

Wonderful! 31: It's the Slap!

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[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

What's up, Wonderful nation? It's Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful!

Griffin:

[Howls] The dogs are loose. Play the dog sound effect. [no sound effects play] A dog sound effect just played. It's, uh, we got a note from the, um, podcast critics' board...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... for good, good podcasting and funny jokes...

Rachel:

[overlapping] Oh, uh-huh, yeah. Yeah, I'm familiar.

Griffin:

... and they said we need more drive time radio, sort of. So if you could give me like, uh, 30 seconds of that, please?

Rachel:

Oh, you know, what the listening audience loves?

Griffin:

What?

Rachel:

[imitates MLG Pro air horn] My air horn.

Griffin:

Yeah, so that's good.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and we got the same note from the same sort of critics' association and another one that gives out the podcast Oscar, so we really do need to please them.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Um, that they love the air horn...

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

... but they need 30 full seconds of just sort of...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... Rachel's drive time radio DJ persona. So if you can just go ahead, uh, do it.

Rachel:

[as a radio host] Uh, ladies and gentlemen, it's hump day.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Wednesday was wonderful. You know what I say about that... [imitates MLG Pro air horn]

Griffin:

So, the critic is sitting in the corner of the office and they said that, um... What's that? They said you should've made some sort of sexual joke when you said hump day.

Rachel:

[laughs] Oh, see, you were gonna insert like a, um, like a...

Griffin:

Uh, that's, even that is sort of, like, talking about insertion would be—

Rachel:,

... sex noise. [laughs]

Griffin:

Oh, okay. So I can put in like a, uh, a sex noise, like a—

Rachel:

Like a moan of some kind.

Griffin:

[in a deep voice] Oh, yes.

Rachel:

Yeah, exactly. Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

This is Wonderful! On this podcast, we talk about things that we are very into, like having your microphone turned up way too loud and there we go. And, uh, other stuff. Do we want to talk about some small wonders before we get started? 'Cause I actually have a couple.

Rachel:

Ooh. Yeah, go ahead.

Griffin:

My first one, uh, is a thing you said the other day...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... that we need to sort of put into the consciousness of America. So whatever reason when Travis and Teresa and Bebe were in town, uh, they stayed with us for a few days, and I think that's when you first learned about the term that the teens use sometime to talk about music to say that either music slaps...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... or is a slapper, uh, which is a very good way of describing a good song with a fun beat you can dance to.

Rachel:

Yeah, I was not familiar with this, and Travis said it, um...

Griffin:

And you were delighted.

Rachel:

And I was delighted. [laughs]

Griffin:

And then you tried... You— There was an attempt to reference it. I forget what you were talking about, but I want to say it was the Sesame Street theme song that was playing on our, uh, on our Alexa thing. Uh, sorry, by the way, to everybody who, uh, I just activated your thing and it's still going and now it's gonna be, "Sorry, I don't know."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but I said it's a very good song, and then Rachel said one of the best things I've ever heard which was, "Yeah, it's the slap."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Not like the TV show. And, uh, since you said that, I am... This is not just like me sharing a funny story of a funny thing you said. I can't stop thinking about referring to things as the slap.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

It brings me so much joy. Um, and second thing, and this is kind of a weird one, but I just announced that me and Justin are leaving Polygon, and so I just wanted to mention, like, working at Polygon has been really, really wonderful. Um, I was a co-founder at this site.

There were like eight of us and I've been with it since the start and, uh, I've been doing video there for four years and it's just been really wonderful and I love the whole community and I love everybody I work with, um, especially

the video team. Like, Rachel can attest to this. Like, pretty much every night while we're in bed, I will roll over and show her some good video...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... that the Polygon video team has made and, uh, I'm very sentimental and it's very bittersweet thing. I'm leaving so I can have more time to, like, focus on all the other things that we have and also have time where I'm not working. Um, but yeah, it's a bittersweet thing and I just wanted to mention it on this show 'cause I have adored working there and this is a show where we talk about things we adore.

Rachel:

Yeah, if you guys... by the way, if you guys haven't seen, uh, some of Griffin's videos, uh, specifically Amiibo Corner, I would recommend it. It's one of my favorites.

Griffin:

It's Rachel's favorite, yeah.

Rachel:

My favorite series he does.

Griffin:

You have a small wonder?

Rachel:

Yeah, you know what I can say?

Griffin:

Huh?

Rachel:

Poke!

Griffin:

Poke's good. Yeah, we haven't had it in a while.

Rachel:

I love poke. I got, um, uh, inspired to enjoy it on Terrace House: Aloha State, uh, and...

Griffin:

Yes, and musubi. They turned me on to all manner of tasty foods.

Rachel:

Yeah, and there are, it's like a hip thing now. You can find restaurants in a lot of cities and it's delicious. Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It's very good. It's like sushi, but cereal.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

That's what they call poke. It's like sushi but if it was like a big bowl of delicious cereal.

Rachel:

Yeah, it's like a sushi burrito bowl.

Griffin:

Hm, now if Chipotle starting fucking with, like...

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh.

Griffin:

... raw salmon.

Rachel:

Well... [laughs]

Griffin:

Are you kidding me? Is there any place? Like, I feel like every other week...

Rachel:

[crosstalk 00:05:14]

Griffin:

... it's like, "Ugh, we got botulism in our salsa again."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Okay, this time, no more botulism. We did get E. coli on our tortillas. Dang it. Can you imagine them, like, and now we're gonna do fatty tuna raw?

Rachel:

Nothing against Chipotle. We eat Chipotle.

Griffin:

And I'll put something against Chipotle. They're pumping their foods with fucking E. coli every other—

Rachel:

That doesn't stop us from eating it.

Griffin:

That's true.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Sometimes you got to roll the hard six. I think it's your turn to start.

Rachel:

It's definitely my turn this time.

Griffin:

I don't know why you get territorial. We both go two times.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs] We both go twice. It's not like one of us gets more stuff.

Rachel:

Uh, so my first thing...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... uh, this week is Hyori's Bed and Breakfast.

Griffin:

Yeah. Rachel's laughing 'cause I tried to bring this during the Small Wonder and she said, "No."

Rachel:

[laughs] And I cut him off.

Griffin:

"That's my first thing."

Rachel:

Uh, there are two seasons of it now on Netflix.

Griffin:

Can we set up, by the way, how strange it is that we discovered this show because of your mom.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

This is a Korean reality show, and—

Rachel:

We, yeah, we got my mom to watch, uh, Terrace House.

Griffin:

So it must have just showed up in her, like, recommendations.

Rachel:

And it probably... Yeah, it probably was recommended to her and she, when, uh, my parents were in town mentioned it, and at first, I was like, "This seems really slow," because it really is. It's just a famous, uh, couple, uh, Hyori, who used to be a K-pop star.

Griffin:

She was huge.

Rachel:

Huge, yeah.

Griffin:

Still, still practices, I believe, a little bit, but...

Rachel:

In, uh, 2006, she was the highest paid female singer in South Korea.

Griffin:

Yes, very big.

Rachel:

And, um...

Griffin:

Like, Britney Spears heyday level...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... like, uh, level of celebrity.

Rachel:

Uh, she was a model for Calvin Klein jeans. She was in a commercial with Jessica Alba.

Griffin:

That's how you know you fucking made it.

Rachel:

Uh, she was also briefly featured in a 2010 Adidas commercial. She married Sang-soon who, uh, is a guitarist in the rock band Roller Coaster and they moved into their vacation home on Jeju Island, which, uh, is actually, it's just 714 square miles and it's a volcanic island. Uh...

Griffin:

714 square miles.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That's fucking huge.

Rachel:

It doesn't seem big to me.

Griffin:

714 square miles?

Rachel:

I don't, maybe I don't have a concept of size.

Griffin:

That's very big.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

That's huge.

Rachel:

Seems small to me.

Griffin:

No, that's quite a big island, it seems like.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but we should mention, we don't know, we did not know who these people were before we started this show.

Rachel:

No. No, but it's...

Griffin:

Um, which is probably evident in hearing us talk about it.

Rachel:

So they turned their house into a bed and breakfast, uh, and the first episode is really just them getting ready to host their first guest. And it

moves kind of slowly. They have dogs and cats and we see them kind of purchasing things to get their house ready. Uh...

Griffin:

They live a very simple lifestyle.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

A very chill lifestyle. Like they just make tea every morning and then they sit outside. Sang-soon, I think, sits outside on the porch for about nine hours a day.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

They just sort of appreciate the simpler things and they have a bunch of pets that they adopt and they do gardens.

Rachel:

They have gardens. They do yoga.

Griffin:

It's— And then they've decided, like, okay, now let's start inviting, like, 8 to 12 strangers into our house every single day.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It is a very novel concept that it really, really, uh, translates over. Like, we do not watch, uh, we do not watch, like, a lot of Korean television programming of any kind, but much like, you know, sort of how we started watching Terrace House when we weren't watching a lot of Japanese, uh,

television programming. Like, it crosses the divide I think very easily because it's relatable and such a wild concept.

Rachel:

Yeah, yeah. So when we started watching it, I was like, um, "How is this gonna hold my attention?" And then within, like, 20 minutes, I was just, like, totally hooked in and it's so relaxing. If y'all think Terrace House is relaxing, this show is, like, next level relaxing.

Griffin:

It's got good vibes.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's got real good, real good vibes. They will do every episode... Once or twice an episode, like a guest will be like, "Who's this dog?"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And they will tell them, uh, this dog's name is Guana, and then there will be a three-minute long video package about Guana and the history of Guana and some great footage of the dog playing. It is just, like, so relaxing.

Rachel:

Yeah, and actually, uh, Hyori is, is a big animal rights activist, uh, in South Korea, uh, which explains all of their adopted pets that they have and the attention they pay to them. Um...

Griffin:

It's also got, like, a lot of interesting stuff to say about, like, celebrity...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and moving on from celebrity and how you, like, are allowed to interact with your fans after that point. Like, when the show opens up, apparently, like, the rumor has gone around the whole island they had moved away, so any time they see anybody, it's like, "Oh, I thought you left."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And it's like, "No, we're not leaving. We were actually turning our house into a, a B&B." Um...

Rachel:

So yeah, so they did two seasons. There's a suggestion there might be a third, uh, but...

Griffin:

There are new episodes coming every week.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

There's like a whole banner on Netflix saying new episodes every week.

Rachel:

Um, but I will say that I guess the couple has, uh, since had to post on their Facebook page that people have started showing up at their house...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... not as guests.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

They have had to discourage people from invading their privacy, so...

Griffin:

With turrets and robots and—

Rachel:

I am not sure that they will do a third season. But, um, Griffin and I watch it pretty much every night before I go to sleep, uh, and it is just the best way to unwind.

Griffin:

There's so many things about this show that I adore. All of the animals are extremely cute and, like, yeah.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

I'm really into that. Um, the two, Hyori and Sang-soon, are the most in love.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

And it's very... That warms my heart very much. Like, every night. Uh, the show kind of happens almost in, uh, not in real time, but it kind of feels like it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like, every episode is basically a day. And so it always ends with, like, the two of them in whatever weird corner of the house they have allowed themselves to fall asleep in...

Rachel:

Yeah, so they—

Griffin:

... because every— It's not a big house and they have so many guests.

Rachel:

It has a really large living space, but the... I think from what I can tell, there's only one bedroom. And for some reason, they invite, like, a dozen guests to share the space. So they have created their own little alcove which is just like a mattress on the floor.

Griffin:

Under the stairs, like, Harry Potter style.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But every night when they go to bed she, like, wakes up Sang-soon and says, "Honey, I want to talk." Just not in like a threatening way. Like, if you told me, like, "I want to talk." I would get, like, very nervous 'cause, uh, I feel like most people that has, like, connotations of, like, uh-oh.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

What, um, but for them, they just wanted to talk.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Just wanted to hear the other person's voice.

Rachel:

The first episode, they're, like, in the car driving somewhere, and they have a conversation about how much they like talking to each other.

Griffin:

Oh, it's so good.

Rachel:

It's so good.

Griffin:

And the guests are all very, like, uh, like have disparate sort of stuff...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... going on. Um, and they're very enjoyable. But it's like watching... It's interesting watching a show because I don't, uh, I can't think of any other show like it where, like, celebrities, like, mondo celebrities, like, have bonfires with just random people.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And it's not like they are fawning over the celebrities the whole time. It's just, like, them sort of them getting to live as people with other people.

Rachel:

They so... Yeah, and they so earnestly want to do well at it. Uh, like for example, there's an older couple, uh, that flies in, uh, and can't get to the bed and breakfast. And so Sang-soon hops in the car and drives 30 minutes to go pick them up because there's no bus to take them out there. It's...

Griffin:

And then books them a taxi to go fishing and he...

Rachel:

Yeah, and he plans their whole weekend for them.

Griffin:

It is such a sweet, sweet show.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

And we've been enjoying it a lot. Um, I have two things that are kind of connected. My first thing is a campfire.

Rachel:

Oh, really?

Griffin:

Yeah, any old campfire. And I know you said, "Oh, really?" because this is not something that we do very often, right?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Like we... I'm not a big camping boy these days.

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

And also never was one.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I have been camping maybe four times. I'm one of those, like, city slickers.

Rachel:

I have thought that about you.

Griffin:

I'm one of them city slickers.

Rachel:

I should this boy has big city dreams.

Griffin:

Big city dreams and he's slick.

Rachel:

Uh, and a big city heart.

Griffin:

And a big city slick heart.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Yeehaw. But, um, I do like a campfire. Um, and maybe it's because of the scarcity of which I see a campfire.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And I say campfire. This counts, I think, for, like, fire pit in a backyard. I think also bonfires, but I've also been to... And bonfires are 50/50 for me 'cause about 50% of the time, I'm like, "Ah, cool, big fire," and the other 50% of the time I'm like, "Too big."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"Calm down, chill out. We trying to catch a helicopter's attention or something?" Too hot. Hot on my face. I can't even get close to this thing.

Rachel:

Yeah, very hot. Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

The fire gets freaking hot sometimes.

Rachel:

I have noticed that about fire. [laughs]

Griffin:

Like I see it and I don't want to touch it.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

But anyway, um, I just love every part of the, like, campfire process. Like building one, when I finally learned how to actually build a campfire. I definitely had many times where I was just like, "All right, there's three big pieces of wood. I'm gonna put my BIC lighter under it."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Like, nope, nope, nope, nope, nope. Like, actually learning to build one and then being able to successfully do it is like, very rewarding.

Rachel:

We definitely, Griffin had to save dryer lint for, like, I don't know, eight months.

Griffin:

Learned that one from [crosstalk]. Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs] And we never used it.

Griffin:

No, we used it once for the fire.

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

We actually talked about it in our last episode where we used— [laughs] The starter logs definitely help.

Rachel:

It burned forever.

Griffin:

Um, but building one is so, it's so slow, right? You have to, like, nurture it and you have to put in, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... uh, tinder and kindling and then you have to, like, put on the small sticks leading up to the bigger sticks. And then when you have this big fire, you're, like, "Yeah, that started out as nothing and I made that." And that's very cool. And I can do it and it's, like, one of the few, like, outdoorsy, uh, like, physical things I feel like I can do. And so that is, uh, the only feather in my cap. You feel like Bear fucking Grylls whenever you can pull off a nice fire.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and then once it's built, you get so much out of it, right? You get heat, you get light. You can cook on it. You can cook... All the foods you can cook on a campfire are all fucking great.

Rachel:

That's very true.

Griffin:

Hot dogs. Marshmallows.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, uh...

Rachel:

Corn.

Griffin:

... I guess that's it, huh?

Rachel:

Corn, maybe.

Griffin:

Corn, maybe, but it would just pop and turn into poppy corn, wouldn't it?

Rachel:

A lot of people put stuff in little foil packs and throw it in there.

Griffin:

At that point, it's just like, go, you know, go drive to the gas station and use their microwave.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

No, don't, it's foil. Um, it scares bugs away. That's probably not scientifically how it works, there's probably some sort of force where the bugs are like, "Ugh, I don't want to go near that."

Rachel:

What...

Griffin:

But I don't think they see the fire and they're like, "Ah, I got to get the fuck outta here." Unless it's a moth, who's backwards. What's up with that?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Mosquito buzz around, buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, "Gonna look for blood."

Rachel:

Can I...

Griffin:

"Ooh, a fire. Bye." A moth is like...

Rachel:

Can I, uh-

Griffin:

"...pfft, sucker, I love this fire." Dies.

Rachel:

Can I stop this for a second?

Griffin:

Hm?

Rachel:

How do you feel about the smell?

Griffin:

The smell, Rachel?

Rachel:

Like specifically when it gets in you.

Griffin:

Oh, well.

Rachel:

Like when you go to bed and you smell like it.

Griffin:

Yeah, that changes absolutely nothing.

Rachel:

You like that?

Griffin:

It's the best fucking smell in the world.

Rachel:

I don't... I always kind of do at first, um, but I don't like it the next day.

Griffin:

Here's the thing about that fire stink, one shower and it's gone. There are lots of stinks that are out there that can be pleasant...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and then you get them in and on and around your skin...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and in your ducts, and then that's your fucking week.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Onions, uh, are... I have trouble with onions sometimes. Or garlic sometimes.

Rachel:

Garlic.

Griffin:

When I eat the garlic bread and I love the garlic bread and then I take a shower and I smell, at that point, like, you know, cucumber mint or whatever I just put on my body with a little bit of garlic in there also.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I hate that.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Campfire, you wash it off, it's gone. No big deal. But it's the best smell, like, full stop. The sound is good, too.

Rachel:

Yeah, the sound is very good.

Griffin:

Oh, and the sound and the look of it with? Like, it's always changing. It's always different. Staring into a campfire is, like, really hypnotic, partially because it's visually interesting, right? It's always changing, but I think there's something more, like, primitive to it than that. Like...

Rachel:

Oh, for sure.

Griffin:

This preternatural, like, fear of fire. At least fascination or reverence to fire I think is, is really fascinating and very powerful. And it's communal in a way that many things are not, right? It's, uh, we could have friends over or watch TV or play and game and then we are actively engaging in that thing. But with a fire, a fire demands your attention without consuming it, right?

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

So, uh, at that point, if it's in the middle of a circle of people, everybody's looking inward and can't look away because of the fire, but who's on the other end of the fire? It's me, and I'm telling a very haunted story.

Rachel:

I know that you didn't do Boy Scouts, but did you ever do any kind of group...

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

... camping, scary story kind of thing?

Griffin:

I mean, church camp, but then the the scary story...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

...is that your friend was gonna die in a car wreck and you didn't get them saved.

Rachel:

Oh, no.

Griffin:

Which is way worse than getting killed by Freddy Krueger. Freddy Krueger kills me in my dreams. Pop. I'm just up in heaven. My friend Bryce crashes his bicycle...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

...into the creek and I didn't spread the good word.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Do you know what I mean?

Rachel:

I do.

Griffin:

I got something for you to read later.

Rachel:

Okay. [laughs]

Griffin:

I think you're really gonna like it. And then when you put out the fire, that's fun too, 'cause you get all the, like, the steam and the dying embers and I just...

Rachel:

You don't pee on a fire, do you?

Griffin:

You would never. You wouldn't steal a car, why would you pee on a fire?

Rachel:

Some people do that to put it out and I don't like it.

Griffin:

Oh. So crass. Um, I just love how universal a fire is. Like, it transcends... Campfire transcends time, it transcends language and culture. Like, I, uh, the first, uh, bon— Like, campfires were made like 1.3 million years ago, and those people definitely needed it more than I need 'cause I have...

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

... Game Boy, um, second Game Boy. I have central air.

Rachel:

You act like there's an equivalency between a Game Boy and a fire as if a Game Boy could keep you warm.

Griffin:

No, but it would entertain me.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

That's what I'm saying.

Rachel:

Okay, okay.

Griffin:

They need it. They needed that shit.

Rachel:

For the entertainment.

Griffin:

For... But they needed it to cook their food and, you know, probably boil their water...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... so they didn't die when they were, like, adults of 12 years old.

Rachel:

And you need the Game Boy.

Griffin:

I need... I mean, I got to have my Game Boy. But even though they need it more than I needed it, we still get the same stuff out of it, and that's very cool.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

1.3 million years ago' is a very long time ago, and I have very little in common with them.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I have very little in common with Homo erectus. Um, except for pretty much to this and a lot of time they tried to grow a beard according to what I saw in museums and it looks shitty and I'm kind of in the same boat there, too.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, I just think it's fascinating to think back to, like, the dawn of man and me doing the same shit. Um, and also...

Rachel:

Maybe not with dryer lint, though.

Griffin:

Not with dryer lint. Well they, you don't know. You don't know what they had back then. There may have been some sort of dryer lint plant that went extinct.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But I also love, you know, just getting around a fire with some friends and being around this, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... pretty cool-sounding, good-smelling thing.

Rachel:

For me, that's one of the only reasons to go camping.

Griffin:

It's maybe the only reason to go camping.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, hey, can I sail you away? [singing] Come sail away, come sail away, come sail away with me.

Rachel:

[makes sound effects]

Griffin:

Is that whale noises?

Rachel:

Sure. [laughs]

Griffin:

We just did, like, a musical there.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Can we keep it going?

Rachel:

No. Not at all. [laughs]]

Griffin:

Um, I want to tell you about MeUndies. Do you know about them? You're gonna love this. Do you know how you wear pants?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

What if you had littler pants that go underneath?

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Yeah, so double pants and you know how you wear your pants and you go for, like, a run or a walk or you bend over...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and there are so much rubbing against all of...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... your weak points?

Rachel:

Yeah, Uh-huh.

Griffin:

You got to get some smaller pants to go in under that.

Rachel:

Now would these small pants...

Griffin:

Yeah?

Rachel:

... be uncomfortable?

Griffin:

Uh, 100% of the time, yes, except for, oh, wait a minute... [makes sound effects]

[ad break]

Rachel:

This message is for Tyler Jamison. It is from Jackie McCook. "Congratulations on becoming the world's cutest certified advanced wheel builder/bike mechanic. You're amazing and I hope you know how proud I am of you. I love how you show your love by giving people bike parts. I love you and think we should be together for a bit. From Jackie and your cat, whose name I'm too embarrassed to put, but you know who."

Griffin:

Oh, we are going to spend the next 20 minutes trying to figure out what this cat's name is. Pootsus.

Rachel:

Guy Fieri.

Griffin:

Guy Furry.

Rachel:

Guy Furry, that's nice.

Griffin:

Guy Furry is good, but you have to say it, like, really weird. Like you have to really...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... in order to get the pun across of who you're doing, you really— Guy Furry.

Rachel:

Cat Stevens.

Griffin:

The best. Not embarrassing. It's got to be, like, Mr. Pussy Willow.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

What? I can say Pussy Willow.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Can't I say Pussy Willow?

Rachel:

I'm not...

Griffin:

Not three times.

Rachel:

Not three times.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Can I read this next message?

Griffin:

Sure you can.

Rachel:

This message is for Kayley. It is from Past Kayley. "Hey buddy, I'm sure someday someone will buy you a Jumbotron instead of buying one for yourself. Until then, just remember I love you, you love yourself, and if you keep doing that, everything will be wonderful. See what you did there? You're so smart."

Griffin:

This is great. This is coming in the, uh, the beginning of the third act of the movie about this. You set up, this was Chekhov's gun, and you're like [laughs] what a funny thing to do, and then some shit goes bad in the second act, and then you find the hero's strength in this message from yourself for act three. And then, credits. That sounds threatening, though, doesn't it?

Rachel:

It doesn't, yeah. I don't think Kayley has necessarily that kind of arc.

Griffin:

Yeah. Well, nobody does.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Hal: Welcome, everyone, to the live wrestling spectacular in Los Angeles.

Danielle: So far, the world's most boring wrestling podcast has been destroying the competition.

Hal: Isn't there anyone who can save us from this travesty. Wait, could it be?

Danielle: It's Tights and Fights, the perfect wrestling podcast.

Hal: Tights and Fights is here to save us from the monotony of boring wrestling podcasts with hilarious conversations.

Danielle: Woke trips through the history of wrestling.

Hal: And joke about the finer points of people wearing spandex.

Crowd: One, two, three

Hal: What a match!

Danielle: And the Tights and Fights podcast will back every week.

Hal: Thursdays on maximumfun.org, or whatever you get podcasts. Please, these hosts have families.

[ad break ends]

Rachel:

You want to hear my second thing?

Griffin:

I want to hear it so bad, I think I could shit. What? I'm very excited to hear your second thing.

Rachel:

Griffin, I have four words for you.

Griffin:

Eat my shorts, bud.

Rachel:

You think that's the wonderful thing I'm bringing this week?

Griffin:

Ass, gas, grass, bud.

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Um.

Rachel:

You know, please stop guessing. [laughs]

Griffin:

Where's the beef, dude?

Rachel:

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing.

Griffin:

[laughs] The game begins.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Oh my God, it is fucking on. Yes. Yes.

Rachel:

This came to me last night. [laughs]

Griffin:

Yes. Yes. Yes. She's doing it.

Rachel:

This came to me last night, uh, while I was laying in bed, and I thought, "Please, Rachel, don't forget this. Please, Rachel, don't forget this when you wake up in the morning."

Griffin:

And you didn't write it down?

Rachel:

I didn't write it down. I just trusted.

Griffin:

Baby, Elizabeth Gilbert would be very disappointed in you.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

You got to write that shit down. You got to take the ideas seriously or else it's gonna go to somebody's else. That's the big magic, dog.

Rachel:

No, I know.

Griffin:

Big magic dog is her next book.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing was developed, um...

Griffin:

Broderbund?

Rachel:

You know, I think it ended up with Broderbund at one point, but it was developed in 1987.

Griffin:

So was I.

Rachel:

That's true.

Griffin:

I was in development hell. I got caught up there with the... They got me out the door.

Rachel:

Here's something... Okay, there's a lot that's interesting about this, but first I'm gonna say something that shocked me.

Griffin:

Uh-oh.

Rachel:

It may or may not shock you and I'm gonna need you to pay complete attention.

Griffin:

I am. I just had to make sure it was Broderbund and it was. What a good name for a game company. Go on.

Rachel:

Mavis Beacon is not a real person. [laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

You are laughing?

Griffin:

Yes, I am laughing. She was played by multiple people throughout the series.

Rachel:

I know, but I thought it was based on historical...

Griffin:

[laughs] Type... computer typist?

Rachel:

A lot of people have thought this. So much so that the software company has gotten requests to interview her and have appearances from Mavis herself.

Griffin:

Oh, that's good. Okay, in your defense and everybody else's defense, it's pretty wild to invent a typing character.

Rachel:

Yes. So this is what's interesting.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

So the company that made this, the designers also made the Chessmaster game.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Which starred a, like, chess wizard.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

So they were big on this, like, personification thing of, like, let's put an actual figure attached to this so it's not just like your everyday game. Apparently with the chess wizard game, or Chessmaster 2000, rather, uh, they paid \$10,000 for the photo shoot to get this guy that became the Chessmaster wizard guy.

Griffin:

Can I please take a moment to Google this, this dude?

Rachel:

Yeah, sure.

Griffin:

This fucking guy. And his pixelated version? He looks like, um... Who was the guy who played the dude in the Big Lebowski?

Rachel:

Oh, Jeff Bridges?

Griffin:

Jeff Bridges. This Jeff Bridges-esque look, like— This is so good. And he's peering over, like, a hologram chess set and he looks like, um, if my dad got struck by lightning...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and had sort of a different life path he went down. Okay, sorry.

Rachel:

So, uh, Mavis Beacon was named for, uh, Mavis Staples, who was one of the developer's favorite singers.

Griffin:

And should be everybody's.

Rachel:

And the word beacon which is an allusion to her role as the typing guide.

Griffin:

I did not know she was named after Mavis Staples.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That's very interesting.

Rachel:

Uh, so the original model they discovered working behind the perfume counter at Saks Fifth Avenue. Uh, and so they paid this woman \$500.

Griffin:

Oh, you mean not the \$10,000 that you paid fucking fake Jeff Bridges...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... to be the Chessmaster 2000?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

You mean you only did 5% what you... Okay, cool. No, that seems great.

Rachel:

Uh, and they gave her a new suit which was probably...

Griffin:

Worth— [laughs]

Rachel:

\$9,500.

Griffin:

... \$9,500.

Rachel:

Uh, and they did the photo shoot with her, uh, to represent a modern professional typing instructor.

Griffin:

I learned with this. Did you learn with this?

Rachel:

Uh, well, yes. That was my first introduction. My parents bought it for me and then I took a keyboarding class in high school.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

It was kind of my final stamp.

Griffin:

Are they still doing keyboarding? 'Cause I took it in middle school and I definitely did, like, three years of Mavis Beacon but, like, these days, who's teaching kids to type?

Rachel:

I hope it still happens because honestly, like, having dedicated time to practice is not something I think a lot of people do and it really, like, made a huge difference for me.

Griffin:

It's the most... Uh, it's thing I do more than anything else...

Rachel:

Yeah, of course.

Griffin:

... literally all day every day.

Rachel:

Yeah, no. I mean, that's, that's part of the reason I brought it. Like, it, it was a fun way to learn typing. Um...

Griffin:

But was it a thing there where just during a decade, during the '90s, it was like, "Oh, shit, we got to teach kids how to use these fucking things." And now...

Rachel:

Well, so as of '98, she had instructed six million schoolchildren, uh, and it is still the best-selling instructional typing software.

Griffin:

Well. [laughs]

Rachel:

Um.

Griffin:

Compared to what?

Rachel:

Yeah, I don't know.

Griffin:

Mario Teaches Typing. Typing of the Dead.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, yeah, so I don't, I don't know if it's still an active thing, but I think it's really important and I think, like, Mavis Beacon is such a like, I don't know, it's such a good touchstone for me.

Griffin:

I'm looking at the Broderbund website. I can't say it. I don't know. Have you gotten a chance to say it yet? Broderbund?

Rachel:

In my life or on this podcast?

Griffin:

On this podcast. Just it's so good. It just dribbles from the tongue. I love it. I'm looking at the website. There's three versions here. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing powered by UltraKey V2 Family Edition. Okay. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing powered by Ultrakey 2 V2 Personal Edition. So that's if you don't want your kids to know how to type. And then there's Mavis Beacon Keyboarding Kidz with a Z.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I don't like that. I don't like that there's a kids only version. We're all typing the same keyboards, you know what I mean?

Rachel:

Well, the words are probably, like, simpler.

Griffin:

Apple. Yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Yeet. Things that the kids are using.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

The slap. This is such a... You have taken me on a fucking journey, 'cause I feel like I reference Mavis Beacon...

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

... in the same thing as, like, Math Blaster, Number Crunchers, and Mystical Island or...

Rachel:

Oregon Trail.

Griffin:

Uh, Oregon Trail, Mysterious Island of the Zoombinis, I think. All of these, like...

Rachel:

I don't know that one.

Griffin:

All of these, like, edu-games, right?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I talk about them as, uh, as if they are a novelty, right? I think in Mavis Beacon's case, that's unfair, 'cause I learned to fucking type playing these games.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

What's your WPM? What can you get up to?

Rachel:

Oh, you know and I thought you might ask this...

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

... so I did it today.

Griffin:

Oh, shit.

Rachel:

I did a typing test today that was a minute long.

Griffin:

What did you get? Or should I do mine real quick and then-

Rachel:

Yours is gonna be much faster, Griffin.

Griffin:

Why?

Rachel:

Because you do all the internet stuff.

Griffin:

I made a mistake.

Rachel:

This is really good audio.

Griffin:

I got 104.

Rachel:

Really?

Griffin:

Yeah. What are you at?

Rachel:

I don't want to say.

Griffin:

No, what are you at?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

What did you get? What did you get on your... Baby, you got to tell me, what did you get?

Rachel:

61. [laughs] I didn't think yours would be that high. I didn't get any mistakes, though, when I did it.

Griffin:

That's what it is. I got 104, but I made two mistakes. My accuracy was 97.16%. So really, a 61, I feel like, what's the average?

Rachel:

I think they said it was like a 50 or something.

Griffin:

40. 40 words per minute.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

I didn't know mine was that good.

Rachel:

It was...

Griffin:

I thought mine wasn't very good.

Rachel:

That was really intense. [laughs]

Griffin:

Okay, sorry. Um, so thank you. And you know why? Mavis, Mavis, Mavis, Mavis. You've just taken me on a trip.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

All I want to talk about is Mavis Beacon. Um, but I do want to talk about my second thing.

Rachel:

Please.

Griffin:

Survivor.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

This is one of those things where I swear to God, I've talked about this before on this show.

Rachel:

We've talked about the show.

Griffin:

Okay, but have we...

Rachel:

But I don't think we've done—

Griffin:

... we've done a full segment on it?

Rachel:

I don't think so.

Griffin:

Um, we are currently watching the current season which is Survivor: Ghost Island.

Rachel:

Ghost Island.

Griffin:

Where when they lose, they kill them.

Rachel:

[laughs] And then their ghost has to compete.

Griffin:

Their ghost has to compete, so there's a million dollars for the living human winner and then a million ghost coins...

Rachel:

What's great is that the ghosts don't eat the rice, so there's more food.

Griffin:

That's true. But the players eat the ghosts.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

So it's kind of a reverse Pac-Man situation. Um, okay, Survivor. I'm gonna make this quick because I think there's a lot of people who just turned it off because I feel like nobody really watches Survivor anymore.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

But, everybody, it's gotten very good, and let me tell you why. Same—
Premise is the same every episode. There are a couple challenges, usually one for, like, a reward, which makes, like, uh, life a little bit easier for the 16 contestants who get dropped off on this island with very few supplies.

So, like, a meal or a fishing kit or a hammock or something like that. And then there's an immunity challenge and if your tribe wins that, then you

don't have to kick somebody off that week. The other tribe does. And then at some point, there's a merge where all the remaining players come together, and then at that point, you're just kind of voting for individuals.

Rachel:

How many weeks is it, if you last the whole time?

Griffin:

It's 39 days, I want to say. 39 days total.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, every three days, there's a tribal council. Um, whoever wins the immunity challenge gets the necklace and then they can't be voted for, basically. And then they go to a tribal council at the end, where a majority vote will kick off one player. That was, like, the starting formula, right?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And then it gets down to, like, two or three players who are the finalists, and then they have to stand in front of a jury made up of, like, the last eight people to be kicked off and plead their case for why they deserve the million dollars, and then the jury votes on who they give it to.

So there's a, like a power reversal there where now all of a sudden, you have to, like, you know, lower yourself before the people that you screwed over so that they will give you a million dollars. And that's a very fascinating twist. The thing that got this game very interesting if you watched it back in, what, fucking 2001 or so...

Rachel:

Yeah, yeah.

Griffin:

... is the addition of hidden immunity idols, and those are usually hidden all around the island wherever the, the game is taking place, or sometimes, like, under a bench, like, hiding in plain sight, like, during an immunity challenge.

Rachel:

Oh, I love those.

Griffin:

Those are very good. A player has to, like, walk right up to somebody and bend that down and pick up the immunity idol that was hidden at their feet. And those you can play on anybody, uh, during the, uh, during the tribal council after everybody's placed their votes and then any votes for them will not count. So they're—

It's very tough to play one of these correctly 'cause you have to know who everybody's voting for. You have to know who to play it on. Um, they are very, uh, strategically powerful and so they're kind of hard to come by. So having one gives you a big advantage to the game, and it adds, like, a level of uncertainty to the game that didn't exist before, right? Before it could just be, like, well, there's six of us and three of them, so let's vote them off.

Rachel:

Well, and people used them a lot as currency because, like, trust is such a big part of this game. And so people will try and curry favor in their alliance by saying, "Hey, I'm gonna tell you, and I haven't told anybody else, but I have an immunity idol."

Griffin:

Which don't fucking do that. It never makes sense.

Rachel:

You know, it never works.

Griffin:

It has never worked out, ever.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, there's a lot of other stuff that can— Not a lot. Like usually every season there's, like, one gimmick. For instance, this season it's Ghost Island where they kill you.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, no. They send you to, like, an island... If you lose a challenge, they send you to an island by yourself, and then there's a chance that you can play a game, uh, to get, like, some sort of advantage, but if you lose the game, you lose your vote for that episode, which is an interesting twist, this idea of, like, just straight up gambling to get an advantage in the game, um, and knowing, like, when is the right time to do it and when is the wrong time to do it. It's interesting. Also, this is, like, the most fan-servicey season ever...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... because the, like, Ghost Island thing is everybody who's played this game has made mistakes, and so these artifacts are, like, past hidden immunity idols and fake hidden immunity idols that people have used to try to pass off...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... that are now real because of spirits of the island.

Rachel:

Yeah, like this idol is from this contestant in season four who went home with it in his pocket and it's cursed.

Griffin:

Now it's cursed and you can break the curse by...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and so that's, like, this season's gimmick. But really, the core of the game is to form alliances with other players so that you can be the majority vote at the end, win challenges, right? Get rewards and get immunity for yourself and for your team, find hidden immunity idols so that you have secret advantages that nobody else knows about. And then, know what the fuck everybody else is going to do...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... or at least try to and know who to trust and know when to make the correct moves. It is very simple game. Every episode plays out essentially with the same format. There's a couple challenges, maybe a shakeup of who's in what tribe, and then the tribal council. And yet, every episode also plays out a little bit differently because of this human element.

Um, and it's one of those shows that I feel like never gets boring. Rachel and I have watched every season because there is no one set path to victory. There have been people who have won the show because they were challenge beasts and just won every immunity necklace and were never in danger of going home, somehow made it through, like, the final three and, and then everybody voted for them 'cause they're, like, "They were just fucking great at challenges."

Then there were people who were so deceitful and played nasty, nasty games, and then they made it to the jury, uh, and everybody thought, like, "Well, nobody's gonna vote for them, they were shitty." And then the jury

says, "Yeah, they were shitty and they were really good at it. Here's a million dollars."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Or there's people who are really nice, and then they make it to the finals and they're like, "Yeah, they didn't make any big moves, but they were really nice, so here's a million dollars."

Rachel:

Well, and what's become interesting about the later seasons is that there's so many contestants that have an awareness of previous seasons.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

And so you watch them kind of get in their own heads and be like, "This is my time to make a big move, so when I get to the end, the jury will recognize how much I played this game."

Griffin:

And all of that is based on what has happened in past seasons.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And this is especially prevalent in, like, all star seasons, which, if you are intrigued by this at all and want to watch it, go watch any of the most recent all star seasons. They are fucking club bangers...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... because everybody there knows what's up and every episode is, like, blindsides and big moves. But that idea of everybody in the game knows about the game because what has happened in past games reflects a very big, like, competitive video game idea of the meta, which basically just means, like, well, what does the community, by virtue of how they play a game decide, it is the best and strongest, you know, strategy or Hearthstone deck or, like, League of Legends character.

But the idea of the meta being, like, how the community has decided through play is the best and strongest thing. This is the only game I know of where that exists in this reality show game...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... because people play it following these archetypes that have worked in the past. And maybe they don't work this time, and they almost never do, because everything is always different because you have 16 new people with new personalities and do..

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... things that will make them trust other people that you don't know about when you go into the season. Um, it— The game itself is a great idea, right? It is a game, uh, for television especially, it's a game about consolidating power, and then about trying to dismantle these power structures...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... before they become too powerful and then just, you know, rampage through the whole season. And things like the hidden immunity idols give

you sort of stones in your sling that you can use to slay the giants. Um, and so, like, that's entertaining to watch.

Like seeing a big reversal happen every couple episodes, which it almost always does on a good season. It's, like, really, really good. But this human element of, like, not knowing who's going to win because literally everybody, like, anybody could win. Anybody has won.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

The list of winners is not just, like, big strong person, big strong person, big strong... Um, and because of that, I think that, like, I watch the show, and I think, "Yeah, I could fucking win that."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And I'm not like that with anything else. Now, I couldn't because I have to sleep with four pillows every night. Um...

Rachel:

[laughs] And you have a very sensitive—

Griffin:

Very sensitive belly. Um, I try not to get, like, too Cathy on it, but, like, if I do not have coffee in the morning, it's not like a fun McDonald's commercial where it's like... [laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"Don't talk to me till I've had my joe." Um, I would literally start hurting all over my bones.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but it's still inspiring to see, like, all of these different types of people win a million dollars at this game and you don't get that from many other reality shows.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Like "Amazing Race" usually it's like two, you know, very fit people who are, you know, oh, "I'm a... We're professional cross country runners." And it's like, "Oh, well, fucking duh."

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

"Like, of course you won." Um, but, like, people surprise you on this show and win. And it's just, it is, it is pound for pound I think like the most entertaining competitive reality show 'cause you don't really know what to expect and it is built around just constant turnabouts of people taking power away from other people as they try to build their alliances and everything. I just love it so much. It's just entertaining. What's the best Survivor play you've ever seen?

Rachel:

Hoo.

Griffin:

This season's had some fucking good ones.

Rachel:

I mean, Boston Rob is a popular choice.

Griffin:

Yeah, but then his season where he won was just like, "Let's give Boston Rob a season," and it was kind of boring.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um.

Griffin:

Any time where they play two idols in one thing, like, um...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... Parvati playing the, the two idols to protect...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... not even her. She had two hidden immunity idols. She played them on two people in her alliance but not herself.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And it ended up blocking, like, all of the votes from the other team and she took their shit apart. Uh, that was a very, very good one. The one where an alliance of all women convinced the man to give away his immunity idol...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... that he had actually won at the challenge to prove his loyalty to them so she, they would take them, like, on their alliance.

Rachel:

Yeah, that was good.

Griffin:

And then they fucking literally took the necklace off his neck...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... walked into the voting booth, and then kicked him out. Like, oh, that's so good.

Rachel:

Sandra's a good one, too.

Griffin:

Sandra is very, very good at the game. Sandra's very good at it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I'm not like this. I can't tell you contestants from past seasons of Top Chef.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

I can name 20 Survivor contestants off the...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... 'cause it's so good at building characters 'cause it's all about underdogs and, you know, people to, people to root for. Uh, anyway, that's Survivor. Nobody's listening anymore.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Nobody cares about Survivor anymore. We had talked about, like, doing... What if we did a Survivor podcast instead, but then we decided there would be eight people who would listen to it. Um.

Rachel:

Well, we're not asking to change.

Griffin:

We're not. Please God, do not.

Rachel:

Please don't.

Griffin:

Please, God, do not ask us to do a Survivor podcast.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

If I quit Polygon, and then the following week said like, "And here's why. I'm doing a Survivor podcast," I think the people would come and leave me mean comments. Do you want some submissions?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Austin says, "I've read Calvin and Hobbes since I was in the second or third grade and it's been one of the most enduring sources of happiness and joy for me. The combination of Calvin's vivid imagination and alter egos with stories about not fitting in at school and a genuinely wholesome, uh, relationship with his stuffed tiger makes it my favorite comic series of all time. And I love it when he pees on those car logos, too."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Did you read much Calvin and Hobbes?

Rachel:

You know, I did, but not enough. Like, I read when it was in the paper, um, but I've never owned, like, a book of Calvin and Hobbes.

Griffin:

I, oh my god, we used to own... We owned all of them.

Rachel:

I would very much like to get back into it.

Griffin:

What was... There was called like, Scientific Progress Goes Boink. Like I could... We had a lot of them...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and they lived next to our toilet. Is that weird?

Rachel:

Um, probably not.

Griffin:

Did you have toilet books?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Don't be... It's not gross. We had all Calvin and Hobbes, we had some Far Side by the toilet. We had some, um, Deep Thoughts. You remember that? Deep Thoughts?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

And then, uh, Uncle John's Bathroom Reader.

Rachel:

I'm so glad.

Griffin:

Baskets, big baskets full of toilet books.

Rachel:

How, see...

Griffin:

Is this gross? Baby, this was a staple of my life and I'm just not thinking about it.

Rachel:

I mean, one, germs.

Griffin:

Probably splash down.

Rachel:

One, a lot of germs. Two...

Griffin:

A lot of piss.

Rachel:

... it suggests that this person is spending a lot of time in the bathroom.
[laughs] I know, I've met you before.

Griffin:

Well. Hm.

Rachel:

But it prolongs it almost. Like it suggests, like, I'm not here to get in and get out. I'm here to just relax.

Griffin:

Yeah, what's wrong with that?

Rachel:

I... Thumbs down.

Griffin:

Austin, I'm sorry that your topic turned into this.

Rachel:

Yeah, I love Calvin and Hobbes. Thumbs down to bathroom reading.

Griffin:

Uh, wrong. Macy says, "I love listening to you guys talk about good things for an hour every week. My good thing right now is rearranging bookshelves. I've been doing it a lot recently between my church and my own shelves, and there's something really nice and tactile about pushing books around on a shelf to make room for more books."

Rachel:

I actually like this, too.

Griffin:

Yeah. What's not to like? Rearranging your, your stuff. I mean...

Rachel:

I would always... If I, if you go to the library and you see people reshelving, I would think, like, "Ah, that's got to be a satisfying gig."

Griffin:

[laughs] You ever walk up to them, like, "Lucky."

Rachel:

No, I recognize it's probably not as exciting as it appears.

Griffin:

You decorated at our old house, the books. You arranged them in order of color and I thought that was so wonderful.

Rachel:

Yeah, I mean, just in our living space. I didn't do that with every single book we own, but I thought it would be a nice touch for our living room.

Griffin:

Uh, a few people sent this one in. This is from Mobster Seeker who says, "Uh, safari live, daily safari live streams. Twice a day, they stream live safaris from South Africa and answer questions about them live." Have we talked about this before?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

We talked about some similar sort of, uh, zoological, uh, livestream thing. Uh, "the craziest stuff happens there constantly. The drama is real. It's sort

of like Game of Thrones but better because most of the main characters are leopards."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Games of Thrones would be much better if they were all leopards.

Rachel:

Yeah, I'd watch that show.

Griffin:

Um, Game of, Game of Bones 'cause they eat the animals. [laughs] Sorry, zebra, you're all bones now.

Rachel:

Oh, I love the way you said that.

Griffin:

Which part?

Rachel:

Zeh-bra.

Griffin:

I was trying to say Debra.

Rachel:

Can you tell people where they can submit if they want to send us things?

Griffin:

Uh, yes I would love to do that. Go ahead and shoot us an email. Wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com, and that's gonna get right to us. We're gonna read it all. Keep it kind of short. We like to read, like, one or two sentence

submissions. Um, we love reading your wonderful thoughts, but, uh, if you keep it a little bit shorter, good chance it'll end up on the show.

And, uh, hey, thanks to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song Money Won't Pay. There's a link to that in the episode description. And thank you to Maximum Fun for having us. Oh, Max Fun.

Rachel:

Uh, it's a wonderful network full of wonderful podcasts like our podcast, Wonderful.

Griffin:

Wow.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah, these podcasts kick ass. You know what my favorite is? Ours.

Rachel:

I will recommend... This week, I'll recommend, uh, Judge John Hodgman.

Griffin:

Hm.

Rachel:

Um, you know, so you may be familiar with Jesse Thorn and you may be familiar with John Hodgman, but I will say when they get together to decide real life disputes, it is very charming.

Griffin:

Peanut butter and bow ties.

Rachel:

Yes. [laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

It is a wonderful listen. I recommend it.

Griffin:

Yeah, it's very fun. Uh, and if you want to hear more stuff from our fam, you can go to mcelroyshows.com. Um, is that it?

Rachel:

That's it.

Griffin:

Good. What if I just turned off all the lights and we sit here in complete silence?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Oh, God, oh God. Sorry.

Rachel:

[crosstalk] ...go silent in here.

Griffin:

Yeah. I saw a big skeleton. Let me try again, just to make sure. Nope, yeah, they're still there. No way, no way, no way.

[theme music plays]

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What's the best book light to use in bed while your partner's trying to sleep?

Brea:

Where do you hide the bodies of the people who talk while you're trying to read?

Mallory:

In the basement of my apartment building.

Brea:

Ooh, that's a good place.

Mallory:

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