

## Wonderful! 259: Delight in the Joy of Other People

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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:** Welcome to *Wonderful!*, it's a show we talk about things that we like that is good and that we are into them. It's—

**Rachel:** Gri—Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Rachel:** You have your feet up on the desk.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I do.

**Rachel:** Is this like a new cas [short for casual] vibe you're bringing?

**Griffin:** You know what it was? My leg is sore and I wanted to elevate it and make the blood leave the leg. Because the blood is what makes the... is what pain is stored in.

**Rachel:** What happened to your leg?

**Griffin:** Blood is weakness leaving the body, do you know what I mean? What happened to my leg? Nothing. It's just stiff and sore, I've been sitting at my desk all day.

**Rachel:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** Actually I did go on a walk earlier.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Haven't been on one of those in a while.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I think my leg was like, "This isn't... You're not... conveying, as like, a necessary means."

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

**Griffin:** "This is a... You are doing this sort of extra." And yeah, they got me there. So now I'm treating it to a little bit of elevation, trying to get all that blood out of there.

**Rachel:** Okay. Should I let our listeners know when you... when you switch positions or do you think...? I don't—

**Griffin:** I mean you didn't really need to let our listeners know about this position.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Well, I just figured at some point you're going to leave that position and—

**Griffin:** Make a big loud noise?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Maybe.

**Rachel:** Maybe there'll be a change, in the tone.

**Griffin:** Or maybe I'll do it so sneakily you won't even notice I've done it. Hmm.

**Rachel:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** What do you think about that?

**Rachel:** This is fun.

**Griffin:** I encourage you to explore this space with your body.

**Rachel:** [laughs] You do?

**Griffin:** This is an open invitation. I know you—

**Rachel:** You are always saying that. [laughs]

**Griffin:** I know you have your own office.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Next to my office.

**Rachel:** I do.

**Griffin:** We have our own offices.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Very fortunate, to have this setup.

**Rachel:** I've never put my feet up on my desk.

**Griffin:** I'm wearing socks. I just took a shower, like I'm- These are clean socks.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And so I don't want people at home to get this view like I'm some sort of like, you know, like nasty—

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** ...unwashed—

**Rachel:** No. I'm not saying that.

**Griffin:** You know just slumlord.

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** And you've wandered into my office to ask for an extension and I'm like, [slumlord voice, coughs] "No!" And I'm clipping my toenails—

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** ... and they're flying all hither and yon.

**Rachel:** No, this is just like a... Like a bad boy vibe that I'm not used to, I guess.

**Griffin:** It's more calisthenics, than anything else.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Okay.

**Griffin:** It's so important at work.

This is the part of the show now, we enter into, where I ask you if you have any Small Wonders. You look at me flummoxed, you are enraged? No, you're not. You're thinking. Oh, I love this part.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, this is the part of the show where I ask you if you would like to go first.

**Griffin:** I mean, alright folks, hockey... On the hockey front it's been a while since we've had a hockey update.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Blues having a middling season, I would say.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** They've had some pretty crazy losing streaks, some pretty crazy winning streaks.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Then they've just kind of been a normal hockey team I would say for a little while.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But now everyone, it's funny, and I didn't know this could happen, is injured.

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** They have no players, they have had to get some of the janitorial staff and concessions workers out there. It's—

**Rachel:** [laughs] One of the players got injured in practice, like that's the kind of luck—

**Griffin:** Which is bad.

**Rachel:** ... we're dealing with right now.

**Griffin:** You hate to hear that. The captain is injured. Vladimir Tarasenko who's like this—

**Rachel:** He's an alternate, I think.

**Griffin:** Oh, is he? Does he?

**Rachel:** Yeah, he's got the "A" on there.

**Griffin:** Oh. Oh! Alternate captain, okay, I was confused as to what that

meant. They are both out with broken body parts and they're gonna be out for a while. And so this like, they're just changing up all the lines and they're changing up how they're playing.

**Rachel:** Bringing a lot of players in from the minors which is kind of exciting to watch.

**Griffin:** Kind of exciting, although sometimes they just eat shit and it's like, "Well, yeah..."

**Rachel:** Yeah...

**Griffin:** "Yeah, they're learning. They're still figuring it out."

**Rachel:** In the last game we got to see one of the guys get his first goal in the NHL.

**Griffin:** I love seeing that.

**Rachel:** And it's real sweet. They take a piece of masking tape and they put it around the puck and they give it to the player.

**Griffin:** Uh-huh. That's happened I feel like five or six times this season—

**Rachel:** [laughing] I know! I know!

**Griffin:** ... because of how much they've had to rotate shit out. Anyway, all that is to say they have had some, I would say of the last like four or five games, most of them have been thrilling.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Like either come from behind victories or like just raucous shootouts.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** High scoring, like five to six, just lots of goals. Lots of pucks flying

all over the place. So it's fun watching this team that hasn't had the best season, now with a pretty injured starting line up and having to replace them and finding some pretty fun success in it.

**Rachel:** And every game is so important right now.

**Griffin:** Of course, yeah.

**Rachel:** Like they are teetering on the edge of not making the playoffs, so like every win is necessary if they want to make it. And so it's exciting.

**Griffin:** It is exciting. I think it's an interesting year for the Blues and I'm thinking next year there's going to be a lot of trades that are going to render it pretty unrecognizable.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it's true.

**Griffin:** But we will see.

**Rachel:** Okay, so my Small Wonder that I'm bringing, and again this is kind of a dangerous one to bring because we have not finished the first season, but it is Paul T. Goldman.

**Griffin:** Paul T. Goldman. Special thanks to my brother Justin, who would not—

**Rachel:** Again, right? Like last week we talked about the Christmas film they recommended.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** This week we are talking about the television program they recommended.

**Griffin:** Me and Justin tried to explain it to Travis and Dad today when we recorded TAZ.

**Rachel:** Oh, it's fun.

**Griffin:** It's tough.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Do you want to take a stab?

**Rachel:** Sure. Okay, so this is on Peacock.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** I believe it is produced by Seth Rogan and his writing partner Evan?

**Griffin:** Yes. And it's directed by the guy... I'll pull up his name, the director of *Borat 2*.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I think he was the director of the... Nathan... I think he directed *Nathan for You*.

**Rachel:** Oh, did he? That would make a lot of sense.

So this guy, Paul, published a book about this story where he married this woman, kind of foolishly, and she ended up conning him in a bunch of different ways. So he wrote a book about it, and then wanted to make that book into a movie and decided that he should star in it himself even though he has no acting experience or talent, I guess, I would say.

**Griffin:** Jason... Jason Woliner.

**Rachel:** Is the director?

**Griffin:** Is the name of the director, yes.



**Rachel:** Yeah, and so—

**Griffin:** I would also argue that he has a level of charisma, not Jason—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... but Paul, that is hard to look away from. And so I would not say he is an untalented actor.

**Rachel:** No, he's very charming. Like you are cringing because he is not an actor, but then you are kind of smiling to yourself because he's so earnest.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And so aware of his deficit, I think when it comes to acting.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But yeah, we started watching it. It's challenging. I think if you don't like *Nathan for You* you're probably not going to like this one either.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Because you are watching a lot of uncomfortable interactions. But it is a fascinating story.

**Griffin:** It's a fascinating story because it's part documentary of him talking about this story.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That is for the large part true, it seems like.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I think. We think so.

**Griffin:** We think so. And then it is also this movie that they are... that has been made using his screenplay. And then it is also the making of that

movie, that he is deeply involved in and like getting notes from and saying, "Hey, keep filming after this part 'cause I've got a line I want to say [cross-laugh] camera." Like, it's three layers on top of each other and the way that they blend together is unlike any television show I think I've ever seen in my life.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it is so... it is charming in that it is so surprising. Um—

**Griffin:** If the ethics of *The Rehearsal* turned you off, though, I—we've watched two episodes, it's too soon to say on our part but I feel like this one might also similarly...

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Put you in a weird place.

**Rachel:** It is... It's too early to say, but yeah, it's... What is it called, actually? It's like *Paul T. Gold*—

**Griffin:** Paul T. Goldman.

**Rachel:** That's just what it's called?

**Griffin:** The name of the show is Paul T. Goldman.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** It's on Peacock. It's... that's not his actual name, but...

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** What a... what a thing we experienced last night watching those two episodes.

**Rachel:** Yeah, we watched two episodes and there were only two left after we watched those two so we decided—

**Griffin:** I think it's only six epi—it's only going to be six episodes.

**Rachel:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** So like it's not too late for you to catch up and be on board with Paul T. Goldman as it goes.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** What is your thing this week, my... my darling dear? My legs are uncomfortable now, I'm going to put 'em on the floor.

**Rachel:** Alright so everybody that had a pool out there for, what is it? Like 5 minutes?

**Griffin:** Eleven minutes.

**Rachel:** Well, that counts other stuff before though.

**Griffin:** Oh, right. Right. Where we do—

**Rachel:** The secret stuff we do? [laughs]

**Griffin:** The preshow that we give out only to our Patreon members where we just are... just talk a lot of shit about stuff.

**Rachel:** [laughs] I've always thought like, would it be fun to do an episode where we talk about terrible things? And then I think, "Nope."

**Griffin:** No!

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Not at all.

**Rachel:** Actually, inherently that would not be fun.

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** So this is my Wonderful Thing this week which is MC Skat Kat.

**Griffin:** I just... Whoa. I just had like a... It was like a double deja vu, where I was like... Have... I was like, "Have we talked about MC Skat Kat?" And then I thought, "Have I thought about whether we've talked about MC Skat Kat before?"

**Rachel:** Well, we talked about this the other night. This may be why it came up.

**Griffin:** That may be why.

**Rachel:** I did—

**Griffin:** We've also talked at length about Mr. Kat—

**Rachel:** On—

**Griffin:** ... on the *My Brother, My Brother and Me* program.

**Rachel:** I know. I know. I almost didn't want to talk about it because I knew that you had done that.

**Griffin:** No, I... I'll talk about MC Skat Kat all day, every fucking day.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** No matter what. It is one of the wildest cross-promotional media universes I feel like—

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** ... that has ever been breathed into existence.

**Rachel:** Yeah, so I assume most people are familiar but if you are not—

**Griffin:** That's a wild, wild, wild fucking thing to assume, that people are familiar with MC Skat Kat.

**Rachel:** It was an incredibly popular music video though.

**Griffin:** Yeah in 19...90... two? 93?

**Rachel:** So the album came out in 1988.

**Griffin:** 1988!?

**Rachel:** I think that the video was like 1990?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Um—

**Griffin:** It's fucking wild I remember that, then.

**Rachel:** Yeah. 1990.

**Griffin:** 'Cause I was three when that shit came out.

**Rachel:** I know. I know. But it's like.... It's so iconic, you know?

**Griffin:** True.

**Rachel:** And I feel like it's been parodied.

**Griffin:** True.

**Rachel:** Anyway it is Paula Abdul did a song called "Opposites Attract" on an album, her debut album, actually, *Forever Your Girl*.

**Griffin:** Really?

**Rachel:** Which came out in 1988. Yeah.

**Griffin:** Wow!

**Rachel:** And the music video that was created was her dancing and interacting with an animated cat.

**Griffin:** Yes. Well, that sounds like, you know, that could be Garfield that could be Felix. That could be anything. I always envision MC Skat Kat as more of like a big bad wolf type-vibe, type energy.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Actually this is a fun quiz. So if you had to describe right now what MC Skat Kat looked like, can you remember what he was wearing?

**Griffin:** Oh, shit. I feel like I get it confused a lot with the wolf in *Pinocchio* or perhaps *Mary Poppins*, the like anthropomorphized wolf character with like the... He had big pants? Did he have big pants?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** And sunglasses?

**Rachel:** Nnnn...

**Griffin:** No sunglasses?

**Rachel:** I mean he perhaps had sunglasses occasionally, but not all the time.

**Griffin:** Did he have a vest on? Am I remembering a vest?

**Rachel:** It was a sleeveless white shirt.

**Griffin:** Okay, so a vest.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. [laughs belatedly] I'm gonna... I'm gonna bring up a photo so you can check.

**Griffin:** That's great. Computer, show us images of MC Skat Kat please.

**Rachel:** There are some where he's not wearing sunglasses, but the one I show you is gonna be him wearing sunglasses.

**Griffin:** Okay, yeah.

**Rachel:** The other thing Griffin forgot to mention is there are suspenders connecting the pants, umm—

**Griffin:** That is so important.

**Rachel:** ... to the shoulders. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's the bit that doesn't really track with me.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

With like the rest of the ensemble that he's got going on, 'cause it's kind of like... "Aw shucks." Like a little sailor boy sort of walking down by the dock sort of kicking his feet and whistling.

**Rachel:** Uh, yeah. I'm going to get to the story behind that outfit.

**Griffin:** I wanna know it.

**Rachel:** But first I will say the whole concept of Paula Abdul with a dancing cat came from Gene Kelly.

**Griffin:** I love this.

**Rachel:** And Tom and Jerry, you know.

**Griffin:** I didn't know that. I didn't know that Tom and Jerry inspired it. Gene Kelly? What?

**Rachel:** Gene Kelly the famous dancer.

**Griffin:** Right, sure.

**Rachel:** There is like a film. I don't actually know... Oh, the animated sequence in *Anchors Aweigh* from 1945.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Where he danced with Jerry, from Tom and Jerry, in little sailor suits.

**Griffin:** I didn't know about- I haven't seen this bit.

**Rachel:** This doesn't like bring to mind the...?

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** Okay, I have seen this scene before.

**Griffin:** You've seen more old movies than I have. I only watch cool—

**Rachel:** I don't think I've seen *Anchors Aweigh*.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** But I've seen this clip of Gene Kelly and the mouse.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** And—

**Griffin:** Didn't have quite as much probably sexual energy—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... as Paul Abdul and MC Skat Kat in "Opposites Attract."

**Rachel:** No. No. So the reason we were talking about this the other day... Well I don't actually remember why we were talking about MC Skat Kat but you—



**Griffin:** We were in bed.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I remember that.

**Rachel:** I know. [still laughing]

**Griffin:** Rachel's not mentioning that part, but a lot of times when she says like, "I'm bringing this up because we talked about it the other day", it's usually at night in bed, sometimes when the lights are off.

**Rachel:** [still laughing]

**Griffin:** Not anything lascivious, it's just like... you know?

**Rachel:** And you said that you remembered a particular thing about MC Skat Kat because it had come up on the episode of *My Brother, My Brother and Me* recently where you discuss—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Or not recently.

**Griffin:** Not recently. Quite a long time ago.

**Rachel:** And what is it that you remembered?

**Griffin:** I remembered that there was like a... They sent out a packet to radio like, disc jockeys, to explain the phenomenon that was soon to be MC Skat Kat. Like, "We want to provide you, the humble radio DJ, with everything you need to know."

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** "So you don't embarrass yourself on the air by talking, by saying

some shit about MC Skat Kat that is not true." I remembered the phrase, "He's a something something that remains on the smooth tip."

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yes. Yeah, I actually—

**Griffin:** My brothers saying those words out loud to me is like really, really wedged into my mind holes.

**Rachel:** I searched that specific phrase.

**Griffin:** Yep.

**Rachel:** 'Cause at first when I was reading about this I couldn't find it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But then there was a site, it was like a wiki, that said... And not about specifically the Skat Kat, but a wiki about many topics, just so people know.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** That said there was a press kit from Virgin Records.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** That MC Skat Kat is a, quote, "Street philosopher with an alley cat point of view—"

**Griffin:** [loud, slow claps] [laughs hard]

**Rachel:** [laughs] He enjoys rapping and dancing and has, quote, "Got an eye for the ladies."

**Griffin:** Mm-mmm!

**Rachel:** And further—

**Griffin:** I'll fucking say! He's locking out Paul Abdul! Yeah, he's got an eye for the ladies, that one.

**Rachel:** And quote, "Remains on the smooth tip, with an old-school rap influence which adds the street to his new-school hip-hop."

**Griffin:** The suspenders... I don't think when we talked about this on *MBMBaM*, I was looking at a picture of MC Skat Kat, 'cause I was imagining someone who was not wearing suspenders and big pants.

**Rachel:** Alright, do you want to hear about the suspenders, now?

**Griffin:** Yeah, more than anything.

**Rachel:** Okay, so they brought in these two animators who had actually worked on A-ha's "Take on Me." You remember that music video?

**Griffin:** Yeah, that had a bit of—

**Rachel:** With the animation?

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:** Like, in and out.

**Griffin:** I'm trying to remember if there was animation and live action happening at the same time a la *Roger Rabbit*.

**Rachel:** It like moved back and—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I don't think it was ever happening really at the same time, it moved back and forth between an animated world and a live action world.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Anyway, they were working together with an animator and they were trying to figure out what the design should be.

And they were talking about how they wanted to add more hip-hop elements, which was tricky because hip-hop wasn't really in the mainstream yet. So people didn't really have a vision of what hip-hop was at least in—

**Griffin:** In 1988?

**Rachel:** Yeah, it wasn't like widely known. There was this real division between like hip-hop and mainstream music and so at the time you know like MC Hammer had just come on the scene, but there was no like Fresh Prince, there was no Kid 'n Play.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Like this was still trying to figure out—

**Griffin:** It was a different era. Like Sugarhill Gang and stuff was around at this point but that was like a different... That was not the same thing as what MC Hammer and...

**Rachel:** So they had a meeting to talk about what this design should look like. And one of the guys came in... So this, when I was talking about the animation experts that did A-ha's "Take on me", one of them was Michael Patterson.

So Michael Patterson is in this meeting and the person they're working with from Virgin says, "Hey, why can't he dress more like you?" At that moment, Patterson was wearing some baggy pants held up with suspenders worn over a tank top. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Fucking... So just that then?

**Rachel:** And Michael Patterson, not like a hip-hop person.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Like, you know an animator-type fellow.

**Griffin:** Who was wearing...?

**Rachel:** Inexplicably large pants, suspenders, and a [through laughter] sleeveless shirt. And so that's why they dressed him that way. [starts laughing again] I don't know. Maybe he was a part time volunteer fireman.

**Griffin:** This is— [belatedly explodes into laughter]

**Rachel:** [laughs] That's the only reason I could think he'd be dressed like that.

**Griffin:** Maybe he had an appointment later that day where he was going to be pushed in the ocean.

And he was going to stand up and his pants would be huge 'cause they were carrying a bunch of ocean water and some fish would jump out.

**Rachel:** Or, or he did the like the stream fishing where you stand in?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Maybe he was— [laughs]

**Griffin:** He was doing some fly fishing for sure. That was another opportunity for big pants hijinks.  
That's hysterical.

**Rachel:** Yeah, so that... I mean that... That's the design.

**Griffin:** The extent to which MC Skat Kat does not look like I remember him looking is like full-blown Mandela effect level. I don't know what character I'm imagining.

**Rachel:** Well he also wears a different outfit. There's an extended dance sequence where he's wearing like a red suit. Is that—?

**Griffin:** That's what I'm thinking! Okay!

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** That's what I am thinking of, the red suit.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Yeah, so the whole like, filming of the video, was pretty arduous for them.

**Griffin:** I can imagine.

**Rachel:** Um—

**Griffin:** Especially for Paula.

**Rachel:** Yeah, 'cause what they did is they had her dance with a partner who happened to be—

**Griffin:** A cat.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** A big bipedal cat.

**Rachel:** No, happened to be Michael Chambers AKA Boogaloo Shrimp, legendary '80s break dancer and star of *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*.

**Griffin:** *Electric Boogaloo*. Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** So she danced with him and then she would have to do the dance by herself, too, so that they could animate in his place.  
I don't know why they needed him, also.

**Griffin:** Needed him, yeah.

**Rachel:** I think it was so that the animators had like a sense of what the body should look like in these various positions.

**Griffin:** Then why the take without him?

**Rachel:** Well 'cause they're animating based off his movements and then they need a take where they can put—

**Griffin:** Okay. Paula—

**Rachel:** Skat Kat in clean.

**Griffin:** I got you. A clean Skat Kat.

**Rachel:** [laughs] But apparently they did a two-day shoot. One day lasted 15 hours.

**Griffin:** Jesus.

**Rachel:** And the second ran for a full 24 hours.

**Griffin:** They—what!? That's—they're not-

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Are they OSHA compliant, at that point?

**Rachel:** And so this video ended up being huge. So the song was number one. It also got a Grammy for best music video and earned six MTV Video Music Awards.

**Griffin:** Who did the voice of MC Skat Kat in the song?

**Rachel:** Yeah, so I should mention that. That's only fair. Derrick 'Delite' Stevens.

**Griffin:** That's good.

**Rachel:** It was written by Romany Malco, who you may know of. He was in *40-Year-Old Virgin* he played the bald man who was known for kind of like two-timing women.

**Griffin:** Oh my god!

**Rachel:** Yeah. Apparently he wrote MC Skat Kat's part.

**Griffin:** That's fucking wild.

**Rachel:** And Derrick 'Delite' Stevens, who I guess is still a public radio DJ in Minnesota—

**Griffin:** Great.

**Rachel:** ... did the voice.

So the video's super popular. That's when Virgin decides that they are going to release MC Skat Kat's own album called *The Adventures of MC Skat Kat and the Stray Mob*. Do you know about this?

**Griffin:** I don't know.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I feel like... I must? Just...

**Rachel:** This was a totally separate album, like 50 minutes long.

**Griffin:** That's a full-length album.

**Rachel:** You wanna hear the tracks?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** I'm not gonna like, play them, you can find this on YouTube. The



track they tried to turn into a single and actually made into a separate video was called "The Skat Strut."

**Griffin:** "The Skat... The Skat Strut?"

**Rachel:** "The Skat Strut." And they actually made a second video, but it was such a flop that they never... they never put it out in the world.

**Griffin:** It was a full-blown like, MC Skat Kat had to go back to his home planet.

**Rachel:** [laughs] But there's songs on there like, "I Ain't No Kitty", "The Cat in the Casino."

**Griffin:** This is sounding familiar to me now.

**Rachel:** "I Go Crazy", "No Dogs Allowed."

**Griffin:** That's good!

**Rachel:** [laughs] When the album flopped there was never an official release for the second video, which was supposed to be of "Big Time."

**Griffin:** It's not too late, man. 2023 is the year we reboot Skat Kat.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Apparently there was an offer at one point from MTV to make MC Skat Kat the official mascot.

**Griffin:** [incredulous] Of MTV?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** And they slept on that? They were like, "No way. This guy is going to be way bigger than MTV."

**Rachel:** There were also rumors that when they were talking about producing an animated series, it came down to MC Skat Kat and *Beavis and Butthead* and we all know—

**Griffin:** [slow claps] Sliding fucking doors, man.

**Rachel:** ... how that turned out.

**Rachel:** They design some MC Skat Kat dolls that were never released. Although apparently like there's some people who were associated with the brand that have these dolls.

**Griffin:** Oh, for sure. That's their retirement plan. They'll Etsy those for a billion dollars.

**Rachel:** And yeah. I mean that was... that was the end of the Skat Kat. I didn't realize they tried to make him into his own thing.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like there is there is a PSA that came out at a certain point—

**Griffin:** [As PSA] "Do not trust this cat. If you see this cat..."

**Rachel:** [laughs] No. No, there was like a... They did a PSA called "Take it Back" in 1991 that was all about recycling.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** It had a lot of stars of the era including like Ozzy Osbourne, Bette Midler and then also MC Skat Kat.

**Griffin:** MC Skat Kat, yeah. You think when Bette found out she was...

**Rachel:** Well, Bugs Bunny's in it too.

**Griffin:** Ah, well there.

**Rachel:** Which I feel like is a real honor for MC Skat Kat to get to work with Bugs.

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure. Oh I bet they had a lot to talk about.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

[ad break]

**Griffin:** My thing is not the most substantial this week, which is fine because I think we did just talk about MC Skat Kat for like, 17 minutes, and I'm all... I'm here for that.

**Rachel:** I could have done more, personally.

**Griffin:** I know you could have and I love that for both of us. I'm talking about something a bit conceptual and I'll explain how I kind of worked my way into it. But I want to talk about sort of... How good it is when something exists that is this gigantic, esoteric fandom that you just never hear anything about.

The existence of these pocket universes of people who are extremely into a thing and you never have any contact with them or the thing they're enthusiastic about. And I think what I—the jumping off point I guess here is *Curse of Oak Island*.

**Rachel:** Ah, okay.

**Griffin:** *Curse of Oak Island* obviously something that Justin talked about on our other podcasts before. It's a show where a bunch of old men spend like a billion dollars digging around in this island, taking core samples of silt looking for traces of timber that might be evidence of underground passageways that maybe, might, maybe, might, contain ancient... I don't know, Aztec gold or whatever the fuck.

**Rachel:** Feasibly, you could do this anywhere.

**Griffin:** Feasibly, you could do this anywhere, because that's basically what they've done. Sure, *Oak Island* has a whole history to it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it has like a cool mystique in the sense that like, you know, it's an island. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, but didn't like the Kennedys or something own it at some point? And like I said, there's a whole—

**Rachel:** I don't know, I've never looked into the lore of it.

**Griffin:** I did once and then I was like, "I... This is going to... If I..." I was teetering on the edge of something where I was like, "If I look into this too much I'm going to become a *Curse of Oak Island* fan and then this whole segment I'm about to do won't make any sense anymore.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** We watched an episode of it in a hotel room, that is the extent of our *Oak Island* exposure and it was everything I needed it to be and more. And then I found out that it's like the biggest show ever? It's like huge?

**Rachel:** Yeah, I kind of can't believe that. Your brother has said as much, that it is like incredibly—

**Griffin:** It's not the biggest show ever.

**Rachel:** ... popular.

**Griffin:** It's the biggest show on The History Network. There's millions of people who watch it, the ratings are astronomically higher than you would expect the ratings of *Curse of Oak Island* on The History Channel to be. And that to me belies the existence of just this pocket fandom that because we don't sort of communicate with the people who are—

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** ... *Oak Island* fans, we don't know exists.

**Rachel:** That happens a lot with television programs.

**Griffin:** It happens a lot with television programs!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Which is sort of... I guess my main focus here, right? Like games, the problem with games, there's no shortage of esoteric fandoms inside of games, right? Like, AGDQ is going on right now, when this episode comes out, go watch it. Speed running community? Gigantic and vibrant and really interesting to me, based on sort of the width and depth of what it is that they do, right?

But I feel like if you are in games, like you know about that shit. Because you know, sometimes a community will court controversy or will get covered to death, right? Fighting game communities are this way too, where it's not that insular because you hear about it a lot, right? But then, you take a step out of games, you look at TV, and you have like... Anytime we watch *Survivor*, which is in its own thing, probably one of these for somebody else, right?

Like we're diehard about *Survivor* and there is a diehard audience for *Survivor*, and I would imagine most people out there don't give a shit about *Survivor* anymore.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Or watch it or follow it. Don't know that this—

**Rachel:** *Ninja Warrior*. *Ninja Warrior* isn't—

**Griffin:** *Ninja Warrior*! Holy shit!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That's a great one! I don't even write that down, but it is a very big community of people who are *Ninja Warrior* fans.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** You have some in your life, but you don't know that they watch *Ninja Warrior*—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... 'cause they don't fucking talk about it.

**Rachel:** This is like a lot of shows, particularly on CBS, uh—

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's what I was going to say. When we watch *Survivor*, we get commercials for shows on CBS that's like- We get a commercial for fucking like season 19 of *NCIS Miami*, and it's like...

**Rachel:** Who?

**Griffin:** Who's... Someone's... Lots of people watch this show, I'm assuming.

**Rachel:** I have never in my life met somebody that has mentioned watching that show, and yet it still exists.

**Griffin:** It doesn't... It's been existing for such a long time, right? And this brings me to the zenith of this concept.

**Rachel:** The people that live under the ground that exclusively watch these television shows? [laughs]

**Griffin:** No. I am talking about daytime soap operas.

**Rachel:** Oh!

**Griffin:** Daytime soap opera... Like this is an entire medium, like storytelling

medium, that has existed forever. *General Hospital's* been on the air for 59 years. There are over 13,000 episodes of this television program.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I couldn't tell you one thing about *General Hospital*. Couldn't do it. Couldn't tell you anything about *Days of Our Lives* or any of those, right?

**Rachel:** Have you ever had somebody try and get you into soap operas?

**Griffin:** No. I've never had anybody try to get me into soap operas but I know that like, I... My Granny watched them.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And was a fan of them, right?

**Rachel:** I have a friend who, and I believe she still listens to our show, so hello, if you're listening.

**Griffin:** Hi!

**Rachel:** Who tried to get me to watch *Days of Our Lives*, one summer.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I was amazed because they will film a scene... Like they- You know, there's a bunch of different stories going on at the same time and you bounce between the stories.

**Griffin:** Of course.

**Rachel:** But they will film like a story for like three weeks because you're just getting like a minute at a time.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** So I was— [laughs] I watched once and then I watched again like two weeks later and I was like, “It is still a 4th of July barbecue!”

**Griffin:** Right. [laughs]

**Rachel:** [laughs] Like, how is that still happening?

**Griffin:** These shows, soap operas, have been on the air forever and they have been running forever and I've not... I don't think I've ever watched one episode of any of them front to back. I've been sick at home waiting for Price is Right to come on and caught a little bit of it, right? But that's the... That's the extent of it.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** And yet, they are massive. There's—millions and millions of people watch it. When you go to any grocery store or drug store like the magazines are all talking about these things. And it's huge and it's, you know, existed for so long.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And it just... It's just, when I walk by those magazines it's just like two ships passing. It's like I glance off the surface of this huge pocket of reality—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ... that I have no fingers in. And to me that passing interaction always just kind of delights me to no end. And there's also a version of this where like... You know, I'm not talking about gigantic, very like, tribal fandoms, where “if you don't like this thing you're terrible” or “if you do like this thing, you're terrible.” There is this whole other thing of just these... just these... mystery...

**Rachel:** [laughs]



**Griffin:** Just these mystery dimensions.

**Rachel:** Yeah... Yeah, it's like the Daytime Emmy Awards. Like it is fascinating to me because there is. There's this whole daytime world of television that I don't know anything about, that people have watched for decades as like part of their daily life, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah. That's great to me.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I think it is good... I guess this is sort of a broader concept, but to like delight in the harmless joy of other people.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** That's, I think, a universal concept. For me, it just hits really, really hard when I hear somebody—

**Rachel:** That is probably why people listen to our show. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Well I would... I hope so. Anyway, like I said, it was a small... a small topic. It doesn't have the meat on the bones that an MC Skat Kat has.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But what does? You know what I mean? The Noid?

**Rachel:** I'm still trying to figure out why we were talking about it. I remember we were suggesting that I would be interested in MC Skat Kat and I said no, he was too thin.

**Griffin:** Which is weird, like weird—

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah, that I drew the line there.

**Griffin:** A weird thing to say.

**Rachel:** [still laughing]

**Griffin:** Of all the characteristics of...

**Rachel:** The fact that he's a cat?

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Rachel:** You know? The fact that he hasn't been relevant for several decades.

**Griffin:** For a long time.

**Rachel:** I was like, "No, no, no."

**Griffin:** And then I got in my own head, babe, 'cause then I started to think like, "I'm not a street philosopher that remains on the smooth tip."

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

I would say... I would say you remain on the smooth tip.

**Griffin:** Oh really?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Thanks babe!

**Rachel:** I don't think of you as a street philosopher, though.

**Griffin:** No, no, I wouldn't... No, that would be wild.

Um, thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description and thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), just start clicking on the blue words on the page that will take you on a journey through the URLs that exist on the [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) website. Maybe you'll hit a podcast that you'll like. Probably you will.

We have merch over at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). And oh! I just put up all the music from the first season of *The Adventure Zone: Ethersea* on my Bandcamp. If you go to... If you just search "Griffin McElroy Bandcamp" you'll get there. It's like 30 tracks, 28 tracks, and all sales that are... All the album sales this month will go to benefit Earthjustice, which is a great climate non-profit that I'm a big fan of.

And... yeah. So if you like the music from *TAZ*, I hope you do, then think about that. Oh, and our graphic novel comes out soon. Sorry, this is a very *Adventure Zone* heavy sort of—

**Rachel:** Yeah, no, it's alright.

**Griffin:** We got shit to pop. *Eleventh Hour* comes out in less than a month, I think at this point? It comes out mid-February and you can pre-order that at [theadventurezonecomic.com](http://theadventurezonecomic.com), and please do that 'cause it helps us out a lot and it's a great book and I think you're really going to like it.

Do you have anything you wanna plug, or...?

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um... no. No. Mmm... no.

**Griffin:** No? Okay.

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Well that's gonna... That's gonna do it. Do you wanna leave everyone with like a... One of your little nuggets? One of your little bites?

**Rachel:** You see, this is... You... Ennhh, what are you...? I see what you're doing here. I see what you're doing here. Because this is the kind of thing that gets done to you, on another show.

**Griffin:** And it's not fair.

**Rachel:** And now you're turning around...

**Griffin:** And you're right, it's wrong of me to do that. Whoa, Rachel just got up and walked out of the studio.

**Rachel:** No, I was going to maybe see if there was some words of the great MC Skat Kat that we could end our show with.

**Griffin:** That would be huge. In fact, if the great MC Skat Kat could come through for us with a permanent outro line that we could sort of wield?

**Rachel:** Okay. [pause] [laughs] "Well, you've never seen a cat with so much charisma/ Got more moves than a Mutant Ninja (turtle that is)/ And I'm doin' the cat strut/ To hell with John Travolta and the disco duck."

**Griffin:** [cackles]

**Rachel:** Oh wait, this is from "Skat Strut," this isn't...

**Griffin:** Yes, of course it is!

**Rachel:** Okay, okay, okay. Sorry, I—

**Griffin:** [squealing with laughter] Where else would it be from?

**Rachel:** I thought I was going to get, "Opposites Attract."

Anyway, "They call me Skat Cat, the dance floor maniac/ One more of my hip..."

**Griffin:** "One more of my hip."

**Rachel:** "One more of my hip is like an aphrodisiac/ Swinging and winging, I'm just doing my own thing/ Girls don't jump me, give me room to be funky."

**Griffin:** [in sarcastic awe] Wow.

**Rachel:** "Step to the dance floor, bust a little spin/ I thought I taw a puddy

cat. I did." [laughs] "Shut up kid, this is a new dance so shake your butt/  
And get a load of what it's like to be doing Skat Strut."

**Griffin:** [snapping fingers]

[theme music plays]

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