

## Wonderful! Episode 15: Big Dog Don't Fall Over

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[theme song Money Don't Pay by bo en plays]

**Rachel:**

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:**

And this is Wonderful!

**Griffin:**

Hey. You made on back home to us. You brought it on home. We left the light on for ya, the podcast light outside of our podcast hotel. No bugs here, except for the hug bugs, and that's what I call my arms.

**Rachel:**

Again-

**Griffin:**

Two long hug bugs extending off my torso. They're r-, 10 wriggling antennae looking for meat-

**Rachel:**

I gotta tell you.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Sitting in a room with the great improviser-

**Griffin:**

[Laughs].

**Rachel:**

... Griffin McElroy, is such an honor every week.

**Griffin:**

These 10 wriggling antennae are just looking for flesh so they can wrap themselves around for a big old-

**Rachel:**

It sounds like he-

**Griffin:**

... embrace.

**Rachel:**

... wrote this out before we started, but he didn't.

**Griffin:**

I did. I'm reading it off my computer right-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... now. So welcome to our podcast hotel and we don't change the sheets, we expect you to do that yourself you fucking nasty, nasty. You gotta change those damn sheets yourself. What are you doing not changing the sheets? It's a no-service-

**Rachel:**

Based on a [laughs]-

**Griffin:**

... hotel-

**Rachel:**

... based on a conversation we had earlier, Griffin McElroy doesn't change the sheets very often either.

**Griffin:**

Tha-... I told you that in-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... private. That was a long time ago but it, it was college and it was all of it.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

So, uh, this is gonna be sort of a... W- we're doing something different this time, I think I'm gonna do two, my two things and then you have one big thing.

**Rachel:**

One super size.

**Griffin:**

That, we're gonna be, uh, at the end of the episode. So do you want me to just go ahead and get started? 'Cause also our time has been slipping lil bit. We said when we started this was gonna be a half hour to 45 minute podcast. We're creeping towards that hour mark and I've seen that creep happen a lot and I don't know, I, I'd like to keep it tight if we can, you know. Tight. Condensed. Efficient. It's starting to reach like Marvel movie proportions.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

And th- th-, shit like this, the talking about the hug arm bugs, and just sort of vamping about the length of the show, it's actually not helping.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Yes, see this is the thing, I don't think we can blame me on this one.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. So, uh, my first thing is travel activities. Now this is sort of the most abstract I think I've-

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... maybe gotten.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

I am talking about you're sitting in the passenger seat of a car, or a bus, or the passenger seat of a train, which is most of the seats on the train, there's really only the one non-passenger-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... seat, uh, or a plane, right? You're sitting in that seat. What are you gonna do? I love that.

**Rachel:**

Really?

**Griffin:**

I love that.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

And I re-, I recognize that that is strange. Now I should put in a caveat, I don't necessarily love air travel, specifically train travel fucking owns bones. I would give anything to be able to travel by train if only Texas wasn't the size of a small planet and, you know, was more, had, had more shit that you get to by train. Um, I'm not talking about that, right? 'Cause on an airplane it's so expensive, and inconvenient, and getting through security's so stressful, and they shut the doors and instantly my sinuses like grow three sizes and make me very sick and, uh, you know, you sit next to somebody and maybe they don't respect the elbow-

**Rachel:**

Let's talk about what we like though. What do you like?

**Griffin:**

I'm not talking about, I'm not talking about the logistics of it, I'm-

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... talking about I love planning out what I'm gonna be doing on a plane, on the passenger side of a c-, of a car, or while riding on a, like a long, long train thing. Because this is something I think about a lot because I travel a lot these days for the podcast and doing live shows and stuff.

**Rachel:**

And it should be mentioned-

**Griffin:**

Now with the baby-

**Rachel:**

Yes [laughs].

**Griffin:**

... you really only have the one activity. You really only have the one activity when you are traveling with the baby, and that activity is, "Please."

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Can I make a confession-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, please.

**Rachel:**

... before we continue? I have not read a book since Henry was born.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and that's largely because if I have time in which Henry's occupied or asleep, I typically also wanna be asleep.

**Griffin:**

Right. Um-

**Rachel:**

Um-

**Griffin:**

... I've read one, and it was while I was traveling.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

'Cause I planned on it.

**Rachel:**

I used to really enjoy getting a book for travel.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Just like knowing this was gonna be my travel book.

**Griffin:**

And that's exactly what I'm talking about.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

There are things... And it doesn't make, it doesn't make a whole lotta sense, but when you think about travel activities, you think of it as being this different suite of opportunities available to you that you-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... wouldn't normally like jump after a-, on a normal non-travel day, even though I don't think that's true. Like, um, I... On a non-travel day if I have

free time I might, you know, get on my phone and play like a, a, a mobile game or get on my Switch and play a game on that, or listen to a podcast, or listen to music, uh, or, or read a book or something. That's all stuff I can do at home or while I'm traveling. Like the lines have kind of blurred especially with like technology becoming what it is where now you can watch, you kn-, whatever movie that you want on a plane on your tablet or whatever. But there's something about the like, there's something about the psychology of knowing that you're going to be sitting in a chair for a few hours and so you try to find things to occupy those hours, and there's something about thinking about planning a period of your day like that, that I think is really exciting for me. Like I get really into it.

Like a week in advance I think like, "Okay, you know, I got five hours of flying that day, five hours home. So I can download 10 hours of podcast. There's a new game that just came out on the 3DS I haven't played yet, I'm gonna pick that up, and Justin's been telling me about this mobile game for a while so I'll grab that too. And, uh, I'm gonna read this book that I've owned for a long time and, and maybe I'll crack into that finally." Like I don't know, I love thinking about that. Like, I, I, I really do think it's a, a very, very en- enjoyable pastime and then-

**Rachel:**

I think it's, it's interesting knowing you personally because I think part of what I think you might like about it is that typically when you are home you are thinking of other things that you should be doing, whereas when you're on a plane like your options are limited, and so-

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... you can do these things kind of guilt-free.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that's definitely a part of it. I w- a-... But I, I really do think like the biggest thing is just this artificial barrier that I've built between things I can do while I'm traveling and things I can do while I'm at home.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

'Cause that barrier's not really there, it's the same things essentially. I... And this has been since I was like a little kid, really since like the advent of the Game Boy when I would just be like, "Oh, yeah, yeah, we're dr-"... 'Cause we used to take long ass car trips. Like we'd go to, uh, you know, the Carolinas and that's, you know, eight, nine hours, or we'd go down to Florida, that's like a whole day of driving. Um, and I would just need like, I would need a lotta stuff, I would need some comics, and I would need a game or two and then, uh, y- you know, dad and, m- mom and dad would get a book on tape that we could listen to in the car. Like there's something about it. And don't even get me started about snacks, 'cause-

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh.

**Griffin:**

... there's, there are entire snacks industries that are based on, "You're gonna eat this in your fucking car and nowhere else." What's up Combos?

**Rachel:**

Oh no.

**Griffin:**

When was the last time you cracked into a bag of-

**Rachel:**

No-

**Griffin:**

... Co-

**Rachel:**

... I know.

**Griffin:**

... like at home, like ge- get out the big share size bag of Combos? That doesn't exist. You can get 30 Combos in a small bag, you'll eat it while you're driving and you won't know why.

**Rachel:**

Can I tell y- [laughs]-

**Griffin:**



You won't know why you're eating these little flavor barrels.

**Rachel:**

That for me is Chex Mix.

**Griffin:**

Chex Mix. I, I... Maybe at some like parties, like an office holiday party, like they'll have some Chex Mix or some, uh, puppy chow laid out, right? But like normally, yeah, you don't fuck with Chex Mix-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... unless you're on the road. And then you're always, always never not fucking-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... with Chex Mix.

**Rachel:**

Swedish Fish is another one for me.

**Griffin:**

Swedish Fish. A- and Mike and Ikes for me. Like I can't explain why I eat Mike and Ikes at all except that when I-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... get up in the sky I feel the call of Mike and the call of Ike, and I answer it, every time. I just think it's like... I don't know, I, I, I genuinely enjoy thinking about like stuff in my backpack, my Swiss gear, full of shit. Like I'll get my Kindle in there, my iPad, I'll get my 3DS, my Switch-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... just a bunch of stuff.

**Rachel:**

No, I've seen you like assemble your like bug out bag of travel.

**Griffin:**

[Laughs] It's-

**Rachel:**

Your-

**Griffin:**

... and it's not a very good bug out back.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

I feel like Bear Grylls would be kind of t-, PO'd-

**Rachel:**

Yeah-

**Griffin:**

... if he saw-

**Rachel:**

... it's all very-

**Griffin:**

... what I was bringing-

**Rachel:**

... electricity-

**Griffin:**

... to the table.

**Rachel:**

... dependent.

**Griffin:**

Um, a- and then like sometimes the, the, uh... We went to Seattle for PodCon, uh, this past weekend and, uh, I was on those nice Delta Air buses that have the screens on the-

**Rachel:**

Mm [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

... back of the seats with like a bunch of free movies on it, and I watched like *Dunkirk*, and-

**Rachel:**

God, how great would that be traveling with Henry to just have a screen built in? Ah.

**Griffin:**

Y- yeah, we have not... We've traveled with Henry a couple times but we have not had the, the fortune to have the screen. Um, but I've watched a-a... Like, uh, I traveled a lot, right, since Henry's been born and you and I don't get a lot of opportunities to go to the movies, and so like I watched a bunch of movies-

**Rachel:**

Arg.

**Griffin:**

... on airplane screens-

**Rachel:**

See, now you just making me jealous [laughs].

**Griffin:**

Well no, I mean, these are now mov-... Like s-, uh, *Rogue One*, like I w-, there was a Star Wars movie that was out that I hadn't seen which was buck wild-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... but then I finally got to see it because of this, this airplane. Um, I also just love like... Sometimes I love, I love a good like road trip. I fucking love a good road trip. Back in the day, like I used to take 'em all the time-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... w-, especially when I was kind of like between cities after I'd graduated from college and, uh, knew I was gonna be moving away from Cincinnati, I was like trying to find a new place to go. So I just took this long toad trip up to Boston, where I, I drove and stopped at a bunch of cities and like tried 'em out for a little bit. That was like the best, man. Getting a... Oh man, getting the, uh, a couple CDs burnt. I unearthed a couple of my... I, I don't know how I found them but a couple of like very old, uh, uh, r-, uh, CDs from my old radio show, uh, like today and was listening to 'em. Man, I used to just burn a bunch of 'em and just, you know, drive to some other city. It was so great.

**Rachel:**

I wish those CDs came with your DJ commentary in between the tracks 'cause I [crosstalk 00:09:56] for that.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay. Well if you want, I can record all of that right now, uh, and we can put it on this podcast and then people can layer it over the CD. So I'll just like... Here, let me knock it out real quick. Yeah, it was pretty sad. End of-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... commentary. Put that before each track and you're ready to go. Um, or a-, I-, let me add something else. Yeah, I was really inexplicably into the soundtrack to *Lost in Space*, the, the remake with Mel Blanc. And so-

**Rachel:**

And the movie, if I remember correctly.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that's-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

I, I also enjoyed the film. Uh, please do not at me on that.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Travel activities. I feel like you balk at travel activities but you get-

**Rachel:**

Well-

**Griffin:**

... right?

**Rachel:**

... I get it, I will say there's part of it for me where as soon as I get on there and I realize I have to be there I start to get real antsy. It's kind of the same way I feel like when the cat lays on top of me and I instantly start thinking, "How long can I do this before I lose my mind?" And I kind of feel that way on a plane too, like on our international flights.

**Griffin:**

That's the only time when I actually get... Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Like an hour and half in, I start thinking like, "I got so much ahead of me, how am I gonna do this?"

**Griffin:**

Well that's why you gotta have more travel activities-

**Rachel:**

And the seat-

**Griffin:**

... so you'd never have that.

**Rachel:**

... starts to feel really small-

**Griffin:**

Oh, you can't do... You gotta-

**Rachel:**

... and I can't like sleep on a plane.

**Griffin:**

Just look at *Dunkirk* baby, just look right into D-, look at, d-, stare deep into *Dunkirk*.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

There's like no dialogue in that fucking movie basically at all.

**Rachel:**

I don't know anything-

**Griffin:**

Sometimes Kenneth-

**Rachel:**

... about it.

**Griffin:**

... Branagh... I knew nothing about it either until I watched it, except that it was the, um, you know, I- *Inception* man, and there's like just no dialogue, just a lot of shooting, a lot of people getting shot.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Very scary.

**Rachel:**

Is there like a guy named Dunkirk?

**Griffin:**

There's a guy named Mark Dunkirk and he-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Is a realtor?

**Griffin:**

He's a realtor [laughs]. He's a realtor, um, o- on th- that beach in Dunkirk, and he's like, "We gonna get all these British and French soldiers off my beach so I can-

**Rachel:**

Oh, wait there's, there's-

**Griffin:**

... sell my house."

**Rachel:**

... a place called Dunkirk?

**Griffin:**

Yeah. But-

**Rachel:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

... it's fine.

**Rachel:**

Okay [laughs].

**Griffin:**

Um, I wanna do my second thing real quick.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

And then again, we're gonna get to Rachel's super block after the, uh, after the ad block probably. My second thing is having a nice, sharp kitchen knife.

**Rachel:**

Ooh!

**Griffin:**

The feeling of a nice, sharp kitchen knife is like... If you're looking for ways to like step up your kitchen game, which is not like a thing that has been a major consideration in my life until very recently, having a nice sharp kitchen knife-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I remember the first time I sharpened a kitchen knife and I cut something with it, and I was like, "Oh, this is why it takes me fucking three hours to like make anything."

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Is because I didn't have a knife sharp kitchen knife. And it's not just faster, it's way, way safer and I learned this in cooking class. I took a cooking class in high school, that was like one of the electives we could take, was cooking but a-, like every school cooking class it was, uh, mostly nachos.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Um, but yeah, we learned that a dull knife is like way, way more dangerous than a sharp knife is.

**Rachel:**

Oh, I believe it.

**Griffin:**

Because with a dull knife then you can slip or, uh, miss the mark in some way and that's when you're gonna, that's when you're gonna cut yourself, which is what happened to me over Thanksgiving. Horrible injury, horrible sweet potato-based injury. These sweet potatoes, these yams were motherfuckers. They were some real stiff customers let me tell you what.



**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Lot of, lot of hard meat in there. Um, so, yeah, sharp knife though, you don't have that problem, just goes right through it. Uh, so they recommend, and by they, I mean some website I found-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... uh, to use a honing rod, which is what we have.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

That's part of most standard knife blocks, it's just like a, a big metal rod, uh, the like long end of which is kind of, uh, textured in a way, uh, that you drag your knife across it, I figure with the exact angle you're supposed to do. Um, and it'll make it a 'lil bit sharper, right? And that's like your go-to technique for, for, for sharpening the knife. Um, and if you're like a professional chef you'll, you'll probably do it every day, for most people probably once or maybe even twice a week if you go at it a lot. Um, but then... I, and I didn't really respect this part of the, the, the knife sharpening game, but it makes sense 'cause I see ads for stuff like this in Austin all the time. You're supposed to go to like somebody with a whetstone after like a year or so and get it sharpened-

**Rachel:**

They have those at the Farmers'-

**Griffin:**

They have-

**Rachel:**

... Market.

**Griffin:**

... those at the Farmers' Market and I've always wondered like, "Why the fuck would you do this? Why not just use the honing rod at home? Why

would you like... Why do you have to come and-"... It's, it's because the honing rod can only get your knife's edge sharp to a certain like m-, like a certain degree, and then at a certain point like you cannot get that edge any-

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

... any sharper. You cannot refine that edge anymore. So you have to go to a whetstone where they literally grind the, the, the edge away until it reveals a new edge that then can honed.

**Rachel:**

Hmm.

**Griffin:**

I didn't know this, but-

**Rachel:**

There's like a good-

**Griffin:**

... I'm very excited, but also I'm going to take our fucking knives to the Farmer's Market with me next time and get those things-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... sharpened. Um-

**Rachel:**

There is a good analogy there, right?

**Griffin:**

For wha-... The whetstone is Jesus and-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... and the honing rod is drugs-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... and you use the honing rod and you think like, "I've got it all figured out," but eventually, the drugs aren't gonna get you any sharper, you gotta go to the Jesus whetstone, he'll help you find a new edge, a straight edge. It's a perfect analogy.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Yeah, no, that's better than I guess what I was thinking of [laughs].

**Griffin:**

No, what were you thinking of? Now I wanna know.

**Rachel:**

Oh, gosh, I don't know. I guess just when you, you make these small changes that's just you using your honing rod-

**Griffin:**

Mm [affirmative].

**Rachel:**

... but when you make a significant change in your life, that's you, you know, crafting a new edge.

**Griffin:**

I mean, that one works too. Mine had the straight edge literally in it and-

**Rachel:**

Oh, that's nice.

**Griffin:**

... that was, um... So, it's, it's, it's just like, um... I, I enjoy cooking a lot. Like, I genuinely do. Um, and I enjoy like getting that mise en place shit like ready to go. Uh, a lot of like the recipes that we used just required you to like, "Okay, cut this, cut this, cut this, cut this, cut this. Okay, now cook it all

together," and I fucking love that. And like step one in that for me always is getting the knife sharp-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... and cleaning off the cutting board because that's like the zone. And it's, it's so like... Uh, I don't know, it's just so much more fun to cook when you know that like your tools are like ready for it-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... and that you can, you, you not gonna have to be like cleaning shit up as you go and, you know, fumbling with this or that. Like it's just nice to like have this nice, clean, sharp knife next to the clean cutting board, and then getting going from there. Um, yeah, I really, I really enjoy it. Also, watching like videos of super sharp kitchen knives cutting through shit, like the Ginsu era, like all those commercials, like I fucking get it now. I don't think I appreciated it when I was younger watching a knife cut through like a cowboy boot or whatever. But now, like watching a, a knife stab perfectly through a piece of paper without the paper moving? That is my shit dog. W-

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Now one of my-

**Griffin:**

... watching a, watching a tomato just get slowly like-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... like skinned, like that rules.

**Rachel:**

I don't know why that's so satisfying but it very much is.

**Griffin:**

It very much is. Does... How do you even get that sharp? How sharp can you get a knife? Can you cut a hole in the fabric of Space Time? 'Cause-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... some of these knives man, I'm telling you, stab all the way through a phone book with like one-

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

... like little bit of pressure.

**Rachel:**

You should give yourself a haircut with-

**Griffin:**

Probably-

**Rachel:**

... a kitchen knife.

**Griffin:**

... like with some fucking Hattori Hanzo steel, like definitely.

**Rachel:**

Mm [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

Um, a-, I mean, that's another thing, like when you are like getting your knife really sharp and then it cuts through things very easily, there is like a weird like, "Oh, I feel like a medieval knight-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... or, or a medieval blacksmith at the very least. Although apparently gotta get a grindstone, gotta get a whetstone. Apparently that's not some D&D shit, like you gotta use those on your knives so you could cut through tomatoes super good."

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

I'm gonna buy a tomato at the Farmers' Market, bring my knife and just be like, "No, keep going."

**Rachel:**

"Keep going."

**Griffin:**

"I want you to fuck that tomato up."

**Rachel:**

"I want a nub, I want a nub and a handle."

**Griffin:**

Uh, how about we steal us some money?

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Let's steal us some money. Now this is an interesting development.

**Rachel:**

Ooh, okay.

**Griffin:**

Maybe the ad break could be like a heist that we're planning and it can be like [singing] and it's like an alarm going off at the bank.

**Rachel:**

I like that a lot. But we can never do it again. See this is the problem we created for ourselves is that we do a new stinger or at least a new version of the stinger every week.

**Griffin:**

You're right.

**Rachel:**

So we ca-

**Griffin:**

Pearls before swine is not what-

**Rachel:**

In that-

**Griffin:**

... that means.

**Rachel:**

... in that moment, I really enjoyed it, but you can never do it again.

**Griffin:**

Toot beans.

**Rachel:**

I know.

[ad break]

**Griffin:**

Uh, you wanna read that first jumbotron?

**Rachel:**

Yes. This message is for Alexander, Anton, Ranka, Celeste, Alina, Aneya, Phillip, Ida, Lovisa, M- Malon and Tove.

**Griffin:**

Whoa.

**Rachel:**

It is from Caroline Crushbone.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] "Hey MBMBOJS," which is, she says in parenthesis, "Swedish MBMBAMbinos." MBMBAM-... That's how you say it, right?

**Griffin:**

Yeah babe, and thanks for supporting-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... my art!

**Rachel:**

Um, [laughs], "Our group chat is amazing and I totally love the way that we have found each other over for love for McElcontent. I could think of no better way to let you know how much I like you guys than to have Rachel and Griffin do so in *Wonderful!*, as you guys truly are just that. PS, Hoping for some D&D session soon."

**Griffin:**

How, how delightful and how nice? Is this a international sort of band of, of, you know, rabble-rousers and-

**Rachel:**

Seems like it.

**Griffin:**

... ne'er-do-wells?

**Rachel:**

Well she did say Swedish-

**Griffin:**

Yeah-

**Rachel:**

... SO-



**Griffin:**

... I love it.

**Rachel:**

... that might be exciting for us to know we have Swedish listeners.

**Griffin:**

I know we have sweet, sweet-ish listeners, meaning they're a lil bit sweet, but they're also a little bit nasty too.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

You know what I mean?

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

Here's a message and it's for Alfons and it's from Jamie who says, "Since we're bad at dates, we'll call whenever this airs right. So happy 10 year anniversary to my best friend. I love you to infinity and beyond, and this decade has been the best one of my life. From hours on the couch playing Bubble Bobble-" fuck yeah, uh, "... to the birth of our cool babies, Flynn and Potter. You're better than a robot and/or soul grafted to a suit of armor." Lot of people don't-

**Rachel:**

Aww.

**Griffin:**

... recogni-... And it's a very, very good message, and I love all of it. But a lot of people don't recognize that a lot of these robots are just souls grafted into, you know, big, big, uh, you know, shells. And it's, it's dangerous, and it's not right. Let 'em go to heaven already. You know that ASIMO one, that I think Toyota makes and he's just this little one. He just kinda like stumbles around. Or the Boston, uh, the Boston one that... The BigDog, it's just like a big dog and it can run on ice and stuff?

**Rachel:**

You are saying words right now, and I recognize that they're words-

**Griffin:**

Have you not seen the BigDog?

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

Ooh, I'm gonna watch a BigDog video. This is important, we have to do it right now.

**Rachel:**

What does it have to do with Boston?

**Griffin:**

Uh, it's a... Okay. Boston Dynamics makes this big dog, the BigDog.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

Watch 'em. Watch what he does to BigDog. You see? Watch him. Fucking kicks BigDog, BigDog don't fall over.

**Rachel:**

Okay, when you said big dog I thought I was gonna see a robot that looked like a cuddly dog.

**Griffin:**

No this-

**Rachel:**

So-

**Griffin:**

... robot looks like a big like-

**Rachel:**

... I'm a little disappointed to be honest.

**Griffin:**

I think BigDog looks really cuddly, and I th-, I wish these men would stop fucking kicking it 'cause there's a dog's soul in there.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I don't like this Griffin.

**Griffin:**

What-

**Rachel:**

It's creepy-looking. It looks-

**Griffin:**

Don't... Hey-

**Rachel:**

... a-

**Griffin:**

... it's BigDog.

**Rachel:**

... it looks like a giant insect.

**Griffin:**

It's not giant insect, it's a big dog and it's my best robot friend.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] If it were, if it were a lil dog, I think I'd like it.

**Griffin:**

That's hateful against BigDog, he didn't decide to be that big.

**Rachel:**

Like a lil guy.

**Griffin:**

If they can make 'em little and th-... The computer parts aren't sophisticated enough, had to put 'em into BigDog.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Baby you gonna stop talking crap about BigDog, okay?

**Rachel:**

It's very impressive. A-

**Griffin:**

It's not just impressive, it's great!

**Rachel:**

And not-

**Griffin:**

Watch BigDog go!

**Rachel:**

... not cute at all. Oh, gosh, no.

**Griffin:**

They just keep kicking the dang dog don't they?

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

But this BigDog won't fall over. This BigDog's gonna kill both of these men one day.

**Rachel:**

Why did we start talking about this?

**Griffin:**

I think 'cause I just really wanted to talk-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... about BigDog. Also, they named it BigDog.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

And that's great too.

**J Keith van Straaten:**

Hey Helen Hong.

**Helen Hong:**

Yes, J Keith van Straaten?

**J Keith van Straaten:**

What's the difference between a layover and a stopover?

**Helen Hong:**

I have no idea. What's the difference between optimal and optimum?

**J Keith van Straaten:**

I have no idea. What's the difference between an actual conversation and a promo for our new show on Maximum Fun, *Go Fact Yourself*?

**Helen Hong:**

Nobody has any idea.

**J Keith van Straaten:**

*Go Fact Yourself*, the game show where celebrity contestants, super smart experts, and answers the questions you've never even asked.

**Helen Hong:**

Listen twice a month on [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), or wherever you get your podcast, and be in the audience for our tapings of *Go Fact Yourself* in Downtown LA, it's free. Go to [gofactyourpod.com](http://gofactyourpod.com) for more info.

**J Keith van Straaten:**

We're having a very realistic conversation.

**Helen Hong:**

Yes we are.

**Griffin:**

So Rachel, what are we talking about in the back half of th- this episode of *Wonderful!*?

**Rachel:**

My Wonderful item for this week is Hanukkah.

**Griffin:**

[Singing] Neither of us are capable of making that fucking noise.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Hanukkah ,starts tonight, right?

**Rachel:**

Yep.

**Griffin:**

First crazy night [laughs].

**Rachel:**

Well, I-, as we're recording.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

When this airs it will have already-

**Griffin:**

Well let's say this will be on the s-, what it's at [crosstalk 00:26:21], second morning or whatever.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Do you do anything in the morning on Hanukkah?

**Rachel:**

Nope.

**Griffin:**

Just at night time.

**Rachel:**

It's a-

**Griffin:**

I like that.

**Rachel:**

... sun down activity.

**Griffin:**

I like that.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

'Cause you can have the whole rest of your day to do whatever. Can I celebrate Hanukkah in the mornings?

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

What if I really want to? Aww.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so caveat, just to start off the episode, I had to do more research on this than I probably should've had to do considering I've celebrated Hanukkah my entire life.

**Griffin:**

Yes. Correct me if I am wrong... And I, I should mention that I am, uh, I am not of the Jewish faith and did not celebrate Hanukkah until you and I got together, um, and now I, I also think it is absolutely wonderful and I'm excited to do it, um, with, with the, the two of us and our son, and, uh... But I don't know like... I also do not know a ton about it, but from what I understand it is not like the highest, holiest day. It is sort of-

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

... like a more like a... What's a-, what's a... Like a fun hol-... Like, "What can we do with?" like a fun holiday, and that is kind of Hanukkah. Obviously there's like a-

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

... an origin story there but it is not like, uh, uh... What are the, what are the big ones? Yom Kippur and-

**Rachel:**

Rosh Hashanah.

**Griffin:**

Rosh Hashanah.

**Rachel:**

Passover's another big one.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, like a huge one.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Uh-

**Griffin:**

Hanukkah's more just like a par-, like a fun, fun time, like Purim, right?



**Rachel:**

Yeah, m-, it wa-... It's literally a celebration.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Um, so I am always confused as to when Hanukkah is 'cause it changes every year, I never really understood why. Uh, but it always kind of falls around Christmas, which is why it gets paired up-

**Griffin:**

Right. Sure.

**Rachel:**

... with Christmas. Uh, so the Jewish calendar is primarily based on the lunar cycle, um, and the first day of Hanukkah can fall anywhere between November 28th and December 26th.

**Griffin:**

So kicks off on the 12th... We're pretty much right in the, right in the middle here.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. Uh-

**Griffin:**

Damn, the 28th dude, we are starring on the barrel of a year where we have Henry's birthday, Thanksgiving, and Hanukkah all in like the same week.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Gosh, I didn't even think about that.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, bud.

**Rachel:**

Oh, that's terrifying. Uh [laughs]... So Hanukkah is the eight-day festival of lights and the word Hanukkah means dedication.

**Griffin:**

I did not know that.

**Rachel:**

I didn't either. Uh, so you'll see Hanukkah spelled a bunch of different way. Um-

**Griffin:**

I like the one with the C at the beginning.

**Rachel:**

See I... That one always makes me uncomfortable because here's the thing, so the reason the translation is so inconsistent is that the CH-sound, is a guttural, throaty sound like the C-H in Bach-

**Griffin:**

Right, yeah.

**Rachel:**

... uh, which does not have an English equivalent, which is why you'll often see H. But I always get insecure-

**Griffin:**

Wow. Yeah, 'cause it fe-... I mean, I would, I'd definitely feel insecure. Like I feel like that would be-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... like of appropriate-

**Rachel:**

I never been good at-

**Griffin:**

... feeling.

**Rachel:**

... the like, the throaty like [inaudible 00:29:17] sound.

**Griffin:**

That was... Yeah, it wasn't great [laughs].

**Rachel:**

I just... Yeah. I get nervous whenever I see this-

**Griffin:**

It just sounds like you putting like a weird amount of-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... emphasis on the Hanukkah.

**Rachel:**

Like, like chutzpah?

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

But-

**Griffin:**

Oh, but you can't like roll your-

**Rachel:**

I can't like-

**Griffin:**

... your C's.

**Rachel:**

So, Hanukkah s-, brief history. In the second-

**Griffin:**

Maccababies were-

**Rachel:**

Oh-

**Griffin:**

... being persecuted-

**Rachel:**

... that's sweet.

**Griffin:**

... by Angelica.

**Rachel:**

That's very sweet. Um-

**Griffin:**

It's also disrespectful-

**Rachel:**

... Rugrats.

**Griffin:**

... in a major way [laughs] if you-

**Rachel:**

Rugrats.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

No. Honestly, I don't think so. I don't... I personally think that more exposure needs to happen for this holiday and I'll-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

... take it in most places I can get it.

**Griffin:**

I mean, yes, it's definitely limited.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I don't think you could argue that it's not.

**Rachel:**

Uh, in second century, uh, BCE, the holy land was ruled by the Greeks, who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs. And a small band of faithful Jews led by Judah the Maccabee defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, and reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and re-dedicated it to the service of God. Here's something I didn't know about Maccabee.

**Griffin:**

Yeah?

**Rachel:**

Turns out there's a lot of opportunity here for acronyms, uh, because Maccabee is a word composed of the initial letters of the four Hebrew words, "Mi Camocha Ba'elim Hashem," "who is like you, Oh God." So that's M-

**Griffin:**

Wait, so his name is literally like a Ma-, like a truncation of this-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... phrase?

**Rachel:**

Yeah, well the Maccabees came from a word composed of the initial letters.

**Griffin:**

Huh.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

That's interesting.

**Rachel:**

I know. I didn't know that.

**Griffin:**

So what's was the eight candles though? Explain that.

**Rachel:**

Oh, okay. So, um-

**Griffin:**

You kinda set up like, "There's this dude who got-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... big arms," and then I'm, in, in my head I'm thinking like, "Fuck yeah, dude sounds like 300. Really into this shit."

**Rachel:**

So they just reclaimed the Temple.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, kicks him down big pit.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] When they sought to light the-

**Griffin:**

Just like, "This is Hanukkah!" And he kicks 'em.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Do you think they knew it was Hanukkah back then [laughs]? Do you think a-, when, when Christ was born-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... they were just like, "Yo, it's a f-, Christmas." Like, "What?"

**Rachel:**

And then they started counting down then shopping days 'til the next one.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Everybody in the world felt so guilty instantly 'cause they had forgotten.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Um, okay, so they sought to light the temple's menorah and they found only a single pot of oil, miraculously they lit the menorah and the one day supply of oil lasted for eight days.

**Griffin:**

Dope.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

It's s-, it's dope. It is also strange that that is like the focal point of the... I mean... I don't know.

**Rachel:**

Well you know what I found? This is, this might not be true. So I went to this website called chabad.org, and it said that the initial story of Hanukkah was just about triumphing over the Greeks-

**Griffin:**

Right. That's what I'm saying. Like-

**Rachel:**

And then it was only later that Rabbis got together and came up with this kind of celebration of the oil.

**Griffin:**

That's w-, that's... Okay, that's exactly what I'm-

**Rachel:**

But I don't know-

**Griffin:**

... talking about.

**Rachel:**

... if a 100% true, but I think it's interesting to kind of turn it into like a more like, "And this is why we do this o-, thing we, we do for [crosstalk 00:32:26]."

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I, I get the, I get the symbolism and, and everything, but it's I-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

When I learned about Hanukkah when I was, when I was younger from, you know, uh, from, from afar, until I watched that fucking Rugrats episode, no joke-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... which taught me the actual meaning of Hanukkah, I just thought it was there were these folks who lit a lamp and it lasted like a wicked long time.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.



**Griffin:**

And so we celebrate that great lamp.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Yeah.

**Griffin:**

When there's like a lot more to it than-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... that.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Um, here's another thing I didn't know. So, something is only technically a menorah, um, if all of the candles are at the same level. If there is a shamash, which is the attendant candle-

**Griffin:**

Right,

**Rachel:**

... that you use to light the other ones-

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... then it's something called, uh, a Hanukkiah.

**Griffin:**

Wait, wait, wait, wait. C-... First of all, that's the name for the best like KIA car salesman promotion like, "Come on down for eight nights of great sales down at Hanu-KIA."

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Um, so let me... [Laughs].

**Griffin:**

That was a very delayed reaction. Um... So wait, if it's, if it's e-, the eight candles but with the one, with the shamash, and the shamash is not on, on the same level as the other candles, it's not a menorah?

**Rachel:**

So a Hanu-, a Hanukkiah is a type of candelabra with nine candle holders, eight are in a line, and the ninth candle's out of place-

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... either at a different height or position.

**Griffin:**

And that's not a menorah.

**Rachel:**

The menorah is a more of a symbolic object that contains seven branches of candle holders and does not have a shamash out of place.

**Griffin:**

That's only seven candles.

**Rachel:**

I know. It's interesting, right? I didn't know that. Um, yeah, in my house we called it the helper candle [laughs].

**Griffin:**

[Laughs] I like that too, that's-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... so cute. What were your Hanukkah... What did you do for Hanukkah when you were younger? Tell me everything right now.

**Rachel:**

Okay. Um-

**Griffin:**

Did your grandma get, get, go like buck wild?

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh so there's... Here's my, here's my favorite, my favorite grandma story. Um, my... So, my dad's side of the family is Jewish, uh, and they are, I would say a faithful people, but not, um, very active in any kind of like temple or-

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... formal practice. Um, but growing up in like a suburban area of St. Louis, which does have a decent Jewish population, but not in the areas that we were, um, my dad and my grandma become kind of the representatives for a lot of their friends and co-workers for the Jewish faith [laughs]. And so the best thing about my grandma is she would tell this story all the time where she would be like, "Yeah, people are always asking me questions about Hanukkah and about Jewish tradition and expecting me to be this expert," and she's like, "... you know, and so I tell them what I know and what I don't know I make up," [laughs].

**Griffin:**

[Laughs].

**Rachel:**

She said, "They don't know any different," [laughs]. Um, which is true. It's, it's, it's always been intimidating for me because I've always been in a group of people typically where Jewish people are the minority.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

And so when you mention that that is part of your background, people will ask you all these questions.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

And, you know, like when I meet somebody that's Christian, I don't ask them a lot of questions about Christmas because I've just kind of grown up with it, but Hanukkah isn't something that a lot of people grow up with, at least-

**Griffin:**

Absolutely.

**Rachel:**

... in most areas of the country. So, so yeah, so I had to do a lot of research and a-, I still found it very delightful.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, for sure. So like what, what, uh, wh-

**Rachel:**

So... Okay. So, we would do a menorah-

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

... every night, or I guess a Hanukkiah, uh-

**Griffin:**

I m-... Can we just-

**Rachel:**

... now that I know.

**Griffin:**

Can I- I-... I feel like I've been lied to-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... not my entire life, but at least the last like five years. Is not a a-... Can we just call it menorah?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Sounds great. Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yes. Uh, and I would say what I thought was the Hebrew prayer-

**Griffin:**

Uh-oh.

**Rachel:**

... uh, which w-, in my research I was pretty close. Um, but it was one of those things that was taught to me when I was very young by my dad and, you know-

**Griffin:**

I've seen the two of you deliver the-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... the, the prayer at the-

**Rachel:**

It's very mumbled.

**Griffin:**

... same time and it's l-, it starts out strong with the, you know-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... "Baruch atah," and then it's [mumbling].

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Not, a-, not that fast. You can make it about, you can make it about like, you know-

**Rachel:**

It was one of those-

**Griffin:**

... six or seven-

**Rachel:**

... things-

**Griffin:**

... words in and then you both kinda turn Mumblecore on me.

**Rachel:**

It was [laughs] one of those things when I learned it, you know, I was probably really little and so was probably like kinda charming if I was a lil off, and then it just kind of continued and now I don't know that anybody really know it, especially well in my family. And so we all just kinda say like, "Yeah, that's sounds good."

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Okay, so here it is.

**Griffin:**

Oh, wait. Are you sure you wanna do... A-.... You're gonna be opening yourself up to like s-

**Rachel:**

Well, so I found-

**Griffin:**

... scrutiny-

**Rachel:**

... the phonetic.

**Griffin:**

... from th-... Oh, I see. Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I found, uh, a phonetic reading of it and I'm just enough confident that it was close to what I was doing. Okay, so [Hebrew prayer].

**Griffin:**

That was good.

**Rachel:**

Although [inaudible 00:37:31], but we always just say that. And it means, "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light."

**Griffin:**

I love how like interstellar-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... like Hebrew prayers are, 'cause almost all of them use I don't know what the word is but King of the Universe, sounds-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... so like, it's so like, I don't know, it's so like w-, cosmically reverent-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... in a way that I think is like fascinating.

**Rachel:**

Well that's one thing that I've always kind of liked about the Jewish tradition is there's this sense of that you are always, you are always seeking

a greater understanding. Like there is a lot still to be discovered, and you can only discover it through this kind of academic pursuit of-

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... of the truth. Uh, and so there's a lot of like scholarly elements to it, and there's a lot of kind of... Yeah, like you said, this kind of cosmic sense of like there's so much bigger out there that we-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

... are, we are still exploring. Um, so Hanukkah food.

**Griffin:**

Oh, here we go, here we go, here we go, here we go.

**Rachel:**

There's another thing I never realized, and it's so obvious now that I say it. Since the miracle involved oil, it is customary-

**Griffin:**

Baby-

**Rachel:**

... to eat foods fried in-

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

... in oil [laughs].

**Griffin:**

I... Come on.

**Rachel:**

I knew, I know what the foods were like, I knew potato latkes.



**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

I recently learned about the donuts, which is like another thing, like-

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... jelly donuts, but I never really made the connection of like-

**Griffin:**

Oil.

**Rachel:**

... why Hanukkah? Oil.

**Griffin:**

Uh-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... I... Yeah, I a-... This was one part where like I kind of knew... I kinda knew about Hanukkah, I obviously did not I, I did not celebrate it before you and I got together. Uh, I don't know that I've ever eaten a latke until we did, did, uh, Hanukkah and started doing Passover and stuff together.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, so good though, right?

**Griffin:**

It's so fricking good.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

There is a, um, there is a... Okay. I'm gonna... Brief tangent. There is a Dreamworks movie I believe called *Home*, with Jim Parsons from *Big Bang Theory*, I think is the voice of this like purple alien guy. I did not see the movie, um, but there is a cartoon series that is like a animated like 2D, uh, uh, uh, you know... I forget... I don't know what the right word... 2D cartoon.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Um-

**Rachel:**

I think just came out this year, right, on Netflix?

**Griffin:**

I think so, and we watched it a- a- as part of our sort of like getting-

**Rachel:**

It says that-

**Griffin:**

... into kid shows-

**Rachel:**

... it's a Christmas movie I think.

**Griffin:**

So-

**Rachel:**

But there's a little-

**Griffin:**

... so there's a-

**Rachel:**

... Hanukkah nugget.

**Griffin:**

There's a whole TV show, there's a whole TV show, and the TV show like we've watched a lot of and I, I have enjoyed it. And then they did the holiday special, and the holiday special includes a performance by actual Kelly Clarkson, and then, uh, a incredible came-... Not even cameo, like a whole segment, uh, where Ben Schwartz from *Parks and Recreation* shows up, the guys that play Je-, uh, Jean-Ralphio shows up and does a whole song about latkes. And it is-

**Rachel:**

That was really good.

**Griffin:**

... fucking incredible. And-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... then him and Kelly Clarkson get back together at the end to sing like this whole duet.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

It's like a really good Christmas special. It's a r-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Well, a good holiday special-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... um, that I really enjoyed.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Latkes, they fucking rule.

**Rachel:**

They're so good. Sour cream, applesauce.

**Griffin:**

Yes, all of it.

**Rachel:**

Delicious. So those of you that don't know, uh, latkes are like little potato pancakes that you fry in oil, and I mean, when I say potato pancake, that's basically what it is. You're holding them together with egg and flour-

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... and you're frying it-

**Griffin:**

There's some onion in there sometimes too, right?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. It's very good.

**Griffin:**

It is real good.

**Rachel:**

Um-

**Griffin:**

What else you like about Hanukkah? I mean, you get eight presents, right? You gotta love those presents.

**Rachel:**

Here, here's... This is interesting too. Um, and this is very recent and not true for everybody. But as you mentioned earlier, Hanukkah wasn't like a big-

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

... big celebration. I mean, it was a... Obviously it was a celebration, but it wasn't like Christmas level, uh, gift-giving.

**Griffin:**

Right. Sure.

**Rachel:**

And my dad and grandma were just talk about that a lot too of just, you know, the, the presents that you got night-to-night were not supposed to be giant Christmas-y presents. A lot of it was like money-

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... or gelt, like the chocolate coins that they give out for Hanukkah. Um, it's only recently as Hanukkah and Christmas have been kind of butting up against each other that presents have become like a more significant part of Hanukkah.

**Griffin:**

Why-

**Rachel:**

Um-

**Griffin:**

... you think that is? Just like... Because if you're like a 'lil, 'lil, a, a, a Jewish child and you watch your-

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I was reading this article on Slate about kind of ways to make it so that your experience especially if you're in a household like I was where there are two holidays are both celebrated, where they're competing, like how you keep them separate. Uh, and just kind of the challenges associated with trying not to have them battle it out.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

'cause that's starts to get, that kinda gets a little crass, like... Well not a little, like extremely crass, very, very quickly.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I don't think of them as, as... A- a- and, you know, I didn't celebrate-

**Rachel:**

When I think about it-

**Griffin:**

... it until I was an adult. When I was a little kid and obsessed with getting presents like I think I think I would probably in that mindset a little bit more.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I, I just think, I, I think that Christmas has become such a huge thing-

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... in that like the shopping season for Christmas starts often now-

**Griffin:**

[Laughs] The day after Halloween.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Um, and being a child then seeing that and see-, hear your friends talk about and seeing the commercials and seeing all the store displays and everything, there becomes this kind of tension of like, "I am left out of not just a holiday, but s- several months out of the year."

**Griffin:**

[Laughs] Sure.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Which I think a lot of people these days maybe as adults they are stoked to not have to be-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... party to, you know, ho- holiday or specifically in this case, Christmas like-

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

**Griffin:**

... uh, s- stuff for two months.

**Rachel:**

And I have met, I have met a lot of Jewish people who have always celebrated Christmas-

**Griffin:**

Right. Sure.

**Rachel:**

... because it is, it's a seasonal thing for them. It's just like part of the winter time and then celebrating.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, and I mean, there is, uh, there is definitely a, uh... What's the word I was... Not sectional. What's the... Secular [laughs].

**Rachel:**

There you go [laughs]. Sectional.

**Griffin:**

"For this Christmas I got you a new sectional from Pottery Barn. It's great.

**Rachel:**

"It's-

**Griffin:**

... This holds

**Rachel:**

... it's an eight-

**Griffin:**

... down-"

**Rachel:**

... piece sectional."

**Griffin:**

"An eight-piece sectional you only get one piece a night"

**Rachel:**

"Every night for-"

**Griffin:**

[Laughs].

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

I think a lot of people just like c-, treat it like a secular holiday like-

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative].



**Griffin:**

... straight up. Like, "Oh, I just really like, uh, y- you know, I really I-"

**Rachel:**

Like lights and-

**Griffin:**

"I really like the lights and a I really like..."

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... *It's a Wonderful Life*, and-"

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... you know. And that's, that's how I get down on it.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. So I, so I always celebrated both, um, which was tremendously fortunate for me and I had a lot of jealous friends because of that. Um-

**Griffin:**

Well, at least... You were also an only child, so you were essentially-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... just siphoning off the tip of this enormous gift funnel.

**Rachel:**

Presents-

**Griffin:**

Fucking Violet Beauregarde, to just like-

**Rachel:**

Any presents in the house were always for me and I never had-

**Griffin:**

[Laughs].

**Rachel:**

... to share with anyone [laughs].

**Griffin:**

No one ever... One time you took a present away from one of your cats like, [horrifyingly bad British accent] "No-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... these are mine. My presents."

**Rachel:**

You know that might sound insulting to some of you, but that is exactly how I sounded as a child.

**Griffin:**

It's true.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

"These are my presents, kitty, kitty." Um-

**Rachel:**

Uh [laughs]... Uh, so... And, and the other thing I will say is that in my house Hanukkah presents were substantial.

**Griffin:**

Oh yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and I think, I think part of that was, I don't wanna say competing with Christmas, but I mean-

**Griffin:**

It was the literal war on Christmas.

**Rachel:**

... giving like an equal-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

... footing for both holidays.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Um-

**Griffin:**

Can we talk about Hanukkah stuff in media? 'Cause I really do think the *Rugrats* stuff is like a genuine-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... revelation and was so like valuable to me as an educational resource, as... Even though I have not watched it in quite sometime. Also, *the OC* Chrismukkah episodes.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

There is actually only like one actually good one, and one of them is the season in which they, uh, s-, fall into an alternate reality 'cause *the OC* gets fucking buck wild. It's only for one episode, it's not like a, they don't do a, uh... Uh, what was that show with Joshua Jackson on it?

**Rachel:**

*Dawson's Creek?*

**Griffin:**

Yeah, yeah, in *Dawson's Creek* where fall into a-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... alternate reality. *Fringe*. Um-

**Rachel:**

Oh, okay.

**Griffin:**

I mean, there's not a lot. I mean, no joke, like Adam Sandler, *Eight Crazy Nights* is like probably not one that maybe you want to own.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

I have not seen... I don't know, I have not seen *Eight Crazy Nights*. Let us know, there's, there's probably a ton that we just-

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I feel like-

**Griffin:**

... we can't, not, haven't thinken of.

**Rachel:**

... there's some that we haven't thinken of. I mean, you could Google it.

**Griffin:**

Seven Best Hanukkah TV episodes that'll make the perfect finale to this year's Festival of Lights, on [bustle.com](http://bustle.com). *Saturday Night Live*. Come on.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Oh, that was the... It's the episode where Adam Sandler sings the Hanukkah song.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

*Rugrats*, Hanukkah. Nailed it. *The Nanny*, The Hanukkah Story.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] Did not see that.

**Griffin:**

*Even Steven's Heck of a Hanukkah*. I do remember that. Fuck yeah.

**Rachel:**

That was-

**Griffin:**

... *Even Stevens*.

**Rachel:**

... a lil after my time.

**Griffin:**

Um, *Friends*, The One With the Holiday Armadillo.

**Rachel:**

Oh yeah, *Friends*. That's a good one.

**Griffin:**

*The OC*, *The Best Chrismukkah Ever*. Yep.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Uh, *Crazy Ex-girlfriend*, My Mom, Greg's Mom, and Josh's Sweet Dance Moves.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

I don't think we've seen that one.

**Griffin:**

Yes. There, there, there needs to be more. There's seven. Now let's search the best Christmas epis-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] The top 399 Christmas TV shows.

**Griffin:**

I mean, the f-... Yeah, 100 best Christmas TV episodes of all-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... time. Hanukkah movies?

**Rachel:**

Uh, so this, this is what I was telling you about though, this is the problem with trying to butt Hanukkah up against Christmas.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I know.

**Rachel:**

Like the, the nature of Hanukkah is not-

**Griffin:**

They do not need to compete. I'm just trying-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... to illustrate that there's not like a ton of-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... a ton of like stuff out there like to learn about if you did not grow up in a, a Jewish household.

**Rachel:**

Well that's what's interesting. So when I was telling Griffin that I wanted to talk about Hanukkah this week, I felt this need to do all this research and provide a lot of education on the holiday and we were talking about how typically when we talk about things we like we don't feel the need to do that. You know, we'll give a little bit of history, but we won't spend a lot of time giving the background. But I just felt like there's probably a lot of listeners that aren't really familiar with it-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:**

... and I, I wanted to give a little bit of information as kind of a jumping off point.

**Griffin:**

And they might go looking for resources on like say this E! News listicle that I'm looking at now which lists *Inglorious Bastards* as a Hanukkah movie.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

*Little Fockers. Little Fockers?* Say that out loud.

**Rachel:**

No [laughs].

**Griffin:**

Say that movie title out loud.

**Rachel:**

So we got *It's a Wonderful Life*, *White Christmas*, um, these real like warm classics that have just, just some beautiful elements and superior acting performances. And then what was that Hanukkah movie you just mentioned?

**Griffin:**

*Little Fockers*.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

So, hold on I read it wrong. Little Fuckers [laughs]. What if that's what it was called? *An American Tale*?

**Rachel:**

Oh, I mean, they're Jewish, they're Jewish mice.

**Griffin:**

I think that this E! News article is just like-

**Rachel:**

It's not-

**Griffin:**

... "We need movies-

**Rachel:**

... Hanukkah [laughs].

**Griffin:**

... with any Jewish people in them." Um... Yeah, I'm glad you brought Hanukkah to the-

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... to the, to the table here. And I'm glad w-... We gotta go out there and light that, the first candle, huh? Open up that first-



**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... that first package?

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I read online, so you, you're supposed to do it at sun down, uh, and-

**Griffin:**

`Lil late on that, but-

**Rachel:**

... a-

**Griffin:**

... we had a podcast to record.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And then the idea is that you light an actual candle, you're not supposed to do the electric menorah, but, you know, we work with what we have. Uh, and then-

**Griffin:**

We don't have candles [laughs].

**Rachel:**

Yeah. And then the flame is s-

**Griffin:**

And we also apparently don't have a menorah, we have a, a Hanuk-, a Hanukkiah.

**Rachel:**

And then the flame is supposed to burn for at least 30 minutes after sun down, which is about how long typically a Hanukkah candle will last.

**Griffin:**

Unless you have a piece of shit cat that wants to knock it over or burn itself to death.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, it's always a terrifying situation in our house [laughs].

**Griffin:**

Uh, hey, how 'bout some submissions from our listeners at home?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

This is one from Emily who says, "I think baby trucks are wonderful. Not trucks for babies, but semi-trucks without the trailer so they just look like tiny baby trucks. Every time I see one driving, uh, it makes me so happy to think of them growing up to become a full grown truck."

**Rachel:**

[Laughs] I was just gonna say, is that a technical term? Baby truck?

**Griffin:**

Almost certainly not.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

But it doesn't make it not great. Uh, here is another Emily, a different Emily who says, uh, "I know many people dread having to wrap presents but it's one of my favorite parts of the holiday season. I love the whole process: finding beautifully patterned papers and coordinated bows, the sound of scissors gliding through a cut-"... Oh, God, that sound. Uh, "... the crispness of e-, the crispness of each crease and the joy of seeing a perfectly wrapped gift waiting to be opened."

**Rachel:**

I love a good, crispy present.

**Griffin:**

"There's nothing more cheerful than a pile of presents." Nicely wrapped presents and that sound of that... I mainly included this because the sound of these scissors running through paper is like the shit.

**Rachel:**

No, that's wonderful.

**Griffin:**

I think that might ASMR for me. Think that might be the first one.

**Rachel:**

Oh, I bet there's YouTube videos Griffin.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, definitely. Uh, here's one more and it's from Whitney who says, "Something I think is wonderful is the episodes of *Survivor* where the loved ones visit. It's always a joyful and poignant moment where Jeff Probst brings them out and let's each contest-, contestant-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... have a moment with their loved one. After hugs and tears Jeff then asks them to share, uh, about the emotions that they are feeling or love for each other, and the responses are always beautiful, regardless of whether a contestant is hated or seen as a villain. Any dislike-, dislike or game play is stripped away in that moment. You see them for their real, human self, you see how their loved one see them. There's just so much joy, and love, and vulnerability in those moments and it's not only a truly wonderful thing, it also never fails to make me cry, the happy kind."

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh, I love those episodes. They're, they're like so exploitative, and I know they're coming, and I know exactly what they're trying to do me, and it still works.

**Griffin:**

The... Yeah, like the, uh, spouses being reunited-

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... that's g-, that's fine. The-

**Rachel:**

Usually like the tough guys that are kinda jerks, like when their family member comes out and they fall apart?

**Griffin:**

It's that, it's the-

**Rachel:**

Ah, it's the best.

**Griffin:**

It's the parents. Like when the parents roll-

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... up, that fucks me up dude.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Fucks me clean up. But it is also very... It's beautiful and nice.

**Rachel:**

It's very nice.

**Griffin:**

Uh, I think that's it. Thank you so much for listening. 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. Uh, you wanna thank-

**Rachel:**

Thank you-

**Griffin:**

... Maximum Fun?

**Rachel:**

... to MaxFun. Uh, you can find lots of great podcasts on the MaxFun network. Uh, some that I have been listening to lately include *Judge John Hodgman*. Uh-

**Griffin:**

You are obsessed with *Stop Podcasting Yourself*.

**Rachel:**

*Stop Podcasting-*

**Griffin:**

You were listening to-

**Rachel:**

... *Yourself*.

**Griffin:**

... it pretty much constantly.

**Rachel:**

I'm a huge fan of that. Um, *Jordan, Jesse, Go!*, is a good one. Uh, I listen to *One Bad Mother*. Uh... Gosh a l-... Just a l-, whole, whole lot of 'em. Um, but you can find McElroy programming on [mcelroyshows.com](http://mcelroyshows.com). A lot of those shows are on the MaxFun network, but, uh, you can find a lot of other stuff there-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, yeah. I wanna-

**Rachel:**

... like, uh-

**Griffin:**

... thank a, like, uh-

**Rachel:**

... *'Til Death Do Us Blart*.

**Griffin:**

... *'Til Death Do Us Blart*, Rachel's m- most favorite podcast.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

Um, I wanna thank everybody who said hey at PodCon, we got a bunch of people saying that, uh, they loved *Wonderful!* and that they-

**Rachel:**

Aww.

**Griffin:**

... were very supportive of the show. Rachel was unfortunately not there, um, at, at PodCon, but-

**Rachel:**

Oh, I do wanna say people have asked if we are ever gonna do a live show, and that is very much a plan for us one day.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I think we, we, we definitely wanna do it. We almost... We had considered doing it during the Chicago tours, but, um, Henry goes to sleep at like six o'clock which makes it very difficult.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, if you all ever start doing matinee shows-

**Griffin:**

Yeah, let's do a *Wonderful!* matinee-

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

**Griffin:**

... fuck it. Um, I think that's it for this one, so. I always get so low when it's to part, you know?

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm [affirmative], I know.

**Griffin:**

And I've written a whole song about it.

**Rachel:**

Oh, here we go.

**Griffin:**

Bye.

**Rachel:**

[Laughs].

[theme music plays out]

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