

Wonderful! 22: A Mouthful of Secrets

Published February 14, 2018
Listen here on themcelroy.family

[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful!

Griffin:

Why did I just sound so low energy? Shall we take it again? I'm feeling very psyched out of my mind right now, actually. Um. Really jized.

Rachel:

I just, for the past few episodes, we've been able to record, uh, when our son wasn't sleeping.

Griffin:

Oh, that's why. [laughs] I forgot why I was low energy, and then you said that, and I was like, "Oh, yeah."

Rachel:

And I'm just acutely aware...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... of our proximity to him right now.

Griffin:

No, it's great. Uh, being a parent is great and we love our son very much. It's very much an energy sieve, kind of. It's just like a big pot that we pour the energy into.

Rachel:

Well, I'm just, I'm speaking in my muted tones, specifically.

Griffin:

Yeah. But I am psyched. Is there a way to get that energy across without yelling? Because that's sort of been my go-to move, uh, being a podcaster for...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... the last decade.

Rachel:

Wow, it's true. You do a lot of yelling. You do some clapping, to be honest.

Griffin:

I do a lot of clapping.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

So we can do, like, is there an equivalent of an emoji?

Rachel:

[snapping fingers]

Griffin: I guess that is how poets do it. We can punch the microphone?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

That could be fun. So we tell a funny joke and be, like, [laughs], "Whoop, there it is."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I didn't punch it very hard. Actually, that's the hardest I can punch.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Which I'm sure our listeners are happy about, because otherwise it would've sounded bad.

Rachel:

Hey Griffin, guess what?

Griffin:

What's that?

Rachel:

It's Valentine's Day.

Griffin:

It is V-Day, and we're all very excited about the love and the candy and the, maybe some kissing today. Who knows?

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Yeah. I mean, really every other day, you can still kiss but, you know, think twice. [laughs].

Rachel:

I just, [laughs]. Think twice?

Griffin:

Yeah. You don't know what's in there. Hmm.

Rachel:

In the mouth?

Griffin:

Yeah. The mouth is a little secret cave, isn't it? Little cave of secrets. What's in there? A genie's lamp? Maybe. I don't want to kiss that. Get that weird, metal taste in my mouth. Who knows where that's been?

Rachel:

[laughs]. Before we started recording...

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

... I told Griffin, "Hey, let's tighten up the intro a little bit."

Griffin:

Well, you know this is like the little minute and a half. This is good. Anyway, what's our first thing? You like that? Now how tight is that? Tight as my sealed lips full of who knows what.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Jelly beans maybe.

Rachel:

Uh, should I start with my sweet thing or my, my regular thing?

Griffin:

So we have, weirdly, almost a themed episode for you all, except it's like a box of nerds with two flavors in it...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... 'cause I think we're gonna do... let's start with our Olympics things.

Rachel:

Okay. Uh, my Olympics thing is the tiger mascot of this year's Olympic: Soohorang.

Griffin:

Soohorang. This is speci- obviously, this is a specific to PyeongChang mascot, right? They change this out every year.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, and the thing that's unique, especially unique this year, I don't know if you noticed in the award ceremony, but they're not giving out flowers?

Griffin:

This sucks...

Rachel:

So.

Griffin:

Yes—

Rachel:

No, I think it's sweet.

Griffin:

No, the tiger is amazing, but the fact that there's actually now a huge delay between the medal ceremony and the event's conclusion...

Rachel:

Oh, that's not even what we were talking about.

Griffin:

Right. I didn't mean that it sucks. Soohorang is beautiful and gold and pure...

Rachel:

Yes. Yes.

Griffin:

... I just wish they would give them the medals like right then. But the tiger's great, and I love the tiger.

Rachel:

Here's what I'll tell you that's neat about the tiger.

Griffin:

It's full of gold medals.

Rachel:

So usually they give out flowers.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

This year in order to reduce their environmental footprint...

Griffin:

Ah.

Rachel:

... they're giving out little tiger guys.

Griffin:

What's the tiger guys made out of? Hmm.

Rachel:

Good—

Griffin:

Old flowers?

Rachel:

Good question, Andy Rooney.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Um. So the, uh, the reason I like it... you may want to look this up... I discovered it, uh, because there's footage of this mascot that has a very large head...

Griffin:

I'm watching it right now independent of you telling me about it.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Uh. The mascot has a very large tiger head, and there's great footage online of it getting stuck on the door and the tiger assistant having to push it through the door.

Griffin:

The tiger assistant, which is the most amazing job. "Yeah, I was actually in the 2018 Winter Olympics."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

"Oh, what did you do?" "Um, well I pushed a tiger's big, big head." Th- you need to understand, you are speaking my language. This is absolutely my jam. Any footage of mascots having, I will call it benign, non-dangerous...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... trouble is my shit. There is some sort of event that either Nintendo or the Pokémon company puts on at, like, a theme park or something like that where they have a bunch of dancing Pikachu come out into music, and there's just this incredible video of one of the Pikachu, close to the front of the cluster, um, falling over, which is not good. But they immediately start to get back up but immediately two men rush on stage, who work for, like, the company...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... and they scoop up Pikachu by the armpits and just race it offstage while the other Pikachu just keep on dancing.

Rachel:

Awe, it's wonderful.

Griffin:

It's so good. And this video's fucking incredible. This tiger just can't keep it together.

Rachel:

Uh. So just to tell you a little bit about the tiger, 'cause I don't wanna make light of Soohorang. Um. Even though that is a very funny video.

Griffin:

It's a very good... it's not just funny. It's pure.

Rachel:

So 'sooho' in Korean means, "protection" and 'rang', uh, which according to the official Olympics website has a double meaning. So rang comes from the middle letter of "Ho-rang-i", which is the Korean word for "tiger", and is also the last letter of a cherished traditional folk song of Gangwon Province, where the gang, uh, the games are being held.

Griffin:

That's a very good...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... they really split the up rights with this name, it sounds like. By the way, uh, sorry probably for butchering the pronunciation.

Rachel:

I know, I'm sorry. Uh, the tiger is still seen as a symbol of economic strength representing the urban and aggressively successful modern southern South Korean economy as Asian society has put.

Griffin:

Sooorang is a very good little tiger.

Rachel:

He's a good tiger.

Griffin:

Can you remember any of the other mascots?

Rachel:

Awe, jeez.

Griffin:

There was...

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

... Sochi had a bear, I think.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Um.

Rachel:

And then there was the year where it was the ski pole.

Griffin:

Uh, yeah, there—

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Wait, is that role?

Rachel:

Called Poley.

Griffin:

Now hold on.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

And weirdly, that was for the Summer Olympics.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It was like a promotional effort...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... to get you psyched for the next Winter Olympics.

Rachel:

And then the Summer Olympics, uh, there was...

Griffin:

Well, there was the year they just had Wilson from Cast Away.

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs].

Griffin:

Um. And it just, and it had actually come out eight years prior, but the, you know.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

You know how the Olympics work. Like, they plan these things so far in advance that, you know...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... Cast Away featuring Tom Hanks was still in the tips of everyone's mouth.

Rachel:

Yeah. And then, and then there was the year, uh, too, where it was, um, Glovey.

Griffin:

I think we're actually getting a little close to one that actually might've existed.

Rachel:

Um.

Griffin:

Can I look at a list of Olympic mascots real quick...

Rachel:

Yeah, please.

Griffin:

... just to see if there's any good ones?

Rachel:

Because I am trying to come up with them and it is just not funny. [laughs].

Griffin:

Yeah. There were multiple animals for Sochi 2014. London had a, I believe, an, some sort of alien monster named Wenlock. Turin in 2006 is just like a snowball and an ice cube, I believe, and that's very cool. What's the best one though? Probably Atlanta 1996. I remember this motherfucker. He had his own Super Nintendo video game. His name was Izzy.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

You remember this dude?

Rachel:

Well, that's not a very good picture of Izzy. I don't know what I'm looking at.

Griffin:

I don't know if there's a good picture of Izzy. Do you remember this dude? Do you remember this dude? I remember this dude.

Rachel:

Still, like, what is he though?

Griffin:

Yeah. I think he's... I mean he's carrying the Olympic torch and that's all you need to know about him. He's got big shoes on and he's blue and he's just a lot of good stuff going on there. Thank you, Izzy. Thank you internet for reminding me of Izzy's existence.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Uh, yeah. So, um, obviously plenty of great things to talk about with the Olympics. I chose the mascot.

Griffin:

It's a very good mascot. Um. I want to talk about, and please don't turn off the episode immediately. I want to talk about curling, and I want to talk about it in a purely un-ironic way, 'cause I think it's a really cool sport, but I think that a lot of people... I think it's kind of weirdly positioned as a kind of a gag for a lot of folks, right? Because every other sport in the Winter Olympics involves dope jumps and hot stunts and cool nights.

Rachel:

And also, like, the peak physical condition.

Griffin:

Curling requires... okay, but yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I think curling is a really, really cool game, and I think it's a really dope addition to the Olympic roster. We just watched the luge. The women's single luge finals, and it was, like, I need to calm down after that. Those women were going extremely fast down a very dangerous hill.

Rachel:

Yeah, like 75 miles an hour.

Griffin:

I like to watch some people slide stones across 150 feet of ice. That sounds really good to me. My goal here is to talk about curling for five minutes, and by the end of it maybe you will be interested in curling, listener at home and Rachel. I think you think curling is interesting, but I don't think you are as bought in as I am.

Rachel:

I'm into it. I would love to participate in it. It looks like a fun thing to play.

Griffin:

It does look fucking fun. It's also, arguably, the most inaccessible sport imaginable.

Rachel:

Yeah, like it—

Griffin:

Just behind, like, Jai Alia. I don't know how to go play that one.

Rachel:

If I wanted to curl, I would not know where to go.

Griffin:

I don't think so. Um. So I'm gonna skip over all this shit about the history of the game. So, like, you look at curling. And here's all you need to know. Everybody's shooting their, uh, their, their stones through, these 40-pound granite stones down the ice, it's 150 feet long, towards a target which is called the house, which I think is 20 feet in diameter. And the point of the game is to get your stones closest to the center of the target.

Rachel:

It's like a little bullseye.

Griffin:

It's like a little bullseye. It's four concentric rings. And each stone that you have closer to the center of that target, uh, then your opponent's closest stone, you get one point each. The zones aren't worth multiple points, it's just each stone you have closer than your opponents' stone is one point each. So, like, if you have two stones two inches away and then your opponent, eh, has one three inches away, those two stones each get you a point. And that's all that is.

Rachel:

Mmm. It's kind of like bocce.

Griffin:

It's a lot like bocce. It's a lot like, um... I mean, it's a lot like a lot of games. Like, shuffleboard or table shuffleboard. Um. There are a lot of sort of similarities between, uh, all of these games, except this one takes place on a football field of ice. And so it's a game all about positioning, right? You want to throw your stones, get it closer to the center than your opponent while also, like, knocking your opponents' stones away and placing defensive stones that they can't necessarily get to.

And of course, to aid in that goal, you have sweepers. Uh, typically, a team, a curling team is four people. One person who shoots the stone down the ice. One, and then two sweepers who have their little brooms, and their special, uh, usually Teflon-heeled shoes that they heely down the ice in, making a path.

And whenever they sweep the ice, all they're doing is sort of smoothing out a bit, which reduces the spin that is on the, uh, stone, which they can use to curve around and get around defensive stones and stuff, but it also makes it go a little bit faster. Or rather, it slows its— Wait. It keeps it from slowing down as fast. You can get a little bit of extra distance by sweeping them.

Rachel:

I wonder if there's a little tiny Zamboni that does that rink where the curling happens.

Griffin:

Yeah. There is. I watched a whole video about, uh, uh, getting, uh...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

So this, so this sport is, like, huge in Canada. And so, like, I watched a Canadian... I watched an episode of How It's Made about how curling stones are made, and then I watched one about how to set up your own curling rink at home. It was cost prohibitive.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Um. But so yeah, these, you have two sweepers. And then you have, like, one person kind of calling out, like, when to sweep and stuff like that. Um. And that sweeping, like it may silly. You may wonder, like, "Are they really making that big a difference," but really you think about it, you are sliding a 40-pound granite stone down a football field-sized rink of ice trying to hit another 40-pound stone.

Uh, you know, 150-or-so feet away on that exact right millimeter from the exact right angle with the exact right momentum that's gonna bump that stone where you need it to go. And sometimes you're trying to bump that stone into another stone on its exact right millimeter at its exact right angle... Like, when you start factoring in double shots and, and chain shots, it's like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... bonkers how much math goes into this. And that's why the sweepers are kind of there to help make these adjustments. Obviously, if you touch the stone, you throw it out.

Rachel:

I'm gonna ask a question that you probably don't know...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... uh, the answer to, but do they take turns? Does a team take turns? Like, I'm gonna toss it down the ice, and then next you're gonna toss it down the ice?

Griffin:

I don't know.

Rachel:

Or is it always the sweeper?

Griffin:

Yeah. I don't know. Um. Uh, 'cause I actually focused... and what I really wanted to talk about is mixed doubles, which is a new, uh, sport in the Olympics this year that is so dope, and I think actually a really fun to watch even if you don't give a shit about curling. Um. So I don't know about that. But the teams do take turns shooting first. Uh, and whoever scored last shoots first.

Um. And that is designed to give the player who didn't score, the team that didn't score last the last shot, and they call that the hammer. Because if you think about it, like, you spend however many throws getting the field set up, and then really that last stone is the one that can decide it all, 'cause you get one good throw, you can change the whole field and get your stone closer to the center.

Doesn't matter if your opponent has, like, all of their stones on the ice. You get yours in there, in the middle, and they don't get anything, and you get the point. Um. There's a lot of, like, other mechanics and stuff like that that I won't necessarily go into. What I do want to talk about is mixed doubles curling. It's going on right now.

I'm talking about, uh, I've watched a couple games now of the Hamilton siblings. There's a brother and sister in this mixed doubles, uh, event for the

USA, and they're doing pretty dope. I haven't— I'm not all caught up so please don't spoil it if you know whether or not they lost.

Rachel:

Say what it is, though.

Griffin:

Here's how it works: instead of a team of four, it's just a team of two. And instead of having these specialized roles, you have to do everything. So if you are the shooter, you will have to then immediately stand up, grab a fucking broom, and get to work.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Um. That's really cool. Another cool thing is that in mixed doubles, uh, each team gets five stones in each end... which is what they call a round... uh, as opposed to eight, I believe, in a regular game. Uh, and also each game lasts eight ends and not ten. So we're talking 40 stones throw, uh, per team instead of, uh, 80.

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

So it is half the length, which is very, very good. The coolest thing about it is before each round, uh, each team already has one stone placed on the field. The team that shoots first has one kind of in the center of the ice, playing, like, defensively, and then the team that throws last, the team with the hammer has one, uh, on the target. Like right, uh, right behind the middle of the target.

And so the team that shoots first, typically... There's a lot of things about curling that is, kind of boring in, uh, and it used to be much more boring because there used to be a lot of rules. Uh, they, rather they've enacted new rules that are, like, you can't just play defensively the whole game 'cause games lasted forever and nobody ever scored, and it was extremely boring.

Now the team that shoots first, they have, like, stuff on the field they have to, their worried about. The first shot that you take, you can't just be, like, "Well, I'm gonna maybe put it right." It's like, "Well, I need to get it right where I need it to go." Each team also has a power play. One per game where they can move the stones kind of to the side.

Rachel:

Oh, interesting.

Griffin:

And this is all stuff exclusive to this new mode. And so basically the...

Rachel:

What was the defense thing I saw? Remember, we were watching and it seemed like the other team could, like, once it passed a certain points, they could like...

Griffin:

Yeah. Once it passes I believe what's called a tee line, uh, in the, in the house at the end where the target is? You can then alt— Your opponents can sweep to try to make your stones go a little bit further.

Rachel:

Yeah. I thought that was cool.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's cool. Like, there's a lot of really cool stuff. But anyway, um, all this to say, like, I think it's a really interesting game. It's often... it's not often called this, but it has been called, like, the chess on ice because I think there's actually a lot that goes on. And you see this play out anytime you watch a game.

And again, these mixed doubles game are really, really fun to watch, where you're not just throwing your stone down the ice to try and knock one of your opponents stones out of the way, and getting your stones closer to the center. You also, on top of all that stuff, have to prevent yourself on the very next turn, from getting knocked away and letting your opponent... it's all

about creating these advantageous, defensible positions.

And that is so interesting to me because then there are things that factor in... There's a term called freezing where you try to throw your stone and have it land, literally an eyelash from another stone, and if you do that, you think about it, like, physics-wise, stone hits that stone, it's just gonna transfer all that kinetic stone that it's up against and it won't move. So you do that, you freeze it, and it doesn't move when you hit it.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

There's, like, so much to this game.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And it's, like, really, really cool. And it takes you just one game to, like, learn how it all works, and then it is, like... it's, like, weirdly an Olympic sport that does move in slow motion, but it doesn't reduce, like, the tension of it at all.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um. Yeah. I just think it's really, I think it's really cool. And, and I think it's exciting, too, at times, like, watching somebody on their very last hammer. Like, knock four of their opponents' stones away...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and, like, save the round and save the game. Like, it's really, really exciting. That's curling. Go watch it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I don't know. It might be over at this point. I don't know.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Hey. Can I steal you right away?

Rachel:

Oh, I came up with a stinger this week. You wanna hear it?

Griffin:

Yes, please.

Rachel:

[to the tune of the Home Improvement jingle] This is the transition they use in Home Improvement when they're changing. Yes?

Griffin:

I loved...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Are you... We've been married for a while.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Are you open to criticism?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Because, uh, I have none. It was perfect.

Rachel:

Oh, jeez, Griffin.

Griffin:

It was really good.

[ad break]

Griffin: Uh, how about this Jumbotron. Uh. It is for Jack, and it's from Hannah, who says, "Hey, bug. It's Han [rhymes with 'gone']." Probably Han [rhymes with 'ran']. Let me start over. "Hey, Bug, it's Han. I got one! Happy..." That is so choice to me. "Uh, happy late/early Valentine's day." How 'bout square on it? How 'bout right on the nose of the day of cupid's great day, Valentine's Day? See I'm on a, I'm getting...

Rachel:

Ooh, you're hype again.

Griffin:

I'm getting a little hype. It's just like people doubted our, our ability to just thread the needle on this one. There will...

Rachel:

Did they? Did they doubt it?

Griffin:

There will definitely be a person next week, like, "Happy right on Valentine's day." Like, oops no. Anyway, "Happy early/late Valentine's Day. Happy Anniversary-ish, and congrats on finishing college. I can't wait to see what adventures the next chapter brings. If I'm away in Mexico when you get this, know that I really miss you and wish I was there for all these big days. I

love you a lot. Break your leg at your solo show." And that was meant for today, Valentine's Day.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

The loving and kissing day. So, bazinga.

Rachel:

You really celebrate us doing a very basic administrative task well.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Uh. This message is for Maise and it's from MG, who says, "Happy anniversary/17th, bunny. This time last year we were thousands of miles apart but today I'm so lucky I get to see you every day. You're so sweet, kind, and you have a cute butt. You are quite honestly the funniest person I've ever met and you make this life such a joy. Yes, we can get a rabbit. Love your sweet bun. P.S. What that dick do?"

Rachel:

Wow, that's really in there?

Griffin:

It took a tonal shift there at the end a little bit.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

'Cause there's a lot of sort of rabbit talk. A lot of sort of... I guess they did sort of set up with the cute butt line, which seemed innocuous enough, but really, little did we know...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

... it was laying the groundwork for a great sort of dick shout out there.

Rachel:

I think it's, it's the tone in which you approached that message. I think if you had approached it, like, from the very beginning knowing you were gonna say, "What that dick do?"

Griffin:

Uh, well yeah. It, it was actually sent in by M. Night Shyamalan.

Rachel:

[laughs]

[Max Fun ad]

Hal:

I'm Hal Lublin.

Danielle:

I'm Danielle Radford.

Michael:

Hi, I'm Michael Eagle.

Hal:

And we're the hosts of Tights and Fights, Maximum Fun's newest podcast dedicated to all things wrestling.

Danielle:

We'll be talking about Sasha Banks, the women's revolution, Sasha Banks, the brand split, and Sasha Banks' wigs.

Michael:

We'll also be talking about wrestler fashion. Some wrestlers wear too many clothes. Some wrestlers don't wear enough clothes at all.

Hal:

And I'll be doing impressions of all your favorite wrestlers. New episodes Thursday on Maximum Fun or wherever you get your podcasts. Oh, yeah. Dig it!

[Tights and Fights jingle plays]

[ad break ends]

Griffin:

Uh, can you tell me your second thing?

Rachel:

Yeah. Okay, so this is...

Griffin:

So this is gonna be the part of the show where I might get uncomfortable.

Rachel:

This is, but this is the Valentine's part. So I told Griffin we should each do a thing that we're excited about that is...

Griffin:

Oh, I already had the idea.

Rachel:

... that is intimate to us.

Griffin:

I mean, I definitely already had this one in the quiver.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Because, er, uh, because Rachel and I— Wow. Because Griffin and I are a partnership, I let him know this is something I was planning...

Griffin:

Thank you. Because then I would've been, like, "My favorite Pokémon is Ditto 'cause he's all the Pokémon technically." I have lots of that.

Rachel:

I would've been like, "Here's five minutes on why I love Griffin." [laughs].

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um.

Griffin:

I mean, you can also appreciate Ditto. He's all the Pokémon, if you think about it.

Rachel:

I don't know.

Griffin:

He can transform into any Pokémon.

Rachel:

I don't know anything you're saying right now. I mean Ditto is, is something that can replicate is something I know because back in the day, the Ditto machine used to be, like, the copy machine. Are you familiar?

Griffin:

Uh, no.

Rachel:

Okay. A little before your time.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

They're a little, like, purple carbon sheets that would...

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

... duplicate.

Griffin:

So that's our episode. It was the ditto machine and then, uh, the Pokémon, Ditto.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Those are our last two... No, let's talk about our love.

Rachel:

Okay, so this is gonna be hard to do without sounding, like, a little egotistical, so I'm gonna do my best.

Griffin:

Great.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Uh. So I've mentioned this before, if you've been following our show for a while, that Griffin and I, when we first started getting to know each other, we had a lot of email correspondence.

Griffin:

Are you gonna read our private emails...

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

... on— Okay.

Rachel:

No. Um. But it's the thing I wanted to talk about this week.

Griffin:

Oh, okay.

Rachel:

Uh. I would say about once a year I go back and I read these. Um...and I do that because, um, I would say about a month into our emails, we started to really kind of ask each other...

Griffin:

Yeah, we went hard.

Rachel:

... probing questions. Um.

Griffin:

I think maybe we should start up a little bit in case— 'Cause I don't know actually how much we've talked about this, but Rachel and I met when I was in town for South by Southwest when I was up in Chicago, with kind of plans that I might move down here, and then we met, and I was like, "I should move down here." And then we started just emailing each other 'cause we kind of hit it off, and then continued to email for the next, what? Like, four months until I moved down here...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and we basically just started dating immediately.

Rachel:

So yeah, we emailed... We started at the end of March, um, and continued all the way up to July, when Griffin moved here. Um, and the first, like, half dozen emails were just quizzes from Cosmo and Seventeen Magazine.

Griffin:

I took your lead on that one, 'cause you mentioned, like, "Oh, I'm into quizzes," and I was like...

Rachel:

I don't think that was what I said. [laughs].

Griffin:

You said, like, "I'm a real quizhead." I'm pretty sure.

Rachel:

Um. We were talking on Facebook chat. It was after my birthday, and I came home, um, from drinks with friends, just a little buzzy, and I just sent Griffin a little Facebook chat, and we started chatting.

Griffin:

It can happen, folks.

Rachel:

It's a dream.

Griffin:

With, uh, one right poke, and you can have a podcast with your significant other one day.

Rachel:

Well, this is what I noticed. So at a certain point, um, mainly me, uh, transitioned our emails into, like, more probing questions.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

So the first question I asked was: what are your favorite, or what are your five fantasy guests at a dinner party?

Griffin:

Oh, boy.

Rachel:

Uh, living or dead.

Griffin:

How many of these have been proven to be sort of problematic scoundrels in the last couple of years I wonder?

Rachel:

Oh, man. I don't remember all of them, but I think most of them are still pretty good.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

I think you...

Griffin:

Bo Bice was on the list— [laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Bo Bice was not on the list. And I'm sorry for referencing Bo Bice again.

Rachel:

And so I realized what we were doing was we were kind of, like, we were kind of doing our podcast.

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

'Cause a lot of the stuff we asked each other, I, then I asked you, uh, name one book, one movie, one song, and one person, and one place that shaped who you are today.

Griffin:

That's literally our podcast.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh. And then, I asked...

Griffin:

I think I can, what were they? The questions?

Rachel:

Um. One book...

Griffin:

I think I was, I was definitely reading A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius at the time of this...

Rachel:

One movie. Groundhog Day.

Griffin:

Cast Away.

Rachel:

Okay. [laughs]. One song.

Griffin:

Uh, Glory, from Rent.

Rachel:

One person. Bo Bice.

Griffin:

Uh. Bo Bice.

Rachel:

And one place.

Griffin:

Bo Bice's house.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

It's my favorite hang spot. No. We don't need to go into all the private deets.

Rachel:

Um.

Griffin:

Give us something on, let us keep something.

Rachel:

I just, I wanted to read out some of these questions 'cause I think they're really good when you're getting to know somebody.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh. So list out five different careers you considered when you were growing up. Uh, name three...

Griffin:

Did I drop on you that I was thinking about becoming a youth minister back in the...

Rachel:

Yes, you did.

Griffin:

Whoa, that's a heavy one to sort of...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I was a man of the cloth until I wasn't.

Rachel:

Uh. And then here's a kind of a cute little turn here. So I said name three to five character traits that really annoy you.

Griffin:

Uh-oh.

Rachel:

And then you wrote me an email that was just, like, "Here are all the things I hate," and then, because you were Griffin McElroy, you turned it back on me and said, "Name three to five character traits in people that really delight you." [laughs]. He was like, "That was kind of a bummer to write, so." I was like, "Oh, this guy's so positive. He's just so positive all the time." Okay, here's one, here's one that I really put some time into.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, pick the songs that you would choose for the following five situations. Uh, one, you're super angry and going on an angry work to feel angry.

Griffin:

I got to know what I put for that one 'cause it's gonna be bad.

Rachel:

I think it was actually LCD Soundsystem.

Griffin:

Oh, okay.

Rachel:

It was just like a jam. Uh, you're getting ready to go to a party that promises free Jell-o shots and dancing, and you wanna get hype.

Griffin:

I definitely said Shots, 'cause it was 2000...

Rachel:

No, Griffin, you didn't. Not shots.

Griffin:

But now we gotta— Let's take it the tapes, mow.

Rachel:

Uh, just while you look, here's the other thing. So this is, this is a little trap I laid for Griffin. Uh, you have a, uh, a partner over and you want things to take a romantic turn.

Griffin:

Oh, Jesus.

Rachel:

And he was like, "There's no good way I can answer that." Uh, you're driving through your hometown feeling nostalgic, and you're having a party and you're queuing up the last song of the night.

Griffin:

Okay. So, I actually have the answers. It's, uh, an angry song was Losing My Edge by LCD Soundsystem.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Uh. Getting ready to go party, it was Play Your Part, Part 1 by Girl Talk.

Rachel:

Mmm.

Griffin:

Okay, now we're talking. Uh, you have a lady over and you want things to take a romantic, [laughs].

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Baby. It was From the Morning by Nick Drake.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Oh boy. Uh. You're driving through your hometown felling nostalgic, I put Bluefish by Gary Jules, that's a good one. And then you're having a party and you're queuing up the last song of the night, of course, Send Me On My Way by Rusted Root.

Rachel:

[laughs]. That—

Griffin:

Those were really good questions.

Rachel:

That's a good question. Uh. Griffin responded with his own five songs, um. You're driving with the windows down. Uh, you're about to be a, give a big presentation at work. You need to get psyched.

Griffin:

You put Bossy by, uh, Kelis.

Rachel:

Oh my god, that song's so fun.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh. Something rad just happened and you're doing a brief celebration dance. Uh, you're feeling homesick...

Griffin:

One Headlight by The Wallflowers.

Rachel:

Okay, so here's the thing with One Headlight.

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

When I was a teen, uh, I had the earliest curfew of any of my friends, and so often I would be leaving, uh, my friend's house before anybody else, and I would have the radio on on my drive home, thinking about all of the things I was missing.

Griffin:

Oh, boy.

Rachel:

So One Headlight was a good one. Uh, and then, um, you're kicking off a returning home from a long road trip. So yeah, these, these were one of...

Griffin:

These were so good. Like, I feel like you... I think you return to these a little bit more frequently than I do, although I've reread this whole thread many times. And they really were, like, it— What is so, like, great to me about,

like, looking back on these is this air of "We've got to keep this innocuous," but now that we are married and we look back...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... it was so not.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like, these things— Or maybe— I worry to some people listening to this, it may sound, like, a little cringey because there is, like, this thing that we are doing that's kind of dancing around... There's just being direct and kind of, you know, flirting in the more traditional sense.

Rachel:

Well, here's the thing. We only, like, we met and spent maybe three or four days together, um, so it felt inappropriate to act as if we had some kind of...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... romance brewing.

Griffin:

And, well, I mean, not that that's the case for everybody, but for us, that was, that was the case.

Rachel:

Yeah. Like, we were always in a group of friends. We didn't have many conversations, like, one-on-one.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um. So it just kind of felt like, "Well, I really genuinely wanna know more about this person. I can't confidentially say that, you know, we're supposed to be together at this point." Uh, but I...

Griffin:

But then I found out you were, your favorite was One Headlight by The Wallflowers and I was like—

Rachel:

It wasn't my favorite song.

Griffin:

It says right here, "It's my favorite song of all time. I listen to it every moment of every day, and, um, I have a big wallflowers fathead hanging on every room of my house."

Rachel:

Well, Griffin, nothing lasts forever. [laughs].

Griffin:

[laughs].

Rachel:

I really recommend... I know that most relationships now don't lend themselves to correspondence like this. Uh, but it was a really great way to get to know Griffin, to get excited about him before he moved here, and it kind of... I don't know, it propelled us forward so that when he moved here, I already knew, like, kind of who he was, and we were able to just be excited about each other. Uh, you know.

Griffin:

Uh, not, not, not necessarily what my favorite songs were, but I think in reading the things that you wrote to me, I learned a lot...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... more important shit about you than, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... what your favorite food is.

Rachel:

Like, Griffin was always very sincere and very funny, and I think really tried to, I don't know, keep his correspondence with me, like, interesting. And so I knew when I met him, like, there weren't as many pitfalls, 'cause I kind of felt like I knew how his brain worked a little bit.

Griffin:

Yeah. I was uncomfortable about the idea of reading these at first, or not reading, but, you know, talking about them.

Rachel:

I know—

Griffin:

Because they were extremely vulnerable.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But it was nice to hear you talk about.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Um. My favorite thing is traveling with Rachel.

Rachel:

Aww.

Griffin:

So, like, this is, again, like this... this is, again, very personal but, like, I'm generally a pretty anxious person. Sometimes to, like, a, um, a, like, paralytic degree where I just don't wanna mess with it a lot of the time.

Rachel:

It's so weird to me when you say that, and I realize that about you now...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... but that is not the impression I got from you.

Griffin:

Uh, when I met you?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Yeah, I was trying to impress you with all the cool music that I liked. Um. And I'm also, like, I have never been, uh, up to a certain point, like particularly adventurous, right? Uh. That said, since I met Rachel, like, one of my biggest interests, one of my, like, biggest... calling it a passion sounds, like, so shitty. Um, like middle age revelation. "Oh, my passion? It's traveling."

Uh, but like I really, really do love traveling. It's something that I think about and I want to do, uh, all the time, which I think deserves, like, no small amount of praise for Rachel because it used to be something that I actively, like, did not want to do, was kind of scared of doing. Um. So like, a little bit of history, Rachel and I have been lucky enough to take some pretty cool trips.

We've gone to Mexico, uh, together a couple of times. Uh, we've gone to, we went to Japan on our honeymoon, which was the best two weeks of my life, not even close. Uh, we got to go to Hong Kong, um. And have gone on a bunch of different sort of adventures across this great nation of ours while, mostly while doing tours and stuff like that. Um... And it's during those trips that I have acquired, like, all of the best memories I have of my life. Like, most of my favorite memories from my life... Obviously, having Henry ranks up there pretty good. Um, and the time I won the big football game with the big touchdown in high school.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah. Um, our listeners maybe don't know...

Griffin:

Yeah. So it was the night of the big game, homecoming...

Rachel:

Griffin is sort of a jock.

Griffin:

Well, I used to be.

Rachel:

He's real humble about it.

Griffin:

No, wait. Hold on, wait. I wasn't. And that was why it was so wild when I caught the big touchdown.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, the big kickoff return, uh, I caught the pass.

Rachel:

Did you have, like, a nickname when you were playing on the football team?

Griffin:

Touchdown Tim.

Rachel:

Tim?

Griffin:

Touchdown Tim.

Rachel:

Touch, touchdown... Was there not, um...

Griffin:

Gridiron Griffon might've been good, but they just...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... well, they said Touchdown Tim, and it stuck.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

No, okay. Like, seriously, like, we, uh, one time we went to a beach in Mexico and stayed at, like, a nice place directly walk up to the beach and did absolutely nothing, and it was like idyllic paradise for a whole week. That was pretty sick.

Uh, we went to Tokyo and spent, like, a few days there and just got lost and ate some of the best food I've ever eaten in my whole life, and then we went to Hakone and Kyoto, and just, like, went to some of the most beautiful places I've ever seen on earth. And then we just got to walk around Hong Kong for hours and hours and hours, just going in every place that sort of piqued our interest.

Rachel:

I mean that would've been, that would've been cool if you'd gone with anybody.

Griffin:

That's not true.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

No, no, no. I, uh, being— I would not have gone. I, that's the point I'm trying to get across, like, this was not something I... This wasn't... Not, not only was this not an interest, it was a fear of mine because I just, I didn't, I was worried about everything that could go wrong if I travel, right? 'Cause going, traveling is, like, laborious. There's certain elements to it that are, that make it not really for everybody, and it wasn't for me.

And being with you has made me a more adventurous person in general, and, like, in preparing for this, like, I couldn't put my finger on why that is. But I think it's that, like, you kind of made me realize how, like, good things in the world can be, and that sort of appetite to find those things kind of took shape. And it made me kind of actively wanna get out there and, and find them. Um, and fortunately, like, you are also very into traveling 'cause I think there's a lot of people out there who wouldn't sort of...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... be into that. And for a few years there, we kind of, like, fostered that in each other.

Rachel:

I think that's so interesting to me because when I think about who is the person with the greater appetite for, like, new experiences, it's you. Like, in my head, that's who you are. So it's interesting to me to hear that I've motivated that in you, because I feel like my personality tends to be more cautious.

Griffin:

But you didn't know me before you knew me.

Rachel:

That's true. [laughs].

Griffin:

I'm being 100% serious.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I lived with Travis for a year in Batavia, Ohio. Um, and I made some good friends in Cincinnati, essentially, and had a good time. But I also didn't leave the house for a week at a time. Uh, I didn't do anything...

Rachel:

Okay, that wouldn't work for me.

Griffin:

I think, I think... Yeah, I think back on that year and I can't really... and I hope that you listening at home do not take this to mean, like, I judge that year of my life or I judge people who are not adventurous, or because of, uh, whatever they have, you know, going on, like, can't be. That is not what I'm saying. I am just saying that, like, you...

This was, like, a facet of my personality that changed and then became a very important facet of my personality. And that only existed because you, I, we met. Um, and the best thing about it is that, like, it's not just that I've gotten to have all these cool experiences, it's that we've got to have them, like, together. And that, like, my favorite memories, uh, from my time on this earth are, like, ours. And I think...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... that is bigger than, like, just traveling. Whatever it is, like, that is such, I think, an important part of a relationship. Um, and knowing that, like, one day we will get to travel with Henry and make those memories with all three of us is so, like, that's it, right? Like, that's what the hope is for family, I think. And like...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

...I'm just really excited that we already got to have that sort of experience together. I know how, like, cool it's gonna be when we get Henry up and up.

Rachel:

See, I thought this was gonna take a different turn. I thought you were gonna be, like, "You're a good travel buddy because you don't take a super long time to get ready." [laughs].

Griffin:

No. Would that have been romantic?

Rachel:

No, no, but it would also— I mean, it would be a nice thing.

Griffin:

It is true. You get ready very, very, very quickly.

Rachel:

It's true.

Griffin:

It's pretty sick. But, like, that's not, you know, that ain't me.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, I think, I appreciate you saying that. Right before Griffin and I started dating, I went to Paris to visit my friend. And I remember emailing Griffin, we were exchanging emails about that. And saying, like, "Hey, I'm

gonna fly to Paris to see this friend I haven't seen in four years and stay with her for a week." It probably made me sound, like, super adventurous...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... but that was, that was the first time I'd ever done, like, done that. Like, flown somewhere solo. Um. And first time I'd ever been to France. Uh, and before I met Griffin, literally I'd just been to Canada and...

Griffin:

Canada's great. No judgment.

Rachel:

... France and Italy. Uh.

Griffin:

That's still a lot.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I had never left the country when I met you.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Anyway, that's my thing.

Rachel:

Anyway, yeah. No, that's— I also very much like traveling with you, because you're, um, you're like super fun to travel with. You're, like, maybe the most excitable person I know, which is a wonderful thing when you're doing something new.

Griffin:

Thank you. Do you wanna hear what our friends have to say in the home version of our podcast?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Natalie says, "Something I think is wonderful is line dancing. I recently moved to Arizona for graduate school and was introduced to line dancing from my Midwestern friend. For her birthday this week, we went to a line dancing class that was utterly delightful. There's something so satisfying about starting a song, not knowing a single step, and by the end being able to stomp and twirl in sync with everyone on the dance floor because the moves are so simple and because everyone is doing it with you, it's hard to feel self-conscious about your dancing ability."

Rachel:

I have never done that and I would like to.

Griffin:

Let's do it.

Rachel:

It does seem fun.

Griffin:

Well, we did do it at our friend's wedding.

Rachel:

Yeah. And it was not a good experience for me.

Griffin:

It was bad for me, also.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

It was Copperhead Row, which I think is a more advanced...

Rachel:

Well, we kind of self-taught or, and that was the problem for me. [laughs].

Griffin:

Yes, also I had, um, a fever, and so my step, it was not so good.

Rachel:

Well, then Griffin turned around and realized everybody was following him. [laughs].

Griffin:

It was the worst moment of my life. Uh, Hope says, "I just wanted to share a wonderful phenomenon at my high school. In a Facebook group containing every girl in the junior and senior classes, more and more often, uh, girls are posting pictures of themselves in their prom dresses, announcing that they found the one. What started, uh, as a petty thing to make sure that people weren't buying the same dresses has turned into a love fest between the girls with each post having hundreds of commenters complimenting their beautiful classmate, which I think is a wonderful display of positivity between classmates and the common search for the perfect gown."

Rachel:

That's so ideal. This is...

Griffin:

That's so ideal.

Rachel:

This is kind of a thing...

Griffin:

Where's that Netflix show?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Not the one about, like, teens being awful to each other.

Rachel:

Yeah. People always talk about how social media is the worst thing that ever happened to teens.

Griffin:

And it is.

Rachel:

And yeah, and it largely, it is, but this is actually nice.

Griffin:

This is nice. We've found the one good...

Rachel:

The one example.

Griffin:

Uh, and finally, Emily says, "I'd like to submit electric heating pads and blankets," this is almost like a legal brief, and I'm very into it. "I submit for the pleasure of the court," I think that's legal speak. "Heating pads and blankets. Anything that can bring my room from zero to cozy in under a minute is wonderful in my book, and I'm very grateful to live in a time where this technology is readily available." That latter part cracks me up, 'cause it's such a great thing to be grateful for. There are, uh, you know, like, telekinetic robots that Elon Musk is shitting out or whatever.

Rachel:

And also, I think heating pads have been around for, like, maybe 34 years.

Griffin:

But we still can be grateful for them is what me and Emily are saying.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's good to look at a heating pad and say, "I'm so glad that you exist, little heating pad." Big dog update. Did you see the video of the big dog that has the handle on it...

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

... so it can open, it can open doors.

Rachel:

Oh, wow.

Griffin:

It's like arms sticks out...

Rachel:

That's terrifying.

Griffin:

... of its mouth, and it grabs a door handle and pulls it open so another big dog can run through the door.

Rachel:

That's terrifying.

Griffin:

It's good, though 'cause what, where are they going?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Big dog. You don't fall over still. That whole video, neither of these big digs, big digs?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Thanks for listening to Wonderful! Thanks to, uh, bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, uh, Money Won't Pay. Forgot which podcast I was doing for a second, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the, uh, the episode description. And, uh, oh Maximum Fun.

Rachel:

Maximum Fun has so many new good shows.

Griffin:

Like what? Prove it.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Um, Inside Pop is a good one.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, Minority Korner is a good one.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

Um. Gosh, what else? Uh, Who Shot Ya? is a good one.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, and those are all pretty new, and there are many, many more. Check 'em out at MaximumFun.org.

Griffin:

All right.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Uh. Anything else? Happy Valentine's Day. Even if it's a rough one for ya, us maybe talking about our love for 20 minutes probably didn't help the fact very much.

Rachel:

Yeah. You know what I used to do in the, I don't know, approximate three decades, uh, where I didn't have this love? [laughs].

Griffin:

What's that?

Rachel:

Uh, celebrate my friends...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... on Valentine's day.

Griffin:

That's really cool.

Rachel:

Your friends and family, you know?

Griffin:

Yeah. Just celebrate love for whatever you love.

Rachel:

Any love in your life. Got a good pet?

Griffin:

Got a good pet, give it extra pets today.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Give it a snug. Give it a, uh, treat.

Rachel:

Got a good heating blanket?

Griffin:

Get a good heating blanket. That actually sounds...

Rachel:

Cuddle up. Cuddle up.

Griffin:

... very, very good.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Yeah. Just take care of yourself today.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Do something nice to yourself today. Dale, Agent Dale Cooper says you should do one for yourself every day. One little surprise.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Keep that in mind. Take that home with you, and maybe keep that surprise in your mouth, 'cause it's a little lockbox...

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

That's how we join this episode.

Rachel:

Brought it all back around.

Griffin:

So I'm gonna close my mouth and you're gonna tell me what is inside of it, but I'll bend down under the table and I'll put something in it...

Rachel:

Okay, okay.

Griffin:

... and you'll have to guess.

Rachel:

Oh, god. He's really gonna do it. Okay, so it's not an Amiibo, 'cause he's got a tight seal.

Griffin:

Oh, come on.

Rachel:

[laughs]. A plastic bag?

Griffin:

It's just cellophane. Bye, everybody. Oh.

[theme song plays]

MaximumFun.org

Comedy and culture.

Artist owned.

Listener supported.

Travis:

Following the news is hard and it sucks.

Brent:

How do you know which stories are important?

Travis:

What sources do you trust in this post-truth world of reactionary journalism?

Brent:

I'm Brent Black.

Travis:

And I'm Travis McElroy.

Brent:

And we host a podcast called Trends Like These.

Travis:

We cover trending news stories.

Brent:

We debunk misleading click bait headlines.

Travis:

And we always try to throw in a little bit of good news...

Brent:

...in our quest for truth!

Travis:

So join us every week on MaximumFun.org or wherever podcasts are found.