Wonderful! 20: Energy!!

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[theme music plays]

Griffin:

Deep breath. Prayer circle. Back rubs. Okay, give me your hands. Energy. Big smiles and... are you sure about the prayer circle?

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

This is Wonderful!

Griffin:

So disappointed about the prayer circle. You know my process. We do smiles...[crosstalk]

Rachel:

I don't know what prayer circle means.

Griffin:

We've done it before every episode, so I don't know why you're being, like, playing coy or something, like, trying to pretend you're too cool.

Rachel:

I mean, yes, and I love it.

Griffin:

Yeah, you know, we do smiles and that reminds you that you've gotta be, you know, they can hear the shape of your mouth, uh, whenever you're doing the podcast and I need you to be happy, uh, because you don't, you

shouldn't be sad. And then we do prayer circle and then back rubs. Back rubs are optional, it's just if you're feeling it. And then energy. And then we get going. Do you not like the pre-show process? Because it sounds like you maybe wanna change up the pre-show process.

Rachel:

I feel like it's more for you than for me.

Griffin:

I mean, it's for the audience. I mean, I fucking despise it.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Yeah, I hate doing it, but the audience seems to, like, love what comes out of it. Which is to say smiles, and prayers, and energy. And back rubs sometimes, so... if you wanna change it up, and you just wanna go in sort of raw dog, like, I'm... We can give it a run, I guess next week, and people will tell if the energy is different, and the smiles are different, prayers are different. I'm worried.

Rachel:

Well, it's something to think about, you know?

Griffin:

I'm worried now that I'm going to be thinking about it this whole time we're doing this episode. Worried about the lack of prayers and energy. But... we'll raw dog it.

Rachel:

Okay... I don't like the use of that.

Griffin:

I don't like the idea of it either, babe.

Rachel:

No, the use specifically of—

Griffin: Of not praying and doing our energy. Rachel: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Griffin:

Something's gotta give I guess.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

First big creative difference here on Wonderful. That's difficult. How are we going to work through this one?

Rachel:

Do you wanna get started doing the show that we usually do?

Griffin:

Um, actually it's your turn to go first. So booyah.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Moon is very bright outside today, by the way. Do you know about the super blue blood moon?

Rachel:

I heard... I heard about it.

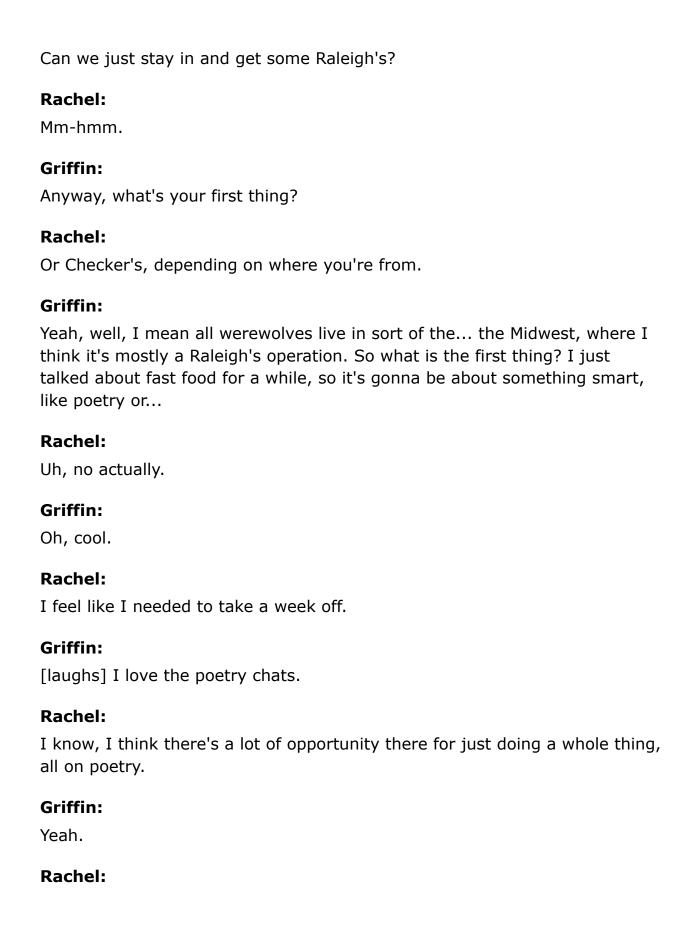
Griffin:

Once in 150 years we get the super moon, blue moon, and blood moon all at the same time. Last time it happened was 150 years ago. That's a long time.

Rachel:

Griffin: What do you think that does for werewolves?
Rachel: Um I imagine it's kind of like Halloween for most monsters
Griffin: Okay.
Rachel: in that they're just kind of like, hey—
Griffin: Let's take it easy
Rachel: let's take it easy. People expect us to be out, let's not make a big deal out of it.
Griffin: And my transformation this time is wild, my legs are huge and powerful. My legs got twice as long, and that doesn't make any sense.
Rachel: Is that that's the only part?
Griffin: Yeah, the rest of me is just normal werewolf parts, but I caught the big moon mostly in my leg meat and so I'm twice as big there, so can we not hunt tonight?
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin:

Yeah.



But, I'm multi-dimensional.

Griffin:

You sure are. I mean, you're just constantly just saying poems, apropos of nothing. Like, we were... you know, just eating some Butera's and you'd be like, "the rain in Spain..."

Rachel:

Oof, that's all you got?

Griffin:

Falls... that's the only part... [laughs]

Rachel:

Oh, man.

Griffin:

I can think of other ones.

Rachel:

That hurts my heart.

Griffin:

Most of mine are, like, dirty bathroom stall poems. So what's the first thing?

Rachel:

Uh, now this is gonna start out sounding simple. But we'll get somewhere with it I think.

Griffin:

I like that.

Rachel:

My first thing is breathing.

Griffin:

Yeah, I mean, I do...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.
Griffin: like that. If I hated it, I would be dead, I think.
Rachel: Um, so, yes, that's true. Um

Griffin:

It's weird to breathe, for me... it's weird that we have to eat wind in order to go.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

If you really think about it, the foodstuff I get. I eat the food, and I turn it into energy in my belly. My belly is just my engine, and it turns it into power that makes the rest of my body get going. Breathing is just eating wind to live, and go, and stuff, and I don't really understand, once it gets in you, how it, like, actually helps.

Rachel:

It... well, I mean, that's another show, I think.

Griffin:

That's true.

Rachel:

Um, what I am interested in talking about is, uh, breathing as kind of a therapeutic approach to anxiety and stress.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Um, I notice... so, we've been watching some Sesame Street. Uh, and when I say some I mean a lot of Sesame Street.

Griffin:

An unbelievable amount of Sesame... more than you would think existed.

Rachel:

And I've noticed with Sesame Street, um, in the more recent episodes they're now giving kids tools to deal with, you know, anger. And they talk a lot about belly breathing.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

They talk about—

Griffin:

... I have not seen these episodes.

Rachel:

They talk to the kids about, like, how to belly breathe through your frustration.

Griffin:

You know who could do some belly breathing? Cookie Monster. I don't care what anybody says about him, he has no impulse control, and he's fuckin' dangerous.

Rachel:

Recently, he... they've been...

Griffin:

I... they're trying to put a nice face on...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... because he eats celery sometimes. But my... when we send out Henry on Halloween in a cookie costume, we may never see that kid again.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I'm just saying all it takes is one. All it takes is one.

Rachel:

One kid?

Griffin:

One cookie kid. And that's the ball game.

Rachel:

Uh, so here's... here's what I have to say about breathing. Uh, so there's a lot of scientific, uh, evidence to suggest that breathing can help with, uh, issues in the heart, the brain, digestion, and the immune system.

Griffin:

Hm.

Rachel:

Uh, so, studies show that people who practice breathing exercises, uh, that have conditions like, uh, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, uh, asthma, heart failure, they can benefit from breathing. Uh, so here's kind of where I'm coming from. Um, the best example I can give you is that when my baby...

Griffin:

Our baby.

Rachel:

... some would say our baby.

[laughs] But, we all know where the loyalty lies there.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, when he starts crying my pulse immediately starts racing.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like, my energy gets really high. Or if I wake up in the middle of the night, like, I start getting anxious.

Griffin:

Is that, like a... is that a mental thing, or is that, like, a primordial...

Rachel:

I mean, I think it's... it's partially—

Griffin:

... like, genetic response thing.

Rachel:

Yeah, it's partially hormonal. But the thing I've noticed is that if I do a lot of deep breathing it kind of helps me calm down. Um...

Griffin:

I feel like I didn't become cognizant of this until this... this past year, when things got pretty anxious, and I realize, like, when I thought about it, like, I will go most of the day just kind of...

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

... like, not really doing it.

Rachel:

Exactly. Uh, so let me... let me tell you a little bit. I did some research on the Mayo Clinic, and also, uh, NPR, did a story on this back in 2012. Um, so, there is a part of the brain called the hypothalamus.

Griffin:

I have heard of them.

Rachel:

When you are stressed you are developing all of these chemicals and hormones, and if they hang around too long, if your stress level stays high, it can impair the immune system. And eventually those stress hormones makes the adrenal glands release another hormone called cortisol, uh... Cortisol which is the drug form of...

Griffin:

You put it on your bug bites and it makes you feel better.

Rachel:

Actually, yeah. So, you're familiar with cortisone, which is the drug form of cortisol, but it's the most powerful anti-inflammatory drug...

Griffin:

Oh, wow, so that was... I was being a dipshit, but it was real.

Rachel:

No, it's real.

Griffin:

All right.

Rachel:

Uh...

Griffin:

Bill Nye the science guy. That's me.

Rachel:

[laughs] So when you're stressed and that cortisol increases, it's like giving yourself multiple shots of that anti-inflammatory hormone and so it turns down your immune system ability to fight infection.

Griffin:

Wow.

Rachel:

So that—

Griffin:

I mean I knew that being, like, chronically stressed out was bad for you physiologically speaking...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... uh, but—

Rachel:

I just... I just think about, like, all the times where you would have to travel for work, or for live shows, and then you would come back and immediately get sick, and...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I feel like—

Griffin:

There's something there.

Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah.

There's some... maybe I need to work on my travel breathing.

Rachel:

Um... so research has shown that breathing exercises can have immediate effects by altering the PH of the blood or changing blood pressure.

Griffin:

Jesus!

Rachel:

But most importantly, it can be a way to train your body to react to stressful situations and dampen the production of stress hormones. Uh... so, and this Mayo Clinic study said that more than just the immune system, um... deep breathing helps balance the autonomic nervous system, which regulates involuntary bodily functions, such as temperature control and bladder function.

Griffin:

Okay, then there's a lot going on there...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... that explains a lot of stuff about my life and how it all sort of... how the pieces connect, or fail to connect.

Rachel:

Yeah, I actually saw an article about, um...

Griffin:

"Why does your husband pee every 30 minutes? It's because he's never breathing."

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, yeah, so there's... there's all sorts of good research about there, I won't go too deep into it. Um, but as I was researching this I was, like, very consciously, like, breathing...

Griffin:

While you were talking I was... I was trying to do some...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I immediately— It does feel good.

Rachel:

It does... well, because you do, you breathe so shallowly all the time. I think about that every time I take a deep breath, I realize, like, I don't know when the last time I did this was.

Griffin:

Yeah. Why don't we start putting a segment in the show where it's just, like, now let's just take a break and just do some breathing. And I can play that, uh, "Got a Machine Head" song, you know, that "breathe in, breathe out..."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

We can play that underneath it, but like a gentle version of it. And it's just, like, "breathe in."

Rachel:

So when they say belly breathing, what they're talking about is if you were to lay down and put your hand on your stomach, you breathe in so deep that your stomach expands. And then you let it fill up, and then you release it.

Griffin:

I mean we just ate a bunch of Buterra's. There's not much more space it can go. And I know you asked me not to...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... talk about the fact that we always eat hamburgers. [laughs] Rachel and I don't eat hamburgers every day, just every day before we record this podcast. Hamburgers are good. And that's my first thing. Last week it was fries. I'm doing a whole themed month...

Rachel:

Oh, my God.

Griffin:

... here, in January. Um... no, that was... that really was a good one. It's—

Rachel:

Yeah, I just... I think... so there are all these things that you can do to kind of practice self-care, and a lot of them are things like yoga, and mindfulness, and exercise. And those are hard to kind of keep up when your life gets busy.

Griffin:

But breathing you have to keep up.

Rachel:

Breathing...

Griffin:

You have to eat this wind...

Rachel:

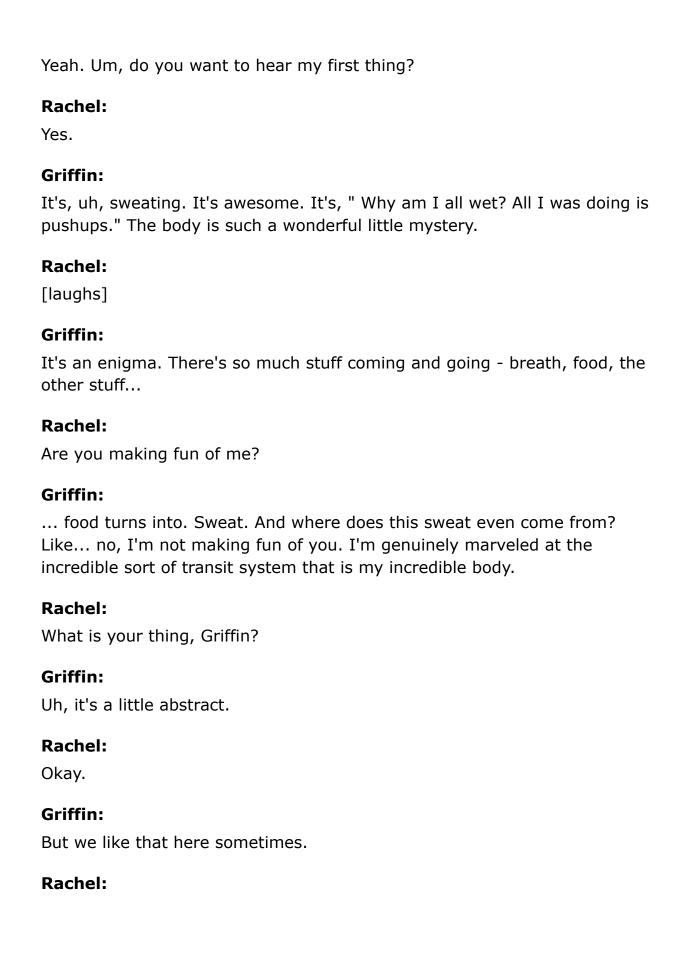
... do it anywhere...

Griffin:

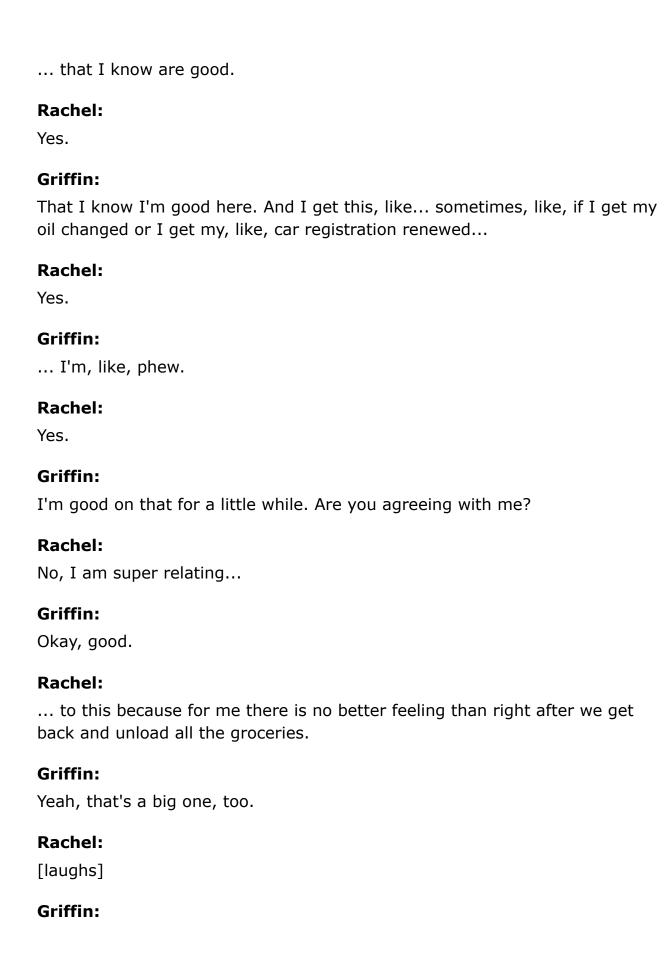
... or you'll die.

Rachel:

... anytime.



Okay [laughs]
Griffin: It's opening a new container of something.
Rachel: Ooh!
Griffin: So like
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: [laughs] I did warn you it would be abstract. Like, one of my favorite feelings is, like, knowing that, like, I'm good on like, having some
Rachel: Yeah.
Griffin: sense of stability or This is really difficult to describe and this was a mistake to choose this. I feel like I suffer from anxiety, and I deal I don't deal with it through breathing. I deal with it through having, like, little footholds in these
Rachel: Uh-huh.
Griffin: like, parts of my daily life
Rachel: Yes.
Griffin:



Uh, getting gas, like, is...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Something— That one's not as big for me, because, you know, you have to do it all the time, but, um... but it exists for me in, like, a lot of smaller ways every day, uh, and I'm specifically thinking of when I open a new container of something. To it, a couple of days ago, open up this box of tissues...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and I was, like, "nice, I'm good on tissues for a bit."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I'm good on tissues for a while. I think it's especially poignant if it's something you can, and have, and might run out of. And if it does, and you need it, "oh, no!"

Rachel:

This is the whole genius behind Costco, right?

Griffin:

That is literally my next note, is that, like, when you open a big container of something, it's, like, I'm good for even longer!

Rachel:

Those big containers of olive oil and peanut butter are, like, my favorite things.

They're very good, but... or, you can buy one of just, like... last time we were there I bought a bunch of fruit leather, and I was, like, I almost never want to eat fruit leather.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But now when I do, any point in the next 25 years...

Rachel:

[laughs] It doesn't work like that, unfortunately.

Griffin:

Fruit leather is probably all right...

Rachel:

You think it lasts forever.

Griffin:

... it literally has fucking leather in the name, like, it doesn't really have anywhere to go.

Rachel:

Did you feel that way when you bought, like, a hundred things of string cheese? [laughs]

Griffin:

No, unfortunately the string cheese expires. What day is it? It expires in two days, and we still have about forty sticks of string cheese.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

So, I want to warn you, come February 2nd, I will be the most constipated any human being has ever been, because I looked at those sticks of cheese. It's not forty, it's, like, fifteen. And, I'm gonna do some work tomorrow, I'm

gonna figure out some things... you see those Facebook videos of those restaurants now, where they just melt a fuck-ton of cheese, and then just, like, scrape it onto a steak, and it's, like "ha-ha!"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, it's gonna be like that. I'm gonna do that to, like, my, uh, you know... raisin bran or something. Anyway, uh, so, yeah tissues, ketchup... really any condiment-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... condiments are big for this. Because condiments are one thing where it's just, like, if we're out of ketchup, I mean, you know how I feel about ketchup and what I need it for. And I won't say it. By the way the fry discourse...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... in our fucking Facebook group...

Rachel:

Oh, man.

Griffin:

... got so buck wild.

Rachel:

We had a definitive fry poll rating all fries all around the country.

Griffin:

McDonald's got up there.

Rachel:

Yeah, I think thousands of people voted.

Griffin:

Yeah, um... but like, yeah, condiments, like, you run out. But then you open up a new bottle of mustard, and it's like "phew."

Rachel:

Here's what I'm going to ask you now.

Griffin:

Yeah?

Rachel:

This is a show that I used to enjoy watching that I don't think Griffin liked.

Griffin:

The Coupon?

Rachel:

Yes. Does this help you understand...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... the madness behind coupon— extreme couponing?

Griffin:

It's... uh, coupon extremes, um, and these extreme athletes is what they are, and they use their coupons to get a billion bottles of, you know, Pepto Bismol for free.

Rachel:

And they fill, like, their whole basement. They have shelves of things.

Yeah. I think it's not...

Rachel:

You get it now.

Griffin:

I get part of it, but I also, like, I rub... I bump up against, like... one time I saw somebody do it for, like, 600 rolls of toilet paper and they paid nothing. They paid zero dollars for it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I saw that, and I was, like, your cause is beautiful...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and your strength is inspiring, and your heart is so strong, because, yeah, like, that...

Rachel:

You're gonna need that.

Griffin:

... would be incredible. You're gonna need that.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... I guarantee you. Um, but then I see somebody do it for, like... I got 3,000 bananas, and it's, like...

Rachel:

Yeah, it's not gonna work.

Griffin:

Good? No, it's usually, like, stuff that will keep, but it's, like, stuff that you're not going to need 3,000 of, like, I got 3,000, uh, you know, dry containers of powdered Gatorade, and it's like, well...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Unless you own a little league football team, which I don't even think you can own a little league football team, like, you probably don't need 3,000 containers of powdered Gatorade. Um, but, like, I just, I know this is such a petty, very commercial thing, and I really think, like, if I want to, like, dive down deep into it, I think it is a, like, need for control in response to, like, feeling...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

...at the whims of my own anxiety, so that if I get a new big, bottle of shampoo and just know that, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... I'm set for shower time for a little bit?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Is a genuinely, like, nice feeling that, like, I kind of take pause every single day whenever I get something like this and, um...

Rachel:

Do you feel like this intensified after we had a baby?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Do you think that my need for control [laughs]...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... increased or decreased? Um...

Rachel:

No, I— The thing that I am recognizing in myself is that there are so many things that come up that take time and energy, you know, just from my day, and to know that I don't have to buy Kleenex for the next few months... that's one less thing.

Griffin:

Or, worse, that you will get sick and Henry is sick, and we need Kleenex and don't have them. It's, like, "oh no!" I feel, uh... I always... I just really like this feeling. And for small... even smaller stuff too, like when I wake up in the morning and I have, like, a little wireless charger for my phone and I pick up my phone and it's at, like, 100%, I feel like this small part of me that is, like, uh, an old-timey pioneer that just finished loading up their wagon for a hike across the Oregon Trail. Like, yes, I'm ready for whatever the day has.

Rachel:

Which is so funny because you don't really leave the house, so you're never far away from a charger.

Griffin: No, but I pump that frickin' phone
Rachel:
[laughs]
Griffin: always playing Flappy Bird, just going adding things to calendars and removin' 'em.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin:
Anyway hey, can I steal you right away?
Rachel: [making beepy noises]
Griffin: You know what that last thing sounded like?
Rachel: What?
Griffin:
It sounded like passing wind.
Rachel:
[laughs] Is that what is sounds like?
Griffin:
It sounded kind of exactly like
Rachel:
I've never heard it before.

Griffin:

You've never heard passing wind?

Rachel:

No, I don't even know what it sounds like.

Griffin:

Okay, well...

Rachel:

Does it sound like a trumpet?

Griffin:

Uh, have...

Rachel:

Like a very tiny—

Griffin:

... you heard a trumpet before?

Rachel:

Like a very tiny trumpet?

Griffin:

Is it possible that somebody once passed wind close to you and then you said, "what was that," and then they said, "it was a trumpet, I am Louis Armstrong."

Rachel:

[laughs] I'm playing a very small trumpet.

Griffin:

Uh, and I—

Rachel:

You can't see it, it's so small.

Griffin:

... yeah, the trumpet's an invisible instrument and... anyway...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... it wasn't a toot.

[ad break]

Griffin:

Uh, we also have a jumbotron here, this one's for Sky and it's from Lup, the Adventure Zone character, who I'm assuming is also a real person here. "Sky, you are a truly wonderful partner. I love your enthusiasm over the things you love, like Skyward Sword, Angus McDonald, and how you refuse to move when a cat is on you, saying it's illegal to move them." That's... we've gotten in, uh...

Rachel:

Yeah, we've gotten in that situation before.

Griffin:

Yeah, Johnny Law came and kicked in the door.

Rachel:

He has the little whiskers and he had the little hat on over his ears.

Griffin:

Sorry, it was a cat cop? I thought it was a human—

Rachel:

Yes, it was a cat cop.

Griffin:

... oh, man.

Rachel:

Isn't that great?

Yeah, has he got cool car, like a Power Wheels?

Rachel:

Yeah, and he, like, his tail swishes in his little uniform.

Griffin:

Oh, what if he came around on cat bus?

Rachel:

Oh, that would be kind of weird though, because he'd be a cat inside of a cat.

Griffin:

Yeah, I guess if I ever drove around in, like, you know, a human Volvo...

Rachel:

A Griffin-shaped vehicle.

Griffin:

... I would actually be into that. Anyway, I was in the middle of a commercial again. "Thank you for being the dragon-born bard to my halfling rogue. Also, I need Griffin to say this next part. Sky, you are handsomely beautiful." Um, this is a wonderful sentiment. A wonderful message. I don't know who Ang... do you know Angus McDonald? No, I can't even play like that.

Rachel:

Oh, come on.

Griffin:

They'll come get me. I can't even play like that. Uh, do you want to read this other Jumbotron?

Rachel:

Yes. This message is for Will and Dylan. It is...

Griffin:

Uh... two people?

Griffin: Not one person named... "What's up kids, I'm Willandylan." Rachel: [laughs] No, Will and Dylan. Griffin: It's my favorite... I'm so glad that they brought it back, uh, NBC. Uh, for, the revival. I'm hearing a lot of good stuff about Will and Dylan. Rachel: Yeah, it's like Will and Grace, but it... Bob Dylan is the other half. Griffin: Yes, it's just like, uh...

Griffin:

Rachel:

Kind of a weird...

Rachel:

[imitating Bob Dylan] "Can somebody..." [laughs].

Rachel:

"Will, you left out the orange juice."

Griffin:

"Will, the orange juice is full of bugs."

Rachel:

"Will where are my strawberry Pop-Tarts?" [laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs] All these are very low-stakes episodes of Will and Grace. It's mostly about breakfast foods being ruined because of Will's carelessness.

Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: "Uh-oh, here comes the"
Rachel: Yeah, we both know.
Griffin: " other characters on the show."
Rachel: We've lost it.
Griffin: We never had it it's hard to lose something you couldn't find in the first place.
Rachel: Okay, we're doing it again. The message is for Will and Dylan. It is from Sarah. "Hey boys, I just want to thank you for being such wonderful friends and taking my suggestions when I tell you to listen to cool podcasts. Will, thanks for hanging out no matter how far away we are, and Dylan keep being a good meme boy."
Griffin: I thought I recognized the name Dylan and then when Sarah called him out for being a meme boy, I realized why it was. He's the peanut butter baby.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Yeah.
Rachel:

What a cutie.

Griffin:

Yeah Dylan, great job on the peanut butter baby stuff, and I hope that you got some sort of merch opportunities out of that.

Rachel:

That changes our Will and Dylan TV show significantly.

Griffin:

Yeah, so it's Bob Dylan and the peanut butter baby. Actually...

Rachel:

No, it'd be... that's the—

Griffin:

It is Bob Dylan, but he's playing a CGI peanut butter baby.

Rachel:

Maybe it's Willie Nelson...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... and the peanut butter baby.

Griffin:

And he can just be like, "Has anybody seen my weed pipe?"

Rachel:

That's good. That's dead on.

[Max Fun ad]

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, bizarro, 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.

[ad break ends]

Griffin:

Uh, what's your second thing, though?

Rachel:

Okay, now, this is gonna... this might make you a little uncomfortable. So, I'm gonna keep it kind of unsentimental.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

As I always act like sentimental makes you uncomfortable.

Griffin:

Yeah, you act like like you're about to come over here and stab me in the head with a knife, when you lead into stuff like this.

Rachel:

What I think is wonderful is when your partner, um, creates, uh, original content that you can consume when they are not around.

Griffin:

Yeah, nice. So if we talk about this in the abstract I won't get uncomfortable.

Rachel:

[laughs]

So it can just be like, "boy, you know, Dax and Kristen," um...

Rachel:

There you go.

Griffin:

... Dax must be, like, so excited.

Rachel:

He watches the Good Place at home.

Griffin:

He watches the Good Place, and he's, like... and by the way, we are the Dax and Kristen of podcasting. You're Dax and I'm Kristen. And...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... you know, he's like...

Rachel:

You do have a wonderful singing voice.

Griffin:

Thank you, and you have a wonderful job in Without a Paddle.

Rachel:

Dax, Daxing.

Griffin:

Yeah, you did good in that. And, uh... no, I love Dax Shepard.

Rachel:

Let me finish my thing, though.

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um, so here's what's cool. When you make something original or creative, it's a very, kind of, intimate, vulnerable, thing. And it's something I've realized since Griffin and I have been together that I feel like I know him in a way that a lot of partners don't get to know their spouse.

Griffin:

And that was true before we even dated. Like, we met, and then I went back to Chicago for a few months and...

Rachel:

And I listened to MBMBAM.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... yeah. And so, like, when Griffin moved here I had listened to a lot of his shows, and so I... it wasn't like I was researching a role, per se.

Griffin:

Yeah, and a bit of a power, sort of balance difference there because you did not have a podcast that I could listen to and know your heart.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, but yeah, so, like, I'm not gonna buzz market Griffin's work or anything, um...

Griffin:

If you could, actually, the show's have been doing pretty bad lately and this one's got a lot of heat, so we could just like...

Rachel:

Um, but I listened to, I would say, 90% of Griffin's podcasts, and I watched almost all of his videos, uh, and it's a cool thing while I'm at work or I'm out and about... I don't ever do it in front of Griffin, because that would be kind

of weird, uh... but it, like, it kind of keeps me connected to him and what he's doing, and it makes me real proud, and it's kind of a cool thing that I recognize a lot of people don't get.

Griffin:

It legitimately means the world. Uh, I do feel like I get very uncomfortable, and it's not coming...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... from a place of, like... I don't know, it's not coming from, like, a disdainful place, but one of just extreme... like, I value your opinion higher by a factor of a billion than anybody else, living...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... or dead, and so, like, the... I remember, like, the big one for me is when the TV show was done, and we sat down and watched all the episodes of the TV show...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... together for the first time. And I was scared shitless.

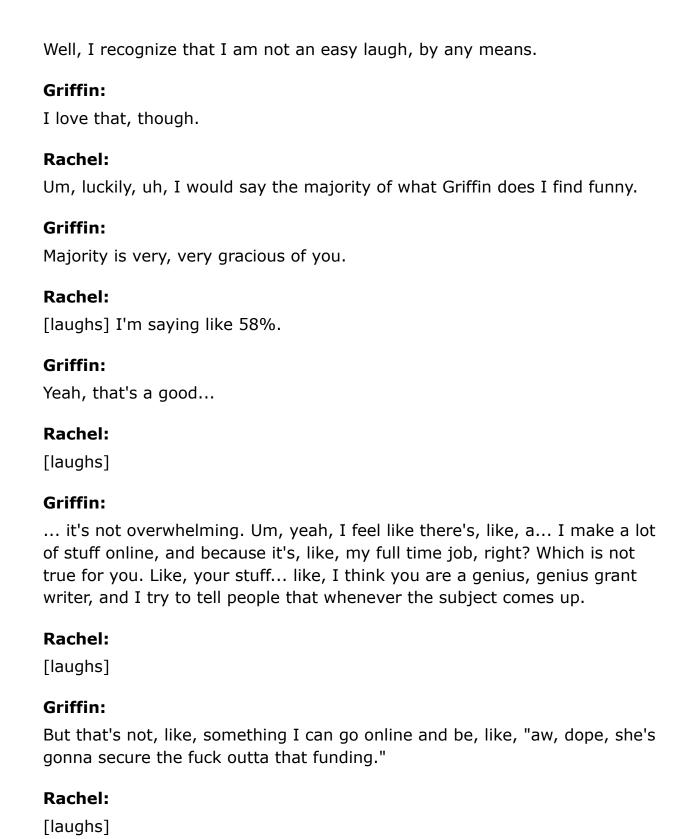
Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, but yeah, I mean it means the world to me that you do that and you're so constantly supportive.

Rachel:



Um, but I'm, like, so glad that we started doing this, as long as we're getting sentimental, started doing this show because I think, like, you're the funniest, like, smartest person that I know...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and it's very, very cool to me that, like, um, this...

Rachel:

Thank you. I did, I've always... I mean, I've always respected... I mean, ever since I was a kid, I always really enjoyed performers, you know?

Griffin:

Rachel was listening to podcasts when she was, like, 5 years old.

Rachel:

No, I mean, like, my friends that did theater or music and were really good at it. I used to love to go and watch them do it, because I am not as much of a performer. I mean, I'm comfortable speaking publicly, but I would prefer not to... create something and then have to display it in front of a bunch of people.

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

So, I really respect that, and it's even better when the person does a great job, which is, nice.

Griffin:

Thank you, baby.

Rachel:

So, yeah, I wanted to talk about that, but I didn't want to make you feel weird.

Griffin: No, I mean, a little. But it's good. It's a good weird.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: It's like a good weird feeling. It's like that time that we were in that, uh, pool where the fish came around and bit our feet for cleaning.
Rachel: Oh, yeah.
Griffin: It was weird, but it was, like, gimme another hour of this fish cleaning my foot and I could probably get into it.
Rachel: It was when we went to Japan, it was on our honeymoon in Japan.
Griffin: Yeah, at a hot spring waterpark. It was the best. I should do that, at the anyway.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin:

Anyway, do you want to know my second thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

These are baby toys with legit jams on them. I'm talking about, my boy... I'm talking about my best friend, DJ Fischer Price. Let me explain to you... and please don't tune out. I know, if you don't have kids, I know.

Are you gonna play some of them for them?

Griffin:

Oh, God, yeah, I'm gonna play some of these fuckin' bops.

Rachel:

Oh good, good, good.

Griffin:

There are a lot of baby toys that have flashing lights and music, and I think it's, like, the most prevalent sort of genre of baby toys right now. Here is the trick... the thing is, most of the songs are quite bad. And I get it, it's for babies. I understand that. But I get nothing out of a toy that's just, like, "I'm gonna flash a big red and yellow light in your face and I'm gonna play a little nursery rhyme."

Rachel:

Yeah, play, like, "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain" really loud.

Griffin:

Yeah. And again, most of these toys, very limited volume options, and I wanted to talk about this, because if I'm being completely real, I have listened to baby toy music more than any other song in my life.

Rachel:

Are you going to play the aquarium jam?

Griffin:

Don't give it away. But, that's exactly what I brought.

Rachel:

Okay, good it's such a good song.

Griffin:

Um, so, like, we have a bunch of different stuff, and there's, like Rachel said, like, there's a... we have, like, a little barn play set and it's just a lot of

"Farmer in the Dell," like, garbo. There's a lot of toys that have, like, classical music in it, and that's all right. Like, they're the Little Einsteins thing that we have, and it's literally just a button you press and then it just deploys, like, a sensory blast directly into the baby's brain of just, like, red, green, and yellow lights, just, like, flashing at you while Chopin plays. And that's okay, I can get into that, because I'm learning about Chopin and

And that's okay, I can get into that, because I'm learning about Chopin and how to pronounce his name. But most of you get these busted fuckin' nursery rhymes, which are terrible. A lot of it, though, the stuff that's not, like, nursery rhymes or classic music is, like, really lazy. Uh, we have the cube, and...

Rachel:

Ah, the cube.

Griffin:

Uh, the cube which, uh... I forget which show it was on, where, uh... I think it was Conan where, Ellie Kemper came on and brought the cube, and she was talking about her kids...

Rachel:

"The Cat in the Square."

Griffin:

... and there's this cube, and it has four animal buttons on it. There's, like, a square with a cat on it, and a dog with a star with a dog on it, and you press it and it sings the laziest song I've ever heard, um, [singing] "the dog in the star, barks and runs far, woof woof woof woof, the dog in the star!"

Griffin:

And it's like, wow, guys, you... and the Grammy goes to.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"The bird in the circle, sings a song that's wonderful, tweet tweet tweet. The bird in the circle..." So it's, like, you just literally copied and pasted the dog

in the star, and the cat in the square song and... anyway. Most of this music sucks, no thanks. But sometimes...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... when DJ Fischer Price gets home, in the ones and twos, you get a song with a bop.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

You get a toy with a legitimate bop on it. And that is extremely exciting to me when we discover these toys. You mentioned the aquarium toy earlier. We have a little fish tank, brought to you by Fischer Price. Thank you Fischer and Price. And it's got little fish in it, you don't put water in it. You just, like... it has, like, five little fishy toys in it.

Rachel:

Henry's at the stage where he likes to put things in containers and take them out...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... and so when we saw this toy on the shelf, we thought, "oh, great, it's something he can put in a container and take it out." We didn't realize the music was incredible.

Griffin:

The music was very good. There's a bunch of songs on it, right? There's the number counting song, the ABC song. Those are pretty good. Uh, there's, "take a fishy in, put a fishy out... er, put a fishy in, take a fishy out, put a fishy in to swim all about, wiggle wiggle wiggle, splash splash splash, swim little fishy, swim."

[laughs]

Griffin:

Great. Nice length. Very evocative sort of imagery, there. But sometimes when you wiggle this toy, and that is how you activate it, which is so choice, uh, it plays a song called "Underwater Rainbow." And I'd like to play you that song right now.

[Underwater Rainbow plays]

Toy: [singing] All the colors, all the colors, yeah. Sparkle like the rainbow, rainbow. Underwater rainbow! Red, red, orange, orange, yellow, green, blue! Purple, purple, purple in a rainbow light show. Bright shining colors like a rainbow, sparkle like a rainbow, rainbow. Underwater rainbow!

Griffin: It is the most beautiful, most pure song. There's also a little light in the toy, like, in the tank part of it that flashes and whenever it, like, says a color it flashes that color. And when it says rainbow it flashes all of the colors.

Rachel:

I want to say that the song does say "purple" a lot.

Griffin:

That is the greatest line in songwriting history.

Rachel:

Oh, you love that?

Griffin:

The line... Somebody— I'm getting emotional. Somebody wrote this song. Somebody sat down, and wrote the music for it, and the music is incredible. The music is so good and if you don't think it is, I would challenge you to go to a fuckin' Babys'R'Us and start pressing buttons, and then go find the Underwater Rainbow toy, and then listen to this jam again and go, like, "Oh, nevermind, this is a masterpiece." Because a lot of it is just, like, "plink plink plink plink plink plink plink plink plink plink," This one's got some, like, dope beats behind it... anyway. Somebody wrote the words to this.

[singing] Purple, purple, purple. [laughs]

Griffin:

... song, and they said, "You know what else would be good here, we need to get all the colors in, 'cause it's a song about the rainbow. Red red orange..." Like, oh, you're going to start out by saying red twice? Like, yeah, I think so. "Yellow, green, blue: those are all colors. Man we got to get purple in here, but we have a lot of space left in this verse."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin: "I have an idea. Purple, purple, purple, purple." When you're doing that it's so good, it makes me feel like Meg Ryan in "Sleepless in Seattle," when she's, like, "horses, horses, horses."

Rachel:

Oh, yeah, that's a good point.

Griffin:

It's a weird comparison. Uh, but the melody is really nice, and the message of the song is nice, too. There's a rainbow in the ocean and it's very colorful.

Rachel:

I'm just kind of dancin' thinking about it.

Griffin:

It's a very good song, but it's also, like, a weird, like... I have a weird relationship with this song because it's such a relief that this song is on this toy, and it's... I enjoy it so deeply, so much so that there are little buttons on the toy that you can press to activate, like, a few other songs...

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Na			

Yes.

... and sometimes Underwater Rainbow will be on, and Henry will press one of those buttons...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and then the voice will just be, like, "one, two three!" And I'll be, like, "guess we're done listening to Underwater Rainbow, huh?"

Rachel:

We really have. We push that toy at him, like, we have a whole little setup in the corner of our living room, and it's just always... I am immediately, like, "hey, you want to play with this toy, the aquarium toy?"

Griffin:

It's sort of enshrined in the center of all of his toys, and, um... so this is a very good song, on a very good toy. Fischer Price also makes those weird bells. There's this toy, and it's kind of tough to...

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

... describe the shape of it. Rachel thinks they look like strange, colorful bongs.

Rachel:

They look like little baby bongs.

Griffin:

Which is not great for obvious reasons.

Rachel:

A flower vase.

They look like vases, I think is a better way to put it. And these two, like, plastic toys have, like, all these little interactive bits, like, little rings you can spin around and other shit. But they connect to each other, uh, wirelessly, and they play songs between each other.

So there's like a setting where, like, music will be playing on one and then, if you, like, knock it over the music will travel to the other one. Which is, like, a really cool concept. There's also one where, like, the melody is playing on one bell and then the other bell has the drums, or whatever.

Rachel:

We discovered this, um... our friends Kat and Chris have a very young baby, and we brought Henry to visit, and we got out the toy and started playing with it with Henry, and we just kind of immediately decided...

Griffin:

We started grooving, kind of.

Rachel:

... like, we are going to have to get this toy when we get home.

Griffin:

Because here's the thing. The music that it plays is not shitty nursery rhymes. It's songs... it's music without lyrics at all, because for whatever reason, DJ Fischer Price was, like, "I know what kids love - trance music." And that's what's on these toys. Here's a sample of the music on these weird bongs.

[baby trance music plays]

Like, if that came on at the club...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... I would lose it. I would absolutely lose my shirt. My shirt would be over the bar, and I would be spinning wildly and freely, um, just soaking it all in. Why there's such a set path for toys with baby music on it... why did DJ Fischer Price stray so completely from the path, is what I want to know. Like, I don't regret that they made this decision, it's just wild to me, because it's, like...

Rachel:

I mean, I think they recognize something, which I notice, for example, with Justin and Sydney... like, if your child has a toy that you personally like, you will buy it for your friends when they have children.

Griffin:

... and that's, like, kind of my, like, closing thought is, like, I think there is an element of looking for something personally enjoyable...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... in the... as terrible as that sounds, as selfish as that sounds, there is an element of that in the entertainment options, or toys that you find for your kids, and, I mean that's sort of, I feel like, the guiding ethos of Pixar and Dreamworks for, like, their animated movies. But, there's some jokes in there for the adults too.

Like, I feel, like, that sort of same thing is here and it's not because, like, "oh, you wanna play with a toy, but I want to have fun." Like, I'm not approaching playing with Henry with his toys like that, but the fact remains, like, we're talking about many hours every single day that this stuff is sort of my... the activity that I'm engaging in. And then, I think when a dope jam comes on, I'm like, "all right, purple purple purple purple."

Rachel:

Yeah. 100%. [laughs]

Griffin:

So, yeah. DJ Fischer Price, you're making some bold decisions over there. Please keep it up. If you want me to come over and maybe collabo on a track, I would love to.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin: I've got a song I've been working on about a big snail. So.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: Just, uh, look forward to that. Do you want some submissions?
Rachel: The snail in the rhombus
Griffin: Please, don't stop, complete the thought. Please rhyme rhombus. Yeah, here we go. And now we're in it, folks.
Rachel: is coming up upon us. Slither, slither, slither, slimey.
Griffin: [laughs]
Rachel: Slimey, slimey, snail.
Griffin: Yeah, that's good. I thought you were gonna be like, "is calling his friend Thombus."
Rachel: No.
Griffin: Okay. No, yours was much, much better.

Griffin, I am a poet.

Griffin:

You are a professional poet. I mean, that's it. With my musical acumen, and your gift...

Rachel:

Lyricism?

Griffin:

... your platinum tongue, we could take this whole industry over.

Rachel:

Rhombus and upon us? That's pretty good.

Griffin:

That's really good, I'm blown away. Okay, anyway. Uh, here's some submissions. This one's from Sierra, who says, "Hi guys, my name is Sierra." I just said that, um, "and I want to talk about how good a fresh sheet on a lint roller is."

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

I'm telling you, Sierra knows exactly what I'm talking about with that fresh container. There's nothing more satisfying than a fresh sheet on a lint roller. You don't have to worry about not being able to roll up all the little bits on your shirt, and you feel like you can roll up the entire world.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like a big Katamari. I love it.

Rachel:

I'm in it.

I'm in it. You're in it?

Rachel:

I'm in it. [laughs]

Griffin:

What are you in?

Rachel:

I'm in that lint roller and I am rollin'.

Griffin:

Oh, oh God are you okay? Come back, come back with my wife!

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I have a particular set of skills.

Rachel:

I knew you were going to go there, immediately. When I talked about being in a lint roller...

Griffin:

Wow.

Rachel:

... I thought.

Griffin:

That's, like, six connections that you followed the clues. Okay, uh, Maggie says, "Cookbook club is so wonderful, every month we pick a cookbook that we all cook out of for that month, and then someone hosts a potluck where we all bring recipes that we made from that cookbook and talk about how we liked it and eat a ton of food. It's my favorite thing, and I am so grateful I found these good folks."

Wow.

Griffin:

That is good. It sounds like you got good friends and a cool idea for a club, but also any reason to have a potluck and eat a bunch of food is pretty good in my book.

Rachel:

No, that's incredible.

Griffin:

Uh, Tiffany says, "Something I find wonderful are videos of people making tiny food on the video series Tiny Kitchen. There's something so soothing about watching people use such precision and delicate movements to make a teeny, tiny cake or a taco. I could easily watch these videos for hours. They are so very, very good." Tiny food, especially...

Rachel:

Can we get on that, later today?

Griffin:

... making tiny food?

Rachel:

No, watching those videos.

Griffin:

Sure. I can make a tiny food, though. Take a big... like, a Frito, but then I cut it up real small, and then, uh...

Rachel:

Make tiny nachos?

Griffin:

... eh, yeah, I was just thinking tiny Fritos.

Rachel:

[laughs]
Griffin: [laughs] Here, I'll do a different one. I'll take a steak, and I'll just cut a little piece off of it
Rachel: To be a tiny steak?
Griffin: tiny steak. That's pretty good. I'll take a bunch of orange juice, and I'll just put one little drop down on the table.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: And that is a feast for an ant.
Rachel: This is good, this is really good.
Griffin: Thanks.
Rachel: I like this. I'll take a Kraft American cheese square.
Griffin: Yeah?
Rachel: And I'll just cut a real tiny square.
Griffin:

Yeah, what do we do... what's that?

Rachel:

It's just a tiny Kraft single.

Griffin:

Little cheese, love it, love it. We are cooking tiny food for, like, the saddest bachelor hamster who's just, like, doesn't leave his apartment, just, like, "I don't know, I'll have some Kraft singles, and a..." **Rachel:**

"I just took a Pringle, and I just made into a smaller Pringle."

Griffin:

It reminds me of when I used to put cheese whiz into bugles, and call those, like, little fancy snacks.

Rachel:

Oh, Griffin.

Griffin:

Have you had the amuse bouche, yet? It goes well with the jasmine tea.

Rachel:

The sensation of crunching into a bugle that is full of EZ cheese, it seems unpleasant.

Griffin:

Orgasmic, I agree.

Rachel:

Unpleasant.

Griffin:

I couldn't hear what you said, because I said orgasmic, but I think we said the same thing.

Rachel:

Yeah, no, you're probably right.

Griffin:

Uh, you said, "uh, pleasant," right? [laughs]

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, anyway, that's the show. Thank you so much 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, uh, episode description. Caught myself that time, didn't say it was an album. But I just did, shit.

Um, thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. You can find out, uh, all about their great shows at MaximumFun.org. There's so many good ones, uh, and you're just gonna love these freaking shows, man, you'll just flip your lid.

What's some good shows right now?

Rachel:

Uh, I am going to recommend, uh, the Flop House.

Griffin:

Hey, the Flop House!

Rachel:

Flop House is great, uh, because you can start anywhere in their catalog. Uh, each week they review a... like a box office flop, uh, and so you can start anywhere you want. A lot of times it's fun to just pick a movie that you've seen before and listen to their take on it.

Griffin:

The Fateful Findings episode, I think, is my personal favorite.

Rachel:

It's a very good one.

Griffin:

Uh, also, John Roderick, who did the theme song to My Brother, My Brother, and Me, and is also a genuinely great dude, has a new show, uh, with the Greatest Generation boys, where they talk about old war movies and stuff, and, like, talk about them in context of, like, today. Uh, that's really, really

good. Uh, it's called, uh, Friendly Fire. And that is a new one, that, like, just came out this month on Max Fun. There's a lot of really great shows. And if you want to hear other stuff that we make, uh, or see the videos that we do, you can go to mcelroyshows.com. Is that it?

Rachel:

That's it.

Griffin:

All right, well... uh oh. Oh, no, babe. It's happening. I'm transforming into a super blue blood werewolf.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah. The wolf thing.

Griffin:

Super blue blood wolf... oh. Can you describe it as it's happening?

Rachel:

Uh, his legs are getting very, very big.

Griffin:

Very long, and... tell them how strong they look.

Rachel:

They look very shapely and strong.

Griffin:

So powerful. And what about the hair?

Rachel:

It's very thick, lustrous hair.

Griffin:

Except for where am I perfectly hairless?

Rachel:

Oh, his knees.
Griffin: There's no knees hair.
Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: My teeth, what do they look like?
Rachel: Uh, they're sharp.
Griffin: Is that it?
Rachel: That's it.
Griffin: Ah, babe, you got to get out of here.
Rachel: Okay.
Griffin: I just did some breathing and they turned out okay.
Rachel: Okay.
Griffin: That's a callback.
Rachel: That's a lot of callbacks.

Griffin:

Energy!

[theme music plays]

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