

## Wonderful! 59: Edible Jellies

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Taste all the... senses. Get it... overall, 100 taste buds. Feel the cream. Feel the texture. Feel the sweet. Aerate it. That's a 10.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs] That's it. That's the start of the episode. Hey, everybody. Welcome to Wonderful.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's a loose, casual podcast. We don't have to do the same thing of the intro every time.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

But hey, it's Griffin and Rachel here, keeping it real.

**Rachel:**

I would like to introduce myself.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it's Griffin here.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:**

And that's—and that's a 10. If you know... If you know what I'm—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

What if people haven't seen the video of the man taste testing the ice cream?

**Rachel:**

I am almost sure nobody else has.

**Griffin:**

It's entirely possible. Man.

**Rachel:**

Griffin showed this to me very early in our courtship.

**Griffin:**

It's true, because I needed her to know where I learned the art of seduction.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I'll probably link it in the episode description, unless I forget, which I almost certainly will.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Search for a man, ice cream, taste. Hey, this is a podcast where we talk about stuff that we are really enthusiastic about. Stuff we're really into.

**Rachel:**

It's called Wonderful. Did we say that?

**Griffin:**

It's called Wonderful. Maybe not. I did a lot of ice cream man goofs at the top.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And didn't prioritize naming the show. First things first, healthy boy sitting over here, feeling so good first the first ti—okay, I still cough a lot.

**Rachel:**

I'd say about 95%.

**Griffin:**

95%. I'm getting there, though. The road to health was a long one. Thank you all for sh—[coughs] Fair, fair, fair, fair.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

But anyway, um—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Mostly better, and, um, yeah, I'm just excited to share my life with you, my health life. So—

**Rachel:**

I am also very eager to have that with you again.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, we can finally get back to our, you know, mountain biking, and, uh—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... extreme—

**Rachel:**  
Repelling.

**Griffin:**  
Uh, extreme repelling, which is—

**Rachel:**  
Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**  
... you do it without the rope. Which is really just kinda falling down a mountainside pretty fast.

**Rachel:**  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**  
And hoping for the best. Hey, you got any small wonders?

**Rachel:**  
I do. Yeah, um, Michelle Obama has a book out.

**Griffin:**  
Oh.

**Rachel:**  
And it just looks super, super great. It's called Becoming. Uh, and—

**Griffin:**  
Is this what you just checked out from the library?

**Rachel:**  
No, it's not.

**Griffin:**  
Oh.

**Rachel:**  
They keep... [laughs] You think I could get my hands on that at the library right now?

**Griffin:**

That's a good point. It's a hot commodity.

**Rachel:**

I could sign up for a waiting list and get it in approximately two years.

**Griffin:**

Okay. Um, I wanna bring... Well, first off, Fallout 76 comes out tonight at midnight, the night that we're recording this.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

Just, I—I don't know how good a game it's gonna be. I don't know how deep it's gonna be.

**Rachel:**

But you just wanna take a walk down memory—

**Griffin:**

I have to play it, right? Like—

**Rachel:**

Memory lane.

**Griffin:**

I'm—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I'm... I've seen some, like, prerelease footage, and, like, seeing people... I was watching today, and, uh, just, like, a Twitch stream of somebody in the UK, 'cause the game is already live there. Uh, and they were just walking on the bridge over the New River Gorge, and I was like, "Fuck, yeah. Like, this is... this really is something like, special for—for West Virginia." Like, I—I feel like I kind of scoffed at, like—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... how the tourism board is, like, making a huge deal out of it. But, like, it is fucking cool that, like, this place I grew up, I can, like, walk around a digital place, i—

**Rachel:**

That is actually—

**Griffin:**

... which I never really thought—

**Rachel:**

... really awesome.

**Griffin:**

... would happen.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Of course.

**Griffin:**

Um, also there's a video circulating right now on social media of behind the scenes footage of when they first recorded the baby back ribs theme song. That is absolutely my shit.

**Rachel:**

Oh, I saw that.

**Griffin:**

Oh, it's them in the fucking studio just, like, laying it down. And like—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

You know that's my shit. You know that, like, "Hey, Griffin, you know, that thing that was, like, the first meme, kind of, basically, back in the day?"

**Rachel:**

This is a reference, for those of you that aren't familiar.

**Griffin:**

They've got to know what it is.

**Rachel:**

To the Chili's commercial.

**Griffin:**

Yes. Uh, this is the original cut. The original artists. Talented, talented folks. Uh, just in the studio, just, like, doing the shit. It is so fucking fresh. Look it up. You will not be disappointed.

**Rachel:**

Is the barbecue sauce guy everything you'd want him to be?

**Griffin:**

The barbecue sauce guy is, like, bad man. He is the dark knight—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... because everybody's... I mean the dude's who's really, like, putting in work and earning his paycheck—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... is the [sings] because he is nonstop.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

He is all over this video. And then you get, like, two guys who come in with the... [sings] And they harmonize.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

And—and then, just, like, out of the shadows—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Just, like, dropping in from, like, a ceiling tile—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... that has moved out of place, this guy drops in and goes, [sings] and is gone.

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh.

**Griffin:**

So fucking good.

**Rachel:**

I don't know how everybody kept their composure during that recording.

**Griffin:**

And what's best is that at the very end of the video, like, literally, it's, like, a guy sitting at a studio op board, just, like, hitting the button. Just, like, "Yeah."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Knowing that, like, we fucking got it. That's it. That's the—

**Rachel:**

That's a 10.

**Griffin:**

That's a—that's a 10.

**Rachel:**



[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Hey, you start this week. Can I tell—can you tell—

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

... about your first thing?

**Rachel:**

So this is gonna be kinda a journey.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, just to let you in on my process.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

There are several websites that I kind of browse around when I'm looking for a topic.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

One of them, uh, led me to today's topic.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Don't worry. That website is, uh, Smithsonian Mag.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

So it's, you know, it's relatively peachy. Although... [laughs] The topic I am bringing, and this is gonna be so—

**Griffin:**

Should I take a big drink of water before?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Uh, so they're called nuptial gifts.

**Griffin:**

Okay. These are like the wood for one—one year, or whatever? Two, paper for two?

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

No?

**Rachel:**

Nuptial gifts are food items or inedible tokens that are transferred during courtship among birds in sex and spiders.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Hey, Zephyr, can you say it again, but not the spiders one?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Can you say it again, just be like, "For bird—" just really for birds.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and this includes birds.

**Griffin:**

Only. Say, "Only birds." Do this.

**Rachel:**

Completely birds.

**Griffin:**

Completely birds.

**Rachel:**

Just birds. It's also known as courtship feeding.

**Griffin:**

Oh my God. Tell me everything.

**Rachel:**

Ooh. I want you to—

**Griffin:**

We haven't done an animal one in a while. I'm excited.

**Rachel:**

I want you to enjoy this moment right now because it is going to get worse for you. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Oh, no. Wait, is it, like...

**Rachel:**

Let me start—

**Griffin:**

Yucky?

**Rachel:**

Let me start out. So, uh, Karim Vahed is a professor of etymology at the University of Derby in England. And he is, like, the foremost, um, expert in this area.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

So let me just start you off with male katydids.

**Griffin:**

I feel like katydids are always up to no good.

**Rachel:**

So male katydids produce what is called a spermatophore.

**Griffin:**

All right. That sounds bad already.

**Rachel:**

Which contains both ejaculate and a mass of edible jelly. This could be up to 30% of their body mass. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Oh my God. I'm imaging a katydid just, like, smoking a cigarette, like, "You just hollowed me out."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Did you enjoy my edible jelly that was 30% of my body mass?

**Rachel:**

So the female consumes the jelly while the male is, um—

**Griffin:**

What a Trojan horse this is.

**Rachel:**

Depositing... [laughs]

**Griffin:**

You frea—

**Rachel:**

... sperm... [laughs]

**Griffin:**

You—you freaking sneaky, sneaky thief. Coming in here—

**Rachel:**

You were picturing—

**Griffin:**

It's marital gifts. When birds get married, do they give each other—

**Rachel:**

You were picturing, just little smooches—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... with, like, a little, maybe, like, a little, like, berry.

**Griffin:**

When you said nuptial, I imagined, like, birds getting married. That's how, like—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... into the idea I was, that I wasn't thinking about it logically. And now you're like, uh, katydids feed each other come that can serve—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... constitutes a third of their body weight.

**Rachel:**

So for male katydids, by giving them this, uh, spermatophore, uh, they ensure—

**Griffin:**

Just jelly, just say jelly. Just say edible jelly.

**Rachel:**

Just edible jelly.

**Griffin:**

Sperma—sperm is also edible je—I don't want to be gross—

**Rachel:**

I feel for somebody that might be, like, eating this while eating, like, a PB&J.  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Eating this while eating a PB&J? I hope they're not. Unless a katydid.

**Rachel:**

Listening.

**Griffin:**

A katydid got its hands on it. What a gross prank.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so by giving this gift to the female.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:**

The male ensures that she will spend some time consuming it. Uh, so—

**Griffin:**

Wait, I'm... So, say that again.

**Rachel:**

So this kind of locks her down. So—so she's eating the jelly.

**Griffin:**

It's a feast. It's 30% of his body mass. It's a fucking smorgasbord.

**Rachel:**

So she's not gonna go anywhere, so they can have that moment together.

**Griffin:**

Well, yeah, man.

**Rachel:**

As lovers.

**Griffin:**

This is—this is a—this is a big deal, this—this meal.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Of him. And his jelly.

**Rachel:**

Do you want to hear about nursery web spiders?

**Griffin:**

Almost certainly, I don't. This is almost, like, I almost...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

We almost need to say, like, like, content warning for spiders, 'cause, like, I am gonna be, like, troubled by this, for sure.

**Rachel:**

This is actually fun.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

I think. So, um, a lot of the examples that I'm gonna give you are just, like, an edible gift given to the partner. Um, but what's funny about nursery web spiders is what they will do sometimes, is they will provide a fake meal. So they wrap an inedible item, often in webbing, and provide that to the female as, like, a, "Hey, look what I got you." And then when they've, you know, lured them in—

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**  
Surprise.

**Griffin:**  
Why would I... This isn't fun. This is mean. This is mean. At least when the katydid gives a third of its body weight in ejaculate, like—

**Rachel:**  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**  
... it's something. You know?

**Rachel:**  
Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**  
But a spider saying, like, "Oh, look at this. It's, uh, Taco Bell. It's, uh—"

**Rachel:**  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**  
"... wrapped up in my web in the shape of Taco Bell—"

**Rachel:**  
It's a whole burrito just for you.

**Griffin:**  
"... but it's a whole burrito, so you wanna smash? Okay." We smash. You unwrap it, and it's, like, three rocks. And he's like... [laughs]

**Rachel:**  
[laughs] I just enjoy the trickery there.

**Griffin:**  
What... By the way—

**Rachel:**  
Uh-huh.



**Griffin:**

Nursery web spider? No—no thanks. I don't want any spiders in my nursery, thanks. And please don't send me Facebook links about how great spiders are. I know they're a valuable part of the ecosystem, but...

**Rachel:**

You wanna hear about the ornate moth?

**Griffin:**

I do like moths.

**Rachel:**

Okay. So this is—this is kind of a lighter fare, literally, because it is only 10% of the male's body weight. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Oh. Okay.

**Rachel:**

What's great about this one, uh, also... [laughs] Ejaculate. But—

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Rachel:**

... includes, uh, alkaloids that serve as a chemical defense from predators.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay. My seed will protect us.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, so it... There's some benefit to the female that goes beyond just nourishment. Uh, and this represents... [laughs] This is the quote. This represents the total parental investment of the male.

**Griffin:**

"See ya. You've got my protecti—you've got my ward on—on our—our household."

**Rachel:**

You wanna get to the birds now?

**Griffin:**

I don't think I do.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I'm kind of okay with this nasty stuff being sort of the—the business of the bugs.

**Rachel:**

The northern shrike is a songbird known for impaling mice in sex and even other birds on sharp twigs. The males present this skewer, and the females select the fellow who offers the largest nuptial gift.

**Griffin:**

Whoever can bring the choicest kebobs.

**Rachel:**

Exactly.

**Griffin:**

That is... they... what?

**Rachel:**

There's actually... There was a picture I saw of—

**Griffin:**

Don't... I... don't... I can't.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

A picture you saw of... Sorry. That was rude. I just—

**Rachel:**

Just, uh, one of those items that I outlined, uh, on—on, like, a, like, a branch, just ready for presentation.

**Griffin:**

Ready for roasting.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

What's a bird gonna do with a dead... I guess they eat them? But they're not carnivores, are they?

**Rachel:**

Well, so here's the thing. So, uh, there is a theory that since, uh, animals, females, often, and in this example, female birds, expend a great deal of energy on reproduction.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Uh, their success rearing young can be increased by the convenience of a mate delivering food.

**Griffin:**

Right, right. I'm saying, like, meat, though. Like, are they... I guess they... Yeah, I guess birds eat meat. I don't know what I'm talking about. I don't know—

**Rachel:**

I don't know either.

**Griffin:**

I don't know fucking anything.

**Rachel:**

Uh, I will just say that it is just, like, an example of a male providing in a way that I guess would make a woman think, you know...

**Griffin:**

I mean, it's probably harder than... I don't know what's harder, actually. Being a bird and having to do spear combat and learn how to use a javelin as a bird, or ejaculating 30% of your body weight.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That's a tall order also, in its own right. You know what I mean?

**Rachel:**

This season on The Biggest Loser. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Like, if I had to go out into a field with a couple of longhorns in it, which is, like, not un—you know, uncommon around here in Texas. I know where I could scrounge up some longhorns. And all that you gave me was, like, a long, sharp pole, and you told me to bring you one of those longhorns for mating feast. Um, I don't know if it'd be easier for me to do that or ejaculate 30% of my body weight. 'Cause the latter one would take me a while.

**Rachel:**

I mean... [laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I'd probably, like, have to try to lose some body weight, just to meet it in the middle a little bit.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Why did you bring this?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I just think it's wonderful.

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

I—I really... So, the thing that was funny about this was they introduced the concept in... 'Cause I started reading a lot of articles about it. And they introduced it at, like, you know how men will often provide women with an engagement ring when they propose marriage?

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Well, other species also provide gifts—

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

... when looking to commit to someone.

**Griffin:**

So it's three months of salary or three months of—

**Rachel:**

Or 30% of your body weight. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Three—three months of... a three—month load—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's terrible, the things we've said. We're 14 minutes in, and the things we've said are terrible. But you want to know my first thing?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's... Can I tell you something?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

It's food, so I maybe switch it with my second thing.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And give it some space from your first thing. How about that? Why don't we switch it?

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

My second thing is Eric Carle. Eric Carle.

**Rachel:**

Oh, that's awesome.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, this is gonna be a nice little sort of tonal shift. Uh, Eric Carle, if you're not familiar with him, which I was not before I had a—a—a child, uh—

**Rachel:**

Is that true?

**Griffin:**

That is true. Like, I knew his work, obviously, but—

**Rachel:**

You didn't...

**Griffin:**

I didn't know him.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

I did not know him by name, for sure. Um—

**Rachel:**

Oh, interesting.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I mean, I think he does not necessarily... He's, like, one of the most prolific—

**Rachel:**

So recognizable.

**Griffin:**

... and successful... for sure. His art is—is super recognizable. Um, but I don't think he has, like, the name recognition of a... You know, a—a Seuss, for example. Um, but Eric Carle is the, uh, author of, uh, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and, uh, a bunch of, uh, a bunch of other stories. How do you say that word? Do you say caterpillar? Do you, like, uh, enunciate the R in the middle?

**Rachel:**

Caterpillar.

**Griffin:**

Caterpillar. Caterpillar. I know a lot of—

**Rachel:**

Oh, caterpillar.

**Griffin:**

I'm trying to think, because I said it caterpillar there, and it felt coming out of the—coming out of the mouth.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I see what you're saying.

**Griffin:**

Um, so anyway, uh the thing that I feel like I was not prepared for before I had—before we had our child, um, is how one of the most, like, grueling forces that you have to sort of fight against is the force of, like, repetition. Especially as they get to the point where, like, there is certain types of media that they only want to consume. Uh, to wit, we have probably have 40 books, right? We probably have about 40 books over there.

**Rachel:**

Oh, more than that.

**Griffin:**

40 to 50 books, I will say.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And I've read all of them over a dozen times. The Eric Carle collection, I have almost certainly read... There's some of them I've almost... I—I've def—definitely read a 100 times at this point. Uh, the thing is, that's true of, like, a lot of the books that we have, and the Eric Carle ones are still, like, they're still kinda fun to me. Uh, and they are so iconic, and I feel like they—they do stand out so much. Um, they're just, like, they're really gentle books. They're really soothing. They're really nice to look at.

Um, again, uh, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is his most successful book. It's the... It's, like, sort of an iconic picture book about a little caterpillar who hatches from an egg, and then eats a bunch of garbage, and then goes to sleep for a while, and then turns into a butterfly, and like, most of that is stuff that I can fuck with for sure. Um, this book is so successful. I did not really, like, uh, appreciate how successful it was.

It has been translated into more to—more than 64 languages, and it has sold more than 46 million copies, which is equivalent to 1.7 copies sold every minute since it was published. Which is—which is wild. I knew it was, like, a big deal, right? 'Cause every kid, like, knows this story. But I—I guess I didn't realize it was like, uh, you know, Harry Potter phenomenon.

**Rachel:**

We're also talking, for those that aren't familiar with the caterpillar, uh, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*.

**Griffin:**

Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? The whole blank bear, what do you blank collection? Uh—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

There are four books. Um, the—the—this book, the—the, uh, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is, like, so beloved because it is... it is again, like, a nice and gentle tale, but it's also, like, you mentioned. Like, uh, Eric Carle's art style is so, uh, instantly recognizable. All of his artwork is created through collage, uh, where he cuts—



**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, he cuts in layers, hand painted papers, to create these lovely images.

**Rachel:**

That explains it.

**Griffin:**

And I... There's, like, all of his books have stuff like this, but I feel like The Very Hungry Caterpillar. This is maybe a weird thing to say, but, like, there's a long section that's just, like, a bunch of different types of food that he's done in this, like, lovely, like, collage style. That food looks so fucking good.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

The page that has, like, all the garbage food on it, that's, like—

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh.

**Griffin:**

... one hot dog, one cupcake, one—

**Rachel:**

There's ice cream.

**Griffin:**

A slice of cheese, one—

**Rachel:**

Pickle.

**Griffin:**

There's two different types of sausages. I see that, and I'm like, "Damn, those all look fucking good."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And it's because of his very good art style, I guess. Um, it's—it's amazing. So the thing about Eric Carle is his, uh, his life, uh, a majority of it, un—until adulthood was, like, super difficult. Uh, he was born in New York City. Um, and then when he was six, uh, his mom was, uh, sort of missing Germany, which was her sort of motherland. Uh, and so they moved back to Germany right before World War II.

**Rachel:**

Oh, man.

**Griffin:**

Uh, when he was 15, he was conscripted, uh, by Nazi forces to dig trenches, uh, in the Siegfried Line, which was this 400 mile long defensive line that, uh, like, Russian prisoners and children and conscripted people were, like, forced to dig. It was awful.

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh.

**Griffin:**

It was miserable. Uh, and he moved to, uh, New York City in 1952, uh, after the war, with \$40 in his pocket, and got a job as a dri—uh, graphic designer in the, like, advertising promotions department of the New York Times. Um, and then he was drafted in the Korean War. And so, but then he came back, and he did the New York Times thing again.

Uh, and it was while he was, like, doing illustrations for the Times that he was contacted by Bill Martin, Jr., who is another children's author. Uh, his jam, if you know a bunch of children's books. Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, that was, uh, that was old Bill Martin, Jr. Uh, and he wanted to collaborate with him, and thus the, uh, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see series was born.

This book is fantastic. It's just a bunch of different animals asking what they see, and then they say the next animal in sequence. So, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? "I see a red bird looking at me." I could probably do that whole bir—book verbatim.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

It's brown bear, red bird, yellow duck, uh, blue horse, green frog, purple cat, white dog.

**Rachel:**

White dog.

**Griffin:**

White dog. What... I... yeah, white dog.

**Rachel:**

Black cat?

**Griffin:**

Black sh—black sheep.

**Rachel:**

Black sheep.

**Griffin:**

Goldfish. Teacher, students. God.

**Rachel:**

Good.

**Griffin:**

Anyway, that's a useless bit of trivia that will never come in handy ever again. Um, so after that, after they published *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*, uh, first of all, that's a four-book series, which is buck wild, because all of them are basically the same. But he went on to publish, and, uh, he—he went on to rather, uh, illustrate and write his—his own books solo, and hence his long and prolific career, uh, got started. He's still, like, knocking out books.

**Rachel:**

Oh, really?

**Griffin:**

Yeah. There was a—a... sort of another caterpillar, like, holiday book, I think, that came out in 2017. Just—

**Rachel:**

Ooh, we got to get that one.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, we do, for sure. Uh, so, like, E—Eric Carle's books are, like, uh, like I said, like, very, uh, gentle, and very, like, nurturing, for lack of a better word, and that is, like, by design. And it's kind of what he attributes a lot of his success to. Uh, they are focused on, like, uh, developing, uh, you know, intellectual activity among, like, very young people. And sort of, like, uh, nurturing their curiosity and recognizing their feelings in a very, like, Mr. Rogers way, where it's like, your feelings are valid even though you're—you are a child, like, that doesn't make your feelings less valid than mine.

Uh, he has a quote that says, "With many of my books, I attempt to bridge the gap between the home and school. To me, home represents, or should represent warmth, security, toys, holding hands, being held. School is a strange and new place for a child. Will it be a happy place? There are new people, a teacher, classmates. Will they be friendly? I believe the passage from home to school is the second biggest trauma of childhood. The first is, of course, being born. Indeed, in both places, we leave a place of warmth and protection for one that is unknown. The unknown often brings fear with it. In my books, I try to counteract this fear to replace it with a positive message. I believe that children are naturally creative and eager to learn. I want to show them that learning is really both fascinating and fun."

So just, like, I don't know. Uh, I—I admire him, like, for his, uh, like, skill, and his creativity, and his artistic eye. Again, like, his sort of collage style is so unique among any, like, picture books I've ever seen. Um, but also because, like, he had a really difficult childhood, and then spent his entire career trying to make childhoods better for people around the whole world—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And I think that's, like, such a beautiful, like, legacy to—to have.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that's incredible.

**Griffin:**

Um, and also, like, you know, I can read his books 1,000 times without, like, wanting to rip my hair out, which is pretty much a miracle, so. Great—great

work, Eric. Carle. I feel like I—we're not on first name basis yet. But we're getting there.

**Rachel:**

I love that he's still out there making books.

**Griffin:**

I know.

**Rachel:**

That's awesome.

**Griffin:**

Hey, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:**

Yes. Would you, uh, provide the accompaniment?

**Griffin:**

I mean, what I really wanna... Like, what's really stuck in my head is, like, we could do, like... [sings]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And it's nice and short.

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh.

**Griffin:**

But I think I just have that song in—in mind.

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh. No, I think we should go with that.

[ad break]

**Rachel:**

Hey, you want to hear some messages?

**Griffin:**

Abso-fruitly.

**Rachel:**

This one is for Chris. It is from Rochelle. "Hey, I was able to nab a spot to loudly declare you as my favorite person. Thank you for the laughter and exasperated yelling at bad puns over the years, and for all the love and support through tough times in the past romantic year. I can't wait for the day we start forever, but until then, stop making awful names for normal things like children."

**Griffin:**

It's so fun, though. It's so fun, though, to see a child at the park, and point at them, and just go, "Blovus."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

You are blovus.

**Rachel:**

This is—this is a real craft of the McElroy family, I feel like.

**Griffin:**

Uh, yeah, I mean, we've had a lot of practice at it, though.

**Rachel:**

Uh, this next message—

**Griffin:**

Why didn't we name our son Blovus? That would have been... It sounds too much like Travis.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Okay, that would be the only reason.

**Griffin:**

That's the only reason why.

**Rachel:**

Uh, this next message is for Tyler. It is from Z Squad. "From dancing goblins, to dragon teeth, and all of the absurd animal voices in between, it's weird, it's difficult, but it's right. Tyler, you've been an incredible DM for the Z Squad, despite our murder hobo ways, and we hope for many more adventures with you in the future. PS, what time is it?"

**Griffin:**

Uh, I mean, it's 8:40—it's 8:47 PM Central Time on November the 13th. And this is All Things Considered.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

My name is Blovus Snadely.

**Rachel:**

That does sound like a NPR, a little bit.

**Griffin:**

My name is Blovus Snafely, and I'm here with my cohost, Prampull Hrashkinston.

**Rachel:**

Thanks, Blovus.

**Griffin:**

Thanks, Prampull.

[Maximum Fun ad plays]

**Griffin:**

What—

**Rachel:**

You ready?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, second thing. Hit me up with it now.

**Rachel:**

Please.

**Griffin:**

Please. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

Uh, this is another musical artist this week.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

It is Miya Folick.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

And—

**Griffin:**

New to the—new to the scene, right? Like—

**Rachel:**

Very new.

**Griffin:**

Just dropped her first album.

**Rachel:**

Very new to the scene. Her first full length album came out last month.

**Griffin:**

Uh, yes, I had not heard her for—before you sent me a couple of her songs, and buckle up because they fucking own bones.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

They are so good.

**Rachel:**



Uh, so my friend, Jacob, posted on Facebook, uh, this song, Stop Talking.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

Uh, he works for a PR, uh, company that represents a lot of musical talent.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

And so whenever he posts anything, I'm like, "Oh, I'm gonna look into this." Uh, so she is a Japanese American singer/songwriter. Her first EP just came out in 2015. Uh, she had another one in 2017. And her debut album, *Premonitions*, came out in October. Uh, she was born in Santa Ana, California, and she studied classical voice.

**Griffin:**

Do you have on there how her band came about? 'Cause I learned that fact—

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

... and it blew me away.

**Rachel:**

Yes, yes, yes. Uh, so she, um, attended NYU to study acting, and then ended up going to the University of Southern California, but, uh, during a gap semester, a high school friend taught her how to play guitar. And so she decided to start her band using Tinder—

**Griffin:**

So good.

**Rachel:**

Where she created a profile that said, "Looking for a band."

**Griffin:**

So good. That's so dope.

**Rachel:**

Right?

[Miya Folick plays]

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I wanted to play first, uh, the song that I discovered today, which is Stop Talking.

[Miya Folick plays]

**Rachel:**

So I—I read a lot of reviews of her new album. Um, and, uh, including one from Pitchfork. And they say that many of the songs on Premonitions feel like anthems. Battle cries for personal and universal empowerment. Um, this comes in part from her incredible voice. Um, and then her—her song subject matter, which is kind of... what they say, "It feels intimate but applicable."

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That's a very good way of putting it.

**Rachel:**

Which I thought was great.

**Griffin:**

This—this song is such a, like, fresh dance jam. The music video is also very fantastic. Uh, they... You should—

**Rachel:**

It's a relatable—

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

... song, right? 'Cause you've been a, like, as a person, you've been on both sides of that, where you were just incessantly talking to your friends about somebody. And then also to be the friend and to be just tired of it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and so the—the kind of—the—what weaves through it is the chorus, which is, we have to speak with grace. We will become the words we say. Uh, which is, like, you know, you're just... you're talking about this terrible person all the time. Like, you will become a terrible person.

**Griffin:**

That's true. She also has a great line in there that's, like, uh, I know I've talked off my share of ears about this subject at hand.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, yeah, it's—it's such a good song.

**Rachel:**

So she gave an interview about this album to Pitchfork, and she said, quote, "We wanted to shine a light on normal life, and make tiny feel moments feel like special occasions. We kept joking in the studio that we were making domestic pop music. And this record was a deliberate response to the heaviness that's everyone feeling. Every day there's something new to be incensed about, and if you're not angry, then you're not paying attention. But if you live with that anger every day, you'll become sick. I don't like to make hopeless songs. I talk with my friends about making things fun in a way that feels vital. Fun is a decision. It's not about buying into this nasty, polarized way of talking that we've learned to do on the internet."

So she's... You'll see this if you kind of do any research on her. She's, I mean, you know, she's in her late 20s, and she's very involved, kind of in what's going on globally.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and I think she's trying to kind of push through that and make music that—that matters to people.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Um, but she's not just kind of a, like, a—a pop person. And so I wanted to share one more song, and this is off of one of the aforementioned EPs, uh—

**Griffin:**

I do not know what clip I'm gonna pull. This song is so fucking good throughout the whole—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... like, there's so many huge peaks and valleys throughout it that, like, I—

**Rachel:**

So this is where her, kind of her classical voice training really comes through. There's, uh, and if you watch the music video for it.

**Griffin:**

So good.

**Rachel:**

The song I'm talking about is Give It to Me, and it's such a perfect music video, because it's literally her on a rollercoaster, and anytime she gets to kind of a peak in the song, she's, like, going down, uh, a valley, like in the rollercoaster. It's—

**Griffin:**

I couldn't help but think, like, how exhausting that video must have been to shoot.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

'Cause seriously, you have to ride that rollercoaster a bunch of times.  
Anyway, uh—

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I, like, every time I listen to this song, it, like, gives me chills, and then there were a few times I listened to it that I actually, like, teared up a little bit.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Because she is, like, so—

**Griffin:**

Unbelievable.

**Rachel:**

So emotional and—and this song can be just so devastating.

**Griffin:**

Let's—let's play it.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

[Miya Folick plays]

**Griffin:**

Not since, uh, Kesha's Praying, like, that note she hits.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like, have I, like, been so fucking floored by—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... a vocal perform—I'm not kidding. Like, I—I—I... Again, we talk so much about, like, I lack the words to talk about music in any kind of, like, intellectual way. But, like, her voice has texture in a way—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... I've literally never heard a human singing voice before.

**Rachel:**

So there have been, like, a lot of comparisons between her and, uh, Florence Welch from Florence and the Machine.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Um, and so she gave an interview, uh, where she said, "I didn't grow up listening to Tori Amos or The Cranberries or Sinead O'Connor," which are artists she all gets compared to a lot.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

"I did listen to a lot of Joni Mitchell." Uh, but she goes on to say, um, but I wasn't that interested in contemporary music. Now I listen to a lot of Bjork," which you can kind of hear—

**Griffin:**

Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:**

And then she says something that just warmed my heart so much. She said, "I fucking love Fiona Apple." [laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

Uh, and if you go on to listen to her music, this—there's a song called Dead Body, off her new album, um, that feels very Fiona Apple to me. And I'm not gonna—

**Griffin:**

I want to look up this album, eh, right now. I'm very, very excited—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... to get into this artist.

**Rachel:**

So again, the album is called Premonitions. It just came out last month. You can find it on Spotify or SoundCloud or whatever. Uh, but she's incredibly talented. She's touring in the UK right now. I think we may have missed her—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... her US tour. Uh, but I was so excited to listen. I just, like, went through everything I could find on YouTube—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... uh, today. Uh, 'cause I think she's incredibly talented, and I was super excited.

**Griffin:**

Uh, can I tell you about my first thing?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

It's—

**Rachel:**

It's your second thing, though.

**Griffin:**

Well, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Unless you want to talk about Eric Carle again.

**Griffin:**

No, I mean, Eric Carle's my second thing. I did it first.

**Rachel:**

Oh, I see.

**Griffin:**

This is my first thing.

**Rachel:**

The food—the food. Yes.

**Griffin:**

It's a food one. It's gonna be so fast. I thought I would do this first, and then just, like, be over with. And I try to save my, like, big one for the second act of our show. You know what I mean?

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

So this is, be kind of a weak denouement, but I'm... it's ramen.

**Rachel:**

Okay. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's ramen. Um, um, I was kind of a latecomer to ramen. And an even later comer to actual good ramen that you would get—

**Rachel:**

Me too. I didn't eat it in college—



**Griffin:**

... at, like, a—

**Rachel:**

... the way a lot of people did.

**Griffin:**

I ate the instant ramen a... I mean, there's a part of—

**Rachel:**

I didn't even do that.

**Griffin:**

There's a part of this segment that is, I feel indebted to instant ramen, in a way. Because there was definitely a couple of years there, where I may have actually died from not eating, if it had not been for this instant ramen. I ate it constantly. I ate it so much. And I'm talking... I'm not talking... There's good instant ramen out there. Uh, I have a recommendation, actually. We got some Costco last time we were there. It's a miso ramen called, I think, Nissin Raoh. R-A-O-H. Um, and it's just, like, a really nice miso ramen. I'm into that. Um, but this is—was not that. This was fucking Top Ramen, 13 cents a packet, like... But I'm not above that. There's no such thing as bad ramen. There's just ramen that's way, way, way, way, way—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... way better than other ramen. But all ramen is beautiful in God's eyes. Um, the reason I'm excited about ramen these days is that it fulfills this place that I always wanted soup to fill when I was younger. Um, there was—there was no good soup when I was little.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

In—in my mind. That's not true. My mom—my mom made a potato soup that I was crazy about. Every other kind of soup was bad. Uh, these days there's, like, maybe three good soups, um—

**Rachel:**

Yeah, you're not really a soup guy.

**Griffin:**

No, I like a tomato basil bisque.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

That might even be it.

**Rachel:**

I think that's about it for you.

**Griffin:**

That might be it. A potato soup, I like creamy, but I can't, like, eat that much cream these days. Ooh, are you kidding me? Tomato basil bisque, though, with a—a nice, like, uh, fancy grilled cheese to dip in that. Like, I'll fuck with that any day of the week. But ramen is good. Ramen is very good. Uh, according to the record of the Yokohama Ramen Museum, ramen originated in China, and made its way over to Japan in 1859. Uh, and early versions were just wheat noodles and broth topped with Chinese style roast pork. Um, so, like, uh, they've definitely chopped and screwed it in the, uh, you know, couple of centuries since then. Uh, but I mean, I still think ramen kind of still sticks close to that—that, uh, original formula.

So today there are, uh, four kind of main types of ramen, of non—instant ramen. Instant ramen is not one of the four types. There's four sort of flavor variations. Um, and they are all sort of common throughout Japan, but some are more common in different regions compared to other ones. Um, there is shoyu ramen, which is kind of the most common one. Like, if you see on a menu that just says, like, ramen, it's probably shoyu ramen, which is, you know, a meat—based broth flavored with soy sauce. Um, that's—that's sort of the—the basic starter ramen. And it has the usual fixin's in it, right? Like, ramen usually, uh, fancy, nice ramen will have, like, slices of pork and maybe a hardboiled egg. Uh, some bamboo, some, you know, mushrooms. Uh, bu—bunch of different options there.

**Rachel:**

The bonito flakes.

**Griffin:**

Bonito flakes, for sure. Uh, there's shio ramen. Shio is, uh, Japanese for salt, uh, I believe. Which is a lighter sort of chicken broth based ramen, sort of a lighter variation of the shoyu ramen. Uh, and then there's miso ramen, which, uh, I've been getting into lately. It's—it has miso in it, the soybean paste. And it's, so it creates sort of a—a thicker, hardier, uh, uh, sort of broth. Uh, that actually originates in Hokkaido, where the winters are very long and very, very cold. So, like, they wanted a—a big boy ramen. [laughs] Thick—a thick boy ramen.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, so that's sort of where that comes from. And then the ramen that I feel like is, like, super common here around Austin because we are a land of excess is tonkotsu ramen, which is, uh, pork bone broth. So it is just, like, so, like, thick and cloudy and fatty as hell.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Um, uh, they are—they are all so good. Like, I—I—I genuinely do enjoy all these different types of ramen. There's some other sort of variations. There's dipping ramen, where you just have your noodles in one bowl, and then a bowl of, like, really thick sauce, and usually, like, ground meat and fixin's in there, and you literally—

**Rachel:**

That's my favorite.

**Griffin:**

That's Rachel's favor. I like it.

**Rachel:**

I get it at, uh, Michi Ramen.

**Griffin:**

Michi Ramen, here in Austin. It fucks me up. It is so fa—it is so fatty.

**Rachel:**

It is very hard on your body, yes.

**Griffin:**

Uh, it really takes you out of commission for a while. Um, these days I really just like, you know, a basic sort of shoyu ramen. Just, like, a nice... just a nice hot bowl of ramen.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Um, and I get excited about it because, like, I love—I love a good broth. Good Lord, do I love a good broth. I think I've talked about pho on this show and how picky I am. There's, like, one pho place in Austin that I actually, like, like their pho because I don't know. Broth is such a commitment. When you're eating a broth, like—

**Rachel:**

It is.

**Griffin:**

... you're eating a lot of stuff, and it's very assertive flavor, and you're gonna be with it for a while.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

I want it to taste really good.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Um, and we are lucky to live in a city where, like, we have lots of great ramen opportunities. Um, uh, I also, like, need to point out that when we were in Japan, we ate ramen constantly. And the ramen sort of restaurant experience in Japan is maybe the idealized, like, dining experience for me. Because at a lot of places, uh, they are very, very sort of small kitchens with, like, uh, rows of seats or private slurping booths, uh, a—at some

places. Uh, a lot of places, like, you just want to get in, eat some ramen, get out, and get—get back to your day.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, a lot of those places will have basically, kind of a vending machine outside, where you punch in, like, what kind of ramen you want, what sort of fixins you want. You pay for it, and then you get a little ticket that you hand to somebody inside the restaurant, and then 45 seconds later—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... your ramen is ready for you. Uh, and then you can just, like, blast it—blast it down your gullet, and, like, go back outside with, like, a full, warm hearty belly.

**Rachel:**

We had a very nice person in Japan explain to us how that process worked. Because when you stand in front of the machine, it can be a little intimidating.

**Griffin:**

You—you're, like...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"How does this machine gonna make all the ramen inside it?"

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

No, it just prints out a ticket that you hand to the person inside. Um, but, like, that's fucking great, man. Like, obviously, there's lots of dining experiences that I want to be, like, nice and long and social and, uh, you

know, en—enjoy myself. But a lot of the times, I wish I could just, like, walk into a restaurant with a ticket in hand that will get me food 30 seconds later.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's so fucking great. Uh, but yeah. I... Ramen is just, like, it's ju—i—I—I don't like soup, right? And so I don't have a lot of, like, wet food options. I don't have a lot of, like, liquid food options.

**Rachel:**

Took me a long time to kind of get my head around the idea that it was a noodle dish that was also soup.

**Griffin:**

Right.

**Rachel:**

Took me a lot. And I still sometimes find myself choosing one over the other. Like, oh, I really like the soup part of this, but I'm not as into the noodles. Or I'm—I'm really into the noodles, but not as into the soup.

**Griffin:**

I almost do that, uh, as well. There are places—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Um, I like the, uh, noodles and fixins better at Ramen Tatsu-Ya here in Austin, but I definitely like the broth better at Michi.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I agree.

**Griffin:**

The—the broth is so... I could just drink that shit for, like, just—just that. I would just drink a cup of their broth for lunch one day.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

It is so unbelievably good. Um, but, yeah. I love ramen. I went from, like, not eating it all, except for the instant stuff, all the way up until, like, my late 20s, and then I was, like, "Oh, shit."

**Rachel:**

When you had the—

**Griffin:**

"This is the best food ever."

**Rachel:**

When you had... Since I was never really one to consume this, I'm curious. When you had the instant—

**Griffin:**

Yep.

**Rachel:**

... what was your flavor of choice?

**Griffin:**

Uh, chicken.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

Chicken.

**Rachel:**

There were a lot of flavors in there that I just... I didn't... I couldn't get on board with.

**Griffin:**

There was, like, a—a chili lime flavor that was already. I was kinda—kinda okay with that. Uh, but almost always chicken. And then sometimes I'd mix in stuff with it. Um—

**Rachel:**

Did it taste like chicken?

**Griffin:**

Oh, no.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

It tasted like, um—

**Rachel:**

Just salt, right? Like, just salt?

**Griffin:**

It tasted... well, it kinda tasted like if you'd put salt in one end of the large hadron collider.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

And then salt on the other end of the large hadron collider.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:**

And then shot them into each other at the speed of light.

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

To create a sort of, like, super salt black hole.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

That you taste with your mouth.

**Rachel:**



Yes.

**Griffin:**

And then you, uh, you don't piss for a week.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

So it's kind of like that.

**Rachel:**

Okay. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, I will say, I've been doing, uh, MyFitnessPal, so it, like, tracks your nutritional facts and stuff like that. And when I punched in this ramen I recommended to all our listeners at the start of this show, it was, like, "Yo, um, you just passed up by a wide margin your daily sort of recommended dose of sodium just in this one bowl of instant ramen, my friend. You may—you—you need to go drink a glass of water." It said, "Go drink water right now, Griffin."

**Rachel:**

I'll wait.

**Griffin:**

I'll wait.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, hey, can I tell you about what our friends at home are excited about?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Uh, I got one here from Kyle, who says, uh, "I can enjoy a good trailer almost as much as a good movie." I love trailers. "Uh, just this week, I watched the, uh, new Super Smash Brothers trailer, and the Detective

Pikachu trailer multiple times each because they are both so enjoyable. Try to get Rachel excited about Detective Pikachu."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

No takers. No takers there.

**Rachel:**

A—

**Griffin:**

I don't—I don't—I don't have an outlet for this shit anymore, but let me just say, on our podcast, Wonderful, I think it looks fucking choice as hell.

**Rachel:**

I was confused because it reminded me of, like, a Paddington.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

But it was Pikachu.

**Griffin:**

And Paddington owns bones, and this is with Pikachu in it. And it's got all my favorite Pokémon friends in it.

**Rachel:**

I guess I feel like I don't know enough about Pikachu to really know where this might take him. You know?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, you really got to watch the anime to get that stuff.

**Rachel:**

Like, Detective Pikachu to me—

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:**

... is kind of like, what... I don't know what regular Pikachu is.

**Griffin:**

Kill like assassin Mario. It's like, why's he doing that?

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, here's one from Olivia, who says, "I work in the office of my university's earth science department. In the hallway outside the office, there's a seismometer, the machine that shows a squiggly line to measure earthquakes, hooked up so that people can see their footsteps register on it. I think it's wonderful when I'm sitting at my desk, and I can hear people exaggeratedly stomping past the office so that they register a bigger earthquake. Even most of the professors do it." That's such—that's such a—

**Rachel:**

That's so cute.

**Griffin:**

It's so unrelatable, but also such a nice little slice of life that I just was—

**Rachel:**

They should have, like, a big window—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... in the office. I hope that you can, like, see it happen.

**Griffin:**

Or, like, a hi—a Nest cam, like, recording people just, like, silly walking down this highway. Uh, highway? Hallway. You know what I meant.

**Rachel:**

But it did make me think about when they have those signs up that, like, measure your speed.

**Griffin:**

Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:**

How you always kind of wanna, like, see what would happen if you just ran real fast by 'em.

**Griffin:**

Do you do that?

**Rachel:**

I've never—

**Griffin:**

Rachel.

**Rachel:**

I never have.

**Griffin:**

That's a criminal crime.

**Rachel:**

To run? Real fast?

**Griffin:**

Oh, to run.

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

I thought you're talking about driving.

**Rachel:**

No, no.

**Griffin:**

Okay, so Ann says, "Something I find wonderful is when you perfectly fry an egg over easy without breaking the yolk or sticking to the pan. Especially

when you manage it on a cast iron pan. It's such a simple thing, but it makes me feel so accomplished and proud of myself."

Cooking an egg good is the best feeling.

**Rachel:**

I've never tried it on a cast iron. I bet that's difficult.

**Griffin:**

Nor I. Yeah, I bet so. 'Cause you don't get that non—stick sort of assistance.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm, Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Uh, the one time I poached an egg, and I got, like, a few perfect poached eggs.

**Rachel:**

You did so good.

**Griffin:**

That feels so good. It's not that hard, but, like—

**Rachel:**

I was so impressed.

**Griffin:**

Uh, it looks very impressive.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Hey, thanks to Bowen 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, thank you to maximumfun.org, the website.

**Rachel:**

Yes, thank you Maximum Fun for hosting our show and hosting just dozens of other just really, really good shows. Uh, shows like Switchblade Sisters, and, um...

**Griffin:**

That's it. That's the only show on the network.

**Rachel:**

International Waters.

**Griffin:**

Paring down. International Waters is on there. Uh, Friendly Fire.

**Rachel:**

I'm trying to think of ones we don't mention all the time.

**Griffin:**

There's so many. Like—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

There's definitely ones that we haven't mentioned.

**Rachel:**

Minority Corner.

**Griffin:**

Uh, Minority Corner.

**Rachel:**

Heat Rocks.

**Griffin:**

Heat Rocks. There's a lot of great shows. It's all on [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org). If you wanna hear other stuff we do, it's at [mcelroyshows.com](http://mcelroyshows.com). Um, McElroy mailing list, if you want, like, future announcements. It's at—at [bit.ly/mcelroymail](http://bit.ly/mcelroymail). Um, I think that might be it.

**Rachel:**

I think so.

**Griffin:**

Well, hm. I wish... I—uh, it's felt wei—it's felt off, hasn't it? The outro.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's felt off. It almost feels like we do need, like, a kiss your dad square on the lips.

**Rachel:**

I know.

**Griffin:**

Right? We—

**Rachel:**

We really do.

**Griffin:**

'Cause that would be a... that would be a much easier sort of way to...

'Cause Rach—let's take you behind the curtain. Rachel and I often sit here in si—we did just now sit here in silence—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... for a good 10 to 15 seconds just looking at each other, like, "Say something funny." So I think we need to get the council together and really figure out—

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... a nice closing catchphrase.

**Rachel:**

All right, I got one, I got one.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay.

**Rachel:**

Well, that's 30% of your body weight you'll never get back. What do you think? [laughs]

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