

Wonderful! 21: Podcasting for the Gold

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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:

I don't have anything this time.

Rachel:

Oh, no.

Griffin:

I mean, I have things I'm grateful for. I'm always grateful. I'm always looking at the big picture and sayin', "Wow, what a cool picture," and then I get other people to come look at the picture. But I don't have a funny bit for the intro, and I know you count on me for things, classic bits that people are always talking about.

Rachel:

I... No, we could take turns. I could do bits sometimes.

Griffin:

You do a little bit? You wanna do it?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

All right, go ahead and do it.

Rachel:

Uh, this week we'll be going for the gold.

Griffin:

Hey!

Rachel:

Olympics.

Griffin:

They should have a podcasting category, I feel like, but you have to be on big skis and you're doing a slalom while you do it. And that would be fun 'cause we could do the episode in stereo. So it'd be like, "Yeah, so, uh, anyway, did you hear the latest thing that uh, Mark Cuban said?"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

So this would be our Shark Tank fancast.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But we record it while we're doing a ski slalom. That's fun.

Rachel:

Ski Shark Tank. Is that something?

Griffin:

See babe? You got the intro magic.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

A lot of people say it's like, it's a, it's, uh, so difficult...

Rachel:

You know what it is?

Griffin:

... and nobody's gonna get it their first time. But...

Rachel:

We're recording in the afternoon. We didn't just eat a big meal. Typically, we start, you talk about a big meal we just ate.

Griffin:

You're right.

Rachel:

And we didn't do that.

Griffin:

Well, we eat the big burgers from P. Terry's specifically so we have something to talk about in the intro.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I didn't eat lunch yet.

Rachel:

Me neither.

Griffin:

Hungry belly over here.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I wonder how that's gonna get into the podcast.

Rachel:

Ooh, we're gonna get, we're gonna get a little touchy there at the end of it.

Griffin:

Ooh, maybe. And also, you'll get the gurgles from my tumblers.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

My tumbo gurgles.

Rachel:

That's cute.

Griffin:

Thank you. Um, I think it's my turn to start this week.

Rachel:

I think so.

Griffin:

So my first... Do you hear that? Do you hear that? Sounds like, uh, like piano keys tinkling in the back. Do you hear that? Do you— Are you playing music on your phone or something? Do you hear? It's like [humming].

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Do you hear that?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

It's weird. Oh, there it is. Um, I wanna talk about The OC.

Rachel:

Wow, have we not done that yet?

Griffin:

No. It's kind of unbelievable that we haven't done that yet.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

So, like, I wanna start out by saying... I wanna couch it a little bit by saying I don't actually know. I'm too deep in at this point to know whether or not The OC is like a great show or even a good one. At this point, I have watched it like four or five times in its entirety. Like, I will acknowledge there are entire plot lines that when they show up during one of my rewatches, I'm like, "Ugh, locked into this for a few ones, huh?"

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, it is also occasionally, like, problematic in that, like, patented early 2000s kind of way where it was like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... "wow, you took a swing at that, but you didn't really keep your eye on the ball there, The OC." Despite that stuff, like, it really is one of my favorite TV shows of all time. Um, if you've never watched The OC, it follows a character named Ryan Atwood, who is a teen boy played a 35-year-old man, um...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... who runs afoul of the law in his hometown of Chino, and he ends up getting rescued for the first time of about 40 times throughout the show's run, uh, by a public defender named Sandy Cohen, who opens the doors of his family's palatial Newport estate to, to Ryan.

Um, and the whole series is about Ryan's, like, struggles to fit in, in this world in Newport in Orange County. Um, this show has a lot to say about, like, classism while also, yes, kind of indulging in, like, the fantasy of, "Boy, wouldn't it be nice to be enormously wealthy and successful?" Um, but that's not really, like... that's not why I love this show.

Uh, like, it's nice to look at these nice things, right? But the show, I feel like, has a really lovely coherent aesthetic beyond just like, "Look at these nice things that these people have." Um, the world feels, like, very, very alive, and they put in a lot of work to make it a very, like, uh, vibrant sort of world with a lot of character.

What I love about this show, and I will go to my grave with this, is... It's because it has the best cast of characters probably ever assembled in a television show before. Full stop.

Rachel:

Uh...

Griffin:

What are you about to, what are you about to compare it to?

Rachel:

Are we including, I don't know, Oliver in this mix?

Griffin:

The musical Oliver!? The... What...

Rachel:

What was the name of the kid that Marissa befriends that's terrible?

Griffin:

Oh, Oliver. Yes, okay.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

No, he's, he sucks.

Rachel:

He's not a great character.

Griffin:

No, but—

Rachel:

Are you talking about the main cast?

Griffin:

Even the little spots on the apple still doesn't... You just cut those away. [imitating chopping noises] So, the characters are all fantastic. The show sorta centers around the Cohen family, uh, which is really an...

Okay, if you don't agree with the other thing, like, I think the best, like, family dynamic ever portrayed in a television show before, and it's one that is so much more nuanced than I think it had really any right to be. Uh, there's Kirsten, who is a bit more straightlaced, a little bit more old money, uh, and Sandy, who is a bit more idealistic.

They are married. They are the mom and dad of this family. Um, and I may have just described that sort of relationship and you may have thought like, "Oh, okay. So they demonize Kirsten constantly for being sort of snooty or whatever while building up Sandy as being this, you know, this god of justice."

When really, like, this show does so much more than that, and it's really interesting how often they kind of have to cross the fence for each other and help each other out constantly.

Like, I feel like despite the... They could've very easily made it like, "Okay, Sandy is this dude who's fighting the system and so his righteousness is always pure." But really, his righteousness kind of, like, gets him in trouble, and he fucks up a lot because of it. While on the same vein, like Kirsten, I think, falls prey to, like, the status quo of this kind of shitty town that they live in. But it's the way that they kind of work together to, like, find the path through, like surviving this town is so good.

Rachel:

Oh, and there's so much, like, chemistry between the actors, too, which I think helps a lot, is that I think they... Uh, it's one of those casts where you watch and you think the actors themselves probably added a lot to the story, uh, just in, in their ability to understand the characters.

Griffin:

Yeah. The, uh, the cast is fantastic.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, and the result of, like, this really interesting relationship is their son, Seth. And I just said that out loud and it made it sound like I don't know where babies come from.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but, but really, like, he represents that dynamic between, between, uh, Sandy and Kirsten so well because he's really savvy about how the town works while also is, like, kind of eager to fight against the things he thinks are kind of, uh, poisonous about the town.

Um, he is sort of the first character who really accepts Ryan for what he is and really helps him to understand how this town works and how to, like, find his footing here, and becomes like a brother to him. He is a, he's a

fantastic character. He's also very funny.

Uh, portrayed by, uh, Adam Brody. Um, even though he, like, kind of fucks up more than a human being could conceivably fuck up, uh, in their lifetime, he's still like a really, really great character.

Rachel:

Well, Seth is Adam Brody. Um...

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

Ryan is Ben McKenzie.

Griffin:

Oh, did I say Ryan was...

Rachel:

I think— I don't know how, uh, that all worked out, but I just— [laughs]

Griffin:

Okay, Seth is Adam Brody. Ryan is played by Ben McKenzie...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... who is in, uh, Gotham.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, uh, Summer and Marissa are two other characters, and they also, like... It's so fascinating how, like, every character is built around the town, like, it really gives the place a real sense of place.

Uh, and Summer and Marissa, they represent, like, another kind of dichotomy of how people respond to this town and how they, like, internalize its impact on the people who live there, both, like, the fun and benign like, "Hey. We live in a fancy, ritzy beach town," and also, like, the more harmful side of things.

And Marissa certainly ends up sort of representing that side of things a lot more. Um, and Ryan, for what his character is which is, like, this audience surrogate and doorway into, uh, into this new world, is actually really great.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like, the character's really great, and watching him grow from season to season, uh, from a sort of self-destructive, um, lonely guy to somebody who has a huge support circle, uh, and somebody who really, like, knows who they are and what they want out of their life is, like, so satisfying. Like, you are, you are always rooting for him.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And he has this, he has this character, like, trait of being a tough guy from the wrong side of the tracks or whatever. But really, like, they play up his vulnerability so much and that's...

Rachel:

Well, you know what... Something that I thought about a lot, too, since we've watched it is that they're all kind of misfits. Like, they're all kind of outsiders. Like, Ryan is the most obvious one, and then, you know, like Seth and Sandy definitely.

But even like Kirsten and, and, um, Marissa, uh, and Summer, like, they all kind of feel, like, uncomfortable, um, in their own skin a little bit. And it feels very much like even though it's unrelatable in a lot of ways because they're

living this, like, really privileged lifestyle, like, they all feel that kind of teen feeling of, like, "I don't know who I am and I don't know how I fit in to this."

Griffin:

Yes. And it— What I should've mentioned this earlier. The privilege represented in this show...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... is cloying.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

It... Like, don't get it on your skin 'cause it'll melt...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... right through to the bone. Um, but yeah, like, what you said is absolutely true. And what's really, like... Again, like, I can't drive this home enough, like, I... This show is, uh, occasionally a bit, um... I don't know how to put this. It's... It is a teen drama, right? Like, they show this show in syndication on the Soap Network, which tells you, like, "Yeah, and it is kind of soap opera-y at times."

This is not a dumb show by any means. I think it is an incredibly thoughtful sort of, um, way to make a, a city, make a place almost, like, the villain, like, not just the setting, but the villain where, like, these characters have flaws, yes, but almost all of those flaws stem from this place where they live and the way that they were brought up in this place.

Rachel:

You know, you know what other show was kind of like that? Like, another show that where the, where the environment is very much a character and the parents of these teens are very, like, well-thought-out, like, rich figures is Friday Night Lights.

Griffin:

Yeah, Friday Night Lights is absolutely that. Yeah, Friday Night Lights does a great job of that, where like...

Rachel:

It's like a teen show where the parents actually exist, have their own lives and, like, they're very much rooted in the place, which is not something you see in a lot of teen shows.

Griffin:

And The OC is a lot more, like, tawdry than...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... Friday Night Lights is. Friday Night Lights is a lot more grounded than The OC is.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But, like, yeah. And both shows, I think, do a really interesting thing where the town, the setting of the show is kind of the source of friction for most of the things that happen. But it's also like while you are watching it, you are entranced by it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, the, like, music and photography and everything about The OC, like, when you watch it, it almost feels like you're on vacation in these places.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, like, I do think of it as, like, a sort of, uh, escapist...

Rachel:

Yes, totally.

Griffin:

... thing to watch, despite the fact that, like, the through line of the show is this town has fucked these people up, and it's only through their relationships with each other that they're able to survive because you see over and over and over again what happens to people when they don't have those sorts of relationships.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, that's when the show's, like, firing on all cylinders. Sometimes it's just, like, this person is poor, so they have a gun.

Rachel:

Well... Yeah.

Griffin:

It does that like once or twice and it's like, "The OC, come on."

Rachel:

Or, like, so and so is being self-destructive right now because something happened that they can't deal with.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like, it follows these kinda typical through lines.

Griffin:

And that's, that's what I was talking about. It, it does occasionally, like, falter and is, like, again, a bit problematic at times.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But a lot of the times, like, when, when it has its head on straight, and I think it, it gets there, like especially season two, season three. Um, season one is great because it, like, lays down all the, like, groundwork for this stuff. But as it moves forward, like, it really does focus on the town and, you know, class struggles and identity struggles in a town that, like, rewards conformity in, in such a, like, uh, like, integral way to everybody's being. But it does so in, like, I don't know, a way that is, like, kind of nuanced and really, really clever. Uh, there's a lot of other great characters who we haven't mentioned: Julie Cooper, who also has like an incredible growth arc from...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... the show's beginning to the show's end; uh, Jimmy Cooper, who is her sort of estranged, uh, ex who is another kind of perpetual fuck-up, who I think actually caused the housing crisis in real life. Um, uh, Taylor Townsend, who is kind of like this, uh, I don't know, teacher's pet, I guess, who somehow finds her way into the group.

Rachel:

Griffin and I had a lot of conversations about Taylor Townsend.

Griffin:

I love Taylor Townsend. She is fantastic.

Rachel:

First watch of the show, did not like her at all.

Griffin:

Challenging.

Rachel:

Couldn't relate to her. Second watch, I was a little more on Team Taylor, but I will say she is definitely not one of my faves.

Griffin:

Wrong. Incorrect. I mean, your opinion's not incorrect and I value it and I cherish it.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but what I really love about this show is, like, it has these great characters, right? But it also... The reason I keep coming back to it is because it's built pretty much completely, like, the pitch for this show, uh, is built around my favorite storytelling trope, which is found family. This show is explicitly about found family.

It is about Ryan being brought into this family. Um, so, like, you're injected into this world of Newport and you're introduced to this family that has a really specific way of navigating it. And then you're shown what happens, how they have to, like, recalibrate once somebody new is brought in. Like, Ryan starts with nothing, episode one.

Like, he has no friends, no nurturing family members to speak of, like, nothing, uh, and rebuilds his support circle from scratch as the show goes on. And it is so loving and so delightful to watch that process happen.

Rachel:

I didn't know that you were such a big found family guy.

Griffin:

Oh, hell yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, not found family guy. That's an unfortunate phrase.

Griffin:

No, dude. I love it.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, Quid... Quid... Quidward?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

That's not his name. I'm thinking of Squidward.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Peter, he's always up to no good.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah. It makes sense now, though, that you mention it, like, given, like, what I've seen you do with The Adventure Zone, like...

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

It's very much a thing. Never knew that.

Griffin:

What's your first thing?

Rachel:

My first thing.

Griffin:

By the way, The OC, I think, is all on, uh, Hulu right now, so you can go watch it. But again, I did warn you. At times, it's kind of rough.

Rachel:

Yeah. You... Measure it against a show like Dawson's Creek, which is one that I very much loved at the time. Uh, not as good.

Griffin:

It beats the shit outta Dawson's Creek, I think.

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah. Uh, my first thing is a character trait that I wanted to bring...

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

... as wonderful, which is curiosity.

Griffin:

Absolutely.

Rachel:

That's one thing that I realized as I got older, it's a, uh, it's a trait that I just think is such a win for a person, uh, and is something that I really strive to do in myself and something I've really respected about the people that I feel closest to. So I wanted to bring it as my thing.

Griffin:

Well, go ahead and break it down.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, so curiosity has been linked to happiness, creativity, satisfying intimate relationships, increased personal growth, uh, and increased meaning in life. And this is some information I got from an Atlantic article in 2017. Um, but, uh, it's been shown as a core determinant of academic achievement.

Griffin:

I believe that. I think that I only became curious about things after I graduated from college, and then I was like, "Boy, I'm curious about history. I wish there was a way to learn about history." [laughs]

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin:

I wish there was a way to know anything about world or US or...

Rachel:

Well, and so this is what a lot of the articles I read, and also there are a lot of TED Talks about this, of this idea that, um, children are inherently curious.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

But much of the way that classroom learning goes doesn't really encourage that curiosity.

Griffin:

Yeah. I, I mean, I was always blown away by, like... I have friends who are now history teachers. They were so deeply into history and it's like man, how can you even work up the nerve to...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... care about any of this stuff? And now I'm like, "Wow. Shit."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I watch Jeopardy! and I'm like, "Oops."

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, yeah, and there's actually... there's a lot of interesting TED Talks too about, um, trivia and the role trivia has in kind of building your curiosity.

Griffin:

Oh, interesting.

Rachel:

Like, the whole pub quiz...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... phenomenon and just kind of what happens to your brain in those environments is really interesting.

Griffin:

I mostly just get angry 'cause I'm sure everybody else is lookin' at their phones. That's what happens...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... to my brain.

Rachel:

No, that's true.

Griffin:

It just turns into—

Rachel:

It's kinda why we stopped doin' it.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, so what they... this article calls, like, the difference between intellectually gifted, which is kind of, you know, the standard interpretation of what gifted is, and motivationally gifted is a way of kind of gauging your curiosity.

Griffin:

Mm. I imagine the latter feeds into the former, right? Like, if you are curious to learn about things, you will learn about things and then be...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... more sort of intellectually gifted.

Rachel:

Yeah. Um, motivationally gifted people display extreme enjoyment of school and learning, of challenging, difficult, and novel tasks and an orientation towards mastery, curiosity, and persistence.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

Uh, so I read another article on Fast Company about, uh... that said that the average 6 to 18-year-old asks only one question per one-hour class per

month, and contrast that with the average teacher who peppers kids with 291 questions a day.

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

It's an average of one second per reply.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Um, yeah, so I just... I thought that was...

Griffin:

291 questions a day and waits one second...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... for a reply.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

That seems a little high to me.

Rachel:

Yeah. I don't know what their source is on that. Um, but I think for me, I always loved school. Um, and I, you know, I didn't always love my classmates, but I always loved the opportunity to sit in a room and kind of discover things. And the teachers that I loved the most were the ones that kind of engaged me in the opportunity to ask questions, uh, which I think is probably why I got into English literature so much, because that class, more than any other class, is kind of designed to interact.

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

You know. Like, when you're learning facts and formulas, there's little opportunity, at least in the way I was taught, to kind of exchange and give your thoughts and opinions.

Griffin:

But that's not to discredit, like, more scientific educational pursuits because I think that...

Rachel:

No, I think there's a better way to do it.

Griffin:

I think that sense of, like, um, discovery and excitement about, like, mastery like you mention, like, would absolutely exist. I get that a little bit now. I've done, like, some, uh, like, coding and stuff like that, and every time I learn something new and how to make something work in that, I feel that sense of, like, engagement with the thing because I believe I can do it. And I think that, uh, exist... uh, it existed for me absolutely growing up doing, uh, you know, more literary educational stuff because one, I understood, like, what a piece of work was about and...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... the author's intent. I was engaged with it in that way.

Rachel:

Well, that's why the shift has really been towards this, like, project-based learning.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Of getting kids to sit down and, and learn these basic skills, like these kind of, you know, "STEM," like, skills, uh, through projects so they are working together and accomplishing something, like you were talking about with, like, coding, where you see a finished product and you engage all of these skills and you investigate and that kind of thing.

Griffin:

I can't stop thinking about, since, like, STEM became part of sort of the national education conversation, uh, how different my life would've been...

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

... if it was a thing when I was a kid. 'Cause I swear to God I would've, I would've grabbed onto it completely and I would not be doing this podcast right now. Like, I would be in a completely different field, I feel like, because I find that stuff so fascinating, but I also feel, like, way behind the curve on it. And if I had gotten started, I feel like that would've been a thing that I would've, like, really latched on to.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's exciting, though, for, like, Henry and, like, this generation, that they're gonna have this, like, this huge doorway open to 'em.

Rachel:

Hopefully. I mean, hopefully it's not just kind of a trend, you know, and all of a sudden there's gonna be a shift in the next few years towards something totally different.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um...

Griffin:

History'll finally get its day.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

It's history-based.

Rachel:

I had very—

Griffin:

Social studies-based learning.

Rachel:

I had very few good, uh, history and math teachers, which is a shame, uh, because I like, I like puzzles. I like stories, obviously, uh, and both of those could really lend themselves to that. But...

Griffin:

I think I had good history teachers. I just, like, I just couldn't be less interested in it when I was younger 'cause I was so, like... Uh, history was one of those things in school where it's like, "I'm gonna learn this so I can answer a question on a test, and then I'm gonna try to forget it instantly..."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"... so I can memorize more, like, Pokemon evolution requirements."

Rachel:

So what if you had had a teacher that was like, "Thomas Jefferson, in a way, is like the Jigglypuff of the Pokemon universe"?

Griffin:

Yeah, I mean I definitely would've, like...

Rachel:

[crosstalk] Do you think that would have worked? [laughs]

Griffin:

... latched on to that. I mean, I'd be standing on my desk by the end of, you know...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... that period. Um, that was a good one.

Rachel:

Yeah. I just, I wanted to bring that up, um... I just feel like it is such a valuable characteristic. I feel like it's one thing that works about our relationship, um, is that we continue to wanna know what the other person thinks about things. And you continue, even if you've been with somebody for years and years, to look at them and say, "Hey, you know what? What did you think about that when that happened?"

Griffin:

Yeah, absolutely. Like interpersonally speaking, it's a really good thing to have. But also, I have found, like, as uh, I move further into my journey into adulthood... That was the weirdest imaginable way to phrase that.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um...

Rachel:

As you get older. [laughs]

Griffin:

As I get older, like, I find myself wanting more and more to try to like more things.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It is a... It is such an, uh, it's such an important trait, I feel like, for being a good person, for being open-minded and respectful of, like, other people's, um... the shit other people are into. Uh, trying to open yourself up to that stuff, like, you lose literally nothing and...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... you have the potential to gain some new skill or some new hobby or interest or some new relationship with a person who's into that stuff that you didn't have before.

Rachel:

Yeah, and I will say it, it would be, um... I would be remiss if I didn't mention that my ultimate role model for this is my grandmother, who just led with curiosity my entire life and was one of the people who, when I was in middle school or high school, she, like, would literally tell me she wanted to live forever because she wanted to see what happened next. You know?

Griffin:

She's...

Rachel:

There was just this intense curiosity that made her just, like, the best hostess...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... at any party, uh, and continues to make her the funniest person I know because she's very engaged in what's happening and wants to know kind of what everybody is doing and makes everybody feel welcome because she genuinely is interested in what they have to say.

Griffin:

She helped found a computer club, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... in her community and—

Rachel:

Yeah, for older residents. It was incredible.

Griffin:

Uh, I went over to her house I think, like, the second time or so that I met her, and she showed me her computer and a bunch of old CR-ROMs of games that she had.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

A lot of which I never even heard of.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

There was, like, a wild west style, like, first-person shooter like Doom.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

She's like, "You wanna play this?" And I was like, "Fuck, yeah..."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"... I wanna play this." Like, she's so into, like, technology and...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... that stuff.

Rachel:

Or, well, she was. At this point...

Griffin:

She was at the time.

Rachel:

At this point, yeah, at this point she doesn't have kind of the mental ability to keep up with stuff like that, but, um, but yeah, it just, it taught me so much from a young age of just, like, the best way to connect with people and to enjoy your life is to continue to seek out new information and learn from the people around you. So I think that's invaluable.

Griffin:

That's kinda what disappoints me the... like, a lot... Not the most. There's a lot of things that disappoint me about the internet, but one thing that really disappoints me is just how easy it is for people to turn on shit or develop, like, a negative impression towards something before they even try to understand why people like that thing.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

I... And I'm talking specifically about media here and less about, you know, you know, political beliefs. And, uh, obviously that is a, a whole nother kettle of fish. But somebody's who's just like, [scoffs]. I see this in games literally...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... constantly because that is one where it's, uh, inherently a very divisive thing because people's, um, uh, preferences towards genre informs...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... almost entirely, like, what they play, and so every other genre, genres that have never really clicked for them, they largely will just assume is shitty: "Uh, this is a game that I don't enjoy, so you're an idiot for not... for liking it." When really, like, just give it a try and then if you like it, congratulations. You like more stuff. Like...

Rachel:

Yes. [laughs] That's a good way to put it.

Griffin:

That's a good thing.

Rachel:

Yeah, don't dig your heels in when you're confronted with something that, you know, could potentially expand your world.

Griffin:

Yeah. Uh, speaking of, hey, can I steal you away?

Rachel:

I think you should go. I feel like I've done a lot this.

Griffin:

Wah-wah-wah... Hold on. Lemme do some animal sounds. I've been doing those a lot for Henry. What do you... what animal do you want?

Rachel:

Uh, I really like your pig.

Griffin:

[imitates pig snorting]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Let me take that again.

Rachel:

That was terrible.

Griffin:

Lemme take that again. [imitates pig snorting]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

That last one really got away from me.

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh.

Griffin:

It internalized in my larynx.

Rachel:

Ooh.

[ad break]

Griffin:

You wanna read that first Jumbotron for me?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Well, for the audience, but I will also receive it.

Rachel:

This message is for Julia. It is from John, Alexandria and Hayla-Anne. "J. Bates the girl, happy birthday. Thank you for introducing us to the good, good McElroy family. We love you a ton and can't wait for you to move back south. But really, we're happy you love what you do and where you live, even if it is in NYC. Love, your oldest bro, J. Bates the boy..."

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

"... your middlest sis Dria, and your baby niece, two under two Hayla Anne." That's pronounced Hayla.

Griffin:

You know, Forbes is really, um...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... catching a lot of shit for their two under two list 'cause it's like what kind of accomplishments could they possibly—

Rachel:

And Henry didn't make it and I was little outraged.

Griffin:

Well, the competition was stiff this year. Um, of course the Ally McBeal Dancing Baby made the list again.

Rachel:

Still under two, even after all this time?

Griffin:

Well, he's digital, so he don't get older. Um...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, the baby from Baby's Day Out was mostly digital.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Also on the list. And that was, uh, incredible. That baby did not fall off that scaffolding.

Rachel:

Boss Baby.

Griffin:

Boss Baby. Huge.

Rachel:

Ooh. Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, here's another Jumbotron. This one is for Ashley and it's from Jenna who says, "Hey, bud. I just wanna say that you've been an amazing, dare I say wonderful," you may say it. Uh...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"... best friend to me, and I'm super grateful to have you in my life. Here's to almost a decade of best friendship and all the polar bears, tissue birds, and good, good boys we've encountered along the way. I love you, dude." Aw, that's very nice.

Rachel:

That is very nice.

Griffin:

But you haven't encountered that many polar bears 'cause if you had, you'd be destroyed by these big, big bears. They... Uh, listen. Polar bears? Big, soft, sweet? Coca-Cola's like, "Snuggle up to one of these things." If they think you are a big piece of cod or some haddock, RIP.

Rachel:

Hard truths.

Griffin:

Hard truths here on Wonderful!.

[Max Fun ad]

[phone rings]

Hal:

Yeah, Mark?

Mark:

Hey, buddy.

Hal:

Oh, hey. What's up, man?

Mark:

Um, so I'm at this mafia restaurant.

Hal:

What?

Mark:

I'm gonna go in and ask these guys what they think the best pasta shape is.

Hal:

Mark, they're probably eating. It's...

Mark:

I have a hunch that it's probably ravioli, but I mean... You know what? That's a good idea. Whatever they're eating, I'll just take a look in their bowls...

Hal:

What are you...

Mark:

... and see what they have.

Hal:

Maybe...

Mark:

There's supposed to be a big meeting there today.

Hal:

Can you see it from the street? That sounds really dangerous.

Mark:

I'm just gonna go inside and ask.

Hal:

No, don't bother them. They're probably eating, you know—

Mark:

Well, look, I'm not threatened by them.

Hal:

How about we tell them what they best pasta is on our podcast, We Got This, with Mark and Hal?

Mark:

Oh, that's a great idea.

Hal:

My God.

Mark:

Tuesdays at 9?

Hal:

On MaximumFun.org.

Speaker:

Hey, I love that show! [ad break ends]

Griffin:

Can I tell you about my second thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

I'm excited 'cause you told me that you had a song...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... that you wanted to do, and I also was gonna bring a song so it'll be a, sort of a musical back nine here.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Um, but our songs are gonna be so completely different, and that excites me to no end because the song I have chosen to talk about today is D'Angelo's Untitled (How Does It Feel).

Rachel:

Ooh. Interesting.

Griffin:

Um, I wanna make it clear before we get going that, uh, I love this song in a completely unironic, pure, wholesome way as...

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh. To...

Griffin:

... Rachel can attest.

Rachel:

To see Griffin just groove to this song is... It's inspiring.

Griffin:

Um, you... The title is strange, right? Untitled (How Does It Feel). You may not remember this song. I'm going to play a little bit of it now just to set the stage, to set the mood if you will, because you have heard this song at some point, probably in the early '00s.

[Untitled (How Does It Feel) clip plays]

So, uh, Untitled (How Does It Feel), which I'm gonna move on and just call How Does It Feel because their real title is kind of a mouthful, uh, also it's not untitled. You can't call something untitled and— Okay, no. You're D'Angelo. You can do whatever you want.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, this song is off of D'Angelo's 2000 album Voodoo, which was this hugely successful album. It won Best R&B Album, uh, the Grammy for Best R&B Album in 2000. Uh, Untitled snagged him the Best Male Vocal R&B Grammy. Like, it was a runaway hit. Um, and this song is sort of the big single off of the album, and it is a... obviously a very erotically charged song, but it's also, like, really tender at points.

Like, a lot of it is kind of boasting. There's a line, uh, "And if you'll have me, I can provide everything that you desire," like oh, all right. Talkin' a big game there, D'Angelo. Uh, but there's a few lines that are actually really vulnerable. The first verse ends with "You've already got me right where you want me, baby. I just wanna be your man." Uh, and at times, it's also very, very explicit.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, like the line... I... Should I say the line?

Rachel:

I'm curious.

Griffin:

Let's say it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, "I'd love to make you wet in between your thighs."

Rachel:

Whoa, hey.

Griffin:

"'Cause I love when it comes inside you."

Rachel:

Hoo.

Griffin:

"I get so excited when I'm around you." That last line is actually kind of sweet. Um, or...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... it could be talking about a boner. But the rest of it is... Yes. But for the most part, like, all that stuff aside, it's a very stripped down, um, no pun intended, which we'll get back to...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... here in a bit. Uh, it's a very stripped down song, um, and it kind of also implies with, like, its central thesis a very thoughtful and considerate approach to physical intimacy. Like, "Hey, how does it feel?"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Like, that really is kind of what the song is about.

Rachel:

I never thought about it that way.

Griffin:

Um, but musically, it is so interesting, the song. Like, the harmonies particularly in the chorus as it evolves and repeats, uh, the harmonies are just gorgeous beyond belief. Um, my favorite thing about this song is how much it just constantly drags. If you really listen to it, like the drums and the, like, guitar stings that drop in, uh, are almost never on the same beat.

Everything's always like a half beat behind, and so the song is just very, very, like... It just drags in a way that is, like, really, really interesting and very, like... I don't know. It sets the mood, uh, in a big, big way. Um, the, like, pacing of the lyrics, like, changes from line to line. Uh, I imagine this to be a very difficult song to do karaoke to 'cause it's just like I don't know when D'Angelo's gonna start singin' this time. But I guess we will see.

Rachel:

You know what it would be a good song for though?

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

A figure skating routine.

Griffin:

It would be the best figure skating routine probably of all time.

Rachel:

Just the changes in tempo.

Griffin:

I don't know who the figure skater would be who could actually pull that off right now.

Rachel:

Yeah, I don't know.

Griffin:

Uh, anyway, I love this song. I listen to it all the time. No joke. Uh, it's on our pre-show live show playlist, so before each live show that we do, you will hear this song in the audience at some point because despite the fact that it is a very, like... It's doin' it music.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Like, and that's the fact. Uh, it also, like, kind of gets me pumped up, not for doin' it, but just to do a live show, I guess, uh, because, like, it builds to a... climax. No, it, like, builds...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and builds and builds and, like, it is so, like, explosive towards... I...There's literally no way to talk about this without some— Um, but here's the thing. Uh, How Does It Feel, it didn't really, like, stick with me as a genius, great song the first time I heard it back in, in the early aughts, um, and there's a reason for that, and that's kind of the sad legacy of this song, which is the music video. Uh, the music video is a one shot music video. It is just a close up on a sweaty, ripped, nude D'Angelo. Have you seen the music video?

Rachel:

I have not.

Griffin:

Have you really not?

Rachel:

I have really not.

Griffin:

I'll show you a few seconds.

Rachel:

Yeah no, I have not seen this. [laughs]

Griffin:

Wow, okay. So it's D'Angelo. Um, it's just him nude as the camera pans around, and you almost see his donger, but not quite. It always pans back up just before it hits sort of the top of the donger. Uh, it-it's, it's, it's just a very, very erotic video, right? And it really works for the song, right? And it was hugely popular.

Uh, despite the fact that it was, uh, you know, so explicit, it got, like, huge air time on VH1 and MTV. Uh, it was... That was the problem, is that this video was so popular and it became such a huge gateway for people to discover D'Angelo's music, um, that it set him up as this huge sex symbol. And that completely overshadowed everything else he had ever done and everything else...

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

... on the album and everything that he had worked on. Uh, I was reading about, like, he did a tour for Voodoo, the album that this was on, and, you know, women would just scream for him to take his clothes off during literally...

Rachel:

Oh, man.

Griffin:

... every song.

Rachel:

That's a bummer.

Griffin:

That is a bummer. Like, it really got to him. Uh, his, uh, his manager, uh, at the time, Dominique Trenier, uh, has a quote where he talks about the disappointment that he had for this music video and it's effect on, on D'Angelo's career. Uh, and he said, "To this day, in the general populace's memory, he's the naked dude." Um...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And Questlove, who was a producer on, on Voodoo, said that, uh, had he known what the repercussions of Untitled would've been, I don't think he would've done it. Um...

Rachel:

Yeah, of course.

Griffin:

And so after that time, like, things got very, very rough for, for D'Angelo. He finished that tour and, um, he has a quote saying, like, he never knew why a fan was a fan. Like, he never knew why people were engaging with his music, which was, like, so disappointing to him 'cause he had created this, uh, like, critically-praised masterpiece, and then the dialogue about it was, "Remember when that dude got naked for the music video?"

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, and so he went on sabbatical for like 12 years. And during that time, things were really rough. He struggled with alcohol, uh, and addiction. And while he, like, occasionally collaborated with some artists on some stuff, he was supposed to put out this, like, big album that he just couldn't write. He just couldn't do it.

Um, and it stayed that way until, of course, in 2014 he dropped Black Messiah, which was his big comeback album. And man, what a, what a fucking way to come back. That album rules tool. Too. So.

Rachel:

Yeah, I feel like that happens to a lot of artists, uh, and musicians, is they get kind of categorized in a particular, um, you know, stereotype, and then they have to spend their whole career fighting against that.

Griffin:

Yeah, it's a shame in, like, so many ways specifically in this instance because, you know, D'Angelo felt, for whatever reason, like he had to put his entire career on hold until he, like, recovered from this. Um, but I think this... the sort of smaller thing that's more relevant to what we're talking about is I think Untitled (How Does It Feel) is a brilliant, uh, incredible song. Uh, but it specifically is the naked dude song.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I think... And that's why, like, I didn't, like, really, I didn't really listen to it. You watch that music video and it's a, you know, whatever. It's a good music video and it matches the tone of the song, which is sort of the goal of a music video. But you watch that music video and it's like, "There's a naked man," and you're not listening to, like, this really, really interesting, great song.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But now, I, you know, I went a decade without listening to it or watching the music video and it came up in a, like, a Spotify recommends and I was like, "Oh, shit. I remember this jam. Oh, it's brilliant."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's very good.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Uh, so let's hear your, uh, song that you wanna talk about, and maybe we can compare and contrast, uh, between How Does It Feel and your second thing.

Rachel:

Uh, so my second thing is the song Same Dark Places by JR JR.

Griffin:

Yeah. By... Formerly Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., right?

Rachel:

Yeah. So...

Griffin:

I can't imagine why they had to change that name.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, I became a Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. fan, uh, with the album It's a Corporate World from 2011. Love every single song on that album. It's incredible.

Griffin:

I think we had a bunch of those songs in, like, our wedding, uh, like, playlist that they played at our wedding. I know we had Nothing... Nothing But Our Love is on that album, right?

Rachel:

Yeah, yeah. And the, uh, the song about Detroit is on that album...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... which is incredible. Uh-

Griffin:

They-they're really good. Can you kind of describe, like, what their thing is?

Rachel:

Yeah, so it's, uh... I mean, it's two front guys. It's Daniel Zott and Joshua Epstein. Um, and it's kind of like poppy, like, kind of psychedelic, kind of like Polyphonic Spree a little bit.

Griffin:

I think so, but, like, with more a, uh, electronic edge, I think...

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, and just really kind of joyful, upbeat music. Uh, I've always really liked that every time I hear a new song of theirs, and I just recently heard this one that I'm bringing this week, uh, it just makes me just happy. Um.

Griffin:

Maybe let's, uh, let's listen to it first, uh, before we, we dive into it, uh, any deeper so folks...

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

... kind of know what it sounds like, [Same Dark Places clip plays]

Rachel:

Uh, so if you are a fan of the show 13 Reasons Why, uh, this is the first song on the TV show soundtrack.

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

Uh...

Griffin:

Good for JR JR.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, they... It's been a while since they've had a full album come out, but the song just came out in 2017 and, uh, it's overwhelmingly positive. Um, and it's, it's very similar to their other songs in that, you know, it has kind of a similar sound.

Uh, but the thing I really like about it is kind of the thing that I liked about R.E.M.'s Everybody Hurts in that there's just kind of this, like, really, like, almost, uh, stubborn, like, push towards just persisting. Uh, and there are lines in it that just speak really clearly to people that are feeling isolated or, or alone, um, in a very kind of poppy way, unlike, you know, Everybody Hurts. Like, we are...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

We are really dancin' this one out.

Griffin:

Yeah. Yeah, I could dance to Everybody Hurts.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I could give that a— I could give that a run.

Rachel:

Uh, so lemme just, just highlight one of the lyrics that I like. Um, "You weren't meant to follow. Everyone looks different in a frame, since they're so

good at their own game. And you might be all right with that, whoa, but I can't waste my time like that anymore. Uh, I know everybody goes to the same dark places. Sometimes in the dead of night when you think you can't make it, you might find I left a light beside the bed for you 'cause I've been there too."

Uh, so yeah, I, I don't know. I'm always drawn to this, this kind of art and music that recognizes the tendency in people to feel, uh, isolated or removed or separate, you know, and recognizing that that is a very common feeling. And that doesn't take away from how difficult it is, but there is an opportunity to kind of connect with this shared feeling of that. Uh, and I feel like this song does that in a really great way.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's also, like, they're a very, very good band. Like, all...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... of the, all of the music that they make is very, um... I feel like I use this word a lot to describe music, but it really is. Like, it describes the type of music that I like the most, which is it's interesting. Like, there's a lot of stuff going on in all of their songs that is not... It's kind of the opposite of How Does It Feel...

Rachel:

Yeah, usually...

Griffin:

... in that regard.

Rachel:

... not remotely sexual or erotic in any way. [laughs]

Griffin:

No, no. But it is, like... There's a lot of, like, pieces. There's a lot of moving pieces in their songs, and...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... that's why I like relistening to them. I've listened to Nothing But Our Love, like, constantly 'cause there's just, like, little, uh, like, synth arpeggios that just appear and then fade away and never come back in, and it's just like, "That was just... You just brought that in for that one little part. That's so cool." Um, and, and you sent me this song this afternoon 'cause you told me you were gonna talk about it, and I've listened to it a couple times too. They're...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

They're just a really good band.

Rachel:

It's a relatively new song, again, that's called Same Dark Places. Uh, you can find it on YouTube. Uh, and I would really recommend it. It's a good little, feel-good jam.

Griffin:

Are they a local band?

Rachel:

They're from Detroit.

Griffin:

Oh. I guess that... Yes.

Rachel:

I did see them at... I think the first time I saw them perform was at ACL...

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

... here, but...

Griffin:

Uh, cool. Do you wanna hear some submissiones?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

I don't know why I called 'em that. Will you ever forgive me?

Rachel:

I'll think about it.

Griffin:

Anna says, "My dog has been working at the nursing home my mom works at as a therapy dog, and the, uh, the people there love her. Recently, the residents threw her a birthday party, complete with banners, handmade decorations and a cake in the shape of a bone that was specially made so that both people and my puppy could eat it." Again.

Rachel:

Oh, my God.

Griffin:

I have to tackle how that is possible, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

Rachel:

Peanut butter. Peanut butter unites all species.

Griffin:

I guess that's true, except for people who are allergic to peanut butter.

Rachel:

Oh, that's true. Okay.

Griffin:

Are they not humans, Rachel?

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Uh, "They also brought her, uh, dog toys and gave her some treats as presents. The joy that this dog party brought the residents, me and my dog was so wonderful, and I just wanted to share it with you guys." Thank you for sharing it.

Rachel:

That's awesome.

Griffin:

It's very good. Maria says, "I know I'm definitely in the minority here, but I think that the end pieces, or butt pieces as the haters call them, of bread are wonderful. I always liked the crust on my sandwiches from a young age, and the fact that the two pieces, uh, on the loaf that are basically all cruft..."
Cruft? In my mind, they're cruft, but the crust.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, "is wonderful. I'm the only person I know that will actively eat this part. So I always know that I'll be the one to get this sweet slice."

Rachel:

Hey, hey secret? Top secret? Me too.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Hey, you know what? You're not alone. [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah, there's...

Rachel:

Me too.

Griffin:

There's tens of us.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Uh, I said us. I'm absolutely not in this number.

Rachel:

I will watch Griffin very specifically not eat crust.

Griffin:

... Yuck, yuck, yuck.

Rachel:

Uh, I love some crust, I'll tell you what.

Griffin:

I just love a firm bread, right? Like a sourdough, like, boule.

Rachel:

Mm.

Griffin:

Uh, but the problem— And I like, like, that sort of springy...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... sort of chewy, very, um...

Rachel:

Like, like, uh—

Griffin:

... like, activated bread.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But the problem with that bread is that the crust, in turn, also gets like a hundred times harder, and it's just no good on my teeth. I gets in between it, cuts me all up. No thanks. But I'm glad that you... I included this despite the fact that I disagree vehemently...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... with it because I just wanted everybody to know it takes all kinds. It takes a whole village...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... to eat a loaf of bread.

Rachel:

You know, if you're gonna love bread, some of us will love all parts of the bread.

Griffin:

Yes. Uh, Kimberly says, "What I find wonderful is when somebody brings me a souvenir when they come home from a trip. There's something special

about a friend or family member buying me a little something from a local gift shop while they're on vacation somewhere."

Rachel:

Aw.

Griffin:

"It makes me feel like a special person in their life..."

Rachel:

I love that.

Griffin:

"Uh, in their life to know that they thought of me, even when they're out of town."

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

That's very sweet.

Rachel:

That's the best 'cause you know if somebody's traveling, they have every reason to be distracted. But when they get you a little something, it's like "Aw, you were thinking about me."

Griffin:

You were thinkin' of me. My Nonni was a travel agent who would travel constantly. And every time she came back into town, we were kind of, like, spoiled brats about it, actually, 'cause we'd be like, "Mm, present, pwease?"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but she always would bring us, like, weird stuff from all over, and it was like the most exciting shit.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, I think that's it. Thank you to Bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. Uh, it's a... You can find a link to that in the episode description. It's a really, really great song. Uh, and hey, thanks to Maximum Fun.

Rachel:

Yeah. Hey, if you haven't checked out Story Break yet, that is another new podcast on Maximum Fun where they develop, kind of improv style, these elaborate, uh, pitches for stories, and it's, uh, great.

Griffin:

It's a lot of fun.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, if you wanna hear other stuff that we do, you can go to mcelroyshows.com and you can find all our podcasts and video stuff that we do there. Um, I think that's about it, huh?

Rachel:

That's it.

Griffin:

Uh, if you wanna submit something to the show, it's wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. Uh, we have a PO box, PO box 66639 Austin, Texas 78766.

Rachel:

If you wanna join the Facebook group, it is still listed under RoseBuddiesCast if you are searching for it. But it is...

Griffin:

Oh, is it really?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Wow, okay.

Rachel:

But it is very active and it is a great place to go to share your wonderful things.

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure. Okay, that's it. So— Uh, I was just gonna say bye, but that would be...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... rude.

Rachel:

That's not how we do it.

Griffin:

Could we end this one like an episode of Terrace House? Do you know what I mean?

Rachel:

No. Oh.

Griffin:

Uh, [in the distance] just be like, "I think I'm in love with him." [door shuts]
[theme song plays]

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Comedy and culture.

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Listener supported.

Allegra Ringo:

I'm Allegra Ringo.

Renee Colvert:

And I'm Renee Colvert, and we host a podcast called Can I Pet Your Dog?.

Allegra Ringo:

Renee, can I tell you about a dog I met this week?

Renee Colvert:

Yeah, I wish that you would. In turn, though, can I tell you about a dog hero?

Allegra Ringo:

May I tell you about a dog breed in a segment I like to call Mutt Minute?

Renee Colvert:

[laughs] Yeah, I would love that. Could we maybe talk about some dog tech?

Allegra Ringo:

Could we have some cool guests on, like Lin-Manuel Miranda, Nicole Byer, and Anne Wheaton?

Renee Colvert:

I mean, yeah. Absolutely.

Allegra Ringo:

I'm in.

Renee Colvert:

You're onboard? What do say we, uh, we do all of this and put it into a podcast?

Allegra Ringo:

Yeah, okay.

Renee Colvert:

You think?

Allegra Ringo:

Perfect.

Renee Colvert:

Oh, should we call it like, I don't know, Can I Pet Your Dog??

Allegra Ringo:

Sure. All right.

Renee Colvert:

Uh, what do you, what do you say we put it on every Tuesday on Maximum Fun?

Allegra Ringo:

Or on iTunes. Sounds good to me.

Renee Colvert:

Meeting's over!