

Wonderful! 19: The French Fry Kid

Published on January 24, 2018
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[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful!

Griffin:

Feelin' pretty stinkin' good about this one. Feeling pretty stinkin' good. How 'bout this episode of the podcast?

Rachel:

You can't see, but I'm smiling.

Griffin:

I can't see it through your pop filter. But I think, I think... Lemme look at you.

Rachel:

Am I smizing?

Griffin:

I think you're smizing. I can see those eyes. And you're smizin' in a way that makes me think you think it's gonna stink, uh, good.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

This episode. Folks, we're back at it. We're back on our frickin' grind. We're out here doin' our damn thing. And our son is better. And I'm better. Well, he has pink eye. My eyes are not pink. But anyway, that's a quick check-in.

Rachel:

[laughs]. That's why people listen, right? They just wanna hear what ailments...

Griffin:

It's literally just, it's—

Rachel:

... we have.

Griffin:

... just the, this show is the news for our health. But sometimes we also talk about things that we're into. And I've got two frickin' stinkin' good ones. And I'm sorry for continuing to use this word, 'cause I think it's a bad— I think it's kind of a foul word, 'cause it evokes, like, nasty stuff. Um, but I'm just very excited. And...

Rachel:

Well, get started then.

Griffin:

You want me to start?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Well, okay. Can I hit you with my first thing?

Rachel:

Oh, you're so sassy and flirty right now.

Griffin:

[laughs]. Feelin' good as heck.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You know? I'm, I'm not, uh, my body's healthy. My bones are, you know, clear. I'm feelin' awesome.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Feelin' frickin' good.

Rachel:

Okay. Let's go. [laughs].

Griffin:

So, uh, my first thing then. [laughs] Oh, man, here it comes.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

French fries.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs]. Y'all had to know this one was comin' down the pipe.

Rachel:

Did they?

Griffin:

'Cause you know me. What do they call me on the internet? The French Fry King. Or the French Fry Kid.

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

I wish they would get together, the internet.

Rachel:

Who's they?

Griffin:

That's the problem. It's all of them.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Is that it's really hard to get a nickname goin' on the internet. 'Cause a lot of people take it, and they take it in their own direction. And now we're talkin' about two sects. And this is really how most war got started, if you really go back to, like, the beginning of...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... of things. Like, the beginning of time. It's, like, I wanna call this one this thing. And somebody's like, "Mm, well I like this name." And now, today, echoes, echoes of the past scars.

Rachel:

So, wait, just to circle back. So you're saying that the internet is divided on who is the French Fry King?

Griffin:

[overlapping] French Fry King or the French Fry... No, no, no. It's me.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

It's absolutely me.

Rachel:

Okay. All right.

Griffin:

But I'm also the French Fry Kid in a lot of people's eyes.

Rachel:

Oh. Yes.

Griffin:

And these king people, they see that as, like, diminutive. They think they're infantilizing me. And I get that. But the kid people are like, "No, it's a term of endearment." And now they're just pissed of at the king people.

Rachel:

When did this start? How old were you when this started?

Griffin:

1994.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Yeah. So I was seven years old. And I ate all the French fries in Huntington.

Rachel:

So the kid would've been appropriate, I'd say, at that point.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

And then...

Griffin:

But I was also sort of the chosen one. I mentioned that I ate all the French fries in Huntington. And, uh, that's not me being, it was—

Rachel:

I don't think you could have done that, babe.

Griffin:

Well, it was sort of a Grinch-like—

Rachel:

I've been to Huntington. There are a lot of French fries.

Griffin:

Yeah, I'm saying it was Grinch-like. I had a plan like he had a plan, and I had a helper dog, who went around and sniffed out the fries to help me find the one... He was sort of on the ones in the houses. 'Cause I didn't know who had those bags of crisp Ore-Idas and...

Rachel:

Oh my God. I used to love those.

Griffin:

Oh, well let's get into French fries then. There are very few times where I do not wanna be eating French fries.

Rachel:

Are you gonna give me the history of French fries?

Griffin:

No, 'cause that's boring.

Rachel:

Okay. Okay.

Griffin:

I'm just gonna talk about why I like French fries.

Rachel:

Okay. Good. Good, good, good.

Griffin:

Um, these little guys are salty as heck. And I am...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... all over that.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

When a restaurant lets you substitute sides with your main course and French fries is the options, I go, I go...

Rachel:

Oh, how funny is that? When they're like, "Do you want a salad or French fries?" Like—

Griffin:

It's like, come on.

Rachel:

Come on. [laughs].

Griffin:

You know me. Let's be bad.

Rachel:

You got the kid here.

Griffin:

This is very basic. Everything I'm saying. And I get that. But I'm... This episode it's, like, I wanna get in, tap in on that primordial stuff. 'Cause we've been doing the surface level stuff for a while. And that's good, and that stuff's still very exciting. But French fries, these are in my bones.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Um, when I go to restaurants and I see, like, that they have, like, staple foods, I always wanna order those, just to see, like, what they, what they can do with it, you know what I mean?

Rachel:

What do you mean? Like, when you say staple foods, what do you mean?

Griffin:

Like, if I go to, the first time I went to Lucy's Fried Chicken. I was like, I will just eat the...

Rachel:

Get the fried chicken.

Griffin:

... I will just eat the fried chicken.

Rachel:

Okay. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

'Cause I need a baseline level. And to me, French fries are kind of that. Where if I go to a place and like, "Oh, and we have French fries." It's like, [laughs], "I'll be the judge of if you have French fries."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

"'Cause guess what, you might have fuckin' steak fries." And those are the ultimate sin.

Rachel:

Not true.

Griffin:

I know you don't know a whole lot about the Bible, but in the, cardinal sin is in reference to steak fries.

Rachel:

If you're a man that likes fries, wouldn't you want more surface area of fries. Because that is what a steak fry is.

Griffin:

Okay, well, then let's just make one the size of a city bus, and then it'll definitely get cooked all the way through and won't be all weird and starchy in the middle.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

That's what I'm saying is, you, you can't, it's not, it's a delicate food.

Rachel:

What do you feel about, like, a waffle fry?

Griffin:

A waffle fry can be fun. 'Cause a waffle fry you can sort of treat like a little pizza. And you can get a lot of ketchup in there.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Which, by the way, I have here. I have a lot of notes on this.

Rachel:

Oh, okay. Continue.

Griffin:

And I have written here, "Hello, ketchup. This is French fry's best friend."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

So, that's a thing that I wanted to share with everyone about ketchup.

Rachel:

That's pretty good.

Griffin:

Also, another note that I have here. "Sweet potato fries? Well, all right. Let's not go wild though. Green beans aren't, and never will be, fries. So cut that out."

Rachel:

You do a lot of writing for this show, I'm noticing. [laughs].

Griffin:

Got— I wrote down, um, "Gotta have these dudes with a burger." Which I think I meant that backwards. If I'm eating a burger, I have to have these dudes. Um, and then I also have written here, "What's the best French fries?" That's not so much a note. I'm kind of on a Christmas Prince level of sort of journalistic, uh, integrity.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

At this point.

Rachel:

10 exclamation point question marks.

Griffin:

Taco Bell's gonna start doing French fries. I don't know how I feel about that. But I still love fries.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It's another note that I have written down.

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs]. Okay.

Griffin:

It's just about— Re: steak fries.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It disappoints me deeply to learn that you're a fan.

Rachel:

I like a steak fry, I like a crinkle fry. There actually isn't a fry, uh, that I say no to. So in that way, I would say that I am the French Fry Kid.

Griffin:

No, 'cause you can't eat, uh, anything and then say, "That's a French fry. And I'm now, I'm the French Fry Kid."

Rachel:

No, I'm saying that, that there is no variety of French fry that I won't enjoy, which I think would make me more of an enthusiast than you.

Griffin:

I'm saying we need to tighten up the defini— I'm, like, about to start crying by the way.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I don't know if you can see that in my eyes.

Rachel:

Yeah, I know, I can. Uh-huh.

Griffin:

I need you to give me a second, actually.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

'Cause it actually hurts me.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I didn't think, I always knew that the knife would get in my back, about my French fry title. And I knew somebody was gonna come. I didn't think it would come into my front, while I was recording a podcast with my wife.

Rachel:

Yeah, I was gonna say, I'm facing you, so it would be really tricky.

Griffin:

You're facing me and you've buried the knife right in my guts.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. I, I think...

Griffin:

You took my Burger King, King crown right off my head.

Rachel:

I think 2018...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

I think there is room for a lady French Fry Kid, that's just what I'm saying.

Griffin:

No, absolutely. If, you know, she loves French fries more than me. It's a— I'm all for it. Listen.

Rachel:

Oh, ooh, I've got another argument.

Griffin:

[laughs]. Okay.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Griffin knows this about me. For a long time, I didn't like ketchup. Um...

Griffin:

Yeah, and this is why I'm curious why you want even a title, 'cause you might hate it.

Rachel:

It was, it was sweet. Well, here's the thing. It was sweet, and sugary, and I wasn't prepared for that with my savory fry.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

So I would eat the fry au natural, which I think...

Griffin:

No.

Rachel:

... suggest a level of enjoyment that, perhaps, you do not possess.

Griffin:

Interesting argument.

Rachel:

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

This is like that episode of Pete & Pete where the inspector came around, the clothes inspector came around, and challenged little Pete to a ribs eating competition.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

Griffin:

But at the end, he did eat them better, but you're supposed to get messy. And that's what you fail to realize.

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

These guys need ketchup. It's not, it's not a purity thing. There's no pride here. These guys need ketchup, and they love it. They love to be dipped in ketchup. Let's talk about the best fries. 'Cause I think a lot of fancy restaurants, they get it wrong. A lot of places puttin' a lot of stuff on fries these days. Oh, ah.

Rachel:

[laughs]. You're workin' so hard right now.

Griffin:

Poutine? You're all right. Poutine, you can stay. Everything else, uh, I don't know man. [laughs]. That's just like, you, they're not nachos, you know? Nachos are kind of their own thing. So you can't... You know?

Rachel:

I mean-

Griffin:

If you're putting, like, shredded chicken and pico de gallo on your French fries it's like, [laughs], 2018, huh?

Rachel:

I really like this character you're doing.

Griffin:

Thank you. I'm working really hard on it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

The best French fry...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I do wanna say, like, there's a part of my heart, a dark, dark part of my heart, that will always covet McDonald's fries.

Rachel:

Yeah, that's fair.

Griffin:

And I know that's shame— It's shameful.

Rachel:

Yeah, that's the whole point.

Griffin:

It's shameful. 'Cause they make every bone in my body hurt like hell, when I eat them. 'Cause they're so salty that, like, my body sort of ejects all fluid from it. But the best French fry, there is a defunct fast food chain called GD Ritzy's. And at one point they had 120 locations across this great nation of ours. Sort of styled after the Screamin' '50s, with just...

Rachel:

Yeah, this was not a thing where I lived.

Griffin:

No, because in, um, they, they were modeled after the '50s. They had hot dogs, burgers, fries, milkshakes, pretty much it. And so in the '80s or '90s they did shut down. Uh, save for three bastions of glory. And one of them is in Huntington, West Virginia. Anyway, they sell shoestring fries. They're like little, little thin guys, and they serve 'em in a big styrofoam cup. And you can get a d- cup of dippin' cheese to go with it. And then what I do, my jam, is I mix some ketchup into that dippin' cheese.

Rachel:

Oh my God.

Griffin:

And you mix that up, and you go with the shoestring fries. I don't need the hatred right now.

Rachel:

Ugh.

Griffin:

Oh, what's wrong, French Fry Kid? I thought you loved all French fries.

Rachel:

I don't like to sully them with all your accoutrement.

Griffin:

And this is the argument now. This is where, the, the battle lines have been drawn.

Rachel:

You know what I like?

Griffin:

What do you like?

Rachel:

I like a Shake Shack fry.

Griffin:

Shake Shack fry is very good.

Rachel:

Very good.

Griffin:

All right. We can't keep going with this. It's tearing our family, literally, apart.

Rachel:

[laughs]. No it's true. Usually on Wonderful I don't say, "I understand that you like it, but I'm better at liking it."

Griffin:

Yeah. You don't try to dethrone me—

Rachel:

But, this week—

Griffin:

Well, I'll try to do that with your next thing, and then you tell me how it feels. [fake cries away from the microphone]

Rachel:

[laughs] Griffin, I'm gonna have to ask you to keep it down. [laughs]. This is gonna be difficult for you.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, it is the book Letters to a Young Poet.

Griffin:

Love it.

Rachel:

By Rilke.

Griffin:

Yeah, this is great.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I loved this, I think, actually, when did you discover this? Like, about in what year...

Rachel:

Oh, gosh.

Griffin:

... would you say, you first found that?

Rachel:

It would've been, uh, 2006?

Griffin:

2005? Oh, I thought we discovered it at the same year. 'Cause I discovered it in 2005, and I loved it a lot.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Yeah, okay.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You wanna tell me a little bit about, uh, Rainer Maria Rilke?

Griffin:

Uh, well, [laughs], first off, I can obviously say the name a lot more confidently.

Rachel:

I know, I'm a little shy about saying it.

Griffin:

Um, I, uh, let's see. They're very, like, they...

Rachel:

Country of origin. Let's just start there. That should be easy.

Griffin:

The— Well, I like to go more specific with my friends, 'cause we are.

Rachel:

Okay. Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Uh, prefers, like, a red wine. Uh, like a char— uh, hm, [laughs], like a Chardonnay.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Wow.

Griffin:

And, uh, let's see. They liked the first Avengers movie.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

But not the second one so much, it got a little convoluted.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

And I agree with them a little bit on that one.

Rachel:

All right, Griffin, this is very cute. But seriously.

Griffin:

Um, yeah. I do love it, but I'll be... I don't know anything.

Rachel:

Uh, German man. Died in 1926.

Griffin:

Okay. So he did miss Avengers. [laughs]. He missed Avengers by...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... by a little bit. Um...

Rachel:

A little bit.

Griffin:

All right. So—

Rachel:

Uh, 51, when he died. Uh, and I am actually, I'm not an expert on his poetry, by any means, but that's kind of one of the things he's most known for. Letters to a Young Poet is actually not anything he published. It was published after his death by the correspondent of the letters.

Griffin:

So these are actual... This is not just a cute name, these are literal letters to a young poet.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, it's 10 letters. Um, this guy, uh, Franz Kappus. Was a 19 year old cadet and Rilke was the son of an army officer and had studied at the academy's lower school that this student was at. And they corresponded, uh, and the book is 10 letters between them. Um...

Griffin:

Those must be some long freaking letters, man.

Rachel:

They are pretty long letters.

Griffin:

I guess this is how they had to do it back in the day.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

When letters would take, like, 100 days to get anywhere. It was like, go ahead and send me, like, 30 days worth of messages. Like, man. Can you even imagine?

Rachel:

[laughs] Well, and you would never accidentally send a letter the way you accidentally send an email, you know, before you finish writing it.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's just like, mm.

Rachel:

It's, like, real thoughtful.

Griffin:

Yeah. Or, like, you send, like, a flirty one accidentally to, like, your dad.

Rachel:

No, that wouldn't happen.

Griffin:

No. It wouldn't. 'Cause it's letters.

Rachel:

Letters. [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

But...

Griffin:

But you know somebody accident... This happened once, where somebody's like, "Mine bottom is quite soft. Hee-hee-hee. Sorry so sloppy." Lick, lick. Mail. "Oh, no. I put my dad's address!"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"How could I do this?"

Rachel:

"How did I get through the entire address?"

Griffin:

"I hope this doesn't get published in a book."

Rachel:

Um, [laughs], so, uh, the 19 year old was trying to decide, um, if he should pursue a literary career or continue with the military. And so he, uh...

Griffin:

Can I guess what the advice was?

Rachel:

Well, so the actual excerpts I pulled are not, are not, like, "And here's what you should do, Franz."

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

And then he did, like, a little MASH square.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And he, like, did the circles. And then crossed out military officer and circled literary career.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, no. The quotes I have, I actually found really, uh, motivating as, uh, a young artistic person, just generally. And so I thought I would, I would share a little bit.

Griffin:

Yeah, please do.

Rachel:

[crosstalk]

Griffin:

So, so, give me some context. Is this something that is, like, taught widely in, like, literary arts?

Rachel:

No, no, I don't think so. Um, if I remember, I read it, actually, outside of school.

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

I had heard of it before. And it's one of those things that I used to see and I'd be like, "Well, I'm a young poet. Maybe I should read it." [laughs].

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure. I didn't make that, you know, emails to a young video game journalist.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Well, and you know what made me think of it is, last week your book, the Several Short Sentences On Writing? It made me think like...

Griffin:

Yeah. And we got a bunch of tweets from people saying they were checking it out, which is cool. It's a really cool book.

Rachel:

Yeah. It made me think, well this is, this is something that was kind of motivating to me, you know, when I was thinking about writing.

Griffin:

Yeah. Gimme those excerpts.

Rachel:

Okay. Uh, so this is Rilke writing to the 19 year old cadet. He says, "You are so young, so before all beginning, and I want to beg you as much as I can, dear sir, to be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart. And to try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign language. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given to you, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then, gradually, without noticing it, live along some distance day into the answer."

Griffin:

There's something almost, like, biblical text about that.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Like, there's something almost, like, Proverbs-esque.

Rachel:

He's, yeah, his voice is very wise. Uh...

Griffin:

No shit.

Rachel:

And very measured. And I really... That phrase, that "live the questions now," kind of became a mantra for me for a little while. Because like, uncertainty is something that's really difficult for me. And when I'm in a time period in my life where I don't know how long the phase I'm in is gonna last,

it drives me crazy. And so this idea of just kind of understanding that you are having questions, and that is very much part of you developing into the person you're going to become, and to just kind of treat those questions, like he said, uh, like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign language.

Griffin:

I like a very foreign language.

Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah, I know.

Griffin:

Because that accepts the fact that there are some languages that are, like, a little bit harder to parse than others.

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah, but the...

Griffin:

I could not read an Icelandic book.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Like, I could take a run at, like, a Spanish language book.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I would get, like, every third word, despite the fact that I took six years of Spanish in high school and college.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

But, uh, a book in Icelandic I would just, I think I'd be lost.

Rachel:

Yeah. The uncertainty is, it can also be viewed as, like, mystery, or something exciting.

Griffin:

Yeah. I love this. Like, I'm...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I do not know how I have not— Why are there not t-shirts with "live the questions now," like, on it all over?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I'm serious.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like, this seems so, like, marketable is kind of crass, but like...

Rachel:

Well, the book is not especially accessible, because it's translated, one, from German.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

And it's the full text of the letter. And you really have to kind of dig to get those little morsels.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

So here's one more. Uh, again, this is Rilke to the young man. "Love your solitude and bear with sweet-sounding lamentation the suffering it causes you. For those who are near you are far, you say. And that shows it is beginning to grow wide about you. And when what is near you is far, then your distance is already among the stars and very large. Rejoice in your growth in which you naturally can take no one with you. And be kind to those who remain behind." So this is... [crosstalk]

Griffin:

That one's a little rough, actually.

Rachel:

It's a little difficult to parse. But here's how I interpret it, it's kind of like, when you're, like, a teenager and you have all of your high school friends, and you go away to college, and you come back and you can't exactly relate to them. And it's, like, a very kind of lonely feeling. And it's because you've kind of grown and become this different person. And, uh, it suggests, just a lot of development on your part, which isn't a bad thing. And so...

Griffin:

No. But celebrating that you've gone well beyond them, I think, is kind of a weird...

Rachel:

Well, no. See, I don't think, I don't think that's what he's saying. He's saying that, you know, it is beginning to grow wide about you. Like, your world is expanding. And that's why things feel different, and they feel, for example, far...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

...from where you are. Um, and this idea that you can naturally take no one with you, but be kind to those who remain behind. It's just kind of, like, supporting your own feeling of growth and understanding that it's not a bad thing. And it's not, you know, that the people that aren't with you now aren't necessarily different, or less than. It's just part of kind of becoming this person that you're gonna become.

Griffin:

That is a really bitter pill to swallow.

Rachel:

Yeah, oh, of course.

Griffin:

The idea of, like, um, isolation through evolution. Or evol— Again, like, I don't, I worry about sounding, uh, maybe I'm particularly sensitive about this, because I have kind of tried to live my entire post-collegiate life trying to avoid the narrative of, like, "Well I got the fuck out of my small town and left my humble trappings behind."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

'Cause I genuinely love Huntington, and think it is an amazing place to have grown up and lived. And I don't, I genuinely don't think of it that way in my mind. But, like, the idea of, it is kind of unrecognizable, and, um, like, I feel like a completely different person when I go back there now than I did when I was...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... growing up there is, I guess, understandable.

Rachel:

Well...

Griffin:

But I'm very, I'm like, super sensitive about that stuff.

Rachel:

Well, that's because of all the, like, experiences you've had that have made you, like, a more confident, knowledgeable person.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Which is a good thing.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You know? Like, if you came back having not changed at all, years and years later, there'd be a suggestion that you aren't really doing anything to kind of expand your world.

Griffin:

I guess it's a question of, like, I don't think I'm... Uh, it's a question of like, I don't think you should think your better than... And I think that's the, what the last line in the quote is saying...

Rachel:

Yeah, oh yeah.

Griffin:

... like, you're not. Don't think you're better than them. You're just, your world has expanded in a way.

Rachel:

No. And I think that's important. Like, I think that's kind of the saving grace of that statement. I think there's this tendency, when you leave your, your

friends, or your community behind to feel like, "Oh, well I must be better."
And, and Rilke's saying, like, "No, you're just kind of on your own journey."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And people can't come with you on that, 'cause it's your thing. Um, so yeah, so those are just two little excerpts that I really like.

Griffin:

That's lovely.

Rachel:

But I found it really, like, in my twenties, like, a really kind of useful book. Because there was a lot that was just kind of like, hey, this is kind of a scary, tumultuous time.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

But it's also really exciting. Uh, and to just kind of, kind of be patient with yourself, and the experience. So, I wanted to share that.

Griffin:

I can't, I can't, I can't believe you let me talk about French fries.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I can't believe you let me talk about French fries.

Rachel:

Hey, you're on your own French fry journey. You know? And, and...

Griffin:

Well, apparently not.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

'Cause apparently your fuckin' super rocket ship long ago passed mine. Made a big fart noise as it passed by me.

Rachel:

That's a good point.

Griffin:

Bumped into me, I went in a big black hole and died.

Rachel:

That's a good point. I need to be kind to you on your fry journey, although it is...

Griffin:

You're way, way more advanced.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You're on some new French fry shit.

Rachel:

Although it is inferior to my own. [laughs].

Griffin:

Can I steal you away?

Rachel:

[laughing] Mm-hmm.

[popping noises]

Griffin:

Can you do that quieter, please? [laughs]

Rachel:

Is it really poppin' there?

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

That's the thing that we do sometimes in the middle of the show. Listen, this is, like, our first night recording this while Henry's, uh, asleep in the next room, while he's somewhat healthy, and we are just really flying under the radar, folks.

Rachel:

Yeah, we're, uh, secretly terrified this entire recording.

Griffin:

Anyway, this next episode, wow. That's not how any of this works.

[ad break]

Rachel:

Okay. This message is for Hips, it is from The Walrus.

Griffin:

[laughs]. Excellent.

Rachel:

You ready?

Griffin:

I've think I've been ready my entire life for whatever this message is gonna be.

Rachel:

"Dear Hips, we live in the same city now, and that's the most wonderful thing I can think of. Thank you for the hair petting lessons, the listening ears, all the fandoms we've shared, and the introduction to the McElroys. Pickles and I love you very much and I can't wait until the next time we go Pokémon hunting together. Love, The Walrus."

Griffin:

Hell yeah.

Rachel:

Did you notice how I said Pokémon?

Griffin:

Yeah. [laughs]. As opposed to what?

Rachel:

Instead of like...

Griffin:

Pokey-mon?

Rachel:

Pokuh-mon.

Griffin:

Quit tryna play it coy like you haven't caught 'em all, babe.

Rachel:

I never...

Griffin:

Rachel is at the store every day, buyin' packs of Pokémon trading card game cards. She has, uh, we didn't do our mortgage this week, because of all the Pokémon cards you bought.

Rachel:

We didn't do our mortgage this week? Is that how you think it happens?

Griffin:

Yeah, we didn't do it.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Yeah, every week you do the mortgage.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

You sit down, and you sit at the desk, and you write down a number. And you say, "That's the mortgage."

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Do we have another Jumbotron?

Rachel:

We do. This message is...

Griffin:

You Poké-freak.

Rachel:

[laughs]. This message is for John. It is from April. "Happy 30th. I'm so sorry that for the first couple months of our friendship I couldn't remember your name and kept calling you Jamiroquai." [laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs]. "I'm so glad you are able to look past that and still be my friend. Even though we are separated by distance, you are still one of my nearest and dearest. Miss you so much, long distance hugs. Love, April."

Griffin:

I don't know that I would have the wherewithal to stick with a, with someone who calls me Jamiroquai quite, quite as often as that.

Rachel:

Well, you know, if you've got a velvety, floppy happy.

Griffin:

Were you wearing a big velvety floppy?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You probably were.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

This was all the rage, uh, you know, last year.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

They made a big comeback. They're playing, uh, Coachella, I think. That's not a joke.

Rachel:

Yeah, no, that's real.

Griffin:

It's just a wonderful truth.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

That's my second thing, this week. Jamiroquai's doin' Coachella. Hang in there.

Rachel:

How cool will that be though, seriously?

Griffin:

How fuckin' cool. Anyway, that's the end of the ads.

[Max Fun ad]

Freddie:

Hey everyone, Freddie Wong.

Matt:

Matt Arnold.

Will:

And Will Campos.

Freddie:

Here to tell you about Storybreak, a writer's room podcast where every week, we, the Hollywood geniuses behind Video Game High School, have one hour to turn a humble idea into an awesome movie.

Matt:

Thrill, as we weave the tragic tale of Jar Jar, a Star Wars story.

Will:

We're gonna double down on everything that made the prequels great. Jar Jar...

Matt:

[laughs].

Freddie:

[laughs].

Will:

... Trade Federation, politics.

Freddie:

Gasp as we assemble a pantheon of heroes for the Kellogg's cinematic universe.

Matt:

We could get rid of Snap, Crackle, Pop. I wouldn't even miss them.

Will:

You're crazy.

Matt:

They die in the second act.

Freddie:

[laughs].

Will:

Oh, come on.

Freddie:

And join us as we make fun of Matt, as he struggles to name a single Beyonce song.

Matt:

Well, yeah. Put a Finger On It. Sure, she wants to be Beyonce.

Freddie:

Put a Finger On It, Beyonce's famous song.

Matt:

[laughs].

Will:

[laughs]. Will we break the story?

Matt:

Or will the story break us?

Freddie:

Find out by joining us in the writer's room every Thursday on MaximumFun.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

[ad break ends]

Griffin:

Can I do my second thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

It's another big one. It's...

Rachel:

Ketchup.

Griffin:

Ketchup.

Rachel:

No...

Griffin:

Anyway, when you put these weird guys on fries...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

It's, uh, it's one of my favorite bands ever. It's They Might Be Giants.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

They Might Be Giants is one of my favorite bands of all time. And it seems kind of silly that I haven't, like, talked about them yet, on this show where I talk about my favorite things.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It, like, so many of, like, my musical preferences, especially when I was younger, I kind of inherited from Justin. Uh, just 'cause Justin had, like, super hip music tastes when we were kids. Uh...

Rachel:

How was he findin' this stuff? Do you know?

Griffin:

I know that he was a subscriber to, uh, those, like, CD mailing services.

Rachel:

Oh, [laughs], yeah.

Griffin:

Where you'd like, check all the boxes off the things, and...

Rachel:

Yeah, like, 10 for a penny or something like that, yeah.

Griffin:

Yeah. But then like, he racked up many, many thousands of dollars in credit card debt.

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin:

So, oops. Um... So you got a lot of music that way. And, you know, you, he was of the, the, uh, like, generation...

Rachel:

My generation.

Griffin:

Uh, yeah, that, like...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... was watchin' MTV, and absorbing some stuff there. And just had, like, cool friends who were, like, doin' that same thing. And so he was into like, Soul Coughing, and Ben Folds Five, and I sort of absorbed it through osmosis. But They Might Be Giants has like, really, really, really stuck with me.

Rachel:

Didn't he make you a cassette tape of They Might Be Giants?

Griffin:

Uh, I think I made a cassette tape of, like, his cassette tapes.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I don't know that he would be quite that, like, enthusiastic about me, like, ripping off all of his shit.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

We used to take... This is horrible, but at our church they had this wall, like a pegboard, where they would hang cassette tapes of, um, sermons that they recorded on cassette tapes...

Rachel:

Oh no. [laughs].

Griffin:

... so that you could go out and give them to people and spread the good news.

Rachel:

Oh no. [laughs].

Griffin:

And I would take them home and...

Rachel:

Oh, Griffin.

Griffin:

We all did it. We all did it. Listen, we all did it. And I would, you know, put They Might Be Giants on it. Which is pretty punk rock, actually, if you think about it.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Anyway, if, if you want a primer on They Might Be Giants, if you've, in the unlikely event that you, uh, you know, listen to podcasts and have never heard the band They Might Be Giants before, I'm gonna put a link to a Spotify playlist that I made a while ago of some of my favorite They Might Be Giants songs of...

Rachel:

You can also watch the movie Gigantic.

Griffin:

That is my next thing.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It is, uh, there is a documentary called Gigantic that was made, uh, actually a while ago, now. Um, I forget what album they were... It was, like, Mink Car, which came out, Jesus, like a decade or so ago.

Rachel:

I think I saw it when I was in college. I think it must've been around 2003.

Griffin:

Oh, man. Yeah.

Rachel:

2002.

Griffin:

But I mean, here's the thing, they have been active for 36 years.

Rachel:

Geez.

Griffin:

Which is fucking buck wild.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, they got started in 1982. Uh, and in the early years, the, the band is comprised of two Johns, John Flansburgh, who's sort of, like, this super charismatic hard rockin' front man for the band, and John Linnell, who's kind of more characterized as being, like, I think, like, the tortured genius of the band.

Rachel:

Yeah, exactly.

Griffin:

And I don't think either of those categories are necessarily firm or fair, uh, I mean, they're both geniuses and they both rock.

Rachel:

Well, I think they only seem that way in contrast to each other.

Griffin:

Yeah, there's a really fascinating dichotomy between the two. And, uh, in the band's early years, it was just the two of them, uh, Flansburgh on guitar and Linnell playing either, like, accordion, or keys, or saxophone with a drum machine backing them. And then, these days, they play with a, with a full band. And when they made that conversion there was very much a, like, Bob Dylan goes electric level sort of controversy.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

People like, loved the drum machine. They have a whole song about how they play with a drum machine. Um, uh, band's named for a 1971 movie, called They Might Be Giants. Which is a quote from Don Quixote. Um, and they have been super prolific. They released 20 studio albums, 10 compilation, nine live albums, eight EPs, seven music videos, and 11 singles. Uh, in the 36 years that they've been, they've been doin' this. Uh, also, and this is one of my favorite things about them, they offer a service called Dial-A-Song, and they started this is 1985.

Rachel:

Is that still in existence?

Griffin:

So, listen, in 1985, John Linnell broke his wrist, while riding his bike. Uh, and Flansburgh, uh, apartment got, uh, robbed. And, or burgled, I guess. And, so they took, they went on hiatus, and in the meantime they were recording music to cassette. And then they just started putting that in an answering machine, uh, in their Brooklyn loft, or whatever, uh, that people could call. They would advertise it in The Village Voice.

So you would call their answering machine, it would go straight to answering machine, and you could listen to them play a song. Uh, and they did that for a long time, until it got, like, too wild. I remember getting on our, uh, cordless phone at home, in Huntington...

Rachel:

Oh, really?

Griffin:

...with Justin. And, like, callin' the number on speakerphone for, no joke, like, hour, hour and a half.

Rachel:

Yeah, 'cause that's the thing.

Griffin:

Just, it's just one...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

[laughs]. It's just one line...

Rachel:

It's just one phone line.

Griffin:

There's no call waiting.

Rachel:

So only one person can be listening at a time.

Griffin:

And that's, that is, like, I could do a whole segment just about that concept.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, that's incredible.

Griffin:

The idea that there is, there is a band that has this service that, if you call it, and you're listening to it, you know you're the only person on earth that's listening to that thing right now. That is such a fuckin' great, like, thing. Um, they eventually started doing, like, an online service, that obviously was more accessible to people. And then I think that that went down. But, this month they're supposed to be relaunching it, in some way.

Rachel:

Oh, really?

Griffin:

Which I'm very, very excited about.

Rachel:

That's cool.

Griffin:

So anyway, this, this, They Might Be Giants writes music that is, it's very clever. And it's very unique. And it's very... It doesn't sound like any other, I think, band. It is not derivative of anything, and it also hard to be derivative of. Like, I cannot think of too many bands who have, like, completely aped what They Might Be Giants do, uh, because they write songs, typically, about subjects that should be kind of impossible to write a song about. Or at least very, very difficult to write a song about.

Ranging from, you know, um, the, writing, like, a fun, kind of poppy rock song about going through an agonizing divorce, or writing a sort of folk power rock ballad about James K. Polk. Like, all of that stuff is, is kind of, to me, like, one of the most fascinating things about them, is how they take these subjects and focus in on them with laser-like focus, uh, and these are subjects that are typically not written about.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, but it's not just novel. Like, it is novel. I think a lot of the songs that they have, they write, and the things that they choose to write about are novel, um, but they also rock. Like, they are really, really, um, melodically, like, interesting songs. And sometimes, like, genuinely hard rocking fucking great songs. Uh, I don't know. I have such a fondness for all their, like, old stuff. 'Cause again, like, I listened to maybe four bands growing up, and they were one of them. And so all their early albums, uh, Flood, Apollo 18, which by the way, uh, February 2nd they're playing at Stubb's, and they're doing all of Apollo 18, front to back.

Rachel:

Yeah, [laughs].

Griffin:

That's the one with Fingertips on it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That album is so bonkers. Um, but, like, all those old albums are so great. But, like, their new stuff's great too. They're doing a lot of kids' music these days. Uh, which we have been listening to some, with Henry. Uh, there's an album...

Rachel:

I love the videos too.

Griffin:

The videos are extremely good.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Including the one they did with Homestar Runner, which was, like, you could not fucking thread the Griffin McElroy needle...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... more than you did with the They Might Be Giants Homestar Runner videos, back in the day. Uh, but yeah, they did No! which was a kids' album, and then Here Come the ABCs, Here Come the 123s, Here Comes Science, which are all really, really great. Anyway, I love this band so very, very much. And I think they're worth, like, listening to at some point in your life. Like, they feel so essential, which is why I feel kind of silly talking about them in this thing. Um, but I know that if there's like, one or two people out there who have never really listened to them, or they've kind of been on the periphery, I think they're...

Rachel:

Or maybe they haven't listened in, like, 15 years.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I think a lot of people got real into them and then kind of fell off. Uh-

Griffin:

Yeah. Go to that Spotify playlist. And you don't even have to do that, 'cause I wanna play three songs right now. Can I list 'em out real quick?

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

There's, uh, first off, I wanna talk about She's an Angel. Uh, I forget which album this is off of, I think it's one of their earlier ones. Uh, it's, oh yeah, it's off their self-titled album. And this song's really interesting, 'cause it's ostensibly a love song, but as is the case with so many of their songs, like, the actual subject matter is, like, super up for interpretation.

Um, it might be about somebody who, like, goes too far to preserve a good relationship that they have found themselves in. Or because they think they don't deserve a good relationship. Um, it might be about a literal angel? And like, somebody struggling with their, you know, their own faith, or lack of faith, in the presence of the unexplained. Like, the lyrics are, uh, the lyrics are almost always, uh, not explicit enough for you to really nail it down. Um, and, but the lyrics are just gorgeous, especially the chorus, uh, which I think is what I'm gonna play. It is so dense. It is a, what is a quatrain? Is that what it's called? Like, a four line, um, verse.

Rachel:

Yeah, I think so.

Griffin:

That has, like, 30 words per line in it. It is, like, so, so dense, and so beautiful with this dreamy kind of accordion riff behind it. So this is, She's an Angel.

[She's an Angel clip plays]

Griffin:

Um, I actually think I'm just gonna do two songs. I had Till My Head Falls Off, but just go listen to that one, 'cause it is fuckin' great.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I put that one on there because it, like, rocks. And I want people to know how much it rocks. And in fact, here's, like, five seconds of it.

Rachel:

[laughs].

[short clip of Till My Head Falls Off]

Griffin:

Anyway, the last song is, uh, it's a Birdhouse In Your Soul. And this is probably the song that you've heard, if you've heard of They Might Be Giants.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like, this was their biggest song. And this is like, this was exactly what I'm talking about earlier. This is a song written from the perspective of a night light, uh, in the shape of a blue canary. Um, I think. I think that's what it is about.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

But it, it is so, like, laser-focused on, what if you wrote a song from the perspective of a nightlight who takes care of and nurtures somebody, and then, like, kind of gets a little full of themselves, because they are these protectors of their, you know, their gods, or whatever. Um, and it's, again, like, it's a very, very clever idea. But this isn't just like, a novel kind of poetic

idea, like, it is one of, in my opinion, like, one of the five best songs of all time. Like, the melody and lyrics are so, so genius.

And the line, "make a little birdhouse in your soul," as like, a representation for, like, make room in your heart for, like, I don't know, uh, a feeling of, like, security? Or hope? Or, like, again...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... it's, like, abstract enough, that like, it's, it's open for interpretation, but like...

Rachel:

Well the song is... Yeah.

Griffin:

... make a little birdhouse in your soul is such a beautiful, beautiful turn of phrase.

Rachel:

It's such a, like, a bouncy, fun song. Um, and, and it feels kind of genuinely, like, joyful. And so it's fun to think, like, that this is, like, a way to live, you know?

Griffin:

Yeah. Anyway, here's Birdhouse In Your Soul. You've heard this song before. Anyway, here it is.

[clip of Birdhouse in Your Soul plays]

Griffin:

That's it. It's like, one of my favorite bands ever. I just wanted to talk about 'em.

Rachel:

Yeah, no, I'm glad you brought that. That's actually a big band of mine too.

Griffin:

Yeah. You, do you think you love it more than me, maybe?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

And you've always loved it more than me?

Rachel:

No, I'm not gonna come for you.

Griffin:

You might have. You might have.

Rachel:

I'm not gonna...

Griffin:

Did you ever listen to it while eating French fries?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

What's your second thing?

Rachel:

My second thing is season seven, episode 16 of The Simpsons, Lisa the Iconoclast.

Griffin:

Which one is this?

Rachel:

This is the one where she is researching Jebediah Springfield for a class project and she finds out that he is, in fact, a murderous pirate named Hans Sprungfeld.

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

And she goes to the Jebediah Museum. Does this sound familiar to you?

Griffin:

Not even a little bit.

Rachel:

Oh, no. Okay.

Griffin:

It's fine though. You're gonna explain to me every beat...

Rachel:

I'll tell you about it.

Griffin:

... of every, uh, part of this episode of The Simpsons.

Rachel:

Uh, so it's, it's the bicentennial celebration in Springfield. And all the kids in Lisa's class are asked to write papers about Jebediah Springfield, who's the founder of the town. Uh, and so she goes to the Jebediah Museum, which, um, is actually run by a character made for this episode, uh, and voiced by Donald Sutherland. [laughs].

Griffin:

All right.

Rachel:

Uh, but this...

Griffin:

You have my curiosity, Donald.

Rachel:

[laughs]. But the story, and I didn't realize this until I did some research, is based on, uh, a 1991 example of, um, people doubting the death, uh, the real cause of death for President Zachary Taylor. There was a college professor that theorized that Taylor was murdered by poison and convinced Taylor's closest relative to order an exhumation. Uh, so Taylor's remains showed, um, that there was actually no evidence of poisoning.

Griffin:

Oops. Sorry, grandpa.

Rachel:

So, was a mistake. Um, but anyway, so that's where they got the idea for this plot.

Griffin:

"No, I get it, you had to be sure. Put me back."

Rachel:

[laughs]. Uh, so in this episode, um, Lisa discovers that, um, that Jebediah Springfield is actually this murderous pirate. She finds his confession in a file in the museum. Um, and finds out Hans Sprungfeld had this silver tongue. So she says, "Let's go dig up Jebediah Springfield, and if he has this silver tongue, we know."

Griffin:

Is this their Goonies episode?

Rachel:

No, 'cause it's just Lisa.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

It's just a Lisa tour de force. Um, and, and then when she finds out it is, in fact, Hans Sprungfeld she gets ready to tell the whole town. And then she sees how excited and patriotic they are, and how much this has brought the town together...

Griffin:

I have seen this episode before.

Rachel:

... and she doesn't want to reveal it.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Um, here's some of my favorite parts of this episode. So this is the episode where they introduce the words "embiggens" and "cromulent."

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

Do you remember this?

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Um, so there were...

Griffin:

Can you give some context on those? [laughs].

Rachel:

Yes. So they're watching this video, which of course has, uh, Phil Hartman as Troy McClure, on Jebediah Springfield. And they're talking about the town, town motto which is "a noble spirit embiggens the smallest man."

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

And Edna Krabappel is there, who is Bart's teacher. And she says she's never heard the word embiggens until she moved to Springfield. And Miss Hoover, who's Lisa's teacher replies, "I don't know why. It's a perfectly cromulent word." [laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

Um, and then later in the episode, uh, Homer as part of the bicentennial celebration, is auditioning for town crier. And there's a panel of judges and Principal Skinner is one of them and he says, uh, about Homer's performance, "He's embiggened the role with his cromulent performance." [laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

So I just, like, this is just something The Simpsons used to do a lot, in the '90s, which is they just, they just lean into the nonsense a little bit.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And create...

Griffin:

And do callback, after callback, after callback, after callback.

Rachel:

Yeah. And create something that just feels very, like, real. Uh, these words are actually, you can find them now in, like, actual papers, and on dictionary.com. Um, because people have kind of run with it.

Griffin:

It's in dictionary.com.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

I don't think it makes that authentic, but...

Rachel:

[laughs]. Um, there's also this great moment. So I, kind of, obviously, it's not surprising to anyone, loved Lisa. Because Lisa was this overachiever, but also this, like, fierce proponent of, like, the truth. And, like, getting to the bottom of things in this kind of very serious, journalistic way. Uh, which I remember, as a kid, like, I took things very seriously. And situations like this, like, I would've had the same reaction of like, I have to get to the bottom of this. And the people have to know. Like, [laughs], so I really, I enjoyed it.

Um, but there's this scene where, uh, she is having a dream, uh, about Hans Sprungfeld, who as part of the show's narrative, got in a, uh, a fight with George Washington. Uh, and so she's having a dream about George Washington having this fight with Jebediah Springfield. And she's about to give up on her pursuit of the truth, because she's so discouraged. And in her dream, George Washington says, "Looks like I'm gonna have to find another little girl to be president. What's your friend Janey's number?"

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs]. And Lisa says, "No, not Janey. She'll pack the Supreme Court with boys!"

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs]. And then she says, "Oh, let me help you George Washington. I still want to help you." And she says it out loud, as Bart is walking by. And he says, "'I want to help you George Washington.' Even your dreams are square."

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

I just love... I just love...

Griffin:

Is this, okay, is this your favorite episode of The Simpsons? I'm curious why you picked this one to talk about on the show.

Rachel:

Top five.

Griffin:

Top five.

Rachel:

Top five. I think about it all the time. Um, there's just these, like, cute little moments that just feel, like, so thoughtful. Like the museum curator gets really upset with Lisa because she's trying to disgrace his name.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

And she's ordered out of the museum. And he says, "You're banned from the historical society. You, and your children, and your children's children for three months."

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs]. Um, yeah, so, I mean, I could've done any number of The Simpsons, uh, episodes, like, I'm, like, one of those people of my age group that was super into it in the '90s, and then kind of fell off.

Griffin:

Oh, it's, uh, it's literally every other person...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... that I know, I feel like.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, but that, that episode is, like, a... I mean, Lisa featured episodes are usually pretty great.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, 'cause she is just so sincere and earnest. Which is not something you see a lot in many of the characters. Um, and yeah, there's just all these, like, kind of nice touches. They've created this rich fiction of their town and they get really minute in the detail here.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, and I love it.

Griffin:

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

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

This one was sent in by Jessie. It's my new favorite thing. Thank you, Jesse. "Something that I think is wonderful is jetpacking, especially on a cold day. By jetpacking, I mean cuddling with my husband in a way similar to spooning, except that my 6'2" husband is the little spoon and my 5'2" self is the big spoon. So I am like a jetpack."

Rachel:

[laughs]. That's awesome. What a great name for that.

Griffin:

That's the best thing. Jesse, thank you for sharing that. It's gonna sweep the world.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

It's gonna take the world by storm. Uh, Katie said, "My closest friends and I do these collaborative playlists every month and I love them so much. We each pick a song that's stuck with us that month and write a little bit about our song choice. It's magic how all of our songs come together into something that sounds and feels cohesive. It's also such a nice way to hear what my friends are thinking about and discover new music. I always look forward to my first listen through at the end of each month." That sounds really nice.

Rachel:

Yeah, that's a really great idea.

Griffin:

Dan says, "Hi, Griffin and Rachel. I think polyhedrons are wonderful. Now hear me out. Most people know about the platonic solids thanks to the D4, D6, D8, D12, and D20 dice. There are also the 13 Archimedean solids, and the 92 Johnson solids." Johnson Solids by the way, would be a primo porn name. [laughs]. Johnson Solids. Johnson Solids.

Rachel:

I'm just thumbs down.

Griffin:

"Geometric shapes are like the Pokémon of math. You can always find a new type or family if you go looking. Equilateral, symmetrical, tubular." I'll say. Just looking at Rachel's face while I'm talking about these maths. I'm saying that she thinks it's definitely pretty...

Rachel:

[laughs]. Oh, I'm sorry, what? Were you saying something?

Griffin:

"These are probably my favorite shapes, even though the listeners can't see them, some people will find the names to be the most wonderful thing about them." I'm gonna take a run at some of these bad boys. "Like the small rhombicuboctahedron. Or the tri...triganol...trapezohedron." They've actually provided pronunciations. These shapes are great, by the way, gang. I know you can't see 'em, but, I mean, the rhombicosidodecahedron and the small dodecahemidodecahedron. They just had some fun with these maths names. Anyway, these shapes are really cool. And I didn't know so much that there were shapes, this many of 'em.

Rachel:

Yeah, no, actually, me neither. [laughs].

Griffin:

Many, many shapes.

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Some are pretty. Some are quite not. But all of 'em are beautiful in God's eyes.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

So...

Rachel:

That's nice.

Griffin:

Yeah, kind of a new direction I'm tryin' to go with the show.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

So, thank you so much for listening. Uh, thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the album description. I always say album description. This is not an album. It's one episode of a podcast. Even if there are many episodes, it still wouldn't be an album. It would just be a podcast.

Rachel:

That is correct. That is correct.

Griffin:

Uh, how 'bout Maximum Fun, huh?

Rachel:

Oh, hey, Maximum Fun, thanks for hosting us.

Griffin:

Give it up. Give it up for Maximum Fun.

Rachel:

Uh, feel free to go to MaximumFun.org and check out some of the great podcasts. Uh, a new one that I think is being featured this week is Switchblade Sisters.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

If you are interested in female filmmakers and their, uh, interest in genre films, uh, this is a really great resource. I'm excited to check it out, 'cause you don't hear a lot about female filmmakers these days.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And so it would be great to hear who's out there doing the craft.

Griffin:

There's a bunch of shows on there that you're just gonna love. Uh, and if you wanna hear more stuff from us, or see, like, the dumb video stuff that I do with Justin and Travis at Polygon, that's all at mcelroyshows.com. And I think that's it, huh?

Rachel:

That is it.

Griffin:

Well, here we are again, back at the end of the road. Walkin' down, thinkin', "Boy, I'm sad to leave all my friends."

Rachel:

Hey, Griffin.

Griffin:

Uh-huh?

Rachel:

Can I jetpack on you on the way out of here?

Griffin:

Sure you can. Blast off. [jet pack noises] I feel so safe.

Rachel:

[laughs].

[theme song plays]

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April:

Hi, there. I'm film critic, April Wolfe and host of the Maximum Fun podcast, Switchblade Sisters. Do you love genre films? Do you love female filmmakers? Do you love discussions on craft? If your answer is yes, you'll love Switchblade Sisters. Every episode I invite one female filmmaker on, and we talk, in depth, about their fave genre film. And, how it influenced their own work. So we're talking horror, action, sci-fi, fantasy, bizarre-o and exploitation cinema. Mothers, lock up your sons, 'cause the Switchblade Sisters are coming for you. Available at MaximumFun.org or wherever you find your podcasts.