

Wonderful! 279: Spaghetti, Not Even Once

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: Welcome to Wonderful! It's a show where we talk about things that are good, that we like, that we're into. And it's summer. It's a time for—it's time for summer stuff. I've decided, just now.

Rachel: Yeah. Although I will say that our oldest son is still in school, because DC runs a little late.

Griffin: DC is doing it different. I get why people here are so sort of worked up all the time.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And it's because they're always in frickin' school. Um, I too would sort of be a little—a little type A, a little uptight if I had school 365 days a year [crosstalk].

Rachel: Well, you know, they start late, and then they also have a bunch of those random days off. And so it's not surprising that we're going until basically the end of June. It's just, like, everybody else is already, you know, they're already—

Griffin: Partyin', you know, smoking doobers by the pool.

Rachel: Livin' pool life, yeah.

Griffin: Eatin' a whole pineapple.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Meanwhile, our poor boy, nose to the grindstone. Filling his mind with knowledge.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But this podcast is like a little summer break for you. Not for our son. He can't listen to it 'cause sometimes I cuss on it.

Rachel: And not for me, because it's very much work.

Griffin: It's very much work.

Rachel: You, the listener...

Griffin: You, the listener get to enjoy our work. You're the one who—but we are—who's our Pagliacci the clown man... I think is the guy's name. Do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: Um... I'm gonna say the HBO—er, sorry, Max—the Max series SmartLess.

Griffin: Oh yeah! That was interesting.

Rachel: We watched the whole thing. I was really thinking it was gonna be like a promo for their podcast, but it was actually filmed, like, very intentionally to, like, capture, you know, some of the challenges and unexpected things that happen when you do a podcast on tour, and it was super fun watching with Griffin, who was like—was, like, knuckles white-knuckled through some of it. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Some of the episodes were quite challenging. Obviously, like, we are—they're on another echelon of, you know, fame and success.

Rachel: Yeah. They had, like, a private plane and, like, the penthouse suite at hotels, and... you know. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, so it's not exactly a one-to-one—but, I mean, you know, seeing them talking backstage about the show, either what they're gonna do or how it went, at venues—I would say over half the venues that they performed at we have done, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so seeing that same backstage area and seeing them be very—seeing these very famous men be very nervous about doing a live show made me feel seen in a way that I don't know any, uh, like, media I've ever...

Rachel: And trying to figure out, like, what tone they wanted to have with the audience, and how they wanted to engage the audience, was something that you all definitely had to figure out for several years, I would say.

Griffin: Yes. They also fuckin' bombed one of their shows.

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah.

Griffin: Like, completely bombs. And it is, uh... it was—

Rachel: And they show it. They show people, like, leaving, and, like, grimacing in the audience. [laughs]

Griffin: And then the whole next episode is them kind of trying to recover, trying to pivot for the rest of the tour. Yeah. It's, uh... it was r—it was genuinely kind of a challenging watch for me. But I am glad that we watched it, 'cause I've never really seen a version of the same kind of stress. I still get terrified to go onstage, like, every time. And seeing, you know, incredibly famous, successful, like, Will Arnett going through the same thing kind of—

Rachel: Exactly. Now next time you get nervous before, you can think "You know, Jason Bateman..." "

Griffin: "Jason Bateman of Teen Wolf also gets—"

Rachel: "Hollywood's Mayor, Jason Bateman."

Griffin: [laughs] "Also—yeah."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm gonna say Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse. Went and took Henry to see it this past weekend. Sadly we were in there when the big DC sonic boom happened. So, like, everybody was talking about, "Where were you when the big sonic boom—" There was a big—there was a jet that flew very fast over DC.

Rachel: And it was loud.

Griffin: And it was very loud.

Rachel: I think there's some question as to what actually—I don't know. This may be conspiracy.

Griffin: There was a Cessna that, like, went kind of unresponsive, right? And so they scrambled.

Rachel: I was reading—and again, I don't know if this is conspiracy or not—that it, like, plummeted, like, a huge distance from the sky, and then regained—

Griffin: The Cessna or the F16? The—

Rachel: The—the plane.

Griffin: They're both planes.

Rachel: Oh. Okay.

[both laugh]

Griffin: Anyway.

Rachel: I don't know anything. [laughs]

Griffin: The movie was sick. Uh, it—I—I went into it reading nothing, which I'm glad that I did, and I'm not gonna talk, like, a ton about it. I was not, I think, prepared for the fact that it is the second part of what, a trilogy, right?

Rachel: Yeah, oh yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause the first movie didn't necessarily have that vibe. Like, the first movie was definitely stood on its own as its own thing and is, you know, one of my favorite animated movies of all time, and this one is much more, like, building the infrastructure of the trilogy. Uh, so Henry, I think, struggled with it a little bit. Also because it was a little bit more sort of intense, a little scarier, I would say, than the first film.

Rachel: Yeah! I will say that—I mean, you didn't want to spoil it for yourself, but I did have a moment where I was like, "But we are bringing our six-year-old son. Maybe you should spoil it a little bit just to, like, be ready."

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, it's not a thing where I, like, it was so scary that I regret taking him. And there was definitely a lot in there that he adored.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: There's a lot of spider—spider-people in this one, and some of them he was just—there's a joke in there. There's infinity jokes in there, but there was one in particular that made him absolutely uproariously, like, lose control with laughter, which I have never seen do in a movie theater before, which was really great.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: But, I mean, I adored it, and I can't wait for the next one. And I think you'll like it too. I would watch it again, once it comes to—

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, I liked the first one a lot.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, so yeah. I go first this week. My topic this week that I'd like to discuss with you and everyone at home is Tupperware.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I should be clear I'm not talking about the brand. I feel like—I have no affinity for the brand. We have many storage tubs, right? But there is no... you know, Kleenex, Band-Aid, like, generic term.

Rachel: I know, I was trying to think what that would be. I mean, a lot of what we have is, like—when I think of Tupperware I think of plastic. A lot of we have is actually, like, the glass containers.

Griffin: Glassware, which is obviously, like, the shit. Obviously the way to go. I'm talking about, you know—

Rachel: A container that—

Griffin: Modular food storage, small—small arms. [laughs quietly] Just a food storage solution. Uh, Tupperware. Man alive, I love a good Tupperware. I love, uh, the sound it makes when you seal it up. Satisfying every single time. That pop.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: We have some pretty heavy duty glass Tupperware stuff that when you snap that shit shut it, like, lets you know. Like, do not—don't worry! The stuff you've put in here is good now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There is no doubt about it. I've had some shitty Tupperware in my life where I'm like, "Uh, did that really seal? Is that gonna..." Not this stuff. We got that real—we got some Pyrex shit. We got some, you know, IKEA, giant IKEA set that we got for, like, 20 bucks. Um, so obviously Tupperware, not the first food storage solution in human history.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I'm pretty sure people were like—

Rachel: It was a leaf, right?

Griffin: It was a leaf, yeah.

Rachel: It was a leaf, and then they used some vines to tie it around their leftover pizza.

Griffin: Yeah. They would tie vines and leaves around the—no. I mean, you got, like, salt curing, and burying jars of food in the ground and all that jazz.

Um, I'm not gonna go back quite that far. Uh, but Tupperware did sort of revolutionize the whole leftover game, when it was invented in 1946 by Massachusetts's own Earl Tupper. Didn't know...

Rachel: Oh, that's nice.

Griffin: Did not know that that was a dude's name.

Rachel: Gosh, I bet there are ancestors out there—or rather progeny out there that introduce themselves as Tupper. Everyone's like, "Ha ha, like, the ware?"

And they're like, "Yes. Actually, yes." [laughs]

Griffin: "Yes, actually. My dad, billionaire Earl Tupper... " I don't actually know if he found much finan—I mean, this was a very successful product. He actually came up with these plastic containers made out of polyethylene, you know, little pellets that he could melt down and turn into these very secure containers, all the way back in 1938.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: But he did not bring them to market until he could figure out how to make them sort of financially viable, which would come in the form of the Tupperware party.

Rachel: Yeah! Yeah.

Griffin: This is probably one of the more sort of remarkable, like, direct marketing tactics, uh, in consumer history.

Rachel: Was this like our parents' generation, or was this before them?

Griffin: So this was, like, 1951 is sort of—

Rachel: [simultaneously] Okay, so it was before, yeah.

Griffin: —when things got—uh, started to kick off. And for a Tupperware party, basically, like, folks, like, typically 1950's housewives, generally speaking, would host parties for their friends where they could come over and demonstrate and, more notably, sell Tupperware to earn, you know, a little bit of dosh for themselves. A little bit of that, um, you know, Mary Kay—I'm assuming not nearly as intrusive as all that, because you're not subscribing to Tupperware, I'm guessing?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Although I've never been to a party like that. You have, right? You've been to, like, a party that one of your friends—no? I feel like...

Rachel: I have been to someone's house that was selling Mary Kay, um, as a young person. I went with my mom, and I remember that very vividly.

Griffin: Did you feel pressured? I guess not if you were, like, a—

Rachel: I was a child, yes.

Griffin: —child, yeah. They don't have, like, Mary Kay for kids?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Kay for Kids is, like, g—like, there's something there.

Rachel: I mean, I was old enough—I must've been, like, a young teen. 'Cause I was old enough where makeup was of interest to me. But yeah, I didn't feel like I had to buy a lot.

Griffin: Um, so the Tupperware party formula was sort of further developed and popularized by a woman whose name is Brownie Wise, which... a lot of good names in this story.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: And she sort of took the initiative to host a ton of Tupperware parties and jubilees. And, uh, so she was named VP of Marketing for Tupperware in 1951 after kind of catching Earl Tupper's attention.

Rachel: What's a jubilee?

Griffin: I guess just a big, like, Tupperware festival?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: From what I can find?

Rachel: Carnival rides, you know. [laughs]

Griffin: A big carnival of Tupper—of Tupper celebration. Um, this still exists today, right? Like, Tupperware is still a brand that exists today, and they do have, like, direct-to-consumer Tupperware, peer-to-peer, I guess multi-level, uh, sales things, and big jubilees where the, like, top sellers of Tupper products are recognized and awarded for their valiant efforts in the fight against staleness. [laughs quietly]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, and that sort of legacy is kind of a mixed bag, because on one hand it, you know, absolutely was a gendered thing that kind of pigeonholed sellers in this traditional, you know, domestic lifestyle.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, that still exists today. The whole, like, LulaRoe thing was like, "Let's target women and make them feel like they're in business for themselves, when actually..." [laughs]

Griffin: Right. But on the other hand, there is a read on this where, you know, it was post World War II. There were a lot of women who were coming back from the war-time workforce who, you know, didn't have an avenue for that interest or that effort, and so, you know, they could become Tupperware salespeople, and it would give them an opportunity to stay, you know, gainfully employed, in a manner of speaking that, you know, otherwise they would not really have access to.

Rachel: Yeah, and it's the kind of thing—like, obviously there is an opportunity to make money in this kind of environment. You know, you just have to be a salesperson. You know, and not everybody is.

Griffin: No, of course not. Um, I don't really care so much about the history of Tupperware—

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah.

Griffin: —as a company beyond that. Because frankly, we don't use Tupperware anymore. We got some—the Pyrex shit, we got some Loctite. which really keeps it fresh.

Rachel: Did you—I have very strong memories as a child of microwaving things in Tupperware, and then after some time there would be, like, a stain around it?

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Rachel: And then it was like, "Oh, well, now it's time to get rid of it." [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, no. I mean, I—we have this glass stuff now that I feel like we have had forever, right? Like, we get that stuff and it lasts a really, really, really long time. The only reason we ever replace it is if, like, we lose it. If we, like, forget it and—

Rachel: Well, and the lids can get kind of icky.

Griffin: The lids can get a little bit icky, but it takes it certainly much, much longer than that, you know, much flimsier plastic that would eventually turn—if you put that sweet spajetti in it once, that shit is now pink like the rings around the tub in Cat in the Hat. Like, it gets—it gets kind of gnarly. But, you know, in our house growing up that would not be a reason to throw it away. It would just be like, yeah, you put your, you know, leftover meatloaf in the pink Tupperware that has been sauced up.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Now it's the red sauce tub.

Griffin: Right. We had a whole cabinet just chock a block full of Tupperware growing up.

Rachel: Of course, yeah.

Griffin: Mismatched, uh, Tupperware. Occasionally we would do, like, a clean out where just, like, almost all of it would go, because for whatever reason none of it matched anymore, due to the ravages of time.

Rachel: Well, yeah. And your mom would make, like, the big meals, right? Like the ones—

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. Like, if you came from the house—

Griffin: We were riding those things hard and puttin' 'em down wet, absolutely. We also did the extremely folksy thing—or my mom did, I guess, and I'm curious if this was an experience for you or if it was solely a sort of Appalachian southern thing—of using, uh, containers of Country Crock butter spread as Tupperware?

Rachel: Ohh. My grandparents did that.

Griffin: If you're not familiar—'cause I don't even know if Country Crock exists as a—I probably could've Googled that before hopping into this. But they were these big tubs of butter spread, uh, that we always had. Uh, we always at least had one tub of usable Country Crock at any given time. But they were, like, pretty big, pretty, you know, nice consumer plastics grade containers, uh, that we would also have a few in the fridge at any time.

One of which I remember was a smaller Tupperware container that just always had, like, sort of reclaimed bacon grease would go into that one Tupperware. And so, like, whenever we cooked eggs or anything like that, like, we knew we had—we had the Country Crock container of bacon grease.

It did get a little bit dicey, though, when it's like, "I'm gonna have myself a roll."

And you pop open a Country Crock and there's just, like, you know, fuckin' ravioli in there for some reason. Um, but that was always very charming to me. And it has messed me up a little bit whenever I see Country Crock. I just assume, like, there's no way there's actually butter spread in there.

Um, but yeah. I love the convenience of it. I love—post-dinner cleanup is a lot easier when you know you can just pull out one of these sweet glassy bad boys and just dump the—we have so many different—we don't have an excessive amount, right? Like, we don't have a whole giant cabinet full of mismatched—we have, like—our shit is pretty well maintained.

Rachel: [simultaneously] We have a drawer.

Griffin: We have a drawer, and we have a lot of different sizes and depths, and there is a lot of satisfaction I get when I pick out the, like, perfect si—like, I just no scope it. Like, I look at how much, you know, leftover ground beef there is in this thing and I say, "Oh, we're gonna pull out the size four depth grade two—the two and a half inch deep circular Tupperware for this one. 'Cause that's also exactly how much room we have in the fridge."

When you get that match, that perfect sort of guess, and it just gets in there just right, it's so great.

Rachel: [simultaneously] Yeah, of course.

Griffin: Nothing worse than filling up a Tupperware and then there's, like, just enough left in the pan that you're like, "Fuck, I don't want to have sullied this—" that's always very disappointing. But I feel like that is—more often than not, I'm able to just split the uprights perfectly, and that's very satisfying. Tupperware. I love it! I love opening up the fridge and seeing a little, uh, beautiful museum of—and we don't always get around to it.

Rachel: Yeah. I will say... [laughs] this is a hot topic for us. Uh, Griffin, after about two days, doesn't want a leftover anymore.

Griffin: It's extended for me. I feel like three day—I now have, like, a three day grace period. Past that...

Rachel: I tend to push it a little bit, and I have regretted it.

Griffin: Yeah, I definitely—I err on the side of caution, just because of the way that my gullyworks... function, and their sort of sensibility. Um, or sensitivity. I think my gullyworks have their own sense and sensibility.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, but yeah. That's Tupperware. I love it, man. I love—I love Tupperware! And I'm not afraid to fuckin' admit it anymore.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, I know what you're getting for Father's Day.

Griffin: I hope not Tupperware, actually. We're good on that.

Rachel: [laughs] You said you loved it!

Griffin: I love the stuff we have now. I love our two sons. I don't want more sons.

Rachel: [through laughter] That's fair, that's good.

Griffin: You know what I mean? Anyway, can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break]

Rachel: I put mine on the phone today.

Griffin: Ooh!

Rachel: So we're gonna see if I can hang with this.

Griffin: How cas'. I always do it from the phone. It feel—I feel very cool.

Rachel: I know, you do. I do the laptop, uh, which is a little difficult, I think.

Griffin: And it burns your lap. When you stand up after recording your lap is just blood red. Beet red.

Rachel: My laptop from 2007.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, okay. So this is one of those things. There are a couple sites I go to when I'm, like, looking for topics. And one of the ones I really like is Mental Floss, because they pick kind of surprising things. And I typically don't choose from there because, you know, a lot of times I'm like, I'm not actually excited about airplanes. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Uh, but this one I was. This is from an article that just came out last week, uh, about scratch and sniff!

Griffin: How have we not done scratch and sniff before? That just feels very, like, in our wheelhouse.

Rachel: You think we have?

Griffin: Oh, I don't know. You know what we did? Smell-O-Vision.

Rachel: Ohh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Okay. Well, this isn't that.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I mean, I guess it could be. I don't know how Smell-O-Vision worked.

Griffin: It was you had a little scratch and sniff card that you would go see a movie.

Rachel: Well, let's—hey, let's talk about how that worked.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, sure!

Rachel: [laughs] Because if I had to ask you, how does scratch and sniff work, could you answer?

Griffin: I think there's, like, a little waxy seal over the smelly thing. When you break that, it frees the—the smell particles inside.

Rachel: Kind of. Kind of like that.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Rachel: But don't you want to know more? [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] This is my new favorite segment of yours, and it's you trying to justify the existence of scratch and sniff as its own standalone segment after Smell-O-Vision happened, which touched on the scratch and sniff sort of phenomenon.

Rachel: I mean... there's a lot more to the story.

Griffin: Do you want to pivot?

[pause]

Rachel: No!

Griffin: No, okay.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [claps]

Rachel: [laughs] We'll see. If you're really an expert, feel free to jump in.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. This episode that we did this on was a very, very long time ago. So, you know, maybe everybody is—maybe if I hadn't said anything... no, people probably would've noticed.

Rachel: People probably would've. Okay. Some of this you probably did cover, so I'll race through it. So—and it does sound familiar now as I'm looking at it.

Griffin: [laughs loudly] Rachel! My love. Do you want to just talk about the television show that you were thinking about doing as your second?

Rachel: No, I think we should finish it.

Griffin: Okay, fine.

Rachel: Just a heads up, there is a television show I got very excited about last night, but we have not finished the season, and I want to make sure that it turns out okay before I talk about it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Okay. Scratch and sniff, started by 3M. Microscopic capsules were used in the carbonless paper, and then the pressure of the writing implement would cause the capsules to burst, which was—

Griffin: Writing implement? Who scratches a scratch and sniff with, like, a pencil?

Rachel: We're not talking about—we're not talking about scratch and sniff yet.

Griffin: Oh, okay, okay.

Rachel: We're talking about 3M was looking at, like, a carbon copy? You remember these things?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Uh, and they were using microscopic capsules of colorless ink, uh, instead of the carbon. And it would—

Griffin: That seems really inefficient.

Rachel: —it would burst. So kind of like—you know how, like—the only thing I can think of that still exists and I just saw it is in a checkbook. There's, like, that little paper underneath to keep it—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: It's kind of like that.

Griffin: I've always wondered how that worked.

Rachel: Um, okay. So, 3M was like, "Hey, look at this microcapsule technology. We could put more in there than just ink." And so they took scented oil...

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Rachel: ... and polymer bubbles. And they could print aromas alongside words and images.

Griffin: How did they not call it st-ink... is my question?

Rachel: [laughs] Stink.

Griffin: Stink!

Rachel: They probably discussed it.

Griffin: They probably—that had to come up. There's no way that I was the first one [crosstalk].

Rachel: And then they decided that probably isn't the most appealing way to talk about it.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: And so, um, scratch and sniff technology has been around since 1969, which kind of blew me away. Like, I associate it very much with our childhood.

Griffin: Yeah, no. I mean, I imagine it probably came about as part of the space race. Just, like, so much technological innovation came around from our desperate need to reach the moon.

Rachel: If we go to the moon and there's life there, we want to make sure that our space shuttle smells like America.

Griffin: After we apply a little bit of force to the surface of it.

Rachel: [laughs] Come here, alien life form. I want you to smell this hamburger.

Griffin: They aliens would pull out, like, fuckin' laser blades and, like, cyber helmets and shit and we'd be like, "Uh, well, check this out. [scratching noises] Fresh cut grass.

Rachel: Ooh! [laughs] Uh, so obviously chemists had to help create these, either with essential oils or synthetically. And they started cataloging a library of, like, new car, and bubble gum.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Which, like, for the context of me, like, I know this is a sticker. Like a little strawberry sticker that smelled like strawberries. It seems weird to me that you would want to scratch something and smell new car. But...

Griffin: I mean, it seems—you must understand, it seems weird to me as an adult the impulse to want to scratch something and smell it. Do you know what I mean? Like, I don't go around seeking out smells. Except, I mean, we have candles for that, right? And room spray.

Rachel: Well, but a lot of times—what I find helpful about it as an adult is a lot of times, if that is available to you and you can't open the package... you know, so, like, if you were buying a product and it's like, "Scratch to smell what this room diffuser is gonna smell like."

Griffin: That is helpful.

Rachel: It's helpful.

Griffin: What would be dope is if we had smell recorders. And so, like, if we're... okay. We go to Disneyworld. We go to Wilderness Lodge and, you know, we're having—making beautiful family memories, and it has a sort of distinctive scent. I pull out the stink recorder and I capture it, and then any time I want I can smell it, and I can smell that memory.

Rachel: You're calling it a recorder, but—

Griffin: Like a stink recorder.

Rachel: But it seems more like a jar to me.

Griffin: Well, no, because a jar is not gonna—I don't think that is actually—I don't think that actually works. I think—

Rachel: Oh, where you can hold something in a jar? [laughs]

Griffin: Well, a smell in a jar. I don't think that that actually functions.

Rachel: Not after you open it, I'm sure.

Griffin: No, yeah. I want to have immediate access.

Rachel: You want a recorder. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, a stink recorder.

Rachel: You want an archive of smells. Okay.

Griffin: Yeah. I don't think that's asking too much.

Rachel: Uh, so the—one of the earliest uses of this was a picture book published in 1972, *Bunny Follows His Noise*, where the bunny rabbit would explore various outdoor scents like roses, peaches, pine needles.

Griffin: Great.

Rachel: Oil capsules were embedded in the book's pages, and you could scratch and travel along with the bunny. This is what I didn't realize, but it makes sense now, obviously. This kind of technology is what, like, perfume swatches are all about. So in a magazine—this is another memory I have from, like, high school—is getting, like, a *Cosmo* magazine and there's, like, six different perfume samples in there, and you open the little flap and then you're like, "Oh, I do like that."

Griffin: I remember reading a *Nintendo Power* magazine that had an advertisement for this sort of irreverent JRPG called *Earthbound*. And I'll never forget it. And you could scratch it at one part of it and it smelled like a fart.

Rachel: Oh...

Griffin: And it was, like, the worst thing I've ever smelled in my life. And then I was like, "I gotta get this fuckin' video game, man."

Rachel: [laughs] How were those related? Was it just, like, a gimmick? Or did it relate to the game in some way?

Griffin: There's a character in it that's, like, a big pile of slime. And I think it was like you scratch it—I don't know. I will have to Google this later, because now I'm feverishly trying to remember what it was.

Rachel: There are a lot—so there are a lot of video games that use this, strangely. When I was looking it up, uh, Gran Turismo 2 and FIFA 2001 had a scratch and sniff disc?

Griffin: The fuck?

Rachel: Not really related to the game at all. Leisure Suit Larry?

Griffin: That doesn't surprise me. That dude's fuckin' nasty.

Rachel: Had a scratch and sniff card with nine different scents.

Griffin: Okay, but a disc is like—I can't think of an object that exists on Earth that you'd want to scratch less.

Rachel: Were you saying Earthbound?

Griffin: Yeah, Earthbound.

Rachel: Okay, here it is. Uh, one contained a mystery scent. If the player guessed the scent and [laughs] sent it in to Nintendo, they could receive a prize. The scent turned out to be pizza.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Maybe that's what I—for an advertisement? Is that what it was? Like a promotion? Or was it the cartridge itself?

Rachel: Uh...

Griffin: Can't be the cartridge.

Rachel: Six scratch and sniff cards.

Griffin: Okay. M'kay. I don't know why I remembered smelling a fart. Maybe that was just, like, in the—in the air tonight.

Rachel: Well, let me keep looking, here. There are several games on here, but I don't know that I'm gonna find your...

Griffin: I feel like ToeJam and Earl probably had some sort of... stink-based—Booger Man.

Rachel: [simultaneously] Yeah, those are all the ones.

Griffin: There are a lot of yucky games from, like, that 90's Super Nintendo Genesis era that were just kind of, like, yucky.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [laughs quietly] Okay, so you can still find this today, but it's not as popular as it was in, like, the 1980's and 90's, and I still—I mean, I still love it. I was just at the store the other day, and there were all these products. And it's like, how am I supposed to... like, room diffusers—the reason it came up is that's what I was looking at. Was, like, "This one smells like... like ocean." And I was like, "Well, that could be good. Or it could be really, really bad. And I wish I could smell this right now," but I couldn't.

Griffin: In a contained way, right? Like, you don't want all those products blasting off all into—like, if you walked down that aisle you would die.

Rachel: No, I want specifically scratch and sniff.

Griffin: You want a little scratch and sniff so it's up to you. You decide how the smell comes out and into your nose.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. And, I mean, hopefully—I remember this about scratch and sniff, too, and I guess it makes sense now, knowing about this microcapsule thing, is that eventually the smell was just not there anymore. Uh, and it makes sense now that if you, like, burst every little microcapsule you wouldn't be able to...

Griffin: Yeah, there's no more stink capsules in there.

Rachel: No more stink.

Griffin: That's a shame. They should send—there should be a subscription service so when you finish your...

Rachel: Get new stink every month? [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Little—Little Bunny Finds a Stink, when it runs out you can send it back to the factory and they'll restink it for you.

Rachel: I need more stink!

Griffin: I need more stink.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Please, spray it with whatever. I don't know. I don't know, NASA, how you guys figured this out.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, that's it for our show this week. Footloose and fancy free, it felt like to me.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, and I'm sure your grateful now that I talked more about the scents.

Griffin: Yeah. Next episode, join us when I talk about sniff and scratch, which is a different...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... a fully different, wholly owned—

Rachel: [simultaneously] Totally different.

Griffin: —subsidiary.

Rachel: By M3.

Griffin: By M4.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Who did this one.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you so much to Bo En and August for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. Thank you to Maximum Fun for have—whoa!

Rachel: What did our listener at home send in?

Griffin: Well, let me thank our Maximum Fun.

Rachel: Okay. We haven't decided on the order, here. I always assume...

Griffin: No, it's jazz, baby.

Rachel: [laughs] I always assume when you start thanking people that our show is over.

Griffin: Anna says, "Hello, Rachel and Griffin. As a teacher, my small wonder is when students learn something about you and remember it, like a

snack you love or your favorite movie. It makes you feel appreciated and seen."

Rachel: Oh, wow! I'm trying to think if I can remember anything that my teachers liked.

Griffin: Hmm.

Rachel: Uh...

Griffin: I remember in high school, because I feel like in high school I had a few teachers that were, like... they were allowed to decorate their room a little bit.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And we definitely had one who, um—she was not the best teacher.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But she had a lot of, like, quotes from Firefly on the wall, and Buffy and stuff. And I remember thinking, like, "Well, alright. Alright." That was the first time I think I realized that teachers... also liked... like, the same kind of stuff that I potentially liked.

Rachel: Uh-huh. No, I had an eighth grade English teacher who had, like, a Fugees poster on her wall.

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Rachel: Which felt like she was trying, though, 'cause she did not seem like the coolest person.

Griffin: Well, Fugees had crossover appeal I think forever.

Rachel: And then I had a physics teacher in high school that liked Moon Pies.

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: Again, not a particularly good teacher, but full of novelty. [laughs]

Griffin: Um, Mica says:

"My small wonder this week is playing Frisbee golf! It's such a fun way to spend some time outside with friends at our local park. None of us are very good, but that just makes it all the more satisfying when the disc catches some major air and flies a good long distance."

I... have played this game once, and I wasn't good at it. 'Cause the Frisbees are weird. They're, like, really thin—

Rachel: They are different.

Griffin: They're, like, little thin crust Frisbees.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, but it was fun. It just felt like... any Frisbee-based—I feel like more than any other sort of pseudo sport diversion, Frisbee is the one that I feel the most self-conscious about playing. Because it, like, my—I don't have that kind of boaty lifestyle about—I don't have that vibe about me, and so I worry about the sort of, like, perceived authenticity of it.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: That's—but, I mean, that's me, man. [wheezes] That's just the way I rock.

Rachel: [laughs] I was just thinking it's the kind of thing that—it's like a skill you don't really build much outside of the specific game, you know?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So it's not like another sport where you can kind of be like, "Oh, well, I've run before, so I might be good at this."

It's like, "Well, no, I don't typically throw things this way, and so I really have to put the time in."

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. If you're not good at throwing a Frisbee—there's, like, one good way to throw a Frisbee and, like, 900 really bad ways. And so it's hard for me to sort of dial in sometimes. But it does look really fun. It does look like the kind—I like golf. I don't play it, like, ever. But it's fun to make a thing go a really long way into a target.

Rachel: Yeah, and with Frisbee golf too, or whatever you want to call it, disc golf, you don't have to buy a whole big bag of clubs. [laughs]

Griffin: No. You just need, what, 18 different kinds of Frisbees—

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: —for the different... that is what boggled my mind when we went to play with our friend, Evan.

Rachel: Did he have a whole assortment?

Griffin: He had a few. He definitely had, like, a driver and a putter... Fris'. Um, which was confusing to me, but delightful.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you so much for listening. I already thanked everybody for all their shit. We have some live shows coming up later this month in Raleigh and Richmond that we would love to see you at. We're gonna be at San Diego Comic Con next month with MBMBaM and TAZ if you want to come out and see us. I think we'll be doing other stuff there too.

Travis and I are gonna be at Awesome Con here at DC next weekend, and we would love to see you there. We're gonna be doing some signings, some photos, some panels. Uh, and it's gonna be real neat. And, um... that's gonna do it for us. All that stuff's at mcelroy.family if you want to come check it out. We have merch over at mcelroymerch.com. Some new stuff for

the month of June, uh, that just hit the shops, including a Shlabethany design that—

Rachel: And I saw there's, like, a ten year anniversary of Sawbones thing.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Which I didn't realize had been around that long. Like, here we are!

Griffin: Yeah, here we are. Well, here they are. We haven't been around for ten years. I guess if you combine Rosebuddies into it... ? God, I don't know. We've been doing it a while.

Rachel: Still not ten years.

Griffin: Not close. But, um, that's it. Thank you so much for listening! It was so good to see you. So good to see you!

Rachel: So good to see you! [laughs quietly]

Griffin: So good to talk you... I think is the better—so good to talk you.

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Seems like you didn't like that.

Rachel: Uh... [laughs] I mean, you could just say, "Talk to you."

Griffin: So good talk you!

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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