

## Wonderful! 61: Our Favorite Austin Stuff, Live!

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[theme music plays]

**Rachel:**

Hi, I'm Rachel McElroy.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Hello. This is Griffin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

And this is Wonderful.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Yep. Uh. We are at the movie theater. Rachel and I live here in Austin and have been lucky enough to see a lot of shows here. I was pondering backstage. Last show I saw here was Carly Rae Jepsen, uh, on this stage.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

And there is, walking on the stage for sound check and now for the show, I felt like there are... do you feel like there's little pockets of like Jepsen energy?

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Still like when I walk through I felt like this thermal vent of Run Away With Me.

**Rachel:**

When I came up the stairs.

**Griffin:**

When you came up the stairs I saw you like, uh, a mist hit your face and that mist was boy problems.

[audience laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, this is our first live show [laughs] of Wonderful.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

Uh, and this is my first time on stage maybe since I did a dance recital.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Yes. So this is gonna be sort of a 50/50 performance where I'll be doing Wonderful and Rachel's going to be doing a fucking dance recital.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's gonna be so great. No, we... what's the, what's... tell them the plan for this, uh, episode. This is a weather balloon, uh, for how we're gonna do our live shows.

**Rachel:**

Uh, well, we decided to talk about things that we love here in Austin, Texas.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Yes. Uh, if you have never listened to our show before... Hey, uh, we talk about things that we're enthusiastic about. We used to talk about the Bachelor [laughs] and then we decided to do the opposite show. So, um, and now we're talking about all Austin stuff. We always open up, "Got any small wonders?"

**Rachel:**

Oh, my gosh. Uh, yes.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, and that would be, um...

**Griffin:**

You didn't have one did you?

**Rachel:**

Well, I mean, I took a, a Rideshare over here and that was great. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

I guess it is... that's sort of a local...

**Rachel:**

Right?

**Griffin:**

It's great they ca—thanks for coming back, I guess. Little, little childish that you left if I'm being honest, uh, Lyft and Uber, but thanks. I guess thanks for coming back or else, Rachel would still be at home right now and it would just be a meme. Maybe we'd Skype you in through...

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Oh, and stickers.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Fuck, yeah!

**Rachel:**

I was leaving home and I was trying to get out of the house without my two year old becoming upset and so I gave him some stickers and then just waltzed right out of there.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Stickers and Lyft really went hand in hand on this one to get Rachel to the theater tonight so, um, uh, praise, praise them.

[audience laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's gonna start to feel more natural the longer we go into the show.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

For me, you're crushing it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um.

**Rachel:**

What are yours?

**Griffin:**

I wanna bring up one local thing which is the Reuben Sandwich at Biderman's Deli on Far West.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Uh, we got a Biderman's all the time for their, uh, for their bagels. They're fantastic. Hadn't had their sandwiches before. Had one when your, uh, folks were in town. It was like somebody spiked the volleyball down my throat a little bit in terms of how I felt afterwards.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

But the during part was very good. Uh, the other—

**Rachel:**

For those not familiar with the show, Griffin always talks about his digestive system in—

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

... every episode.

**Griffin:**

That is probably won't be the last time.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

The other thing is I saw this video backstage of this cow in Australia that weighs 1.2 tons and it's like three times as big as any other living cow. Fucking absolute unit of a cow. I love this cow.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Not really an Austin thing, but Long Horns, long cow, but whatever.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Okay. Okay.

**Griffin:**

Uh, so we have a few topics prepared for you, local delights. Uh, do you want me to go first?

**Rachel:**

Yes, please.

**Griffin:**

We talked about that backstage. That was fucking theater that you all just saw.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

My first thing is seeing those rental scooters in a sad destroyed kind of state.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

Yes. Yes, no. That's exactly right.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I don't know why it pleases me so much to see rental scooters in a sad destroyed kind of state. Um, but I see it often and every time I do, I get a little pep in my step. And I think, I think it's because it's, uh, it—it's this act of defiance that represents this kind of aimless rage that I really love.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Like, like, "Hey, it's a rental scooter. Let's fuck it up. We hate these things, right? Right? We hate these things, right? They're ba—they're, they're bad, right? They've got to be bad. Let's throw them in traffic. Yeah."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"Has anybody read something about how they're bad? It seems like they're probably bad, right?" All right, let's set it on fire. Let's go. It's just this powerful act of rebellion.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Fighting against... something.

**Rachel:**

So when you say like, in disarray...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

You're just talking about like, tilted on its side or?

**Griffin:**

Well, I've got three. I've got my three best scooter wreckings—

**Rachel:**

Okay. Okay.

**Griffin:**

... that I've seen. Um, number three, I saw a big pile of just like six of them piled on top of each other like some sort of Bohemian trash sculpture. Um, next to a bus stop on North Lamar and—

**Rachel:**

So, like a, like a cuddle puddle.

**Griffin:**

Kind of like a cuddle puddle. In their defense that may just have been a natural occurrence. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Because there's so many of them, the... on North Lamar for some reason, rental scooters outnumber like the sentient human beings.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, number two was so good that it made me use social media which is saying something, um, so you may, you may have, uh, seen this if you follow me on IG, hit me up. Don't, I never post. Uh...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I saw one on, uh, Sixth Street, East Sixth Street as we were driving out of town going on a road trip. I did see one jammed into a sewer drain on the side of the road.

[audience laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, I needed a cigarette after seeing this... the scooter.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Personally, because it's, uh, of all of the vehicles to see peeking out of a sewer drain like a little mobile Pennywise, [laughs] a scooter might be the funniest imaginable one.

**Rachel:**

What do you think happened that motivated the person to do that?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, maybe they were used to sort of the way their own scooter handled and so they took a bad like spill and out of rage... [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

They looked around and jammed it down a sewer drain. I like to think about that moment because, uh—it's a public area and it must—

**Rachel:**

What if—



**Griffin:**

... have required a lot of force.

**Rachel:**

What if it's like a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles situation?

**Griffin:**

Uh.

**Rachel:**

But like, up from the sewer comes the scooter.

**Griffin:**

Or Michelangelo got the `za, and then tried to ride down the sewer but his scooter got caught and he was like, "Eh, fuck it."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, my number one, favorite one, I saw literally 10 minutes before the sewer drain one on East Sixth Street, were waiting to pick up a friend at an apartment complex on East Sixth Street. And we looked up, looking at this apartment complex. Three stories off the ground on one of the balconies of this apartment complex, someone just had one.

**Rachel:**

Whoa.

**Griffin:**

Someone just... the fucking gall of taking these rental scooters and saying, "This one is mine." And displaying it and say... if you reserve [laughs] a rental scooter like that, I feel like it's, it, if you weren't renting it, you are now leasing the rental scooter.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Um, but yeah. I just, I like seeing these things fucked up. I know that's childish of me.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, what is your first thing?

**Rachel:**

My first thing is Blue Genie.

**Griffin:**

Blue jeans are... blue—blue jeans, I can't make the joke that I didn't hear you twice. Um, Blue Genie is fantastic.

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

I'm glad you guys get to see the kind of disappointed faces that Rachel makes at me when we're recording in the studio.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I just didn't know I was doing this podcast with Clint McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Yowza.

[audience laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

[audience laughs and cheers]

**Griffin:**

That was two insults with one stone.

**Rachel:**

[laughs], uh, so Blue Genie, uh, as you may be most familiar with the Art Bazaar held now on Airport Boulevard, uh, started in 2001. Uh, and actually the first location was on Springdale, which is where you first did your Austin MBMBaM show.

**Griffin:**

Did anybody come to that first Austin MBMBaM show?

[scattered cheers]

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Okay, that's not a lot of people because we put it on in like a weird fucking warehouse. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

And we threw it ourselves, like Rachel took tickets and like—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... sold the eggnog and one of our friends was—

**Rachel:**

We... Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... like, running lights. It was wild.

**Rachel:**

We had hot chocolate in little Styrofoam cups, if I remember correctly.

**Griffin:**

We have a lot of friends here in the audience, tonight. I'm pretty sure they are the only ones that clap for that.

[scattered cheers]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Thanks.

**Rachel:**

There they are [laughs] So the Blue Genie Art Industries is the organization that started the Blue Genie Art Bazaar and they are, uh, famous for creating giant art and commercial sculptures maybe familiar, uh, with the Fran's Hamburgers Girl? Which was made by Blue Genie Art Industries. Uh, the, uh, Bullock Texas State History Museum has these large six panels illustrating the museum's theme, the story of Texas. Uh, and that was made by Blue Genie Art Industries.

Uh, and... uh, now, since 2001, they are up to, uh, over 200 artists, uh, with more than 400 applicants each year. Uh, if you watched *Making It*...

**Griffin:**

Did anybody watch *Making It*? Don't spoil it.

**Rachel:**

Oh, I'm about to spoil it.

**Griffin:**

Oh, Rachel's about to spoil the first and only season of the new show *Making It*.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Well, no. I don't have to spoil it. Uh, but one of the artists, uh, is, uh, a part owner of A&K Woodworking and Design and you can see, uh, his work at the Blue Genie now.

**Griffin:**

At the Blue Genie. What's funny, I almost included a Blue Genie thing as one of my things because they used to The Danger Derby. Do you have anything with The Danger Derby?

**Rachel:**

I was—yeah, I was gonna mention that.

**Griffin:**

Okay. The Danger Derby rules. Please tell us about The Danger Derby.

**Rachel:**

So unfortunately, they don't do that.

**Griffin:**

Yes, I saw the Facebook post. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, which will explain after you explain what the Danger Derby is because it was heartbreaking, this Facebook post.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, so they would, uh, at the original location at Springdale, had a, uh, two-story, 20 foot tall roof and they used to take 100 feet of track, and run it from the roof down to the ground and people would race, uh, pinewood derby cars.

**Griffin:**

But what could make that dangerous, Rachel?

**Rachel:**

Uh, so they would ignite the area around the track with the burst of flames.

[audience laughs]

**Griffin:**

They also had a swing, sledgehammer and a buzz saw one year.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Which is great. You get to go inside, uh, you got to go inside and look at all of the cars before they raced, and I, I remember, we saw a cool light up TARDIS one. I was like, "Fuck, yeah."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That got demolished!

**Rachel:**

Just immediately somersaulted.

**Griffin:**

So when I was looking this up, to see if they're still doing it. There's a Facebook post, from I think 2015-

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... saying like, "Hey y'all. So..." [laughs] "Because of forces beyond our control, uh..." [laughs] They didn't say it explicitly, but you created a fucking death zone. [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, on your roof. I can't imagine they had the permits because those permits cannot possibly exist.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so the Blue Genie Art Bazaar opens like immediately after Thanksgiving every year and it's open all the way till Christmas and so you can go and buy a local art.

**Griffin:**

Go check it out. It's fantastic.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Question, if it was still running, could we do one of the rental scooters on the Danger Derby ramp? Best of both of worlds.

[audience laughs]

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Uh, can I talk about my second thing?

**Rachel:**

Please.

**Griffin:**

It's a restaurant recommendation... not, it doesn't exist anymore. It's a restaurant memorial [laughs] for Pacific Rim Sushi Sports Bar and Yakitori Grill.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh. How perfect.

**Griffin:**

We used to live up in North Burnett which is this like buck wild treasure trove of every imaginable like Asian restaurant type you could ever like think of. It's fucking great and that's like really our wheelhouse. So, this place open called Pacific Rim. And it was miraculous. It was in that weird, kind of inaccessible plaza, uh, on Burnett and Research, uh, Boulevard. And, uh, our interest is peaked, we went there twice.

The first time we went, we were like, "Hell, yeah. Sushi, Yakitori, let's tear it up." We showed up... sure enough, they did have many TV showing sports, which is already a sort of strange hybrid of enjoy your sushi and watch all the football games. Um, not sooner five minutes after we sat down and began enjoying our sushi and football... a, a jazz trio did set up right next to our table—

**Rachel:**

Oh my gosh.

**Griffin:**

... and begin playing jazz. Um.

**Rachel:**

We felt like explorers in the new world.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

Just like do people know about this place? Like—

**Griffin:**

And in fact, the second and last time we went to Pacific Rim, uh, we, we went because we had to bring our friends to this wonderful place. The Pacific Rim Sushi Sports and Jazz Bar and Yakitori Grill.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Buckle the fuck up.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Thing... a month's past. Things were... I guess going kind of rough for the Pacific Rim Sushi Sports and Jazz Bar and Yakitori Grill. I'm assuming it's because they used to do all you can eat sushi, yowza. The food was pretty good.

**Rachel:**

It was. Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, they wanted to revamp the brand. No problem. That happens in Austin all the time for some weird reason. Um, in January of this year. They made a move so bold that I can't believe we all get to exist in a world where it actually happened during our lifetimes. They became Pacific Rim Cajun Sports Bar and Kitchen.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] We never went, though. We never went so we can't—

**Griffin:**



No.

**Rachel:**

... speak to the transition.

**Griffin:**

This is from their website. "Come on down and enjoy one of our \$7 daily lunch specials. Oysters, seafood boils, fried seafood baskets, po' boys, burgers and more." They went wild with it, legitimately embracing this new brand of food. And yeah, they did still have some traditional Japanese dishes on it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Still had a Yakitori section. Not as much of an emphasis on sushi but, uh, that would be the weirdest thing. [laughs] I don't think you can legally serve sushi and like a crawfish boil in the same restaurant. This is their daily specials... yes.

**Rachel:**

Unless.

**Griffin:**

Unless... [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

The daily specials that are listed on their website, which is still in operation tragically, reads like a fucking werewolf transformation.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

If the werewolf was also New Orleans music legend Dr. John. Monday, beef teriyaki bowl. Tuesday, chicken stir fry noodle. Wednesday, Cajun crawfish fried rice.

[audience laughing]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Thursday, chicken pasta with tomato creole sauce. Friday, crawfish étouffée. It becomes more Cajun as the week goes on!!

**Rachel:**

I, I like that because I imagined they thought, "Let's not lose the original spirit..."

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

... that motivated our restaurant."

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Rachel:**

Let's keep it half the week.

**Griffin:**

Yes. Um, they didn't get many weeks to test that little theory out with. Uh, to wrap it all up, 41 days after the switch, the restaurant was locked up and shut down because of unpaid rents. Um...

**Rachel:**

Uh, oh...

**Griffin:**

So sad. You could read it as they made the Cajun switch as one sort of last desperate maneuver to rescue the restaurant. I like to think it was always in the cards and that we simply didn't deserve Pacific Rim Sushi and Jazz Bar and Yakitori Grill and Cajun Sports Bar and Kitchen.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

It was too fucking beautiful to live. Thank you. Thank you, Pacific Rim.

[audience cheers]

[ad break]

**Griffin:**

Got a couple jumbotrons, and then I'll let you get back to the rest of the show. This first one is for Maddie, uh, and it's from Frank who says, "You solved my podcast puzzle. That's right. It's the other half of sexy American Gothic. I figured a curator like you can appreciate getting the McElroys to chisel your likeness in audio stone. So here, swing by this statue garden anytime you want to remember how special you are to me. I love you so, so, so much. Anyway, here's a pupper GIF."

I can't, uh, I can't... hmm. I don't know how to break this to you. I can't put a GIF in this show. I simp—I simply can't put a GIF for this show. You recognize it's an audio medium and the... in the body of your message and then ask me to put a GIF in. I ca—I can do nothing for you. But, uh, I, uh, Maddie, I hope you enjoyed the message.

Here's one for Catherine from Drew who says, "Dear little bug nugget, now that we push the key rings together..." Oh no, they specifically want Rachel's air horn sound. I'm so sorry that she's not here. But I think it sounds, it would sound like this. Doo doo doo dooooo. That is a bad simulation, but you, you, just remember the fond times.

Uh, uh, "Coming home to you is my daily small wonder. I like you and I love you and I always want more of you. Happy Christmas. Happy anniversary. Happy birthday? Love, former new boo, Drew. PS, James likes you too, but he didn't help me pay for this." They wanted this December 2018 which means this is the first time we've ever been early for a birthday. What a refreshing change of pace. Okay, that's it. Thanks for Maximum Fun for having us. Thanks to Bowen and Augustus. I say all this stuff in the live show so, uh, let's get back to it. Here it comes. Bye.

[Maximum Fun ad plays and ends]

**Griffin:**

What is your second thing?

**Rachel:**

My second thing is a trip to the Poetry Corner.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

What's the Poetry Corner theme song? Do you have it loaded up, Paul? We didn't... [laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

There's not one. I just very much wanted to scare our tour manager, Paul Sabourin.

**Rachel:**

Griffin. Griffin, do you wanna go for it?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure. It can be like, bum... Every time I do it, I do like an upright bass and it sounds like the fucking Frasier theme song.

**Rachel:**

Do you want me to—

**Griffin:**

Do you want me to do the Frasier theme? Yeah, sure. [singing]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That was... one of the worst things I've ever done on the stage.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] But you met your Frasier quota.

**Griffin:**

I did.

**Rachel:**

You can go back.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I can tell the boys don't worry.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Don't worry.

**Griffin:**

I freed us from the curse. We don't have to do it during My Brother, My Brother and Me.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

If you ever listen to show sometimes. Rachel talks about poetry a lot. And it's great. It's fantastic. It's the best segment—it's the best segment on the show.

**Rachel:**

I am so glad that you clarified that for the audience. They would have been—

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

... totally disoriented.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Fair.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so I'm going to talk about, about...

**Griffin:**

I'll edit it out. Oh, shit. It's live!

**Rachel:**

[laughs] A, uh, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Woo!

**Rachel:**

Uh, and that is Dr. Harryette Mullen.

**Griffin:**

Woo! Mm-hmm.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so she is a poet that has written nine books of poetry spanning four decades.

**Griffin:**

Holy shit.

**Rachel:**

Uh, she has received multiple awards.

**Griffin:**

How big are the books though?

**Rachel:**

Oh, so that's the thing with poetry. They're usually pretty small.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. You can turn out five pages, this is a book, but they're great fucking poems. Anyway, one more book for the pile.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] By the way, I heard, I heard what you all said about poetry this week on My Brother, My Brother and Me.

**Griffin:**

I like to... I thought I was a staunch defender of the art form but...

**Rachel:**

No, you did.

**Griffin:**

Thank you.

**Rachel:**

You made it very clear that pasta is not poetry and I appreciate that.

**Griffin:**

Thank you.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so while at UT, uh, Harryette Mullen wrote editorials for The Daily Texan. Uh, contributed to UT sponsored student magazines and worked for an African-American community newspaper, The Argus. Uh, her poems, I, I very much enjoy. She's got a very, uh, unique style. Uh, in an interview for The Poetry Project, she said, "The linguistic, regional and cultural differences marked by Southern dialect, Black English, Spanish and Spanglish are fundamental to how I think about language and how I work with language and poetry. My attraction to the minor in the marginal, to the flavor of difference in language has something to do with this sense of heteroglossia that was part of the environment of my childhood in Texas."

**Griffin:**

Fuck yeah. I got way smarter just hearing you say all that stuff.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so the super cool thing... if that wasn't cool enough for you... Uh, she is currently teaching in California and so I emailed her directly, and asked her if I could have her permission to read a poem.

**Griffin:**

What if she just like lower down from the ceiling on cables right now? Like, "What's up motherfuckers? Here it comes."

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Uh, she—

**Griffin:**

Sandstorm could started playing and she's like, "Here, prepare yourself for my fucking righteous poem."

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Uh, so she emailed me back within like 24 hours and said, "Yeah, go ahead, read it."

**Griffin:**

All right.

**Rachel:**

Which I was super pleased about. Uh, so the poem I'm going to read is called Shedding Skin, was published in her first book Tree Tall Woman which came out in 1981.

**Griffin:**

Everyone, absolute si—don't... absolute silence. Can we snap in rhythm to—will that fuck you up if we all snapped in rhythm to the poetry reading?

**Rachel:**

Well, how are you gonna know what the rhythm is though?

**Griffin:**

I'm the one on the fucking stage. I'll tell everybody what the rhythm is. Just go and start and I'll bring it all. I'll bring, I'll bring it in, but don't get distracted. Now it's like American Gladiator poetry edition. I'm firing tennis balls at you if you run the gauntlet, reading a poem.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

[audience laughs]

**Griffin:**

It's gonna go great.

**Rachel:**

[laughs] You don't even know what the poem is about either. What if it's a really somber poem? You're gonna feel pretty silly.



**Griffin:**

Is snapping especially jubilant? Snapping is this... the most somber f- sound for the person.

**Rachel:**

Show me, show me how you're gonna snap.

**Griffin:**

I mean, it'll be under the table so you can't see it. But then they won't see it so I have to do it up here. Now. Yeah, but get ready. I like that instinct.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

You've read the poem, should I not snap? [laughs]

**Rachel:**

No, it's fine.

**Griffin:**

I feel like you set a trap for me. Okay.

**Rachel:**

It's fine. [laughs]

"Pulling out of the old scarred skin  
(old rough thing I don't need now  
I strip off  
slip out of  
leave behind)

I slough off deadscales  
flick skinflakes to the ground

Shedding toughness  
peeling layers down  
to vulnerable stuff

And I'm blinking off old eyelids

for a new way of seeing

By the rock I rub against  
I'm going to be tender again."

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

That was a good poem. The snapping did distract from it, a decent amount.

[audience laughs]

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I liked it. It was very evocative. It also remind me of the time that I got so burned up at Florida. Um, and on the way back, we stopped at a hotel and I was really sore and Travis gave me a back rub and it was the most horrible thing that's ever happened.

[audience laughs]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

To both of us. But obviously the poem has a lot more smart stuff.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I don't know if you've been to a lot of poetry readings, um.

**Griffin:**

Doing snap and rhythm during the thing?

**Rachel:**

Not usually, no.

**Griffin:**

Probably not. So when I pitched that—

**Rachel:**

And usually people that hear the poem don't like raise their hand and say, "You know what that reminds me?"

**Griffin:**

[laughing]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Why not?

**Rachel:**

[laughs] I like imagining you though, at, at a, a reading of Dr. Harryette Mullen, raising your hand and be like, "Excuse me. Uh, Dr. Mullen—"

**Griffin:**

One time my brother gave me a back massage—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

.... on vacation and a bunch of my skin came off. Is that right? And she'd be like, "Yeah, that's right. You're the first one to get it."

**Rachel:**

[laughs] Anyway, she's a very talented poet.

**Griffin:**

Absolutely.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Thank—thank you for letting us read your poem. Sorry we snapped all over it. Do you want to hear my third thing?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

We usually only do two each. So, we thought we'd go way faster than we usually do recording at home and that ended up being very true.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, my third thing, I'm very excited about. Uh, it is Angelina Eberly. Does anybody here, hmm, okay. Has, has, who here has seen the statue downtown of the woman firing the cannon?

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

Okay, who here knows the story about that?

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**

A decent amount. It kicks ass. It's a kick—I can't believe they ever made a fucking movie about this story. There's some... okay. There's gonna... I promise the setup for this is worth it.

It's 1842. And residents of Austin and a detachment of folks working for then President of the Republic Texas, of Texas Sam Houston. I'm so excited. I'm just like...

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

They got into a little dust up. This dust up, historians now call the Archive Wars. Are you fucking kidding me? That is the most badass sci-fi ass name I

have ever heard for any, the ar—the archive. Master Chief in Halo 6, the Archive Wars.

**Rachel:**

I was thinking it sounded little bit like a, like a new Star Wars movie.

**Griffin:**

Absolutely. More background. It's 1836. Let me take you back even a little bit more.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Texas revolutions popping off. Uh, Texas President Mirabeau B. Lamar, which best fucking name, Mirabeau, uh, beat Sam Houston who was the current president of Texas, which is weird.

**Rachel:**

Wait, when you said beat...

**Griffin:**

B, that's his middle initial.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

What did you think I said?

**Rachel:**

I thought you said beat.

**Griffin:**

No. Beats, Mirabeau B. Lamar beat Sam Houston in an election and moves the Capitol, decides to take all the archives from Houston, which is named after Sam Houston. That must have been a wild time to be like making cities and shit. Says, "I don't like Houston as the capital, let's move it to the center of the state because there'll be more sort of strategic and shit and closer to everything else." That became Austin, Texas. Hats off, Mirabeau.

Uh, so we moved the archives. Think of the archives for the purpose of the story as a capture the flag, flag or a golden snitch.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Moving them was, uh, an ordeal, it took like 50 wagons to get all this, this stuff moving, moving down. Took them a long time. Austin's the capital, cool. Uh, during this time, Austin was put at risk during the Mexican Revolution. Uh, Mexican expeditionary forces were coming up. Uh, San Antonio in particular would get in danger. When that happens, Sam Houston be like, "See, we got to fucking move it back to Houston. It's farther east. It's a little bit safer. Get it out of Austin, it could get destroyed." And then every time it happen, the people living in Austin be like, "Nah, we're goo—like, we're good."

And congress would be like, "Nah, we're good. We're not gonna move the Capitol." 1841, Sam Houston wins back the presidency. He's like, "All right, we're moving these fucking archives." Uh, Austin got under threat again. Austin was like, "We're cool. Chill, chill, chill." Congress was like, "Chill, chill, chill. This happened a bunch of times."

**Rachel:**

Can you help me understand what was in the archives that was so valuable?

**Griffin:**

This part of the story is not clear to me.

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

[audience laughs]

**Griffin:**

But you know how like—

**Rachel:**

It's a lot of like third grade spelling tests that—

**Griffin:**

I think, I think you think of it this way. It was like they had the internet in a bunch of boxes. And they needed that to make the government go.

**Rachel:**

Like a, like pie recipes and like pictures of like nip slips.

**Griffin:**

Nip slips for sure.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

This goes back and forth. Sam Houston eventually says, "Fuck it, I'm the president. Archives are in danger. More importantly, the town of Houston's named after me, it'd be fucking sick if it was the capital."

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"I'm gonna go get these archives." He sends 20 dudes and three wagons to Austin. Just go into the General Land Office get the archives, come back. This is where Angelina Eberly comes in. Had a rough road, Angelina Eberly, her first husband who was also her first cousin, go for it in 1818. They got married.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, she opened an, uh, an inn in San Felipe, Austin, not to be confused with our city of Austin. Then her husband died and, uh, and the town and her inn were just destroyed to prevent them from being captured during the, the, the revolution.

So got on back on the horse, remarried to not cousin, and moved to Austin in 1839. Became a widower again, that's too bad, but she opened up an inn in Austin called The Eberly House. This is where it gets so, so tasty. That year, that she opened the inn, uh, President Mirabeau B. Lamar came in town, Sam Houston was on his cabinet came with him. He was grumpy about this whole Austin's the capital shit. And in a petulant accent, "I'm not

staying at the fucking governor's mansion." You know where stayed? The Eberly House, which is Angelina Eberly's inn. I thought that would get a bigger like, "Whoa!"

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Apparently, Angelina Eberly did not enjoy the company of Sam Houston so much. Flash back to the fourth, to the fateful of the archive robbery. Angelina Eberly wakes up, "What's that sound? Are they robbing the archives?"

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Fuck that.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

She gets out of bed. Runs down Congress Avenue. Finds a fucking cannon, points it at the General Land Office, and shoots the building!

[audience laughs and cheers]

**Griffin:**

Long story short. This very much scares the robbers. [laughs] They take off at the archives but a cannon going off in the middle of town woke everybody up so everybody from Austin chases them down, gets the archives back. A bunch of other stuff happens, but today, Austin's the capital. We won. What I love to think about...

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Are the minutes between Angelina Eberly waking up and her firing this big cannon into a building on Congress Avenue. Because I am prone to... if I hear a bump in the night that wakes me up, Rachel can attest to this, I will



sometimes leap out of bed and go to confront the noise? Really, I'm offering myself up as sacrifice to whatever is making the noise.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I think Angelina may have done the same thing but like... way bigger. [laughs] She did shoot a building with a cannon—

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... without much thought for the property damage that would be done and also the potential killings.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

It was dark I imagine. They were inside a building. She heard some shit going down and said, "I'm going to shoot the building with the..." There's just so many logic sort of—

**Rachel:**

I feel like-

**Griffin:**

I don't wanna say leaps and logic. Maybe she had it all figured out and I'm—

**Rachel:**

I feel like most people would jump out of bed potentially, and, and go towards the noise and just say, "Hey, cut it out."

**Griffin:**

True.

**Rachel:**

The cannon feels like a few—

**Griffin:**

Can I—

**Rachel:**  
... escalation.

**Griffin:**  
Can I pitch my theory?

**Rachel:**  
Yes.

**Griffin:**  
The inn was close to the General Land Building. It's a tall sort of castle like structure that I think is still around, uh, because I guess the cannon didn't do a whole lot to it. It's built across the street from her inn, I guess. I imagined she looked at it every day and said, "Man, I fucking hate that building."

**Rachel:**  
[laughs] Or she looked at the cannon every day and was like, "Man, I wanna fire that cannon."

**Griffin:**  
Man, I wanna fire that fucking cannon.

**Rachel:**  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**  
Either way, Angelina Eberly kicks ass. That's the Archive War, the coolest shit in Texas history.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**  
Do you wanna do your third thing? I know we're... the number is red on the clock. But if you're feeling it.

**Rachel:**  
I can do this one real quick.

**Griffin:**

All right.

**Rachel:**  
Sparky Park.

[audience cheers]

**Griffin:**  
Sparky Park. I love it, but nobody knows about Sparky Park. Awesome. You're about to.

**Rachel:**  
[laughs] Uh, you can find it on 3701 Groom Street. It is a pocket park that had a previous life as an electrical substation in 1930.

**Griffin:**  
It's as rad and as dangerous looking as you might assume.

**Rachel:**  
Uh, in 2008, the city of Austin, uh, through the organization of Art in Public Spaces commissioned local artists, Berthold Haas, to construct a whimsical wall in the pocket park. With help from neighbors, uh—

**Griffin:**  
Austin kicks ass by the way.

**Rachel:**  
I know.

**Griffin:**  
The fact that that happened.

**Rachel:**  
I know.

**Griffin:**  
There will be a whimsical wall at this electrical substation. Ha-ha.

**Rachel:**  
[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Rachel:**

Uh, so the neighbors in the community, uh, assembled, uh, a variety of stones, and mirror balls and glass and broken antique glass dishes, uh, and other shells, painted stucco, petrified wood, molded cement, freeze marbles, repurpose ceramic disc insulators, uh, to create this wall. Um, and it's in this beautiful park with, with elms and crape myrtles and plum trees.

**Griffin:**

And big like, uh, metal rods and antennae.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, it's beautiful. It's a beautiful park. We used to go there on walks all the time.

**Rachel:**

It's beautiful and so we had our, uh...

**Griffin:**

We had our engagement photos there. We also went geocaching there one time. Rich with geocaching opportunities.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

There was one we couldn't find. If you find it or have found it, hit me up.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I wanna know. I know the harder it is to find, the better stuff they've got inside. The Tootsie Roll pop for example.

**Rachel:**

Uh, but that's, I mean, that's Sparky Park. I love it. I love that it exists. I love that the community was involved in creating it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

Uh, I just... I love repurposing... you know, something that served a very distinct purpose for a more creative space.

**Griffin:**

I also just love a pocket park. I look at the Zilker and I get overwhelmed. There's so much park here, I don't where to play soccer.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

I get so frustrated because I... when I wanna play soccer, I wanna play it now.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

Sparky Park is about the size of a regulation soccer field.

**Rachel:**

Oh, yeah. How big is that?

**Griffin:**

200.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

I had one we didn't get to and it was grackles, they're the nastiest fucking birds ever but we'll... You'll have to take my word for it. Uh, that's, usually the universe... shall we do like audience submissions and we just super don't have time to like go through the aisles. Uh, but I'm gonna count of three, if you have something that is in town that you think is dope, just scream it. One, two, three.

[audience screams]

**Griffin:**

For sure, for sure, for sure.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

That's like the funny quote from, [laughs] from the movie, uh, the *Dazed and Confused*. He's like, "For sure, for sure."

**Rachel:**

For sure, for sure. Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I realized backstage before we walked out here that we don't have a usual way that we close out our shows which is problematic. Thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Uh, the great, great network. Uh, well, we're not done. Wait, Paul. I got a... Paul. Paul, wait.

I have to thank bo en and Augustus for the use for our theme song Money Won't Pay. You've just heard it.

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Uh, you can find a link to that in the episode description. Your real audience are not clicking anything right now. Thank you all for coming.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. Thank you so much.

[audience cheers]

**Rachel:**

Hey Griffin, did I do okay?

**Griffin:**

You did amazing.

**Rachel:**

Thank you.

**Griffin:**

I think I fucked up a few times but I got another podcast after this one—

**Rachel:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

... so I'll try and make my way up for it. Well...

**Rachel:**

[laughing]

**Griffin:**

We don't usually have a thing we say here at the end of the show. So I'm just waiting for the drop and we're gonna get up and just kind of walk out.

**Rachel:**

Hey. Hey, you know what?

**Griffin:**

You better hurry.

**Rachel:**

I think this episode was the slap.

**Griffin:**

Okay. Bye.

[audience cheers]

[theme music plays]

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