

Wonderful! 318: You Could Do A Choo Choo

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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: Vroom! I did a car thing last week, but... [imitates car braking] we're comin' into the home stretch.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Aren't we?

Rachel: Well, I mean, it would be hard to make the noise of another... transportation vehicle. Maybe a train, you could do a choo choo.

Griffin: Yeah. Choo choo is the train, I think we all know that.

Rachel: But like how do you—

Griffin: Airplane doesn't have a good onomatopoeia.

Rachel: Yeah, I don't know what you would do for like a helicopter.

Griffin: [imitates airplane zoom sounds] [imitates helicopter blades flying]

Rachel: Oh, that's pretty good. [chuckles]

Griffin: You say, "choppa choppa choppa."

Rachel: "Choppa choppa," yeah, I like that.

Griffin: Yeah. Boat is cool 'cause it's like [imitates foghorn].

Rachel: Oh, I like that too.

Griffin: That's what a tugboat—

Rachel: Man with a thousand voices.

Griffin: A real Michael Winslow here.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And that's what you get by being a Max Fun supporter.

Rachel: A reference that you don't understand.

Griffin: When you—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: When you join the Max Fun network and support this show and others like it, you get sound effects.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Sent to your house.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: On floppy disk. That's not true. Listen, we got a couple days left on the MaxFunDrive. Now Rachel and I, we record this show a few days in advance to when it goes up, so I don't know what kind of state we are currently in. We're doin' pretty good this week.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I'm feelin' alright, but I imagine we will still need some help to reach all of our goals and get the help that we need to keep growing the shows.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And keep doin' the stuff that we love.

Rachel: This is not the year to assume that everybody else has got you on the donating front.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: This is the year to be like, "You know what? I'm gonna step up."

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: "Here I am."

Griffin: A lot of people have done that so far, we— it means... It means the world, it means more than I could possibly ever say. *Wonderful!* supporters in particular.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Have been and continue to be remarkably supportive.

Rachel: Every morning we get an email from April, and I am always kind of expecting there to be no new donors.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Rachel: And there always are new donors. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yes, and it really, it is humbling and just it really is something very, very special. We are gonna talk about it this episode and then that's it for the rest of the year.

So if you missed the pitch last week, we are a part of the MaximumFun network, which is pledge-supported. We have ads on the show sometimes, but they are not— They are a drop in the bucket [chuckles], I think, for—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: — for— And especially since the podcast ad market has really fallen off a cliff, it is more... important than ever that if you enjoy the stuff

that we make and it means something to you, you can be directly responsible for— “Responsible” sounds bad.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: “Responsible” sounds like we’re trying to pin something on you. But you can directly support us and the work that we do by going to maximumfun.org/join. You can pick a pledge level that works for you.

At just five bucks a month, you’re going to get access to over 600 hours of bonus content, including the triumphant return of *Rose Buddies*, as we cover the beginning of this season of *The Bachelor* that we’ve been watching.

And you know, all of the bonus content that we’ve ever made here on *Wonderful!*, and *Rose Buddies* actually, as a matter of fact. There’s other pledge levels, we will get into those, but... you— even just that \$5 a month level, it really, really makes all the difference in the world, and it has allowed us to hire people to help us make the show.

Like Rachel, our editor, and Amanda, our business manager, and so many other people that we work with every single day to make this stuff and to make it possible, so maximumfun.org/join is the link you can go to.

If you’re already a member, you can boost or upgrade your membership to get the new pledge gifts.

Rachel: Or update the shows that you listen to.

Griffin: Or update the shows that you listen to, absolutely. You can do that too. The shows that you pick, they are the ones who sort of get the financial support that you provide, so that is also a very important step.

If you don’t wanna have a recurring charge, I totally feel that too, you can also pay for the year upfront. Just one lump sum, get in, get out, help us out, help us make the show, and... get some great gifts along the way.

So one last time, maximumfun.org/join. If you’re at a screen, don’t wait! Do it now while you are, you know, thinkin’ about it and the spirit is movin’ yah, ‘cause you might forget later. That’s just human nature. Do you have... a small wonder?

Rachel: Mmm... That is a good... question. I'm gonna say... when you don't know how to care for a plant.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And then you Google it, and the— and it tells you what to do.

Griffin: Okay. That's interesting.

Rachel: I have a little cactus plant and I don't really know how to take care of succulents.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I know they don't need a lot of water, I know they need some water, I don't know how often they need it. I know they need sun, I don't know how much sun.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: These are all things that have plagued me for a very long time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Today, I just Googled like, "why cactus leaves shriveled."

Griffin: "Why cactus leaves shriveled."

Rachel: And it was like, "Hey, you need to put a lot of water in there."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "Because it's super dehydrated," and I was like, "Great. Now I feel like it's okay to put water in there 'cause Google told me."

Griffin: I have never I think had a plant that I was responsible for keeping alive. But it does seem cool that you can just Google "how do I fix my plant," and most of the time it's— it'll getcha there.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Except sometimes your plant is like— has a weird fungus on it, and then I feel like the wheels really fall off the wagon at that point.

Rachel: You know what? A lot of times that is because the moisture isn't escaping from the dirt.

Griffin: Shit.

Rachel: It's not fully drying out.

Griffin: That's why I can't do this.

Rachel: And so that's why you get like a little fungus on the top, but it's not harmful to the plant. It's just— It's—

Griffin: It's harmful to my aesthetic.

Rachel: It's just unsightly.

Griffin: I mean I'm— Obviously this is a very fungal year for us.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Particularly on *My Brother, My Brother & Me*, but like I want it on my terms. Do you know what I mean? I don't get much out of just sort of a mossy fungal growth, I like stalks and caps and gills and shit, you know?

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I need mushroom shape.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: You know?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm gonna say *Physical 100* is back on the air on Netflix for season two. This is a show I believe we talked about a lot last year, and

the sort of... just absolute maelstrom of high production value Korean reality television shows.

Rachel: We were so curious after the first season. We were like, "How are they gonna do a second season? What's it gonna look like?." Because in my head I thought "What are the odds that they would find—"

Griffin: A hundred more strong people.

Rachel: "— all new super strong people."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "From this one country." Turns out, ni—

Griffin: There's a lot, man.

Rachel: 99 out of 100 are brand new. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, there's only one returning guy.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Who had like a really tragic arc in the first one where he was like pretty fit and pretty buff and like ready to roll, and he was smashing the challenges. And then he went face-to-face with this like huge dude.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: In this competition where you have to like wrestle a ball away from him, and he was a little too cocky, little big for his britches.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: The big dude just like tossed him around like laundry.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And so he is bag with a vengeance. It's still— I mean, it's still really— It's still really interesting to watch incredibly physically fit people.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: Do incredible feats of athleticism.

Rachel: Every single person, it's still shocking to me. Like they will cut to somebody on screen removing their shirt, and every single time I'm like, "Wow! That person's really muscular."

Griffin: "Wow! There's a lot of muscles on them!"

Rachel: [giggles] I never get used to it.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. I'm glad to have it back.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Hopefully the other shows that we fell in love with. Give me a season two of fuckin' *Siren* please.

Rachel: Yeeees.

Griffin: Give me a season two of *New World*. That feels like maybe it's not going to happen, but *Siren's* got to, right?

Rachel: [whispers] I don't know.

Griffin: Doesn't it feel right?

Rachel: I have no sense of whether other people are watching these shows.

Griffin: Yeah, that's—

Rachel: I know our Netflix skews towards these programs.

Griffin: It really does.

Rachel: But I do not know if they show up on other people's like dashboards.

Griffin: Yeah, maybe not. Yeah, our algo's got us.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Pretty well pinned. You go first this week.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: What do you got?

Rachel: [hums a little] I have a special MaxFunDrive trip to the Poetry Corner.

Griffin: Oh my goodness!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: [sings a jazzy intro to the Poetry Corner] [chuckles halfway through]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [singing] "It's a rare condition!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I did not even realize that I was doing *Family Matters*.

Rachel: [through laughter] I know! I realized it immediately.

Griffin: I didn't. I didn't. I got a few bars—

Rachel: Did you think you were comin' up with like an off the cuff, fresh—

Griffin: No, I thought it was *Frasier*.

Rachel: Weird...

Griffin: I got *Frasier* and *Family Matters*, two shows that could not be more different!

Rachel: [giggles] I was gonna say, Kelsey Grammer will be very shocked.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: In virtually every way, these shows are different.

Rachel: [laughs] Yes.

Griffin: Anyway, thank you for having me in the Poetry Corner again.

Rachel: Yeah, you—

Griffin: After I made such a big mess last time.

Rachel: [chuckles] You're always welcome.

Griffin: I spilled my soup in here last time. We cut it out of the show, but last time I was in the Poetry Corner, I spilled all my soup.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And it's carpet over here, made a really big fucking mess.

Rachel: Yeah. Can I tell the story about when you tripped down the stairs and got coffee on our ceiling?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, it's a kickass story. And it makes me sound cool and smooth, so—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: You know that there's not much more to the story than what you—

Rachel: That's basically the story. [giggles] We have this like sunken living area. There's literally two stairs.

Griffin: Sinkholes in DC are really a huge problem. Drain the swamp.

Rachel: I think that's what you call it, I think you call it a sunken like living area.

Griffin: A sunken wreck of the—

Rachel: Yeah. There's two steps. [chuckles] And Griffin was carrying a full cup of coffee down two steps.

Griffin: It— Somehow it left my hand.

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: And when it fell— Imagine a cup of coffee that doesn't— It didn't rotate on any kind of axis.

Rachel: It was completely full, he had literally just gotten it.

Griffin: It was completely full. But it didn't like dump over and spill.

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: It fell perfectly still like coffee cup straight up, and so when the bottom of the cup hit the floor, the coffee inside... I'm sorry, ejaculated.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Just fu— Just an explo— The like physics of it was just cup go straight down, no turning, no spilling.

Rachel: [chuckles] And—

Griffin: Just hit, and then it just [imitates an explosion], just shot up the top of the cup and got on our fucking ceiling.

Rachel: Not only did it cover a tremendous amount of carpet area that we just decided to put an area rug over.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: 'Cause it was just not coming up.

Griffin: Too much.

Rachel: But yeah, we had little coffee splashes on our ceiling now, and I just like I know that I could clean them off, [chuckles] but it's just such a reminder of that story.

Griffin: Yeah. Not— Again, not a great story.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If we had filmed it, it would be a great video.

Rachel: [giggles] I don't—

Griffin: You are crying right now.

Rachel: I don't think of myself as somebody that loves slapstick comedy, but every once in a while, I'm like, "Oh yeah, I get it."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "That was good."

Griffin: You usually don't like slapstick comedy that impacts you in such a direct way—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: — as me getting coffee on our ceiling.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But yeah.

Rachel: Part of me was glad though, I'm sure carpet owners will appreciate this. Part of me was glad though that it was you and not me.

Griffin: Oh, for sure.

Rachel: Because... The feeling of staining a carpet is never good.

Griffin: Although you did spill coffee on our bed once.

Rachel: [giggles] Yeah.

Griffin: But you don't hear me talking about that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: 'Cause I don't believe in... keeping records of rights and wrongs.

Rachel: Well, the guests that come over to our house don't see our bed.

Griffin: That's a good point.

Rachel: So it was kind of a victimless crime.

Griffin: Except for us.

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: Me and you, the victims.

Rachel: And our bed that always smelled like coffee.

Griffin: On our— And our bed that always smelled like coffee, and looked like someone had taken—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: — the most righteous dookie.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Ever. The most wild... footloose dookie. [chuckles]

Rachel: [giggles] Footloose?

Griffin: Footloose doo— Just footloose and fancy free dookie that anyone's ever done in a bed.

Rachel: [sighs] Oh god. I appreciate that I can trust Rachel, our editor, that she will not make that the title of this episode.

Griffin: "Footloose Dookie"?

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: Uh... Yeah, I think it actually will be. Holy shit, I hope your poem isn't super serious.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Oh no, it is, isn't it? Oh no! It's gonna be!

Rachel: [laughs] I have multiple poems.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Rachel: I can start with the less serious one.

Griffin: Okay, great. Yeah, just to give us a sort of gap, a buffer space.

Rachel: This was maybe the hardest poet to research that I've ever done.

Griffin: Oh wow.

Rachel: Her name is Laura Gilpin, and she wrote two poetry books. One in 1977.

Griffin: Oh wow, okay.

Rachel: And then the other was published in 2008.

Griffin: So a little gap there.

Rachel: A little bit of a gap.

Griffin: A small break.

Rachel: The 2008 one was published posthumously. She actually passed in 2007.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But she had basically finished the book prior to her passing.

Griffin: Interesting.

Rachel: Otherwise, we would only have one book from her.

Griffin: So, she only published one poetry book when she was alive.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I feel like that is quite rare for— I feel like any poet you bring to the show is like, “Well, they published 314 books of collections of their poetry,” it’s interesting to hear someone just have— just do the one.

Rachel: Yeah, no. And she was incredibly successful for somebody who... in her lifetime only had one book. Very first book came out in 1976, so she would’ve been 26 years old.

Griffin: Wow.

Rachel: And it was awarded the Walten Award by the Academy of American Poets.

Griffin: Wow, okay.

Rachel: Which is a pretty exclusive award in that only, as far as I know, one person wins it a year.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: She is often considered a like a confessional poet, which is kind of like in the vein of like a Sylvia Plath, in that they write these like very

vulnerable poems about their personal life. But it's not... The poems that she writes are not like dark in the way that a lot of confessional poetry is.

Griffin: When you said, "Sylvia Plath."

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: My— I puckered up a little bit.

Rachel: No. No.

Griffin: Worrying about the juxtaposition.

Rachel: No, so *Chicago Review*, which is actually a literary magazine that I worked for briefly.

Griffin: Hell yeah, babe.

Rachel: Described her as a confessional poet, but said, quote, "without the frantic stripping of the soul that often constitutes confessional poetry."

Griffin: That's— Oh, that's a fun distinction.

Rachel: They went on to say that though her poetry is plain and self-conscious and elegant, the endings leave the reader feeling quote "that there is more to be said, some conclusion to be drawn, some emotion to be underlined." Which I think is a very like apt... description of her poetry.

So I'm gonna read the most famous one. The reason I even came up with her as a subject for *Wonderful!* is because I saw this poem in one of the many poetry accounts that I follow. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I was like, "Oh yeah, everyone knows this poem!" But then I stopped for a minute and I was like—

Griffin: I betcha I don't.

Rachel: — "Betcha they don't."

Griffin: Is it the one about— Is it Casey steps up to bat? I've heard that poem before.

Rachel: It is!

Griffin: Holy shit!

Rachel: No it's not.

Griffin: A baseball poe— Oh.

Rachel: It's not. I would not bring that poem.

Griffin: You don't like that one?

Rachel: [sighs] I don't—

Griffin: It's a sad ending. I don't like that poem—

Rachel: It's more of a story than a poem, I think.

Griffin: What is it called, is it *Casey*— *When Casey Went to Bat*?

Rachel: *Casey at the Bat*, I think.

Griffin: Something like that, yeah. Anyway, sorry.

Rachel: Anyway. The name of this poem is *The Two-Headed Calf*.

"Tomorrow when the farm boys find this freak of nature, they will wrap his body in newspaper and carry him to the museum. But tonight he is alive and in the north field with his mother. It is a perfect summer evening: the moon rising over the orchard, the wind in the grass. And as he stares into the sky, there are twice as many stars as usual."

Griffin: Whoa!

Rachel: Isn't that lovely?

Griffin: That was really lovely!

Rachel: Yeah, it's a tiny little poem.

Griffin: That's the shortest poem I think you've ever brought.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: To *Wonderful!*.

Rachel: Like except for maybe Wiliam Carlos Williams and that—

Griffin: Well yeah, those, yeah.

Rachel: And those dang plums in that wheelbarrow.

Griffin: Yeah sure.

Rachel: Yeah, it's—

Griffin: I loved that.

Rachel: It's such an unusual subject matter, treated with like such sensitivity, and it—

Griffin: And like dignity.

Rachel: And it ends in such a lovely way. Part of what I love about her poetry is that just her like genuine kindness like comes through.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And I think some of that is because in 1981, she became a registered nurse.

Griffin: Hmm.

Rachel: So again, she published her first book of poetry in 1977, and she's somebody who went to college and got her MFA shortly after, and I think... maybe could first and foremost be a poet, but actually spent the majority of her career as a nurse.

Griffin: That's so interesting.

Rachel: And she was a founding member of an organization called "Plain Tree," which I was not familiar with, but the whole focus of the organization was to work with hospitals to focus on a greater sense of compassion and partnership to healthcare. So the whole concept of patient-centered care, Plain Tree was kind of at the forefront of that.

Griffin: Wow, okay.

Rachel: And so she travelled around the globe, kind of speaking to promote this like visions of patient-centered care around the country.

Griffin: A fuckin' cool lady.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah! Very cool. So yeah. So a lot of her poetry is just about like caring for people that are unwell, and... she writes it in a very like sensitive, respectful way that can be very moving.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So, I wanted to read... one more poem. This one is more serious.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Part of the reason I wanted to read it second. It was actually published in *Poetry Magazine* in 1984. And it is called *The Bath*.

"I stand here bathing her
while she sleeps
in a far place beyond my reaching.

I bathe her
as I have been taught to do:
first the eyes, then the forehead,
the face, the neck.

And as I work
I talk to her—in case she hears me
(believing that hearing is the last to go).

I tell her—I don't know why
but I tell her the time, the day,
the season, what the weather is doing,

lifting each arm to wash and dry it,
laying it down again at her side,
then the chest, the abdomen, each leg.

She offers no resistance,
except that of gravity,
the earth pulling her
down while I lift,
as though something between us
is being weighed.

Then I turn her to wash her back
talking to her about what seems to matter
in this life—though I make no promises.

Only this morning
the promise of spring was in the air
and I tell her that.”

Griffin: That was really nice.

Rachel: Isn't that lovely?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: It's such a great... It's a great poem on those different levels that *Chicago Review* was talking about, of like she is describing something that is a very typical action for somebody in her profession, in a very detailed way that is like interesting and feels very like connected to what is happening.

And then you just— It undeniably connects you to this experience of caring for somebody who is like not able to care for themselves anymore.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: In just this very thoughtful way. And when I realized that she only published that one book while she was alive, I just thought like, “Oh man, more people need to know about her.”

Griffin: Yeah, no kidding.

Rachel: One problem. Both of her books are out of print. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, well that’s not ideal.

Rachel: Yeah, I went ‘cause I was like, “Oh, I wanna own one of these books!.” Some kind person on Reddit has transcribed and posted both books, so you can read both books in their entirety.

The first— And they have great names, by the way. The first book is called *The Hocus Pocus of the Universe*. And the second is *The Weight of a Soul*. And both of them are in their entirety online.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So if you are interested in reading all of her poems, which is very doable, you can do that.

Griffin: And one more time, what was her name?

Rachel: It’s Laura Gilpin, G-I-L-P-I-N. Now there is a photographer named Laura Gilpin. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Oh no.

Rachel: So if you just Google like, “Laura Gilpin,” you’re not gonna find her. You have to do “poet,” otherwise you will end up looking at a lot of lovely photographs.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: That are not hers.

Griffin: Well thank you for sharing.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: If I could take us out of the Poetry Corner and into the MaxFunDrive Vestibule.

Rachel: [chuckles] Ooo, yeah.

Griffin: [imitates thudding footsteps] Welcome to the MaxFunDrive Vestibule.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I want to tell folks about some of the other pledge gifts that we've got for yah at the different levels. Obviously at \$5 a month, you got the BoCo. Over 600 hours, all the shows, all their BoCo, throughout all of time. Well past. There's not future BoCo in there. That would be—

Rachel: Unless?

Griffin: — wild.

Rachel: Well, I guess there are shows that continue to produce bonus content throughout the year.

Griffin: But that stuff's not there now.

Rachel: But it's not there now.

Griffin: 'Cause it hasn't been made yet.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yes, true.

Griffin: That's the point that I am trying to make. But there's lots of stuff on there for you. You can hear Rachel talk about her experience playing *Stardew Valley* and *Animal Crossing*, two video games that are maybe the only two video games that you've played in the last—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: — five years. There is so much stuff in there, just at \$5 a month. At \$10 a month, you get the bonus content. You also get an enamel pin of your choice from all of the shows on the Max Fun network. Our pin this year, it looks like us, in like *Stardew Valley* style.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Which is absolutely lovely. I've been dipping back into that, by the way, for that 1.6 update.

Rachel: Oh yeah, what do you think?

Griffin: I mean, we'll debrief after.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But it's fun. At \$20 a month, you can get the games on the go, or a Max Fun bucket hat. The games on the go is a bandana, but it's like a checkerboard pattern, and you get these little pieces so that you can play checkers or chess on it.

Rachel: Yeah, and those little pieces are good pieces. You know?

Griffin: They're great pieces.

Rachel: Like if you lay this down on a patch of grass and put those pieces down, they will stay there.

Griffin: Yeah. Also at \$35 a month, there's a big fucking tote bag. The biggest tote bag you've ever seen in your life, it says, "Maximum Bag" on it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: We just got ours in the mail today.

Rachel: I bet you anything we could fit both of our boys in there, and they would love it.

Griffin: They would love that.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Our backs probably would not.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Enjoy it. And the boys wouldn't enjoy it very quickly.

Rachel: [chuckles] They think they would, but they would not.

Griffin: They would probably think they would enjoy it, but they definitely wouldn't. That's just a handful of the levels. Listen, it really—

All that matters is if you are able to support us in this way, in anyway during the MaxFunDrive, it genuinely makes it possible for us to do what we do. It is— It makes it possible for us to do more stuff.

We have started doing more video content, over the past like year and a half, because we were able to hire a video producer for the first time. We've been doing this for a long time but we are still able to grow I think pretty significantly every single year because of the fact that we've been able to hire people, because of the support that we get through the MaxFunDrive.

Rachel: Yeah, and I can say too, I know that there's the \$5 level and the \$10 level, but somebody commented on one of my posts that they upped their donation \$1 this year.

Griffin: You can also boost, yeah.

Rachel: So yeah, you can go from five to six, and that's incredible for us, so thank you for that.

Griffin: Yeah we— I— Again, we're recording this a few days in advance of when it releases, so I don't know what the current count is, but we've got some stretch goals lined up that we're gonna be announcing on our social media. [chuckles]

There's some exciting stuff coming up on there that I don't wanna spoil, in case we have not hit those levels yet. We've also been streaming

basically every day over the last week and a half. You can watch some *Fuser* streams of DJ sets that I've done, and—

Rachel: Oh, and *The McElroy Family Clubhooouse*.

Griffin: *The McElroy Family Clubhouse*.

Rachel: Oh, I love it so much.

Griffin: A new streaming show on Tuesdays at noon. It is a very aggressive, I will say, schedule of—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We are a little tired, just from the sheer amount of kind of work that everybody who works with us has been putting into this. And... yeah, I—

This is our last episode of the Drive, and so this is our last chance to say like, if you've been a listener for a while and you've heard us talk about the MaxFunDrive but you have never, you now, sprung for it yourself...

I cannot describe to you how much it has changed our lives. That we are— have received as much support as we have from you all. It is— I get genuinely choked up when I consider the magnitude of it, and the extent to which it has changed my life.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And your live, and all our lives.

Rachel: Oh, 100%.

Griffin: And I also know... [chuckles] that it is— It feels very, very good to support something that you enjoy.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And this is such a direct way for you to do that. Maximumfun.org/join is the link that you can go to. If you're able to, we really appreciate you. If you can't, if you're not able to, we totally

understand that too. Maybe tell a friend about the shows. Tweet about the stuff. I don't know if people still... do that.

Rachel: TikTok about it.

Griffin: TikTok us, please.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: One last time, maximumfun.org/join. Speaking... of *Fuser*. I would like to do my segment.

Rachel: Speaking of *Fuser*?

Griffin: That's that DJ video game.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: I wanna talk about mashups.

Rachel: Alright.

Griffin: This segment felt... inevitable, I feel like, based on how much of *Fuser* I've been playing lately. If you've not— I've actually talked about *Fuser* on the show before, as a small wonder.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like two and a half years ago, or something like that.

Rachel: Yeah, 'cause you did this last year. For the— last year's Drive, right?

Griffin: Yes, I did.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's right. So *Fuser* is a video game that was released by Harmonix, who is one of my favorite like game developers, like, ever. They made all the *Rock Band* games, they do just basically a lot of like

peripheral based rhythm games. They made *Drop Mix*, that card game that you could like match songs on.

Rachel: Yeeees. God, that was so fun.

Griffin: It was so fun, it was so fun. I've done a segment on that as well.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So yeah. Last year, for the Drive, to kick things off I did a stream of me doing a DJ set in *Fuser*, using the songs that come with *Fuser*. And that was a ton of fun, it was a hoot, the game is genuinely a joy to goof around with.

This year, thanks to some help from Patrick Gill at Polygon, who was deep in this scene before I was, I have learned how to add songs to *Fuser* that other people have like... compiled to work with the game.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: The community for *Fuser* is really very, very, very active, which is very interesting 'cause you can't buy the video game anymore.

Rachel: Ohhhhh.

Griffin: Like a lot of Harmonix's games, they have been delisted because the like licenses that they secure aren't for—

Rachel: Oh, man.

Griffin: — eternity, I'm assuming. And so yeah, you can't get *Fuser*, I mean, through legal channels. I imagine there is—

Rachel: Sorry listeners that just got very excited about this. [laughs]

Griffin: You might be able to find it on the sneakret.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: On the torrent sites or whatever. I don't— I got mine when the game came out, so— But I, you know, no judgement. I think this game

fuckin' rules and I think anybody would have fun with it. And if there's no legal way to buy it then—

Rachel: Ask your game guy.

Griffin: Ask your games guys. So yeah, I have basically spent the last two weeks. Eh, probably even longer than that, probably closer to a month, just going through all of the songs that people have like made custom to *Fuser*, and like dropping them in, just to see which ones sounded good and which ones worked and which ones didn't.

Rachel: Is it pretty user friendly?

Griffin: It's— Uh, I mean if you have played a lot of games like this before, I think so. I think that it more kind of—

Rachel: Like do you have to like drop the new song at the exact right moment? To make it—

Griffin: You don't have to.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But you get like more points and shit. I've never actually played the game the way it's intended to be played.

Rachel: Ohhh.

Griffin: There's like a campaign mode where you get a score based on how you—

Rachel: Oh, like *Rock Band*.

Griffin: Like *Rock Band*, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Exactly. It's— I mean the DNA, the genetics of this—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: — are so informed by Harmonix's like earlier work. I have only used it for like freestyle mode because I just enjoy...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Making the— making the music. It is something I always really— Not always, I have liked for a long time. The idea of like mashups and like what I would do if like what—

I listen to songs sometimes and I think like, "Oh, I wonder what this would sound like with that," and *Fuser* is a way to like— It's an interface to do that in a very video gamey way.

Rachel: Didn't you do... I watched some of the stream and didn't you do like a— the *Ghostbusters* theme mashed up with a Sam Smith song?

Griffin: Uh, "How Do You Sleep?," yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, that's—

Rachel: It's so good.

Griffin: That's one of my favorites, yeah. There's— The community— The *Fuser* community is outrageous. The amount of songs that they have created from a diverse sort of array of genres and there's like game soundtrack stuff. There's... [chuckles] I mixed up also *Ghostbust*— I mix *Ghostbusters* with basically all of the other 23 songs.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: That I like had in my crate at the time. But with like, "Hide and Seek" by Imogen Heap, and the *Wii*-channel.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like the *Wii-Shop* channel music. Yeah, I went ham on all of those. I'm very excited for next week's, I got some more.

Rachel: [excitedly] Oh, you're doing it again! I didn't ever know that!

Griffin: Yeah, I'm doing it again on Monday.

Rachel: That's great.

Griffin: This past Monday.

Rachel: This past Monday.

Griffin: When you are hearing this, so—

Rachel: But you can still see it on YouTube.

Griffin: Yes, you can. So yes. I have loved mashups as— since— as I'm sure this is true for a lot of people of my generation, since I discovered Girl Talk in college. I feel like everyone, or a lot of people at least—

Rachel: Depending on the years that you were in college. [laughs]

Griffin: Depending on the years that you were in college it's— I think he started like releasing albums in like 2003 or something like that. My on ramp was 2008's "Feed the Animals," which— If you've never listened to Girl Talk before, maybe I should explain that.

Girl Talk was a... a very, I would say... influential... musical act who just did mashups. His songs would include like little pieces and little samples from like a dozen songs in one song. It was a very sort of maximalist, like hyper sort of take on, you know, sampling songs.

And that album is so much fun. It also included "Player Part Part Two," which was the closing track for *My Brother, My Brother & Me* for a hot minute.

Rachel: Yeah, I remember that.

Griffin: Before we joined the Maximum Fun network and Jesse was like, "How did you get the rights? It's so—"

Rachel: [giggles] "Hey, by the way."

Griffin: He was like, "It's so cool that you guys were able to get the rights to this Girl Talk song and this ABBA song," and we were like, "Uhhhh..."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The idea that like you could take different parts of music from different genres and like slice out different, not just sections of songs, but like instruments of songs. It was like not something that I knew you could do.

And obviously Girl Talk was not like the first person to sample music, like that had been a thing for so long. You know, really cutting its teeth in like the hip hop genre in like the '70s. But like this was my in point to this like very specific style of mashups.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I saw him actually at Bonnaroo once, do a set at like three in the morning.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it was a lot of fun, and I also like look back at myself at that concert, and that's a different human being.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: It's like can you fuckin' imagine?

Rachel: Girl Talk was at ACL one year, and it was when I was volunteering, and I had to work outside the gates.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So I just like heard the party and saw the lights, and enjoyed it from very, very far away. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yes. Another big album for me that came out when I was in college was Daft Punk's *Alive 2007*, which was like a live album of theirs, and— but every song was a mashup of their own songs.

So if you've never heard that album and you enjoy Daft Punk, I would suggest you go listen to it, 'cause it fucking rules. And there are certain songs— It's fun to watch an artist mashup their own music.

And so like there are these two songs, "Aerodynamic" is a Daft Punk song I love, and... "Around the World" is a song of theirs that I absolutely love.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And they combine them on this album. And now when I hear those individual songs, I keep waiting for like the drop from the other song to kick in.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Griffin: It kind of spoiled the songs. But that— I listened to that album with all my friends like soooo much when— around the time that it came out. These days, I feel like my main exposure to mashup music, aside from *Fuser*, is the gym that Rachel and I have been going to.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We get to it for like an hour-long class, and so many times, every class, I will feel my energy start to just flag.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I will feel myself get like just really single-minded on like my physical discomfort.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And my feeling of like, "I want— I think I wanna just stop now."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And then, they play mashups, almost exclusively, they play mashups over the speaker system.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And the number of times that like it has pulled my attention away from how my— tired my body was feeling.

Rachel: It's true.

Griffin: And giving me like this second wind, because of the mashups that they play. Which I think each coach kinda like brings their own shit to it, I'm not sure.

Rachel: Well, they pull it from some kind of like... playlist, some kind of like satellite radio kind of playlist.

Griffin: Whatever it is, man.

Rachel: Fitness whatever, but yeah.

Griffin: It fuckin' works for me because sometimes the mashups that the gym plays are bonkers. Like today I was— Today we were at the gym, and I was on the treadmill. I haven't been to the gym in a long time, I've been like sick for a while and this is my first time gettin' back in there.

I was on the treadmill, I was dying, and then they played a mashup of a Zed song, who's like electronic EDM artist and Bon Jovi's "It's My Life."

Rachel: Oh yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: And it was like I audibly laughed, and I've done that so many times.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Like you— We always— When we go together like we're next to each other, you can attest to this like the number of times I have just like open-mouth guffawed.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: At one of these mashups that pop up. It's so... It's so engaging and it's so entertaining, and even if like the quality of the song isn't good,

the kind of like— There is a thing about mashups where it requires a sort of like lateral thinking.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: About music.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That is really fuckin' cool, and obviously like it is it the most creative work like inherently? Like no, because it is using different parts of things that already exist. But it is a different type of creativity.

Rachel: Yeah, well and it's like inherently—

Griffin: An ingenuity that feels really, really satisfying.

Rachel: It's like inherently playful, you know?

Griffin: Right, exactly.

Rachel: 'Cause if I sat down in front of a computer with nothing in front of me and had to pick two songs I think would sound good together, like I wouldn't be able to do it.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Like you have to kind of experiment to figure it out, and then when you find it, it's so great.

Griffin: Yeah, and like I am genuinely very glad for *Fuser* because it has genuinely given me moments— I think that this stream that I did this past Monday was like the most fun I've ever had streaming.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because like I had a few moments there where I was like, "Oh shit, this actually slaps."

Rachel: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: And it's fun going back and like rewatching some of the drops, and like the look of—

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: — satisfied stank that I just like reflexively had on my face, and I know that that was because I was feeling really fuckin' self-satisfied in that moment.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm very, very glad to have this thing that like kind of gives me, you know, a pretty, I will say, simplistic like version of that art, of that craft, but—

Rachel: Can you like export or save the songs you make?

Griffin: I don't think so, no.

Rachel: I mean, it seems like it would be tricky with licensing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know.

Griffin: Yeah, and that's another thing about mashups is like the law of— I started to take notes on that and compile them, but it's like the same bullshit that you always kind of hear about like, you know, fair use and, you know, creative— What is it? Creative commons. It's like, "Yeah, you can do it, but you have to attribute and can't make money, and..."

Rachel: I talked about that earlier when I—

Griffin: Yeah, right.

Rachel: When I was talking about covers.

Griffin: Talking about covers.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's even more sort of like muddled with mashups. So yeah, it's not— It's not particularly interesting and it's way too complicated for me to feel like I am gonna do a good job talking about it. I just know I love mashups.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They entertain me. They come for me in my hour of greatest need at the gymnasium.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I've had a chance to play around with them a lot lately because of this now-extinct video game. And that's why I wanted to talk about it today.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Last time. Maximumfun.org/join is the link you can go to to support us and the show that we make here, and all of the shows on the Max Fun network. There's amazing rewards for whatever level of support you're able to provide.

At just five bucks a month, you're gonna get over 600 hours of bonus content, and there's some genuinely delightful shit in there from all the shows. But more importantly, you will very directly support the show that, if you're listening to this part of this episode, I have to assume you enjoy a little bit.

Rachel: Yeah, you hung out the whole time.

Griffin: You hung out the whole time.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: So I assume that you are— You know, that you like u—

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: That you like us, I guess. And... Yeah. I don't really have much else to, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, I also kind of just wanna speak to the community. You know, I was talking about this. So I— This week I am on an episode of *One Bad Mother*.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: As a guest, which was very fun for me to do, and I've listened to that show for a long time. And I was talking with the host, Biz Ellis, about the community of Max Fun, and how when I typically listen to podcasts, I don't think about the community of hosts within that network, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I think there are a lot of places you can go where you can listen to a discrete podcast, and it is easy to think that these people never meet each other, and they have nothing in common, and they lead totally separate lives.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: But Max Fun from day one has always been like we're all kind of like-minded, we're trying to put good things into the world, and we're trying to be very thoughtful about kind of the message we wanna create with our show.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I feel very close to a lot of the people—

Griffin: Absolutely.

Rachel: — who have shows on this network, because that's been the thought behind it from day one.

Griffin: And to get like, you know, inside baseball, like it is— I feel like that is in the bones of the structure of MaximumFun.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Over the last year... we became a co-op.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Employee-owned sort of operation. It is—

Rachel: We all wear little aprons now.

Griffin: [chuckles] No, that's not exactly how it works.

Rachel: [laughs] That's what a co-op is, right?

Griffin: That's not 100%

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It— This is an incredible community that I am so honored to be a part of, and have been a part of now for 14 years.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: Which is fucking wild.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: If— My tenure with the Max Fun network would be in high school if it was a human being. Like that's bonkers.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And yeah, I'm getting verklempt again.

Rachel: [chuckles] Mm-hmm.

Griffin: So I'm going to just say one last time, maximumfun.org/join, and thank you all so, so, so, so much. And... we'll be back next week with another new episode. Same bat-time, same bat... podcast. What if we were a bat podcast?

Rachel: I cou— I have enough for about three minutes. Could it be a very short podcast?

Griffin: Um... Sure. Yeah.

Rachel: Are three-minute podcasts hot right now?

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] We'll just make it— Yeah, just do a little Quibi.

[theme music fades in]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [in a high-pitched voice] Just drop a Quibi. RIP Quibi. [normal]
Bye.

Rachel: Bye.

[outro theme music plays]

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