

Wonderful! 33: Fbutter and Sprawn

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[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

This is Wonderful!

Griffin:

Hey, hey, welcome back. I'm glad you made it. The directions we gave you. I know, a little confusing. To tune into the podcast, we said in the MapQuest directions we printed out said, "Go down I-5 for a hundred miles, turn left at the big barn." Go back, turn around. We fucked up. Go back and turn right at the big barn.

Rachel:

I do not like landmark directions.

Griffin:

No. And it's good that we've evolved past that.

Rachel:

Like, "How— Is that the biggest barn? Is there going to be a bigger barn?"

Griffin:

You'll know when you see the biggest barn, Rachel. It's...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... pretty freaking big. Um, it's kind of like a Tardis barn. Like it's got like a hundred barns inside of it. Um, and sometimes they call Barnes and Noble and that can be fun.

Rachel:

Come on down to the Tardis barn,

Griffin:

Tardis barn. So this is a show about things that we're really into and things that we really like. And I got a small wonder for you.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Kolaches.

Rachel:

Do you have one this morning?

Griffin:

I may have had one this morning. Don't tell my wife.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I may have had two this morning.

Rachel:

Whoa!

Griffin:

And I may have more in the refrigerator because I thought I might have a double. Hey, I might have a breakfast kolachy and a lunchtime kolachy.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Yeah. Now...

Rachel:

I'm all worried about...

Griffin:

... now you're making a face.

Rachel:

... what that's going to do to you.

Griffin:

If you do not know, kolaches are these wonderful things. They're like hot pockets, but great. They're like great hot pockets. They're just little dough guys.

Rachel:

Little buttery rolls.

Griffin:

Little buttery rolls stuffed with whatever you want.

Rachel:

Savory or sweet snacks in there.

Griffin:

Yeah. Right.

Rachel:

Griffin, what kind you get?

Griffin:

Uh, I got some, you know, pan sausage, egg, and cheese.

Rachel:

Mm.

Griffin:

And I got one sweet one with like, uh, cream cheese and blueberry and it's very, very good, and I ate two of them for breakfast and I will have two for lunch and nobody can stop me. I'm unemployed!

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I can do whatever we, I want. My body doesn't know it has a job anymore, and so I can fill it with just hot pockets.

Rachel:

Did you tell the massage therapist, um, you're going to be kneading out some kolaches?

Griffin:

I said we're going to...

Rachel:

Then-

Griffin:

... we're going to be working on some tight knots and some loose bowels.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I went and got a massage today. I've talked about this before. Do you have any small wonders?

Rachel:

I do.

Griffin:

Yeah. Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, it's the Childish Gambino, This Is America track...

Griffin:

It's very, very good.

Rachel:

... and accompanying video.

Griffin:

Yeah, it's really good. I watched it, like, 15 times.

Rachel:

I watched it again this morning.

Griffin:

It is challenging. I think it is safe...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... to say, more challenging perhaps than a lot of the fare that we bring normally.

Rachel:

And I am only bringing it as a small wonder because a lot of people with more background in education are talking about this and I think I would advise you to check that out.

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

Um, but I enjoyed it and wanted to share that.

Griffin:

Yeah, he is fucking inspiring.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

In that he does, like, everything.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Like, I loved him on community and I think that's where, uh, and I knew of some, like, Childish Gambino tracks, but like to see him fucking stick his toe in every imaginable creative water.

Rachel:

Atlanta is a great show too.

Griffin:

Atlanta. Yeah. And just like fucking crush all of them is really...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... really incredible. Um, I think you go first this week.

Rachel:

Yay.

Griffin:

Go for it.

Rachel:

All right. So what I am bringing this week...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... are my...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... very wonderful dairy free life hacks.

Griffin:

Oh, dairy free life hacks. I've heard of these.

Rachel:

Yes. So I've talked about this on the show before, uh, when our son was two weeks old, uh, his pediatrician identified that he was, uh, very likely suffering from a milk protein allergy.

Griffin:

He had what medical professionals call, his butt exploded...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... while we were at the hospital. And it's good that it happened while we were at the hospital, because if it had happened at home I would've fainted and fallen down this stairs.

Rachel:

You always say hospital, it's the doctor's office.

Griffin:

It's the same thing.

Rachel:

No, hospital suggests like a more serious ailment.

Griffin:

It's at doctor's office, butt did explode. And that's not me speaking colorfully, his buttcheeks, butt... Sorry, what?

Rachel:

So this is, so this is different than like lactose intolerance for example, which I think a lot of people kind of confuse it with that when I talk about it. Uh, it's literally the protein that is found in cow's milk, uh, that, um, his digestive system is not able to process.

Griffin:

It's more insidious, I think, than, than a run of the mill lactose intolerance, which I [laughs] possess.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, so it wasn't... He was too young, obviously, to be drinking cow's milk himself but if I was eating anything with cow's milk in it, uh, I was passing it along to him and it was making him sick and very uncomfortable.

Griffin:

The body is just so wild.

Rachel:

I mean...

Griffin:

The ways it works.

Rachel:

... yes. And the terrible thing about this is that it takes a long time to get out of your system. Uh, so I think they said something like, uh, two weeks for him, but four months for me, or...

Griffin:

Oh, four. I thought it was just one month for you. Four months would be wild if you accidentally drink a little bit of a milkshake that's just four months of tummy troubles.

Rachel:

Well, I mean, it was a long term usage.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Um, but yeah, it took me a while to kind of figure out how to do this because I didn't realize, you know, how close I had to read the ingredients. So a lot of times I would slip up and I would see an almost immediate impact on him.

Griffin:

Yeah. The bigger, like, thing that was tougher to avoid, I feel like we...

Rachel:

Was soy.

Griffin:

... was soy. Yeah. Which is, commonly goes hand in hand with cow's milk protein allergies because they can't do soy.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And I said, "Hey, y'all, fucking everything."

Rachel:

Yeah. There's something about the construction of the protein and soy that's very similar to cows milk and so I avoided that for a long time, um, just out of a precaution and it wasn't until he was a little bit older that we determined he was no longer allergic to it.

Griffin:

A lot of dry ass sushi.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

A lot of sushi without that good brown helper friend that we call soy sauce...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... which has it right there in the name.

Rachel:

Yes. Uh, so I along the way discovered a lot of really great substitutes, uh, and various food items and I wanted to share those.

Griffin:

And I'll, we should mention these apply to our friends who buy choice do not drink, uh, do not... I mean, I guess even if you have lactose intolerance...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and you drink milk, that's still a choice, but, like, who decide not to.

Rachel:

A lot of folks who are vegan, for example. Um...

Griffin:

That was it— I couldn't remember the word vegan. [laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, yeah. And then if you're like most people, a lot of times dairy just kind of upsets your stomach generally.

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

So, uh, here are some tips.

Griffin:

Yeah. What have you— I mean, I'm asking you, but I've been subject to these products as well, and I have my own thoughts about some of them.

Rachel:

Well, okay. Uh, so there are various ice creams, uh, that are, I think phenomenal.

Griffin:

They're fucking really good.

Rachel:

Yes. Uh, so a national one is so delicious, uh, and they have various ice creams that are made from coconut, almond, soy, or cashew milk. And they're very, very good. I get a salted caramel one. That's very good. Uh, recently I had a chocolate cookies and cream one that was very, very good.

Griffin:

I secretly eated some of your ice cream, like, one bite at a time. I would go in the kitchen while you were watching TV and I'd be like, "I want one bite of ice cream." But I didn't have any. So I'd eat a little bit of yours. It is as good as...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... if not sometimes better than the real deal. Holy field.

Rachel:

Well, and that's why I'm talking about this. So ours, our, the allergy he has a lot of kids grow out of as they get older, and sometimes it takes a long time, but Henry seems to be at a point now where he has grown out of the allergy, but I am still eating these foods because they're tasty and I've developed an affection for them.

Griffin:

This is a point of contention between Rachel and I because...

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah, Griffin, yeah, it frustrates Griffin.

Griffin:

... my dog is up in daycare literally eating grilled cheese sandwiches.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And Rachel's like, "I don't know if I should put butter on my toast this morning." Like, "You wicked can." He could eat butter on his toast.

Rachel:

[laughs] And that's the thing. So because of this allergy, it, it led me to breastfeeding longer than I had planned to, uh, because I couldn't start giving him whole milk, uh, when he turned one, like a lot of kids do. Uh, so I continue to breastfeed and still do at this point, although...

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

... I probably could stop.

Griffin:

Yes. We're probably nearing the end.

Rachel:

Uh, so a local, uh, brand of ice cream is NadaMoo!

Griffin:

Mm-hmm. That's local?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's very good.

Rachel:

It's made in Austin. Uh, and they have a chocolate peanut butter that's incredible.

Griffin:

A lot of chocolate and peanut butter sort of influences...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... on your...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... on your life.

Rachel:

Uh, so another dessert item, Enjoy Life is a brand, uh, that makes like a series of dessert treats like cookies, for example. I get the double chocolate brownie cookies a lot.

Griffin:

Again, like...

Rachel:

They have a snickerdoodle kind.

Griffin:

Some really tasty... I, this is good because you were eating these as sort of a necessity, but I was eating them in the kitchen when you weren't looking...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... because they were your special cookies. And they kept me coming back and sneaking into the kitchen and eating the food like a goblin and coming back for more. These are very good, good chocolate.

Rachel:

They have a website. They also sell like chocolate chips. So if you were to make, for example, dairy free cookies with, um... There's a, uh... What is it called? Uh, something, the Earth Balance, makes a, uh, like a vegan butter spread.

Griffin:

No.

Rachel:

So if you were to make like a cookie, uh, you could use Enjoy Life chocolate chips and the, uh, the balance.

Griffin:

Let's talk about this faux butter or fbutter, if you will.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Because this fbutter...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... um, was all we had in the house and so whenever I had to like cook something that for instance had a pan sauce...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

...uh, the butter when applied to any amount of heat above body temperature turns into, um, gross water basically.

Rachel:

Yeah, it's kind of like sweat a little bit.

Griffin:

It's a little bit— Sweat is a great way...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Which then makes me wonder if they've emulsified the sweat and turned it into the product, I do not know. You spread this shit on toast, I'm down to clown until I'm in the ground. You try to make a pan sauce out of it...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... it tastes like old Gatorade.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, and the, the nice thing about Earth Balance is they have a spread that is also soy free, which is hard to find because obviously...

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

... most margarine is dairy free, but this was also soy free, which I like.

Griffin:

That sneaky thief, soy.

Rachel:

Uh, so here's another point of contention among me and Griffin.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

Uh, when it comes to pizza or...

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

... macaroni and cheese.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

Um, there is a brand called Daiya, D-A-I-Y-A.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And they make a, like, mozzarella style or cheddar style, uh, cheese product that is actually largely made from tapioca starch...

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

... and coconut oil. Um, I like it.

Griffin:

It gets the job done.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

But I also think that they made a slight tactical error by leaving ria off the end of their name, because I feel like every time I've eaten a significant amount of it, it has put me on the bench for the big game of life.

Rachel:

You say this but if you eat a lot of pizza with just regular cheese on it...

Griffin:

This is a good point.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

This is a fair point.

Rachel:

Um, I like it. It melts like cheese. Um, it kind of tastes like a Laughing Cow cheese spread. Like it doesn't taste exactly like cheese.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

But it suggests cheese. And I appreciate that about it.

Griffin:

It tricks cheese. It's a cheese trick kind of that they play. No, it is above average. I would say. I enjoy it. Okay.

Rachel:

And then the final two things I wanted, or, well, actually I have one other dessert item that I forgot. This is also local, but it's called Better Bites Bakery. Uh, they have cupcakes, specifically cupcakes that are very similar to Hostess Cupcakes that are dairy free. Their whole model is free of the top eight food allergens, which include gluten, dairy, soy, eggs, corn, nuts among others.

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

Uh, and they're also local. So I don't know if you can get them national.

Griffin:

You must have crammed these as soon as you brought 'em home because I'm always on the hunt for your foods and sneaking 'em.

Rachel:

Yeah, I didn't bring these home. [laughs]

Griffin:

Oh, so you've learned.

Rachel:

They have 'em at, like, Whole Foods and Central Market, and so sometimes if I'm picking up lunch, I'll grab all these.

Griffin:

Can I mention one dessert thing that I was never a big fan of? Uh, and I think you kind of fell off too, was dark chocolate because dark chocolate

doesn't have, typically, like, if you get it dark enough, it doesn't have any like cocoa butter or butter...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... or anything in it. But once it... What's your threshold? Because for me it's about 55%. Anything darker than that, it tastes like...

Rachel:

Yeah. There's this brand.

Griffin:

... poison.

Rachel:

Is it called Pascha?

Griffin:

Yeah, I think so.

Rachel:

Yeah. Griffin used to pick this up for me because there was a really great, uh, convenience store near us that had a lot of fancy chocolates and this was one of them. Um, yeah. At 55, tends to be my favorite. Anything over like 60 starts to be like...

Griffin:

Ooh.

Rachel:

... bitter.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, okay. So then, so that's all the kind of food items, but I wanted to call out two fast food restaurants that provide very detailed nutritional information on their website.

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

So you can select on their website, through their menu for allergens you want to avoid.

Griffin:

Interesting.

Rachel:

One of them is Chipotle.

Griffin:

Hey.

Rachel:

Which we have talked about on the show before.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

And part of the reason that I'm a big advocate for Chipotle is because they make it easy.

Griffin:

They have, they have been good friends to, to you and I.

Rachel:

Yeah. They make it easy for you to check and make sure that there aren't hidden allergens in your food. And also Panera does that too.

Griffin:

Oh. I feel like the line's always too crazy at Panera for us to ever go there.

Rachel:

Yeah. I know.

Griffin:

But it's nice that they, they are thinking about us.

Rachel:

Yeah. So that, those are my little dairy free life hacks. I'm going to continue to eat a lot of those foods because you know, dairy has a lot of fat and can make you feel kind of sick and I've developed a taste for those.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

And so it's just kind of, uh, an easier way to live for me in a lot of ways.

Griffin:

I remember when we found out, like, it was a upsetting moment, uh, because a. our child was sick. But also because, like, that was that the idea of that restriction seemed really wild to, to you and I...

Rachel:

Well, yeah.

Griffin:

... but at least these things made it like actually a lot more manageable, especially once you could eat soy again. Soy was, I will say, like, genuinely very difficult and it made it actually hard for us to, like, go out to eat anywhere.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Because dairy, you can go to a restaurant to be like, "I can't do dairy." But to say like, "Do you have soy in your foods?" The answer that sometimes is, "I have no fucking idea."

Rachel:

Yeah. Soy is in a lot of bread products. Uh, it must be... And I didn't do research on this, but it must have some kind of preservative quality because they put it in a lot of things. For example, another treat that is dairy free are Oreos.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

But Oreos have soy.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

So I had to avoid those when I was avoiding soy.

Griffin:

Uh, which, uh, all of that is to say, like, I am also genuinely thankful for these things because it actually made it a lot more bearable, uh, to— Well for you and for me to go through this because I ate so much of it too when you weren't looking. When you were distracted, I would...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... throw a coin into, like, the living room and you'd be like, "What was that noise?" Like I was playing Metal Gear Solid and you'd go check it out. I'd be in there scrumming...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... scrumming on your chocolate dips. Do you want to know my first thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

It's a bit abstract.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

But I couldn't stop thinking about it when planning for this episode. Childhood interior design. Again, an abstract concept. But as we start to like fill out our new house that we are living in now with, with stuff, um, I had the most powerful memory come back to me about how psyched I always was to decorate, like, my space in the house that I grew up in.

And this by the look you're giving me, may not be the most relatable concept. Um, but in our house, like our bedrooms were always up to us to lay out. Like, I remember my mom and dad never like came in there and we're like, "Okay, so let's put this here. Let's put this here. I've bought this new, uh, you know, bookshelf and I'm going to put all this stuff on it." It was totally up to us.

Rachel:

This explain so much about your video game interest in things like Animal Crossing where you like design your space.

Griffin:

I think it probably does. But I also think that this is kind of, uh, to a lot of people like this idea of ownership and self-expression being very important to a young person, I think is universally relatable even if it doesn't manifest necessarily like that, like, like this. But, um, I think that, uh, I was an indoor kid, right? And so I spent a lot of time in my bedroom and so I always really celebrated the opportunity to customize my space, and looking back at that

idea, what I really love is the massive amounts of unearned confidence that I had...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... in terms of my interior design chops. Because I would look at my bedroom, um, once Justin moved out. I should say, and Travis and I weren't rooming together anymore, which... [sighs]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Jesus.

Rachel:

Griffin still uses... This is something I didn't realize with siblings. Griffin still uses Travis as a touchstone. Like whenever I'll ask him a question, he'll be like, "Well, you know, Travis would do this." Or, "This isn't how Travis did it." And I realized like, "Oh, this was really formative for you."

Griffin:

I do that with Justin too, I think to a degree.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But Travis and I, you know, lived in the same room together. Then we lived together in Cincinnati.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, which was doable. Uh, the sharing the same room was a complete...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

...nonstarter, Clint! Clint!

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, I would look at my bedroom and I would say, "Okay, what can I do in here? How about I stack up these empty Nintendo 64 game boxes on the bookshelf in a cool pyramid there? And I got a couple swords that I'm going to...

Rachel:

Oh, jeez.

Griffin:

... post up in the corner of the room. That'll look great. I'm going to put the TV and the aforementioned Nintendo 64 on a shelf, like five inches away from the bed. I got a poster...

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

...for the movie Space Jam, that's going to look really good next to the door. Here's a Gundam model that I bought at Mid-Ohio Con despite the fact that I never watched an episode of any Gundam anime. I'm going to put that..."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"Where is a good spot for that? Here's a dart board that I bought at a yard sale and have literally never played with. I think I'll put that right on the back of the old door."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"That's going to look really good there." And the, the resulting...

Rachel:

Can you give me an age range for all these examples you're giving?

Griffin:

This would be... Let's see, Justin's six years older than me. Uh, and then he, I think moved away temporarily in like summer of his freshman or sophomore year of college, so I would've been, like, 13?

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Uh.

Rachel:

That seems right.

Griffin:

Uh, the resulting room of this design crucible would be completely aesthetically repellent, but it was...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

...mine. It was my space. And I always really, really just, anytime I saw something and had the idea of like, "Oh, I can put that in my room."

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I always— Did you not have this? Did you not have, like, your room that you designed and you, like, would find essentially junk that you could put up in there, but it was like your junk and your space and you felt, like, ownership of it.

Rachel:

Well, there's a couple things here. First of all, I had that, like, really abrasive sand paint...

Griffin:

Ugh.

Rachel:

... you know? So you couldn't stick anything to it.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

Um, anything tacky would get, like, kind of burrowed in the crevices and tape wouldn't work.

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

So I didn't have like posters up or anything.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

And then around middle school I got into sunflowers. And so there was kind of a sunflower bedspread curtain theme.

Griffin:

Nice.

Rachel:

Uh, and I also liked the perfume sunflowers. I really double down on sunflowers.

Griffin:

I had a cologne display on top of my...

Rachel:

Oh, Griffin.

Griffin:

... uh—

Rachel:

Was it mostly Axe body spray?

Griffin:

Axe was present.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

No, not Axe. I'm sorry, Bod.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah. Okay. The squirt...

Griffin:

I even—

Rachel:

... the squirt bottle.

Griffin:

The squirt bottle spray. Um, and it worked.

Rachel:

I would say the biggest thing I had in my room that I was the most excited about was the Papasan chair.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

That felt like a real decorating choice for me and I was proud of it.

Griffin:

Was that your pickup or was that a... [crosstalk]

Rachel:

I think I asked for it as a present.

Griffin:

I see. I see. I see. I had some of that too. I had like a keyboard I didn't buy, it was like the cheapest Casio keyboard ever...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... but I had it in my room and I felt like a little artiste. Um, so when I was in high school, I was over at my best friend's house, the Menskers, and we decided to turn their unused basement into a rec room...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... with their parents' blessing.

Rachel:

You told me about this.

Griffin:

And this is, like, uh, I think an even more unrelatable idea, um, it was a— They were not using this basement. They were mostly using it for storage, but we saw this space and where nobody was using. We're like, "We can have parties in here." And so we were off to the fucking races.

We went to every open box outlet store and bought the cheapest, half broken furniture imaginable. We bought every yard sale beanbag chair that we saw on the side of the road. We purchased, like, a half dozen disco lights and like plasma balls from Spencer's Gifts.

Rachel:

Oh, my God. This is also...

Griffin:

Spencer's—

Rachel:

How old were you at this point?

Griffin:

Uh, I'm, well, you know, high school, like 14...

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

... 15. Spencer's Gifts by the way is to, like, a 14 year old interior designer, basically Pier 1 Imports.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh...

Rachel:

I did have a lava lamp from there.

Griffin:

Oh, I had a lava lamp too, um, that I think I won at, like, a trivia contest at church. That's a weird...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... anecdote. But then we had a bunch of parties down there, like, sleep sleepovers and stuff and, like, New Year's Eve parties. We would have, uh, like, we had, like, four New Year's Eve parties in a row with all our friends down there, and we'd, like, stay up and, you know, count the ball down. And then we'd have like a sleepover down there and it was so cool. And I looked forward to that party for months.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Because it's happening in this space that we built for ourselves entirely. It was so fucking roundhouse...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... this idea of like this clubhouse that is entirely our own creation. Like I felt so, um, I was very excited by that, but I think more importantly, like I felt empowered by that in a way that, like, I didn't feel empowered about a lot of stuff when I was a kid.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, and so I think there's something powerful in this idea for a young person. I think that young people need to have their own space that they feel comfortable in and responsible for. Um, and they make themselves comfortable in it by making it, like, decidedly them. And I was very fortunate to like, have that experience in my childhood, um, although I do think it informed some of my clumsy interior design ideas as an adult in an irreparable way.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, but yeah, that's something I've been thinking about a lot actually.

Rachel:

Did you guys... I know that you went to a pretty crowded high school. Did you have a locker for yourself that you would decorate too?

Griffin:

Uh, you know what? In high school, I don't ever think I used my locker.

Rachel:

Oh, really? You just carried around all your books all the time.

Griffin:

I think I just carried around all my books all the time. Wow. In middle school, I definitely used it, but at my high school was quite large. And so, like, um, my locker would be, you know, on one end of one wing of the school and like, I'm not going to fucking...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... walk all the way up to the language arts section, I'm down in science town. No way.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I wonder why I have back problems.

Rachel:

[laughs] The locker is where I really, I went for it.

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

I would think about kind of how I would customize my locker every school...

Griffin:

Tell me more.

Rachel:

... year. Uh, middle school is probably the best example. Um, my friend Amy and I got, um, stickers, um, that were for CK One.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm.

Rachel:

This is a very nineties reference I'm making right now.

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

It was a sticker that smelled like the perfume. And so you could put it up inside your locker and then your locker would smell like CK One.

Griffin:

That's nice.

Rachel:

I remember that.

Griffin:

Any pictures of, uh, fucking Jared Leto's character from My So-Called Life?

Rachel:

No, that always kind of made me uncomfortable.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

It felt like a little too teen to me.

Griffin:

I thought you were going to say a little too Tina from Bob's Burgers.

Rachel:

[laughs] That would work too. Um, yeah. I never wanted to, like, broadcast like who I was into.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You know? I know when in my room, the only posters I had of men, I had one of Curtis Joseph, the Blues goaltender, in his full goaltender outfit. So it wasn't really like [laughs] a [crosstalk]. He was in goal. Uh, and then I had an REM collage. Um...

Griffin:

Uh, nice.

Rachel:

... I had several photos of Michael Stipe and—

Griffin:

I had a Fathead. Do you know what those are? They're like sports hangups that are, like, uh, they have some, like, depth to them. Um, they're, like, they're just, like, big, uh, decals, essentially, like, huge decals of sports things.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

I had one that was like made out of metal and it was of Jeff Gordon and his race car for NASCAR. Yes. That [crosstalk].

Rachel:

This confuses me a lot.

Griffin:

Yes. I never ever, I have not watched one NASCAR, I think.

Rachel:

Was this a radio station get?

Griffin:

Yes. I'm so glad you put it together...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... because I'm pretty sure it was just something that I found at the radio station. I was like, "I could like like Jeff Gordon." And put it up in my room.

Rachel:

Do you ever have any pictures of ladies?

Griffin:

No.

Rachel:

Uh, this is not uncommon for a boy's room. I was just curious.

Griffin:

Well, I'm thinking about like in my house that I grew up in.

Rachel:

I'm imagining with your somewhat conservative upbringing, this would not be...

Griffin:

Yeah, that dog would...

Rachel:

... appreciated.

Griffin:

... not have hunted.

Rachel:

But I, you know, like, uh...

Griffin:

I don't think I ever have at any point in my... Even when I like lived with, uh...

Rachel:

In the Space Jam poster...

Griffin:

The Space Jam poster did have Lola Bunny...

Rachel:

... was Lola Bunny featured?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Was she, like, sprawled out suggestively?

Griffin:

Jesus.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, hey, can I steal you way?

Rachel:

Yes, but I would like you to provide the music. [laughs]

Griffin:

[operatically sings the Home Improvement sting.]

Rachel:

That's so weird. Our mailman just came in the house and did that.

Griffin:

[laughs] Our neighbors are going to smash through the wall Kool-Aid Man style, like, "Is everyone okay?"

Rachel:

[laughs]

[ad break]

Rachel:

This message is for Awful Squad Jr. It is from Ry, "All my love and wiggles to the greatest community on the internet. I'm so happy to have made so many kind, supportive, and wonderful new friends. Thank you all for being so wonderful to me and to each other everyday. QE, QE, QE."

Griffin:

These are the buttons that you press to wiggle while playing Player Unknown's Battlegrounds.

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

It's fun. You can do it at home like you're being controlled by the message in a, and, but then watch out because it's, like, click to punch. "Oh no, my dad, I punched him." This is the new spec script for, uh, Black Mirror I'm writing.

Rachel:

Oh, Awful Squad...

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

... for those of you that aren't familiar is something that Griffin did for a long time when he was at Polygon.

Griffin:

Yeah. I'm still going to be on it, like, sometimes, but they're still rocking over there. We just play, uh, uh, Player Unknown's Battlegrounds every week.

Rachel:

And they set unusual rules together-

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... which make it, uh, more challenging.

Griffin:

It's Tuesday afternoons, catch the wave. Youtube.com/Polygon.

Rachel:

Actually, it's going to be on Friday.

Griffin:

It's Fridays now.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Everything's changed.

Rachel:

Russ just tweeted about it.

Griffin:

And so, [youtube.com/polygon](https://www.youtube.com/polygon). While you're there, check out Brand Slam. It's a new show I did an episode of. And watch Gill and Gilbert and everything they have.

Rachel:

Yeah. This next message is for David. It is from Julia. "Hey goose. It's goose. Happy 24th birthday bro. Six months ago I left you a birthday surprise, behind the picture in your room of a long desert road and you'll find a note that will send you on a fantastical scavenger hunt..."

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

... which will lead you to your birthday present and dinner. I barely know her." [laughs] Like dinner. I barely know her.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

I could have read that better. I'm sorry.

Griffin:

[laughs] No, the way you read it, made it even funnier. Shit, that's uh, is this for real?

Rachel:

Um, wait, let me finish the message.

Griffin:

Oh, okay.

Rachel:

Okay. "You'll find a note that we'll send you on a fantastical scavenger hunt, which will lead you to your birthday present and dinner. I barely know her. With yours truly. Love you goose. Happy hunting."

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

Uh, the suggested time frame was near April 29th. So, that's too bad.

Griffin:

Uh, yeah. We're close. Oh man, a scavenger hunt.

Rachel:

I know. I should do that for you sometime. You would really get into it.

Griffin:

If, yeah. Yeah. I mean, I would need a certain level of challenge.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, I know.

Griffin:

I'm pretty good at hunting.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

Quail, um, bear, moose, and squirrel.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Speaker 1:

The Dead Pilots Society podcast brings you hilarious comedy pilots that were never made featuring actors like [listing names, slowly getting faster] Aubrey Plaza, Andy Richter, Paul F. Tompkins, John Hodgeman, Adam Scott, Molly Shannon, Busy Phillips, Tom Lenon, Anna Camp, Lori Metcal, Felicia Day, Michael Ian Black, Adam Savage, Paul Sheer, Ben Schwartz, Skylar Aston, May Whitman, Josh Melina, Ben Feldman, Nicole Byer, Jason Ritter, Sarah Chalke. Steve Ajay, Jane Levy, Allison Toman, Danielle Nicolet, Casey Wilson, Ana Ortiz, Lorraine Newman, June Diane Rafael, Ed Zach Knight, Harry Kenny Silver, John Ross Valley, Jamie Den Bo, Janet Farney... [inaudibly fast] and many more. Listen at MaximumFun.org, iTunes or wherever you download podcasts.

[ad break ends]

Griffin:

Hey, what's your second thing?

Rachel:

My second thing? My second thing is Kathy Tuckey, Maryanne Chase, Dennis Toman, Agnes Greg, Dane William, Spear Morgan, and Iris Steinhoff.

Griffin:

I don't know any of these clowns.

Rachel:

They're my former teachers.

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

Today—

Griffin:

I'm sorry I called them clowns.

Rachel:

[laughs] ... today as we are recording, I believe it is teacher appreciation day.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

And, at least, at our son's daycare it is teacher appreciation month.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

So I thought I would bring some of my most favorite teachers this week.

Griffin:

Cool.

Rachel:

Um...

Griffin:

Did I have any of them? Probably not. Shoot. I was just fine. I wanted to talk about how great they were too. I still feel bad about calling them clowns.

Rachel:

I mean, you're to share teachers that you also enjoyed...

Griffin:

I guess I had a couple.

Rachel:

... if you happen to know their first and last name, which is a more of a mention.

Griffin:

Oh, no. I mean Mr. and Mrs. and doctor, Miss. Ooh.

Rachel:

Mm, uh, so the teachers I all read, uh, ranged from kindergarten all the way up through graduate school and they are teachers that specifically encouraged me for a particular, you know, talent or skill they thought that I had.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um, kind of going above and beyond what was required of their teaching duties. Uh, they kind of recognized a particular quality in me and would kind of make me feel special for that. Um, which is not a requirement of being a teacher. Obviously. the best teachers have that, but, um, these all really improved my confidence, uh, and kind of made me more talented in that area as a result.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Um, my, so my parents were both trained, uh, to be elementary education teachers. Uh, and then my mom, all three of my mom's sisters also, uh, at one time or another pursued teaching.

Griffin:

That is, that's wild to me.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I guess not that wild. I mean, me and my brothers all do the same shit.

Rachel:

Yeah. My grandmother also had a great interest in teaching. I just, I feel like I've been, like, surrounded by teachers my whole life...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... and I've always had a lot of respect for it. Um, and I feel like it's incredible to me to see how much of themselves a lot of teachers bring...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... to the table. Our friend, Anna, is a teacher and she's incredible. And she brings so much of herself to the classroom, which makes such a huge difference. Um, and when I say, like, themselves, I mean, a lot of teachers bring their own money and their own resources from home and a lot of extra time, uh, just to, like, really make the kids feel special and cared for. Uh, and I just respect it tremendously.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like so much so that I was intimidated by it. You know, I had friends that became teachers, uh, and it, uh, it was obvious something that I was kind of interested in, but I was intimidated by it because I realized how hard it was,

you know? And, and how great the commitment was and how much responsibility you were taking on.

Griffin:

And how thankless for the most part it is.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Except for today, this special day.

Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah. So I just, I felt like I can't do that because it's so hard, uh, and I would feel bad if I weren't able to really make a huge difference in these kids' lives because teachers have always been like such a powerful, uh, figure for me. So...

Griffin:

Do you remember one, can you share one anecdote of, like, something a teacher did that like you, like it changed, changed your, changed the tr, the trajectory of your young life?

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh. Well, I mean, everybody I read did that to an extent, but I mean, a few examples. Um, Agnes Greg, when we, uh, took her freshman English class, we all read To Kill a Mockingbird.

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

And this is a book that I think every freshman class read every single year. And she, I remember, we got to the point where they do the verdict in the, um, the courtroom with Atticus Finch. And there's the moment where, uh, Scout is up in the balcony and, uh, her, uh, the woman sitting next to her says, you know, "Stand up your, your daddy's passing," uh, as he leaves the courtroom.

And our ninth grade teacher, like, couldn't read that scene out loud because it made her so emotional that she, like, had somebody in the class read it instead. And I just remember being really struck by that of, like, "They teach this every year. You've done this I don't know how many times. And it, like, still is so powerful for you that you, like, can't read it out loud."

And I just, I always had such respect for her and kind of the passion she brought. And she was also very supportive of me because I was a big overachiever in all my English classes.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, she always made me feel real special. Oh. And I also, I didn't read, uh, or I didn't mention, but Den Williams was my marching band instructor.

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

I was in high school. I don't know if I read his name or not. Um, and he was just like, he was very passionate about music and very passionate about the community that marching band was. And I remember this was my, also my freshman year of high school. He had before the big band competition, like, the state band competition.

He had us all lay down on the floor and he played this music, and he gave us all these little heart beads and because, like, a big part of it was like bringing your heart to the performance.

And so, he, like, passed around heart beads for every single person in the marching band, which was, like, hundreds of people, uh, and had us all lay on the floor and played this music and gave us this, like, motivational speech. And I just remember thinking, like, "This is the sweetest thing ever."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like, obviously—

Griffin:

Was that the year that Mr. Holland's Opus came out?

Rachel:

[laughs] No, I don't think so. It was— Or the show we did that year was Queen music, though.

Griffin:

Oh fuck, yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah. Uh, so we did, like, Bohemian Rhapsody and Bicycle Race, uh, We Are The Champions. Yeah. And so it's these moments of people, like, obviously this has nothing to do with standardized tests or grades. Um...

Griffin:

That stuff is important too in its own way, but...

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin:

... this is the stuff you remember.

Rachel:

Like, feeling like I was connecting with another human.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like, not as a figure of authority, but somebody who was really enjoyed the thing they were sharing with me and made me feel very close to them and made me trust them, you know?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, and so when they were supportive of me, it meant so much more...

Griffin:

Yeah. Sure.

Rachel:

... because it was like I saw who they were as a person and I respected them. And then when they supported me, I felt like this is somebody who is sincere and it means a lot that they support me too.

Griffin:

The teachers I remember and I'm so grateful to are the one who... Uh, I was such a fucking lazy kid and I was so— I was good at tests, but bad at school, if that makes sense? And so, like, uh, the teachers I remember are the ones who like pushed, pushed me by, like, not taking any bullshit, which I historically am not very receptive to, but was in..

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... in cases where I could tell that they were doing it because they wanted me to actually do a good job. So, like, Dan Hollis, uh, who was my, uh, like, advisor in college who just, like, didn't accept any bullshit...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and, uh, really, really pushed me out of my comfort zone, helped me to apply for that MTV, uh, Choose or Lose, like, campaign coverage thing I did in 2008...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... which, like, was not my milieu and then I got it and I was, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

"...Oh no, I don't know how to do this."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, it's a big one. And then there was in high school, uh, Tudy Ray, who was the, uh, she was the English teacher there and she also taught TV news class, the, like, broadcast class.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Which I went into, like, on a whim and then, like, straight up changed the course of my life because I was a theater major up until that point and then I did that and she encouraged me like, "Do whatever the fuck." It was, again, it was very roundhouse in that class. It was just like, "Yeah, make whatever. We're going to put it on the whole TV news."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, and so we would make dumb, stupid comedy videos that were barely news at all, and she, like, encouraged me to, like, break out of my shell and try to make...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... funny things that people at my school who had no idea who I was would have to watch, would be forced to watch every Friday for, you know, the first eight minutes of class.

Rachel:

It's so interesting when you talk about, like, when people talk about their favorite teachers, it's such a good clue into, kind of, how they became who they are.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like, all those examples you gave, like led you very specifically...

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

... to, like, the path that you're on now.

Griffin:

Yeah. I've had a lot of great teachers, but those two were the ones that, like, really stuck out to me as far as, like, I am where I am because of them. Tudy Ray fucking made two classes for me.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I was, I did, like, TV news 1 and TV news 2, and then, like, I was done, but I, like, really liked doing it and she could tell I was very passionate about it and I wasn't passionate about literally anything else in school.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And so she created two more elective classes for me.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

She was great. Um, you wanna know my second thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

We've talked about this before, but we've never done a whole segment on it. And in, like, researching it, I think it's very, very cool. I want to talk about Spotify's Discover Weekly playlists.

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

Um, I am not a very active user of, like, social media stuff partially because, like, I don't know for whatever reason, I just, like, don't super enjoy it, but also because I think, like,1 unchecked data collection and exploitation is categorically bad for human civilization, except for the case of Spotify's Discover Weekly playlist...

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... which is very good, actually. Um, so if you're not a Spotify user or you've never used this feature before and you don't know, uh, every week Spotify generates for its users, a 30 song, long playlist, uh, comprised of music that kind of matches what you've been listening to, but that you haven't listened to on Spotify before and probably haven't heard before and miraculously, I

would say it's hitting about 60%, 70% of the songs on that playlist are fucking great, no matter what.

And that is a very, very, very high hit rate. Um, there are other services like Pandora, I think is the first one I can remember ever using— I remember when I worked at Tri-Data scanning documents from 4:00 PM to midnight every day of the week, um, I would need music and I would listen to Pandora and I was skipping about every other song and hearing, like, a lot of repeats.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, iTunes has sort of a similar service and both of those use their own algorithms but in my opinion, they're a lot more hit or miss. Um, Spotify has got mostly jams on its playlist and, um, this is really useful for me because I have a very bad habit and always have, of just, like, having the music I listen to without branching out and finding new music.

And over the past couple of years, Discover Weekly has been the way that I have found almost all new bands and, and music that I listen to. Um, I wanted to specifically talk about this this week because my playlist this week is fucking hot fire.

Uh, it's got some familiar tunes in there. I'm Trying To Break your heart by Wilco is on there. Uh, Execution Of All Things by Rylo Kylie, Twin Falls by Built to Spill, some Courtney Barnett. Um, and these are songs that, like, I haven't listened to recently, but that I know and love. So I wasn't quite sure how they...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... caught it in the drag net, but here they are. But in this one playlist, there's so many bands that I've never heard of before that I really dig. I'm going to play, like, really short clips of a few of the songs.

There's a Japanese rock band called Ogre You Asshole, uh, that has this really fun song called Balance. And I've listened to it, like, 20 times in the

past couple days. It's got this kind of like fun, like Modest Mouse feel to it that I like, I really enjoy.

[Balance by Ogre You Asshole clip plays]

Griffin:

There's a song called Hammond Song by an Irish American folk trio called the Roches.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

On the same playlist...

Rachel:

This is incredible.

Griffin:

... as the Japanese rock band called Ogre You Asshole. They're called the Roches and they were a band in the seventies. And I think they're still like performing today. I—

Rachel:

It's like Spotify is like a cool college girlfriend...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... that you get to have, uh, and still be married to me.

Griffin:

Yeah. [laughs] Um, but this band, the Roches, they do these beautiful harmonies and these like really quirky lyrics. And it's, like, so completely my

jam and I've never even heard of this band before today. So this is a little bit of, uh, Hammond Song.

[Hammond Song by the Roches clip plays]

Griffin:

And then there's a slow core band called Snail Mail, like, this cool, like, indie rock fuzzy guitar band. Um, and they have a song on the playlist called Thinning. And I— The weird thing about this one is I genuinely don't think it sounds like anything I've listened to at all for a long time. Uh, but I still really love it. And I have no idea how they matched me up to this.

[Thinning by Snail Mail clip plays]

Griffin:

And so I've always been really curious about how this service works. And so I researched it for this episode. It's really interesting. Uh, Discover Weekly was overseen by a guy named Matthew Ogle. Have you ever heard of Last.fm or the website This Is My Jam.

Rachel:

I have heard of Last.fm.

Griffin:

Uh, This Is My Jam, it's sort of another music website where you can share the music that you're listening to on social media, like, you'll type in the name of the song and it'll automatically find like a link to it on YouTube or some other streaming service, and then you can share that.

And then you can look at, like, the songs that your friends have been listening to. It's just another sort of social music site. This guy, Matthew Ogle worked on these two sites before, and from, like, 2015 to 2017, he worked at Spotify overseeing, uh, Discover Weekly. Uh, I think since then he recently left to go work at Instagram.

Um, and so I found an interview on a website called Quartz that explained, like, how this service worked. Um, and as you might guess, like, it looks at

music that you like, it looks at, uh, genres and moods of the kind of music that you're into. And it, like, compiles data from that.

Um, and that's, like, how a lot of music recommendation services work, right? Like, "Oh, you like, uh, you know, you like Chiptunes? Okay. Here's another Chiptune band. Let's see if you like that."

Um, what Spotify Discover Weekly does that makes it work so well, and that I think is so cool, is that it cross references, like, your profile that it builds out of the music that you listen to. It cross references that data with a human element. It looks at the billions of playlists that other users have created. It finds users with a similar profile like you...

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

... and it finds playlists that have the songs that you've listened to on them, and then it picks another similar song from that playlist...

Rachel:

That brilliant.

Griffin:

... that you've never listened to before. So the Quartz article breaks it down. "In the simplest terms, if Spotify notices that two of your favorite songs tend to appear on playlists along with a third song you haven't heard before, it will suggest the new song to you."

Rachel:

That's so cool.

Griffin:

That's so fucking cool to me.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

And it makes this service feel like so much more alive and I've used it every week for the past two years. It makes it feel way more alive to me, this idea that, like, I'm only hearing this song because there was somebody else out there with similar taste that I have, who was listening to the same music I listen to. And this is just another one of their—

It's like I'm being recommended music by, like, 30 anonymous people who I have a lot of similarities with musically, uh, and that we're having, like, a rainbow connection across the internet.

Rachel:

See, I was going to say an American Tail somewhere—

Griffin:

An American Tail Somewhere Out There moment. Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, there's another thing that makes it work really well, uh, is that it uses deep learning, which is, like, AI pattern learning like software, uh, that further hones, like, your profile.

For example, when the algorithm is putting together your taste profile, this learning software, it is smart enough to, like, recognize outliers based on your listening history, and this is why, like, on my Discover Weekly, it doesn't recommend songs based on the Sesame Street theme song, which I listen to with Henry every day. It knows...

Rachel:

Oh, that's smart.

Griffin:

... it builds these patterns of the types of music I listen to and then when it finds, like, a wild outlier like the Sesame Street theme song, it doesn't go like, "Okay, well, here's the Fraggle Rock theme song." Which doesn't get me wrong, I would still probably enjoy, but, like, it just leaves it out.

Rachel:

That's so much better than, like, Netflix, for example, when they'll recommend shows to you based on everything you've watched and a lot of times it's like, "This is wrong."

Griffin:

Sure. I mean...

Rachel:

"You made a bad choice."

Griffin:

... Netflix does not have the, you know, billions of songs that is on Spotify.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

So I think they're picking from a much more limited list. And so the heuristics they use don't need to be quite as complex because they just, like, don't have enough to, like, show you. Um, but this is remarkable stuff.

And I think that it is technology used in a practical, helpful way that is good for me because I've discovered a lot of new, inspiring, like, creatively speaking music, uh, over the past couple years, solely through this service. But also because it helps, like, smaller bands who make really niche music find their niche audience...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... uh, by like connecting the smaller set of audience that they're trying to play for, which I think is really fucking cool. Um, so yeah, that's Spotify Discover Weekly. It's...

Rachel:

It's so, I had no idea that it worked in such a complex way.

Griffin:

Yeah. Like, I assumed it was just, like, it looked at these little bubbles of, like, "Oh, you like indie rock. Here's more indie rock." But it, does a lot more than that. And it does it by, like, by connecting you with other people in a way that I think is really neat and ethically questionable, but not as bad as some other stuff going on out there today.

Rachel:

[laughs] Fair.

Griffin:

Uh, hey, do you want to hear some submissions?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Marshall says, "Something I think is wonderful are straws that have little spoons on the end. With the weather getting warmer, there's nothing better than eating a slushy with a little spoon on the end of a long straw."

Rachel:

Ooh, is there something, is there something fundamentally different between a slushy and a snow cone?

Griffin:

Yes. A slushy is drinkable, a snow cone is not. If you drink it, if you— No, no, no. If somebody came well, no, no, no, no. A snow cone is not even in, like, a drinkable shape. Maybe if you, like, chomped off the top of it.

Rachel:

But they both use those little straws or spoons.

Griffin:

Yeah. I guess that's true. A strawn? A sproon?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

A sprawn? A stroon? Sprawn?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Or strewn is already a word. I'm going to say sprawn. Juda says, "Now that spring is in full swing, I want to say how wonderful gardening is. It gives you a great excuse to get some sunshine all summer and the payoff is so sweet when you get to take all those little tomatoes and make the best fucking pasta sauce you've ever had because it's made with love."

Rachel:

Mm.

Griffin:

I love the idea of gardening and don't want to do it.

Rachel:

Yeah. Both of us love the idea of gardening.

Griffin:

Oh, I love it. I think it's so cool. You're making shit from the ground with all the sunshine and seeds...

Rachel:

I, like, literally forget it's an option. Like...

Griffin:

I forget that I can do it.

Rachel:

... we own this property and we could have a garden.

Griffin:

We could have a big, beautiful garden. Um, but won't.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Lynn says, "Something I think is wonderful is that when my parents got married, they only bought one wedding band and cut it into two very thin rings. They did it to save money, but I also think that's symbolic of their love. And I think it is adorable."

Rachel:

Oh, what a cool idea.

Griffin:

Yeah, it's a cool idea. I know this is a very specific one, but I thought it was very neat.

Rachel:

Yeah. And don't try this at home if you don't know what you're doing, because I imagine it could be a little dangerous. [laughs]

Griffin:

Step one, step one. Don't try to do it while it's on your finger.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

No, no, no, no, no, no. Bad, bad. Put the saw down. Uh, that's it for this episode, I'm sorry for yelling bad at you, but you know what you did. Um, thank you to bo en and Augustus for use of our theme song Money Won't Pay. Uh, you can find a link to that in the episode description and Max Fun!

Rachel:

Thank you, MaximumFun.org for hosting our podcast and all the other great podcasts.

Griffin:

Yeah. Podcasts like The Beef and Dairy Network.

Rachel:

Podcasts like Lady to Lady.

Griffin:

Podcast, your mouth made a cool when you said that, did you hear that?

Rachel:

Yeah, I did.

Griffin:

What was that?

Rachel:

I mean, I don't know.

Griffin:

It's just some, just, God, the body is just Wonderland.

Rachel:

It's magic. [laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, yeah. Anyway, bunch of podcasts at Maximum Fun. And if you want to hear other shows we do, it's all at mcelroyshows.com and I think that is gonna do it. [exhaling]

Rachel:

Until next week. This has been Wonderful.

Griffin:

Bye!

[theme song plays]

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Raleigh:

I'm Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee:

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor:

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Sydnee:

And together we host a podcast called Still Buffering where we answer questions like...

Raleigh:

Why should I not fall asleep first at a slumber party?

Taylor:

How do I be fleek?

Sydnee:

Is it okay to break up with someone using emojis?

Rachel:

And sometimes we talk about bugs.

Raleigh:

No, we don't. No. [laughs]

Sydnee:

Find out the answers to these important questions and many more on Still Suffering, a sister's guide to teens through the ages.

Raleigh:

I am a teenager.

Sydnee and Taylor:

And I was too.

Taylor:

Butts, butts, butts, butts, butts, butts.

Raleigh:

No.