happy and sequestered, or else you might end up with something that ends in a zilla."

Griffin:

Yeah. "Meanwhile, the boys are going to be watching football."

Rachel:

Which turned me off a little bit.

Griffin:

"Here's your sign."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Anyway, we didn't go with that one.

Rachel:

Yeah. Anyway, we did eventually find a venue that was wonderful. Uh, and...

Griffin:

She turned... Uh, and guess what? One the day, Rachel did get angry. She turned into Godzilla. It was wild. Ate my dad, right there on the spot.

Rachel:

No, Griffin.

Griffin:

So.

Rachel:

So I wanted to share our wedding, uh, menu, in particular, uh, which I thought would leave, you know, a little mystery to our big day.

Griffin:

Yeah!

Rachel:

And invite people into the warm comfort food that we provided.

Griffin:

Oh, man. The food was so good.

Rachel:

So good.

Griffin:

It was so good, and it was the first time I ate it. Because when we did the tasting for the time when we were picking the menu, I had bad, bad diarrhea. Let's move on though.

Rachel:

Griffin. [laughs]

Griffin:

We don't have to talk about it.

Rachel:

Every episode of this podcast.

Griffin:

Well, we've got to be honest with the people. We can't lie to them about the time.

Rachel:

Every episode of this podcast...

Griffin:

What if Snopes looked me up and been like—

Rachel:

...involves you discussing something terrible that has happened to your stomach.

Griffin:

Or my butt, but let's not.

Rachel:

Okay. Okay. Uh.

Griffin:

It was actually... I was being autobiographical when I was talking about the fire escape ladder falling on somebody's butt. It was me. It happened to me, too.

Rachel:

No. I think you had Salmonella. I think this was back when you had Salmonella.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah. That sucked.

Rachel:

Or was it...

Griffin:

Because my friend, Evan, did not know how to cook a fucking chicken leg.

Rachel:

Oh, what is the cruise ship disease? I think it was Norovirus, maybe.

Griffin:

I don't know.

Rachel:

It was one of the two.

Griffin:

I've heard them all. [to the tune of Gotta Catch'em All] Catch 'em. Catch 'em.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Gotta catch 'em all. Got to catch 'em all. Griffin's diarrhea! Norovirus, diarrhea, Salmonella, E. coli.

Rachel:

Here's our menu.

Griffin:

Okay. Now, I'm appetized.

Rachel:

Honey crisp salad, which was, uh, apples, candied pecans, warm goat cheese medallions, lemon basil dressing.

Griffin:

Oh, man.

Rachel:

Hmm.

Griffin:

This is— By the way, this may sound like very bougie. It was, like, an outdoor wedding in a— It was like. It was nice and it was very quaint.

Rachel:

And it was buffet style, too.

Griffin:

It was very—

Rachel:

It was real caszh.

Griffin:

Yeah. It was pretty caszh.

Rachel:

Um.

Griffin:

Also, it was 19 degrees outside.

Rachel:

No. Yeah. It was... It was literally 27 degrees. Uh, chicken pot pie.

Griffin:

Ohh.

Rachel:

Smoked brisket.

Griffin:

I remember him.

Rachel:

Fried green tomatoes.

Griffin:

Fried green tomatoes.

Rachel:

Rosemary red potatoes.

Griffin:

Oh, we got a lot ofatoes!

Rachel:

Because it was 2013, roasted Brussels sprouts.

Griffin:

Those are good in 2017.

Rachel:

Uh, artesian breads.

Griffin:

I don't remember you, artesian breads.

Rachel:

[laughs]. We didn't...

Griffin:

I missed you.

Rachel:

We didn't waste time on bread. And then our cake!

Griffin:

Yes!

Rachel:

Which was a vanilla cake with key lime filling.

Griffin:

Very good. It was a very good...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... cake.

Rachel:

So I bring all that up, uh, because it was very cold and it was very nice to have all of these warm comforting foods, December 7th...

Griffin:

It was an outdoor wedding, by the way.

Rachel:

...2013.

Griffin:

In our... In our defense, we live in Texas and the... uh, in December 7th, 2012, the year before our wedding, uh, it was like 68 degrees in, on December 7th. So we're like, "We're good." And then we kind of weren't good. But it was...

Rachel:

Yeah. This year, I think the high is going to be in like the low 60s, like typically it is a safe day to have a wedding.

Griffin:

That's fine. It's not even... Like we even bought a cornhole set, or rented a cornhole set, so people would be out on the lawn playing cornhole and bocce. But they couldn't because the grass was frozen.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

They'd cut their feet to ribbons.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

And polar bears came out and penguins mated.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Um, yeah. That was a good one.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I'm glad that we made so many diarrhea jokes in there, because I feel like we would have gotten through it really fast.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

But then again, we're at 52 minutes, so.

Rachel:

Yeah. Well, you know, there are any number of things I could have talked about, uh, on our wedding, but I wanted to keep it focused.

Griffin:

I just love you so much, and I'm just so happy that we're still married after all these years.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Four years.

Griffin:

Four years. What's that? The paper anniversary. I always think it's paper. It's not though, is it?

Rachel:

No. I think paper is one year. I think this year might be like linen or something.

Griffin:

It's mercury.

Rachel:

Oh, no.

Griffin:

Yeah. I know, I got you this bucket of mercury.

Rachel:

That's dangerous.

Griffin:

Well, don't touch it.

Rachel:

That's a big— That's a big bucket of mercury.

Griffin:

Yeah. I mean, don't touch it. It's not supposed to be touched. It's supposed to be looked at and admired, and drank, and turned into thermometers. Do you want to, uh, to hear submissions? I almost said a Yahoo, again.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Rachel and I had one alcohol beverage with dinner and I'm wondering if you and I are just like completely fucked up right now.

Rachel:

I'm fine. [laughs]

Griffin:

You're fine? Do you want to talk some more about Blue Apron?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Uh, here's one from Val, who says, "Every time my iPhone updates, I look for dinosaur emojis." [laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs]. That does sound like a Yahoo.

Griffin:

It's really good, Val. I'm not... No judgment. Uh, "I look for dinosaur emojis. It always seems like a lapse in judgment to have 15 different types of hearts but no dinos. But I'm pleased to report that my recent update has not one, but two different types of dinosaurs.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

[laughing] "A T-Rex and an Apatosaurus."

Griffin:

It's— I'm not laughing. I swear to God this is not making fun of you laughing. This is like I'm glad that you exist, Val. Because this is very, very good. "And I'm so glad that our..."

Rachel:

That's a good point though.

Griffin:

"...long natural nightmare is finally over. We finally got two." But emojis are supposed to be like shorthand. What could it possibly... Unless it's like, "Uh-oh, I'm in Jurassic Park."

Rachel:

Or maybe you're talking about a really old person.

Griffin:

Don't be like that though. They probably have stories from the big war.

Rachel:

Or they're going to a museum.

Griffin:

Well, don't... Yeah, that one actually tracks.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Here's, uh, a submission from Rose, who says, "Whale watching is wonderful. For only 20 bucks I can cheer and shout about wild aquatic mammals with strangers from all walks of life, sometimes during an incredible sunset. It feels like a sporting event but the team you're rooting for is, for example, a massive pod of adult and baby dolphins. It's such a thrill to see them surviving and thriving all on their own."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I think I could get down on whale watching.

Rachel:

You've never been whale watching?

Griffin:

No. I've never been whale watching. I did watch a blimp crash into the ocean, one time though. [laughs].

Rachel:

Is that true?

Griffin:

Yeah. That was the Hindenburg.

Rachel:

Okay. Do you have any more submissions?

Griffin:

No. Yes. Here's one from— [laughs] Here's one from Andy, who says, "Do you know what I think is wonderful? The Mountain Goats. The front man, John Darnielle, has released over 1,000 songs over the last 30 years or so and the main overarching theme is triumph over adversity, even if the only triumph is just surviving. They are also inspiring from a creative stance because for the last decade of existence, all of the bands' albums were recorded on a home tape deck. Uh, some good albums to get started with are All Hail West Texas, The Sunset Tree, and Transcendental Youth.

Rachel:

You love The Mountain Goats. Don't you?

Griffin:

I do love The Mountain Goats. I'm not like— I'm not, like, super well-versed on The Mountain Goats. I, uh... It's one of those situations where I would... I had a couple of their albums in college and I listened to them fucking nonstop and I kind of only listened to those while picking up some like singles here and there from the new stuff.

But, um, I love The Mountain Goats. Yeah. John Darnielle's voice is, like, so, uh, unique and the writing of the songs is so brilliant and, uh, I— If you follow him on Twitter, you probably know that he's also just kind of, just a smart dude. Good follow. Premium follow. Here's our segment where we highlight great Twitter users on the great platform Twitter.

Rachel:

You know what premium follow sounds like?

Griffin:

I don't. So.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Uh, I think that's it for this episode.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I've had a lot of fun here with you today.

Rachel:

Me, too.

Griffin:

I'm probably going to edit some of the Chess stuff out. It was a little boring. But it got live here towards the end.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

So thank you all, so much for listening though. And thanks for Maximum Fun for having us. Uh, you can go to MaximumFun.org and check out all the great shows there. Shows like Tights and Fights, and Heat Rocks and...

Rachel:

Inside Pop?

Griffin:

Inside Pop, and Next To Pop, and—

Rachel:

Bullseye.

Griffin:

And Bullseye, and all the great shows there. You can go to McElroyShows.com and check out the other stuff we do. Thanks to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description and... Hmm.

Rachel:

Join our Facebook group.

Griffin:

Join the group, get on the buck, and just be good.

Rachel:

Yeah. Just be good.

Griffin:

Just for like a day. Try it out. And when you see your neighbor, you usually prank them by stealing their newspaper and replacing it with the newspaper that you created that is all sort of fake events like, Big Ants Eat Darrell's Mom, and his name is Darrell. And so this is a fake newspaper. Or you could...

Rachel:

Or maybe your neighbor is called Chandler and you're giving him the news in advance.

Griffin:

Holy shit! You've just blown, uh...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... Morning Edition?

Rachel:

Inside— No.

Griffin:

Inside Edition is not it.

Rachel:

Next Edition.

Griffin:

Next Edition.

Rachel:

Tomorrow's Edition.

Griffin:

Tomorrow's News. [laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Bye!

[theme music plays]

MaximumFun.org

Comedy and culture.

Artist owned.

Listener supported.

Theresa:

Hey, Biz, have you seen any good movies lately?

Biz:

Hey, Theresa, does Curious George's Goof Fest count?

Theresa:

It doesn't.

Biz:

Hmm. Well, I blame my current life situation that has small children that need things. God, I love them and I miss them knowing about stuff.

Theresa:

[laughs]. Well, after catching up on the current cultural offerings on podcasts that provide such information...

Biz:

Mm-hmm.

Theresa:

...turn in on One Bad Mother, as we help explore the harsh realities of sweeping self-identity changes as we try to find ourselves between our pre- and post-kids selves.

Biz:

I used to like all the things.

Theresa:

Download One Bad Mother on MaximumFun.org, or Apple Podcasts. And yes, there will be snacks.