

Wonderful! 317: Boats Aren't Real

Published March 20th, 2024

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay" by bo en and Augustus plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: [imitates racing car sound effects] That's the car.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Sorry, you're in a car listening to this, and Rachel and I—

Rachel: And this is *Car Talk*.

Griffin: This is *Car Talk*.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Carburetors. Spark plugs.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Windshield.

Rachel: Fluid. [chuckles]

Griffin: This is— We're in a car and we're driving, it's like a MaxFunDrive thing. Like when you're driving—

Rachel: Transmission, did we say transmission yet?

Griffin: We didn't, but I'm so glad.

Rachel: Thank you, ugh.

Griffin: The fans always get mad at us—

Rachel: I got one in.

Griffin: — when we forget transmission.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's the MaxFunDrive. If you're new to the show, every year, once a year, we come to you, hat in hand and open guitar case on the floor.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Busking. Busking for you, all day, on the streets, asking for your support. We are a pledge supported show, as is the whole of the Max Fun Network, and we have been proud to be members of this network for— Well I mean for *My Brother, My Brother & Me*, this is our 14th year doing this.

Rachel: Oh my gosh.

Griffin: Which is absolutely wild. And obviously this is not our first time at the rodeo either.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: We are so excited. We've been preparing for this Drive for a long time, we got some exciting stuff for yah, but brass tax. Oh, there is a helicopter going overhead. I thought we'd get some nice bird foley, but I forgot that Joe Biden likes to just buzz our house every 10 minutes or so.

Rachel: And we know it's him 'cause he like leans out the side and says, "Hey Griff and Rachel!"

Griffin: He— Yeah, he shouts at us like that. Should we close the door, do you think? It smells so good outside. People don't tell you that about cherry blossoms, they look great, they smell so good.

Rachel: I can't smell anything.

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Rachel: The allergy situation is always challenging for us in this house.

Griffin: It's not ideal.

Rachel: But. But.

Griffin: But.

Rachel: The spirit of MaxFunDrive.

Griffin: It's getting us all through.

Rachel: Will give me the power I need.

Griffin: Yes. So, if you go to maximumfun.org/join, you're gonna get a list of shows, and you get to pick the ones that you listen to, the ones that you want your contribution to go to in a very direct way. At just five bucks a month, you get access to hundreds of hours of bonus content.

Rachel: Yeah, it says over 600 hours.

Griffin: Yes, from all the shows throughout all of history, right. It is so much stuff. Here at *Wonderful!* we have a lot of things, I believe was it last year that we did *Darma and Greg* watch.

Rachel: Yeah, I think so.

Griffin: We've done a series where you played *Animal Crossing* and talked about it.

Rachel: Yup.

Griffin: *Stardew Valley* and talked about it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This year—

Rachel: I made my own *D&D* character.

Griffin: Rachel made her own *D&D* character for a bonus episode, it's all really, really good stuff. Do you wanna tell 'em— This is huge. This is maybe the thing I'm most excited for in the whole drive.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you wanna tell folks what we did for our bonus episode this year?

Rachel: Well, our listeners that are here for the right reasons...

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Will know that we used to do a show called *Rose Buddies*.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: Where we talked about *The Bachelor* and *Bachelorette*, and other reality dating competition shows.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: This year for the pledge drive, we have watched the first five?

Griffin: I believe it was five episodes.

Rachel: That first five episodes of this current season of *The Bachelor*. And we recapped them.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: In one episode.

Griffin: It was—

Rachel: In our old-fashioned, old-style way of—

Griffin: I don't think we missed a beat.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It did feel like going back to your high school, or maybe even middle school.

Rachel: Exactly!

Griffin: And being like, "Wow, the doors are so small."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Like everything looks familiar but I feel so much bigger."

Rachel: There is a fair number of things that have changed, and part of the reason we decided to do it is that this season, got a pretty good bachelor.

Griffin: Yeah, great bachelor. Great setup.

Rachel: And we enjoyed watching it and talking about it.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And...

Griffin: We've missed it a lot.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: The sentiment by the end of the episode was like, "Oh boy," it's like comfy pants.

Rachel: Griffin even tracked down our old theme song.

Griffin: Yes. [chuckles] Which is so awful, but.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So yeah, if you missed *Rose Buddies*, that's our BoCo for this year.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And you can enjoy that and all our other bonus content at maximumfun.org/join at just five bucks a month. We have other levels too that we're gonna talk about, but you're—

Seriously, Rachel and I are able to do this show and prioritize it in the way that we have, and keep it going for as long as we have, because of the support that you have shown us, year in, year out. And we are incredibly grateful to you for that.

It— We've mentioned this on some other shows, the podcast advertising market has... bottomed out, in a lot of ways. It hasn't done so great, we have weeks on this show where we just don't have anything. And so more than ever, we are relying on, you know, listeners to help us keep this thing afloat and growing, and you can do that by going to maximumfun.org/join.

If you're sitting at a screen now and you're thinking about it and you're able, do it now, before you, you know, let it slip. 'Cause we only do this for a couple weeks, and then you know, we're back on our grind. So we sure do appreciate yah. Do you have a small wonder? I can go first.

Rachel: Yeah, please do.

Griffin: Last night I went to a concert like a cool guy.

Rachel: Oh, you did!

Griffin: Like a cool adult man, I went to a concert. It was Hannah Diamond, recent... talking point here on *Wonderful!*, who performed at The Atlantis, which is part of the 9:30 Club sort of venue complex.

And it was a great show. Met a couple of fans who were there, which is always very, very exciting, and just had a great time. Just trippin' the light— trippin' the light fantastic.

Rachel: Drank two beers.

Griffin: I drank two beers, I feel like absolute dogshit.

Rachel: [laughs] Oh no.

Griffin: This morning. That's all it takes. Two beers will kill me. But yeah, it was a really good time and a really good show. It's like the second concert I've been to in like three months, which is fucking huge for me.

Rachel: That is huge.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you got one?

Rachel: I do. This was almost my sole topic.

Griffin: Oh shit.

Rachel: And then I decided it's the MaxFunDrive, I probably shouldn't make this a large wonder. So small wonder, the fact that kids like knocking over towers.

Griffin: Knocking over towers is huge for kids.

Rachel: I— Sometimes at the end of the day, I know that our children have more energy, and we've talked about a lot of the ways that we engage them. But yesterday I realized that if I just made a big tower, that both boys would be excited about knocking it over.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And that— I mean, what is great about that— I mean obviously it's a pain to restack, but... they will do it for a while.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it's easy, and I love that they love it.

Griffin: And sometimes it falls over on them, and it's like soft blocks, so it doesn't hurt.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But it's like fun. It's like kinda funny.

Rachel: Sometimes it knocks everything off of a table.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But again, easy activity.

Griffin: Easy activity for kids.

Rachel: And they always love it.

Griffin: They love this stuff. I go first this week.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I am going to talk about a hockey thing, and I know that there's probably a group of— or a portion of our audience who when they hear us talk about a hockey thing, their eyes glaze over.

Rachel: Should we say what hockey is?

Griffin: So...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Ice. It's like ice, fast... Shoot— There's scoring and hitting, there's so much hitting.

Rachel: Let's say basketball.

Griffin: Yeeees.

Rachel: The ball was only by the feet.

Griffin: So small, the ball.

Rachel: And they used the sticks.

Griffin: So slippery.

Rachel: And the hoop was on the ground.

Griffin: And hitting? Is great.

Rachel: And somebody always guarded the hoop.

Griffin: Yes. This—

Rachel: And then, um... yeah, that's about all you need to know.

Griffin: Not much jumping.

Rachel: No, not jumping. Skating.

Griffin: Skating though.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: For sure. I am going to talk about something that I think has crossover appeal. I think it's an amazing story about the internet and kind of bullying, and the triumph of the human spirit. I wanna talk about John Scott, the unlikely hero of the 2015-2016 season NHL All-Star game.

Rachel: Huh.

Griffin: I'm pretty sure this is a story that you are familiar with, or at least you will be once I start going into it.

Rachel: Yeah, it doesn't ring a bell right away. I did not long ago talk about the whole All-Star phenomenon.

Griffin: You talked about the All-Star phenomenon.

Rachel: But I do not remember this.

Griffin: But I'm talking about the skills competition. This was like... This was like the year before I feel like you and I started watching every Blues game.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But we were watching some of them, and so I remembered hearing about it back when it happened. Radio Lab did a really incredible episode about John Scott called "The Punchline," that came out in 2019. Which if you find this interesting, they go into much, much, much more detail about it.

So here's the setup. It's the 2015-2016 season, and the NHL decides to change the format for the All-Star game, which they do basically every season. The All-Star game is kind of a joke. It's kind— Like no-one really takes it particularly seriously. Which is pretty much the case for every sport. Like the All-Star game is just kind of a—

Rachel: Yeah, I mean no-one wants to play too hard, 'cause you don't wanna get injured.

Griffin: Exactly, right?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So the NHL changes the format, they decide that they're gonna do three on three hockey, between four teams, for each of the four divisions. The Pacific, Atlantic, Metropolitan, and the other one. [chuckles] That I can't remember.

Rachel: I think Eastern is one.

Griffin: Eastern, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They also make the somewhat ill-advised decision to allow fans to vote for the captains of each of the four teams. Which is not also like completely unheard of, but restricting it to just be like the captains of the teams. Between those two changes, like die-hard hockey fans, like it caught their ire.

There was a podcast and a pundit who goes by the name "Puck Daddy," [chuckles] whose name I don't know for real, but Puck Daddy shall be his moniker moving forward. It was on this podcast where he was discussing these changes with someone else, and he had this idea. What if everyone voted in a player who had no business being there.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: To embarrass the league, right?

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: To embarrass the league for making this decision.

Rachel: This is like when everybody gets to name like a bridge, and they give it a silly name.

Griffin: It— This is Boaty McBoatface like exactly.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's exactly that, except for boats aren't real, and— Well okay, boats are real.

Rachel: [laughs] Well wait, hold on.

Griffin: This is a big position that I'm taking.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That boats are not— There's no proof that—

Rachel: Science is still unsure if boats are real.

Griffin: Boats aren't people, people are people, right? And so like Boaty McBoatface isn't like, "Awww. They picked a weird name for me," right?

Rachel: "All the other boats are gonna make fun of me."

Griffin: Right. So, on this podcast, Puck Daddy and I guess the co-host on this show, they were trying to figure out like who would be a good person to put up, and they settled on, as like the unanimous choice, was a... an enforcer for the Arizona Coyotes. Just an infamous just tough guy.

In hockey they are sometimes referred to as "goons." A goon named John Scott. John Scott, big, big, big fella. Very pugnacious. Was responsible

for a few like line brawls that made headlines, but not like a great player. In the 2015-2016 season, he had a total of 11 points, which is not like very good.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a combination of assists and goals.

Rachel: Yeah, I was gonna say, points in hockey aren't just goals. It's just like if you happen to be on the ice when a goal is scored, you will get points.

Griffin: You will get a point, yes. So like it's a joke, right? Like, "What if we did this, what if we got this enforce in there as the captain of one of these All-Star teams, to embarrass the league and to kind of like push back against this system that people were kind of annoyed with," right?

This gag got some traction. Got a lot of traction. A lot of people start to vote for John Scott to be the captain. He played for the Arizona Coyotes, and so for the Pacific League, people wanted him to be the captain. It started to get so much traction that the NHL and like the Coyotes management told John like, "You need to put out a statement telling people not to do this."

Rachel: Awww. [giggles]

Griffin: And so like he had mixed feelings about it. He and— Him— He was going through some sort of like intense family stuff, his wife was nine months pregnant with twins.

Rachel: Oh my god.

Griffin: They already had two kids. Like he had a lot of stuff, and he was towards the end of his career, right? He was gettin' up there in age and not like a superstar, and so like things were tough for John.

He kinda wanted to do it, right? He put out statements later saying like, "I think it is cool an important to represent a certain type of player who I am," which is kind of a fossil at this point.

Like there aren't a lot of people... The... salary cap for teams is so tight now that you don't really have space for just like a fighting dude, right? And so like his roll is disappearing, and he thought "Hey, it's kinda cool for me to represent that in the All-Stars game."

But he did, he put out a statement saying like, you know, "I am flattered and I am humbled, but please just like vote for my teammates, don't vote for me." And people did not listen to him.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: And kept on voting for him, and he won the vote. He was named the captain for the Pacific division, and he would lead up this team for this three-on-three tournament. In January, before the game, he was traded to the Montreal Canadiens, who immediately put him in their minor league team, in their like—

Rachel: Interesting.

Griffin: Development team. And in so doing, they made John Scott ineligible to play in the All-Star game.

Rachel: Ohhh.

Griffin: You can't play in the All-Star game if you're not in the NHL.

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: If you're not— And folks went batshit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like people got really, really angry.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Partially because like they— I mean mostly they were accusing the league of sort of like conspiratorially—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: — like moving this dude so that he could not embarrass the league in the All-Star game, but in so doing, also like kinda destroying this man's like career and sort of life, because now he's like, "Hey babe, I know that you are pregnant with twins at nine months—"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "— but I have to move to fucking Newfoundland."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "On the other side of the continent."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "And it'll be a couple months until I see you again." So all of a sudden like there's a lot of anger going around. The fans are angry at the league, the like long-time pundits are like angry at the fans for, you know, bullying this dude with this vote that he probably shouldn't have been winning in the first place, as a joke against the league.

And the, you know, because of that, he now has been demoted and sent across the country and all of this bad stuff. Like there are a lot of bad vibes going around, but the fans didn't relent, and eventually like the NHL had no choice but to... but to let him back in.

So they eventually, a few days after the trade and the demotion, they announced that he would be able to keep his position, he would be able to stay as the captain for the Pacific division in the All-Star game, okay?

All-Star game rolls around. Everyone expects him to kind of embarrass himself, right? He asks the coach like, "Just sit me on the bench. Like if you put me in, just like put me in for a little bit, that's fine." They— He does not [chuckles] start the game as the captain, which is wild.

Rachel: Yeah yeah yeah.

Griffin: 26 seconds into the game, they get scored on, they're down one nothing, so the coach is like, "Okay. Now I'm gonna put you in." They put John Scott in. And he goes fuckin' ape.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Really quickly, he has this like beautiful like open net chance and shoots and misses, but gets this freak bounce off the goalie to get it in.

Rachel: Oh my god.

Griffin: Crowd loses their mind. Standing ovation.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like everybody's screaming, chanting his name. The energy of this game is so good, partially because it's like three-on-three All-Star game hockey, it is essentially the same vibe as like just a pickup game of basketball.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Of just like folks kinda goofing around a little bit. But he scores, and people lose their mind. [chuckles] At one point he fucking lays out Patrick Cane.

Rachel: Ohhhh.

Griffin: Delivers this gnarly hit on Patrick Cane, who I believe was an All-Star for the Black Hawks at that point. Just like lays him out, which doesn't happen at the All-Star game.

Rachel: [laughs] No, again. Again, yeah.

Griffin: No-one hits at the All-Star game.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: So like people are cheering, losing their mind. After that happens, Patrick Cane gets up and like drops his gloves.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And they have like a fake like mock fight, just like kinda laughing and just kind of like—

Rachel: Oh, this is so good.

Griffin: — shadow boxing around each other.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And everybody's like cracking up, laughing, losing their mind. Towards the end of the game, they're up by one, he scores again.

Rachel: Wooooow.

Griffin: Two goals in this otherwise pretty short three on three hockey game.

Rachel: Oh, I just got goose bumps.

Griffin: I know!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And the crowd just like loses it, like it is— I've never heard anything like it.

Rachel: Oh, I love that.

Griffin: Going back and watching this game.

Rachel: "Ru-dy! Ru-dy!"

Griffin: Huge Rudy vibes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So they win, the Pacific team moves onto the finals, which they eventually won. They won the whole thing. John Scott's team wins.

Rachel: [sighs]

Griffin: Wins the whole tournament, winning a million-dollar cheque for them [chuckles] to split amongst themselves.

Rachel: Oh, wow.

Griffin: Which is huge. It's not— That's not it though. They also do an MVP vote. At the end of the game.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They put names up on the Jumbotron.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: And everyone can like text in their votes, or tweet in their votes.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: For who should win. They put a list of names up on the Jumbotron, John Scott's not on there. And people start losing it.

Rachel: [laughs] Yes!

Griffin: Just like booing and screaming, and chanting John Scott's name.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: So everybody starts texting in write in votes for John Scott

Rachel: Oh my god.

Griffin: Players on other teams...

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: Start like tweeting like, "MVP John Scott, like got to be." Official Twitter accounts for other teams are like, "Yeah, we gotta give this one to John Scott."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So like fucking everyone comes together, the push for John Scott is so like instantaneous and overwhelming that he wins the MVP prize,

which... I believe it was sponsored by Honda, so he does win a new car for his efforts.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And like it's— it really is Rudy level. Like his team skates onto the ice, lifts them up on his shoulders, which takes some doing.

Rachel: Yeah, that's scary. [laughs]

Griffin: 'Cause he's a giant. His wife comes out onto the ice, they have like this beautiful kiss as just the crowd is like cheering.

Rachel: Delivers her baby. [giggles]

Griffin: Delivers her twin babies right there. And it is just this incredible moment for everyone involved, right? It has to be... I mean it's obviously the greatest imaginable sporting moment for John Scott, right? Like as John Scott, you were there, that's exciting for you.

The people who voted in John Scott, I imagine there was a long period of time where they get worried like, "Oh shit, did we ruin this guy's life and, you know, was this joke that we were doing, which was supposed to be at the expense of the NHL, is it actually gonna be at the expense of this dude? Of this actual person who's gonna get out on the ice and embarrass himself and have like a horrible time, probably at the end of his career. Like are we going to make this man a laughing stock?"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: No. He kicks ass. [chuckles]

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And plays All-Star hockey in a way that like no-one really had up to that point.

Rachel: And then he became a Property Brother.

Griffin: And then he became...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: A Property— the secret fourth Property Brother. No, he actually— That December, he retires. He retired from hockey.

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: `Cause like what the fuck else could you possibly do?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And he's like written books about it, and he's done like a couple podcasts about it. And like I said, Radio Lab did this whole—

Rachel: Yeah...

Griffin: — episode on him if you—

Rachel: I was not familiar with this story.

Griffin: I remembered hearing about it because I remembered it's— I think it came around about the same time as Boaty McBoatface.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And so it started this whole conversation about like when you give the internet this much power over an actual person's kind of like destiny.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: That is never a recipe for success. And I would say nine times out of ten, yeah that's probably true. 99 times out of 100, yeah that's probably true. But this one time.

Rachel: This one time.

Griffin: This one time, this one dude who was not a superstar like put on a fucking superstar performance with his back up against the wall.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I encourage you to like watch clips from this game, 'cause it— He has a huge smile on his face the whole time.

Rachel: [chuckles] I know, I love that.

Griffin: And with each goal, just like he is like so emotional, everyone is so emotional. It is an incredible story that I can't believe hasn't been made into like several, you know, Disney movies at this point.

Rachel: Well, hockey.

Griffin: But it is hockey, I guess, at the end of the day.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: No-one really watches it. [chuckles] But you should watch this one.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause it's a great story. Hey. Let's talk about the Drive.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Let's dip in here for a minute. We have some other levels that if you decide to support us at, you can get some awesome gifts. We talked about at five bucks a month, you can get the bonus content. There's just 6— over 600 hours of stuff for you.

At \$10 a month, you're gonna get the bonus content, you're gonna get a letter press MaximumFun membership card, and your choice of one of 40 enamel pins from each of the shows on the network.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: The pin for *Wonderful!* is so, so, so good. These were designed by Marett Bondaroo, and do you wanna tell them what the— Do you remember what the *Wonderful!* pin is?

Rachel: I do. So it is actually a little kind of cartoon of me and Griffin, but it is in the style of *Stardew Valley*.

Griffin: Yes, so we look like *Stardew Valley* characters, and you can have that as a pin on your shit.

Rachel: And can I say something?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Let's say you and your partner both have brown hair, and the male has glasses. Guess what? This could be a pin of you two.

Griffin: Now it's you.

Rachel: Now it's you guys.

Griffin: Now it's you.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And \$20 a month you get all the stuff we've already talked about, there's also a— your choice of a fancy Max Fun rocket ship bucket hat, or a games on the go kit, which is a bandana that you can turn into a chess board.

Rachel: I love this, this has such beachy vibes, you know?

Griffin: It has huge beachy vibes. And then at [chuckles] \$35 a month, if you wanna go that far for us, first of all, holy shit, thank you.

Rachel: Yeah, that's incredible.

Griffin: Second of all, you can get the Maximum Bag. This is the biggest bag I've ever seen in my entire—

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: It's a tote bag.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But on— It's a tote—

Rachel: I could fit in this bag.

Griffin: This is a— This is— If John Scott had a tote bag, it would be this tote bag.

Rachel: It's 27 by 35 inches.

Griffin: It is absolutely, outrageously, exorbitantly large. Listen, you know, we get messages from people like, "Hey, sorry, I could only chip in five bucks a month this year." That's amazing. That is huge.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, here's the thing, like the content is free. And that's a big point of pride I think for all of us.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: There's no paywall, you can listen to this, anybody can listen to this. But obviously that's not a sustainable business model for us as people.

Griffin: No. [chuckles] No, not at all.

Rachel: So we are really grateful for those of you that recognize like, "This is important, I have the extra funds, I'm gonna contribute because I want this to continue to be free for other people."

Griffin: Yeah. So if you go to maximumfun.org/join, again you pick the show that you directly want to support with your membership. You pick the donation level that works for you. If you're a new member, you can come in at whatever level you want.

You can upgrade your membership, if you're already, you know, say you're a five bucks a month member and you want to bump it up to 10, you can do that and get all the rewards for \$10 and below.

Or if you don't wanna jump all the way up to another membership level, you can just boost it, maybe kick it up a couple bucks or so. You can gift memberships, you can also, new this year, you can pay up front, right?

So that \$5 membership level, you can pay, you know, for the whole year if you don't wanna like worry about a recurring charge. That's— I totally understand that and that's an option too. All of that's over at maximumfun.org/join. We really do— We could use the help this year.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I try not to be quite as like hat in hand about it but there are certain parts of this... this whole industry that are not doing good at all, and so we have definitely felt the squeeze over the past couple years or so. And I just ask if this show and the stuff that we make, if you get some enjoyment out of it, if it means something to you, you can keep it going.

You can support it in an incredibly direct way, support us in an incredibly direct way, by going to maximumfun.org/join and choosing the membership level that fits into your life. And we appreciate you more than we could ever, ever say. So thank you all so, so much.

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: Do you wanna do your thing?

Rachel: Yes. Okay, my topic this week.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Is gonna be a little unfamiliar to you.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But I think it is widespread enough that you will be able to participate.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Rachel: And that—

Griffin: I made you listen to talk about— me talk about so many Japanese role-playing games.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's only— You are owed like 20 of these.

Rachel: But everybody's talking about Japanese role-playing games.

Griffin: I mean, yeah.

Rachel: So it's like now I can talk to somebody at the grocery store.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Somebody at the gas station.

Griffin: The cashier's like, "Did you check out *Final Fantasy XVI*?"

Rachel: And I'll be like, "No, but I have enough information about it—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "— that I could—"

Griffin: Nod your head.

Rachel: "— say something."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I am talking about the college dormitory.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay. If you say so, my man.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If you insist! I never had a great dorm. I never lived in a dorm.

Rachel: But you went to some.

Griffin: I went to dorms, yes. I've visited dorms.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: And it was never like an amazing experience for me.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean kinda gross. Objectively kinda gross for a lot of reasons.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I will say, as a college freshman... huge for me.

Griffin: yeah, I bet.

Rachel: And then I— Actually I believe when I was there... Missou only required your first year to be in the dorms. A lot of people did two years, and then pretty much after that everybody was gone.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But... But it was huge for me because... I don't think I was fully prepared for that first year. Went to a huge state school. And you know, it was obviously my first-time kind of living as a quote unquote "adult."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it gave me an opportunity to meet people and to have proximity to all of my classes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Some of which I literally would leave my dorm room five minutes before the class started. [laughs]

Griffin: That was always the sense I got from dorm— I feel like I always knew— I never lived in the dorms, so when I would show up to class and people would be, you know in their...

Rachel: Pajamas.

Griffin: Pajamas, basically.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I would be like, "Oh, okay." I was jealous of that, for sure. 'Cause I had to get in a car and drive for like... eight minutes.

Rachel: [laughs] I will talk specifically about like a pivotal moment for me in dorm living, but I wanted to kind of talk about how they became a lot of what people... associate with the dorm.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: When I talk about kind of a typical dorm, I'm talking about like a high-rise building.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I'm talking about like multi-story, long hallways, multiple rooms, sometimes a— like a one or two bathrooms per floor, sometimes a suite style bathroom. Usually like cement block. [chuckles] No carpeting, that kind of dorm.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And a lot of that came about because at the end of World War II...

Griffin: Woah. Not expecting that.

Rachel: [laughs] The GI Bill was started. So what happened was while World War II was still going on, Department of Labor estimated that when the war ended, 15 million men and women who had been serving would be unemployed. Which obviously would lead to a huuuuge like epic depression that the country was not prepared for.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Just widespread unemployment. And so a White House agency that studied post-war manpower needs as early as 1942 recommended a series of programs for educational training.

So the GI Bill was federal aid to help veterans adjust to civilian life in the areas of hospitalization for veterans, in the areas of hospitalization so

they could purchase homes and businesses, and especially education. This act provided tuition subsistence, books and supplies, equipment, and counselling service for veterans to continue their education.

Griffin: So... fucking... wild.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That that was a thing.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That they could do. That the government could do.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: They could functionally create and provide.

Rachel: So this was Franklin Roosevelt in 1944. And obviously this was enormous.

Griffin: Just the thought of that happening at a level that could provide material sort of change and support to that many people is like truly astonishing, [chuckles] I feel like.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Given the landscape of today.

Rachel: I know, it's hard to imagine anything like that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Now. So, the GI Bill resulted in a near doubling in the number of college students in the decade after 1945.

Griffin: Wild.

Rachel: It is estimated that within the following seven years, approximately eight million veterans received educational benefits, and approximately 2.3 million attended colleges and universities.

Griffin: [exhales heavily]

Rachel: So. Housing.

Griffin: Became an issue, yes. I can imagine.

Rachel: Yes, had to fundamentally change. There was not space enough space for all of these new college students, which lead to the growth of the modernized high-rises that I am talking about.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: High-rise dormitories also appeared outside of urban areas, such as the Moral and Lincoln Towers at Ohio State. Which were completed in 1965 and had room for more than 3800 students.

Griffin: Good lord.

Rachel: [chuckles] So at the time, super lean housing. We're talking about communal bathrooms and showers, shared by 20 to 30 students.

Griffin: Yowzah!

Rachel: Not really a lot in terms of comfort. I mean there would maybe be like a common area. But you know, now you're seeing more like high-end style dormitories.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know, like we're talking a swimming pool, we're talking on top of retail establishments. When I was in the dorm, my first dorm did not have wireless internet. And this was in the age of like Napster, you know, LimeWire.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like everybody's trying to download songs and it would take be hours, literally. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Now I will say, my second year I moved to a different dorm which did have the wireless internet.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Or I guess it wasn't even wireless internet, right?

Griffin: Probably not wireless, yeah.

Rachel: It was— What was it called? I don't even remember.

Griffin: I mean it's—

Rachel: Where you like— you plugged in—

Griffin: Like an Ethernet connection.

Rachel: Ethernet.

Griffin: Yeah yeah.

Rachel: That's what I'm thinking of. See, this is how long it's been.

Griffin: You're such a Gen Z that like this old stuff doesn't even ring a bell to you.

Rachel: [laughs] I know. So, I will say that there are benefits. There are a lot of reasons that universities ask that their first-year students live on campus. First it like eliminates some of the things that if you were like living independently, you would have to deal with, like monthly bills... Leases.

Griffin: Privacy.

Rachel: In some cases. [chuckles] You know, purchasing your own food.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: A lot of these dormitories have like dining hall...

Griffin: Meal plans and stuff, yeah.

Rachel: Kinda situation. Also, you have residential staff, which can help connect you to what you need while you're there. So this is what was a big deal for me in my freshman year, it's when I met my friend Nicole.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Who I've told you about. She was the RA on my floor.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And I decided to live in an all-female dorm my freshman year. I don't really recall why.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Rachel: But... It was difficult for me to kind of make friends. But Nicole... like posters, music, it was just very clear we had a lot of similar interests. She like poked her head in, 'cause I was like reading a book that she would then read.

Griffin: You both loved posters.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You both loved music.

Rachel: Here's the thing though, she also loved Rushmore.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: She also loved Christopher Guess. She was a huge Radiohead fan.

Griffin: That's all you need. Those three things tell me everything I need to know about her.

Rachel: She took the same art history class that I was taking.

Griffin: Beautiful.

Rachel: She worked at a movie theatre, and so she just— she was very cool, and honestly was maybe one of the only friends I made in that dorm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That year.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: And at the end of my senior year, I went to her wedding. And I still keep in touch with her.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And my freshman year was rough, I mean in a lot of ways. I had one very unfortunate roommate my first semester who basically forced me out of our room. And... Again, did not make a lot of friends in that dorm. So having access to her like it was huge for me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Also in a dorm freshman year, they have what is called “living learning communities.” I was part of what they called a “freshman interest group.” Mine was women in leadership.

Griffin: Awesome.

Rachel: [giggles] Which again I thought “This is gonna be great. I’m gonna meet a lot of other powerful, you know, women looking to take over the world.” That was not my experience, unfortunately.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I will say that there is research to say that living learning community participants were up to three times more likely than other campus residents to meet with faculty, attend class, see and advisor. It’s just— It’s access to resources, it’s the motivation to kind of stay... enrolled.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And—

Griffin: It's an accountability thing, it sounds like, in the community.

Rachel: Yeah, and it's also like a shopping mall of friends, in a way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like I personally do not have a great experience with my roommate. But I will say my sophomore year when I moved to different dorm, it was just kind of incredible to me that there was like seven floors of people who were all approximately my age, all enrolled at the same university. It's kind of incredible.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: To think about like as an adult now. [giggles]

Griffin: The opposite of our sort of society— Like social experience on a daily basis.

Rachel: People talk about how hard it is to make friends as an adult, and it is because, in a lot of ways, you do not have regular access to people that have a similar interest and are a similar age to you.

Griffin: We don't live in a building with 3600 other adults.

Rachel: No. And yes, I am grateful for that.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yes.

Rachel: But it has made it more difficult to form adult relationships.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Rachel: So yeah, I mean again, a lot of problems with dorm living. I would not do it again, as an adult. But I'm glad that I did it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it's kind of an interesting phenomenon. In a lot of ways like a rite of passage for a lot of people who—

Griffin: Yeah, I—

Rachel: — go to school.

Griffin: I feel like I missed out on a certain like chapter of, you know, the— certainly the college experience by not living in a dorm.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I— Whenever I would visit dorms, I would always think like— I used the bathroom once at one friend's dorm and was like, "No fuckin' way, dude."

Rachel: [laughs] I remember when we moved into the dorm, we got a little list of things to buy. One of which was a shower caddy, which I had— didn't even know what it was.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: I remember like trying to figure out like, "Well what is— Why would you need a shower caddy?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "Why would you need a bathrobe?" And the idea was that you were gonna walk from your room down to this communal shower.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So you needed to carry all your like shampoo and stuff, and you needed to cover your body. It was...

Griffin: No thanks.

Rachel: Fascinating. I also bought a trunk, which was a thing, again, I think was like a holdover from the earlier years.

Griffin: World War II?

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles] So I remember like trying to figure out where does one buy a trunk, and why exactly do I need a trunk?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Later, realized could've just had a big suitcase.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: But trunk...

Griffin: It's great.

Rachel: Seemed like a thing.

Griffin: A little treasure chest.

Rachel: Yeah. Speaking of treasure chests.

Griffin: We're gonna talk one last time about the Drive.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: For this week. Maximumfun.org/join is the link. I mean, we've told you everything that there is kinda to say about it. But we really could use your support this year, as the market shifts away [chuckles] from advertising in podcasts, we really, really could use your help. If you can go to that link and just kick in just five bucks a month.

Rachel: Do you wanna talk about any of the other fun stuff that you did with your brothers and/or dad?

Griffin: Sure, so on *MBMBaM* we had an episode that got way out of control, where we invented a nine-level rave that took place in the basement of a container store? Called Plato's Rave.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: So we did— On *MBMBaM*, for the bonus episode, we made a one-shot roleplaying game out of Plato's Rave. And then for *Adventure Zone*, me, Justin, and Travis all simultaneously DMed that experience for our dad.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Who had no idea what the fuck we were talking about the whole time. Which was a true delight. We are— We also have like, you know, streams and stuff that we've been gettin' ready for the Drive. Gonna be doin' some DJ sets in Fuser, which I'm very excited about.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: We have grown dramatically over especially the last few years. We've been able to hire people like Rachel, our editor, on this and all of our shows.

Rachel: Yeah. Griffin used to stay up until like midnight, one in the morning sometimes, just scrambling to get everything edited.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And now he doesn't have to do that, which is great because we have two kids.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And we're hardly sleeping already. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yes, exactly. But we've been able to like do more video stuff because we hired a video editor and producer.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: More live stream stuff. Like we have been able to do more stuff and make our work like a bigger part of our lives, and that is only because of the support that we've gotten in MaxFunDrives in the past. So—

Rachel: Oh my gosh, and touring too.

Griffin: And touring also.

Rachel: Not to forget touring, you guys tour so much more than you used to.

Griffin: We do tour— Well, yes.

Rachel: Well, it—

Griffin: We do tour so much more, things have—

Rachel: Than in the early years. [chuckles]

Griffin: Things have slowed down, I would say, in—

Rachel: There was— There were some unexpected circumstances that maybe changed that a little.

Griffin: Yes. Post-COVID, like, our touring just hasn't gotten back up to what it was, which is honestly—

Rachel: Another reason, yeah.

Griffin: — another kind of financial consideration.

Rachel: That's true.

Griffin: That is laying heavy on us. So again, maximumfun.org/join. You pick the shows you wanna support and that support goes, I mean, a long, long, long, long way.

I cannot stress enough that if you like the stuff we make, and you know, the community we, you know, attempt to kind of cultivate, you are the sole kind of engine behind that with your support in the MaxFunDrive.

So please consider going to maximumfun.org/join, help us out, get some great rewards, get a bunch of bonus content, and you know feel great about the fact that you are helping put this stuff and stuff like it out into the world, 'cause that is exactly what you are doing. Thank you so much.

Thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description. And of course, as always, thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network.

That's it. We'll be back next week. Apologies for missing last week, I know it's not a great look before the Drive kicks off. We were—

Rachel: Lot of stuff going on.

Griffin: A lot of pretty heavy shit happening.

Rachel: Yeah, and... we thank our community just for being so supportive.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: It means everything.

Griffin: Yes, thank you so much. And we'll be back next week. So, 'til then...

Rachel: What we always say.

Griffin: What we always say. [in a high-pitched voice] Have a great summer! Love you like a sister.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: [in a higher-pitched voice] I signed your crack.

Rachel: [laughs]

[outro music plays]

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