

## Wonderful! 325: Huge Vermont Energy

Published May 22, 2024

[Listen here on mcelroy.family](#)

[theme music, "Money Won't Pay (feat. Augustus)" by Bo En plays]

**Rachel:** Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful.

**Griffin:** This is a show where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we're into. We've heard some criticisms that we basically made Goop again. A lot of people have been saying, "You just did Goop again."

**Rachel:** Was Goop before us?

**Griffin:** What came first? I think Rose Buddies maybe preceded Goop.

**Rachel:** [titters] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** But I think our transformation was post-Goop. It's a post-Goop—we had a—we went into our Goopy chrysalis and emerged Wonderful. A show where we talk about things that's good, that we like, that we're into. Usually not any sort of, I don't know, herbal cream. I don't know anything about Goop, man.

**Rachel:** No, I've never even been to the site before.

**Griffin:** I know that it's like, you know, like fancy—I know they sort of scent it up on Parks and Rec.

**Rachel:** It was like Oprah's Favorite Things, but like—

**Griffin:** But it was Gwennyth's Favorite Things.

**Rachel:** And like totally unattainable by anyone that made less than like \$500,000 a year. [titters]

**Griffin:** Okay, cool. All right, well, we do cheaper stuff than that most of the time.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** What do you think is the most expensive thing we've ever talked about? We tend to not go too—we don't talk about like beluga caviar and stuff like that.

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Is that from a beluga—no, those are whales.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Just saying, it's a weird name.

**Rachel:** We've probably talked about like cities before.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it would be expensive to buy a city.

**Rachel:** And that would be an expensive purchase, I would say.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I'm gonna say my small wonder is the—just the Pacific Northwest region of this nation. And I guess the Pacific Southwest of Canada, because I was up in Vancouver and Seattle. And golly, just beautiful country. Beautiful countries up there.

**Rachel:** Gotta get to Vancouver one of these days.

**Griffin:** Gotta get up there. You went to Seattle for the first time when we did Emerald City.

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** And that was cool. But, man, Vancouver rips, man. Everything is pretty similar.

**Rachel:** I've never heard anybody say anything bad about Vancouver.

**Griffin:** It's dope. It's great to be—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's great to be in Vancouver. And in Seattle. And Tacoma, also. Tacoma, I'm not—I didn't forget about you. We actually did our shows in Tacoma.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** It was my first time spending a lot of time in Tacoma, and it was lovely. Went to a little farmer's market. Went to a used game store. It was tight. Do you have a small wonder?

**Rachel:** [titters] A small one, like—

**Griffin:** You got one of them smalls?

**Rachel:** I thought we were gonna shorten it for a second there. Um... uhm... no...

**Griffin:** You want me to wax poetic about the Pacific Northwest a little bit more?

**Rachel:** No, please don't. It just makes me jealous and sad that I didn't get to go.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** I'm gonna say we went to a movie.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** With our two sons.

**Griffin:** I mean, you don't wanna name-drop? It's no big deal. We went to Kung Fu Panda 4. Not a big deal.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Didn't see 2 or 3.

**Rachel:** Didn't see 2 or 3. There were suggestions that there were a lot of other adversaries in those movies.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** That were harkened back to in 4.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But my small wonder is not the film. It is the fact that our three-year-old hung in there.

**Griffin:** Got a little antsy at the end.

**Rachel:** A little antsy at the end.

**Griffin:** Which is wild because the climax—

**Rachel:** Here's the thing, though. He kept wanting to go back in.

**Griffin:** That's true.

**Rachel:** When we took him to see the most recent Trolls film, we could not get him to stay in the theater for more than five minutes at a time.

**Griffin:** Maybe it's because his daddy wasn't in that one.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Despite the trailer having his daddy in it. This kid was brokenhearted.

**Rachel:** He kept pulling my sleeves saying, "Where's papa?"

**Griffin:** "Where's papa? Where's papa?" And I was like, surely, it's coming up soon. But you suck. It's got to be coming, right? Because it was in the trailer. They wouldn't put it in the trailer—and it was the first time I cried in front of my sons.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Which is good. Show them tenderness. It's okay.

**Rachel:** It does say something about you, though. You know.

**Griffin:** That's true.

**Rachel:** There was a lot of opportunities I think you could have had to weep before then.

**Griffin:** Yeah, not a big weeper.

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Sorry.

**Rachel:** But for this film, he hung in there probably 80% of it. And the last 20%, he would go down the stairs, exit the theater, walk into the hallway, and then immediately want to go back into the theater. So clearly, this one... if you have a three-year-old, I'd recommend it.

**Griffin:** You'll get to see some of it.

**Rachel:** It was just exciting to think like this could be a future for us where we, as a whole family, go to films together.

**Griffin:** Kung Fu Panda 5, 6, 7.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Can't wait, man.

**Rachel:** I will also say another small wonder, just kind of coupled in with that, is that big son continuously forgets whether the actor's name is Blackjack or Jack Black.

**Griffin:** That's cool, too. Yeah.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I do like that. He does it on purpose sometimes.

**Rachel:** At first I thought it was a goof, but then a lot of times he seems like he's actually forgotten.

**Griffin:** He's kidding on the square, is what he's doing.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I go first this week.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Let's stay at the movies. This is Wonderful at the movies and—

**Rachel:** No. No, it's not. I can tell you for a fact that it's not for my segment.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay. Well, mine is kind of a song, actually. But it was in a movie.

**Rachel:** [titters] Okay?

**Griffin:** It was... I mean, and it is called this still, Duel of the Fates, by John Williams. From Star Wars Episode One, The Phantom Menace. Did you see that one? Did you catch that one? Jar Jar Binks?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Yeah, that was—like everybody raced to the theaters, they said. Star Wars is back in a big way.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And I saw that one and didn't enjoy it.

**Griffin:** Not a good film.

**Rachel:** And then didn't see any of the other ones.

**Griffin:** Yes. But the song and the scene that accompanies it is worth the price of admission. If you were not a huge nerd who was of age when the prequels came out, Phantom Menace was 1999.

**Rachel:** Of age. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Well, to go to the movies, right? If you were I guess three—

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** If you were three, you stuck through probably 80% of The Phantom Menace. If our child is any indication.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] The Phantom Menace was the Kung Fu Panda 4 of its day.

**Griffin:** Well, yeah, actually, in a lot of ways.

**Rachel:** In a lot of ways. [titters]

**Griffin:** So here's a little bit of *Duel of the Fates*, by John Williams.

[excerpt of "Duel of the Fates" by John Williams plays]

**Griffin:** It's a very—did you listen to it again when I sent it to you?

**Rachel:** I did listen to maybe the first... 30 seconds.

**Griffin:** You just really need to hear the first 30 seconds to sort of get it.

**Rachel:** That's when I was like, oh, I know this one.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it rips. To sort of paint a picture, because Rachel alluded to this. Our family went to see *Phantom Menace* like the weekend it came out in 1999. And the hype for this motion picture was unlike anything I had ever—

**Rachel:** Did y'all dress up?

**Griffin:** Seen before. I don't think I dressed up. I did have a lightsaber. I for sure had a lightsaber.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Okay.

**Griffin:** I guess that counts a little bit as dressing up.

**Rachel:** That does count a little bit I would say. [titters]

**Griffin:** But like *Pepsi* was like going fucking hard on like *Phantom Menace* stuff. It was just like everywhere you look. So, we went to it opening weekend. And also, another thing that I don't—I feel like you maybe don't appreciate if you're a younger person, is like when *Phantom Menace* came out in '99, *Return of the Jedi* came out in 1983. So we'd had basically 6— they did the remasters. But 16 years without a new *Star Wars* movie. Which is wild.



**Rachel:** And we were of the generation too where like everybody's parent was like super-jazzed to have a child old enough that they could like have an excuse to go see this film with them.

**Griffin:** Absolutely. And I remember watching this movie in theaters, sitting next to my dad and just watching the light go out from his eyes.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** As he realized like, oh, no, this isn't very good. But at the end of the movie, Qui-Gon Jinn and a young Obi-Wan Kenobi have this big two on one lightsaber duel with Darth Maul. Who looked like a... some sort of hell cactus, which is fuckin' sick.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And he gets—his lightsaber had two... lights on it.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** And then this fuckin' song starts playing. And not only did everybody in the theater get like really hype, I remember this sense of relief washing over like our whole family of like, oh, okay, it's not a total wash.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** There's large parts of this film that are like frustrating and not great, but this part is undeniably, incredibly lit. And that is I think in large part due to the fact that Duel of the Fates is very, very, very good.

**Rachel:** What was the star war that you and I saw? We went at like a midnight show or something with a bunch of our friends.

**Griffin:** I mean, we went to—

**Rachel:** Do you remember this?

**Griffin:** I mean, we went to all three of the new ones. We went to—

**Rachel:** Did we?

**Griffin:** The Force Awakens.

**Rachel:** I remember this was like a—

**Griffin:** And The Last Jedi.

**Rachel:** Lights went down, people clapped, kind of situation.

**Griffin:** I think we went to Force Awakens, the first one.

**Rachel:** Maybe that's what it was, yeah.

**Griffin:** I mean, we saw all—I think we saw all of them. I don't know if you watched the last one with me.

**Rachel:** I don't know.

**Griffin:** Okay, anyway. I think that John Williams is maybe one of a few living composers who can just start a song with this five note ostinato. The da, da, da-da-da. If you hear that, it's like it awakens something in me.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And it really does. It plays through the entire song. There's no like key change. Everything kind of shifts around this like base of the da, da, da-da-da. Da, da, da-da-da. And the way that it just builds and layers and like more and more instruments get involved. And go from playing like these counter melodies and harmonies to just like joining the little ostinato. Until it's finally just everyone's playing it. And then it, boop, gets quiet again and builds back up. It's fucking stellar. And I feel like it is like kind of a trademark of his work. And I guess most sort of big film composers don't—you know, they can do the same trick.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But this song is just so fucking sick. The way that it moves and comes and recedes. And it's just so great.

**Rachel:** I'm so fascinated with that process. I don't know if you did any research on this. Like how does a composer sit down with a filmmaker and, like hammer that out, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah, from what I understand, it's—I mean, it differs, right? From—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Filmmaker to project to composer. But like, it sounds like George Lucas and John Williams worked fairly in tandem for what this was. I believe I read that like they wanted some—George Lucas wanted something almost like... like a choral chant. Like a religious, like something—like a temple chant, is what he wanted for this final climactic battle. And so, John Williams kind of just ran with it from there. And I think you get that mostly from the vocals in the song. Which is just this kind of like, this choir singing words that I have never really looked up before, until today when I prepared this segment.

**Rachel:** [titters] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And the lyrics of the song... they're buck wild. They are a pseudo translation of a Welsh poem called Battle of the Trees. Which is, you know that one?

**Rachel:** Oh, no.

**Griffin:** Oh. Hm.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Do you? Would you like to recite it to me?

**Griffin:** I know it now, because I read some of it today.

**Rachel:** All right.

**Griffin:** I'm just saying, I've never got to play that Uno reverse card on—

**Rachel:** No, I know. No, this will be great for you.

**Griffin:** It's about a magician conjuring an army of trees at his command. It sounds like a pretty kick poem. Don't mind if I do. The lines that he chose from the original poem loosely translate to, "Under the tongue root, a fight most dread. And another raging behind in the head." He translates those lines in a variety of different languages and picks Sanskrit because of—he said the vowels sounded good.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** And it had this like sort of temple, you know, choral vibe that they were going for in the song. And so that's how we get the like core words of the song, which is, "Kara motha, kara-ratha-ma." [sings] 'Ra-tha-ma.' That's—

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So that's what he did, right? To do this. He had this Welsh poem and he kind of translated it into Sanskrit. But like that's a—you know, it doesn't always line up. When you take the lyrics, the Sanskrit lyrics, and sort of do like an English transliteration of them, the lyrics—the results are bonkers. I'm just going to read somebody's translation of the words. "Dreadful head, dreadful speak give. Dreadful speak give battle, dreadful. Dreadful raging speak give purify going. Dreadful like taking separate going." It's like a—

**Rachel:** Ooh?

**Griffin:** I mean, it's cool.

**Rachel:** It's like a beat poem.

**Griffin:** It is sort of like a beat poem, a little bit. I think that kind of rules, but I also think that it's very, very silly.

**Rachel:** Not like a karaoke jam, exactly.

**Griffin:** I mean, if they have the phonetic pronunciations of the Sanskrit, I feel like you could probably swing it. Amusingly, they made a music video of Duel of the Fates around the time that the movie came out.

**Rachel:** Is it just clips of the film?

**Griffin:** It's clips of the film. And it's also behind the scenes clips of like John Williams and the... I forget, I think it's the London Symphony Orchestra. Like making the song. And it was a music video for the whole Duel of the Fates, all 4 minutes and 14 seconds of it. And it charted on Total Request Live for 11 days.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** So for 11 days, fuckin' Carson Daly had to be like, "And now, from Star Wars—coming up after Barbie Girl by Aqua, we've got a song from Star Wars and John Williams."

**Rachel:** I love that.

**Griffin:** I fucking love that too.

**Rachel:** This is how the nerds mobilize, you know?

**Griffin:** That's true.

**Rachel:** Like this is what they can accomplish.

**Griffin:** Yes. Good. We can do good in this world. We can get on Total Request Live.

**Rachel:** [titters] We can get on Total Request Live.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's Dual of the Fates. I think Star Wars probably pound for pound has the most memorable, remarkable like themes and pieces of music of any franchise. Like I can't think of—I couldn't list for you all the ones that that have come out of Star Wars without like missing probably a dozen like

really classic anthems. But I think *Duel of the Fates* like absolutely takes the cake.

**Rachel:** Can I ask you, what made you think of this?

**Griffin:** What made me think of *Duel of the Fates*?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** *Phantom Menace* is back in theaters right now.

**Rachel:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** Which I'm like curious about, right?

**Rachel:** Eh.

**Griffin:** Not so much that I'll do it, because I—we never go see movies and I—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't want my track record to have been *Kung Fu Panda 4* followed by *Phantom Menace*.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But I am curious. I am curious about it. I don't know, my relationship with those films have changed so dramatically over the years.

**Rachel:** Well, and I feel like now that you're going in with appropriate expectations, you might enjoy it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, maybe. Maybe. But yeah, that sort of made me think of it. I sometimes just listen to *Duel of the Fates*. That's not a joke. If I need to get like pumped up—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like really, really pumped up, I'll call up Qui-Gon and the London Symphony Orchestra.

**Rachel:** [titters] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And go on a little journey. Can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Thank you.

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

**Griffin:** What you got?

**Rachel:** My wonderful thing this week is Embassy Row here in Washington, DC.

**Griffin:** Interesting!

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** I thought you were talking about the production company who assisted in the My Brother, My Brother and Me television program.

**Rachel:** No, I'm not talking about that.

**Griffin:** Oh, well, okay.

**Rachel:** This isn't a slight against them. I just wouldn't even know how to begin researching that.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I'm curious to hear about Embassy Row. It's genuinely quite neat to drive by.

**Rachel:** I know. I decided I wanted to look it up because Griffin and I, we try to take the boys to a lot of cultural things, which often means that we are driving through that area of town. And every time we drive through, we have this conversation of like, I wonder how this—what do you think—and who chose what? And like, there's just so many mysteries about it to me. So I was like, I'm gonna look it up and see what that's about.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So Embassy Row is an informal name for a section of Northwest Washington, DC, which is a high concentration of embassies, diplomatic missions and diplomatic residences. There are approximately 177 diplomatic missions in the city, and the majority are in this area.

**Griffin:** What's a diplomatic mission? Is that like a... not an embassy, but like a mini embassy?

**Rachel:** It is a group of people from a state or organization, present in another state to represent the sending state or organization officially. So basically, an embassy.

**Griffin:** A mini embassy. Sure, yeah.

**Rachel:** [titters] Yeah.

**Griffin:** It doesn't sound like they provide maybe all of the services that a traditional embassy provides.

**Rachel:** Perhaps.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Okay, so, this includes like Italy, Australia, India, Greece, Egypt, Ireland, Japan, UK. And they are—a lot of these embassies are in these like well-preserved Gilded Age estates and townhouses. And this is where Griffin and I had a lot of questions. Like what did—how did this happen?

**Griffin:** Right. Also, some of them don't look like—like, some of them look



like maybe architecture from the nation that this place is representing. And that is also like very, very striking and very, very cool to see as you're just like you know, driving down the street.

**Rachel:** So, the story behind all of these residences is that there was an area of town in DC that had the nickname Millionaires' Row.

**Griffin:** Cool.

**Rachel:** And it was just a number of mansions from the city's social and political elites. And then when the Great Depression hit, many of these elites sold their homes. And that is when the different countries started snapping them up.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Rachel:** And so the greatest number of embassies moved to Embassy Row in the 1940s and early '50s.

**Griffin:** That's interesting.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So they were just like a bunch of like mansions, like these huge like 60 room residences.

**Griffin:** Well, now I'm mad though, because those are hard-earned American mansions.

**Rachel:** [chortles] I actually, I have some of the little stories about the buildings, because that's what I was most curious about.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** To figure out like who are these millionaires and like what's the story of the building.

**Griffin:** It's probably some shit like he made some sort of train thing and they gave him \$200 billion. That's how it always was back then. He made a new kind of hot lunch and made a billion-billion dollars.

**Rachel:** There is actually somebody who almost exactly matches that. The Turkish Embassy is the current owner of the mansion at 1606, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. George Oakley Totten Jr. designed the home for Edward Hamlin Everett. He was the inventor of the Coca Cola bottle cap. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Okay, see? Like, this is what I always love about old-timey stories. It's like, yeah, this guy was the richest man alive. And he invented... a new molasses for everybody, that everybody was just fucking crazy for. Molasses tycoon buys the biggest house in the country.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Mm-hm. All furniture and flooring and wallpaper resemble that brown, gooey stuff we love so much.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I'm not saying that's any less ridiculous than like the Angry Birds guy. [titters]

**Rachel:** Yeah, exactly. Okay, so I want to talk about one of the interesting ones. It's the Walsh McLean mansion, which is now home to the Indonesian Embassy. So Thomas Francis Walsh built this 60 room, Neo-Baroque mansion in 1903. An Irish immigrant who, as a young man, had struck at rich mining gold in Colorado. Walsh brought his wife, Carrie Bell Walsh and children to Washington in 1897. He hired New York architect Henry Anderson to design a suitably impressive—

**Griffin:** He's good.

**Rachel:** Place. [titters]

**Griffin:** Love his stuff.

**Rachel:** To a suitably impressive place to entertain Washington's elite during the winter social season. Daughter Evelyn married Edward Beale McLean, heir to the Washington Post fortune and famously owned the Hope Diamond.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** The Republic of Indonesia purchased the building in 1951 for its embassy.

**Griffin:** For \$25,000.

**Rachel:** Harry Winston went on to purchase the McLean's entire jewelry collection, including the Hope Diamond, which is now in the Smithsonian.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I see it. And I gotta tell you guys, every time I see this fuckin' diamond, the gears start turning.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** You know what I mean? It's hard to see the Hope Diamond and not be like—look around the room and like look at the cameras and where perhaps any blind spots might be. You know what I mean?

**Rachel:** [titters] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** If there's like a skylight in the ceiling that you could probably laser cut through and then rappel down.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** I'm not saying it'd be easy.

**Rachel:** I don't have that thought when I go in there, but there is something about just even saying the Hope Diamond out loud that makes you think like—

**Griffin:** It makes your brain think like, I could get it.

**Rachel:** Am I about to start some kind of crazy—

**Griffin:** I don't want to. It would complicate my life so much to even have to do a heist, let alone get caught for one inevitably and go to jail forever. But like it does—it's an intrusive thought.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm. So a lot of what you were talking about, the embassies that look kind of familiar to the location, were built more recently. So for example, China's embassy was designed by I. M. Pei. The Pritzker Prize winner. Have you heard about I. M. Pei?

**Griffin:** Don't think so.

**Rachel:** Like a famous like architect. The building opened in 2009. It merges traditional Chinese esthetics with contemporary flair. There's another embassy that was built in 2004 by another Pritzker Prize winning architect, for Spain. It is composed of traditional limestone, topped with modern glass, clad addition. The British Embassy is one of the first to be constructed in DC.

Griffin: Huh?

**Rachel:** It opened in 1930.

**Griffin:** You'd think there'd be a little bad blood there. You know what I mean?

**Rachel:** Yeah... Yeah, no, that's... yeah.

**Griffin:** I guess we used to fuck with them. And so it's like—

**Rachel:** [titters] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** I guess it's sort of like—

**Rachel:** That is what my history book said.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** When it talked about that.

**Griffin:** Like we fucked with— like it obviously broke very—it got so bad. But like we did with you before. And in recognition of that, you may have one house.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] One house.

**Griffin:** Choose wisely.

**Rachel:** I will say it is like the largest and oldest embassy on Embassy Row. It is close to the US Vice President's home, and has more than 400 staff members.

**Griffin:** Jesus Christ.

**Rachel:** And a statue of Winston Churchill.

**Griffin:** That's wild. I don't know that I've seen that one. I probably have and didn't know that it was this.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean, I can show you a picture.

**Griffin:** Yeah, show me.

**Rachel:** It didn't look familiar to me.

**Griffin:** No. I'm sure we've driven by it though.

**Rachel:** Yeah, of course. So, the thing that made me think about this, so the month of May, DC has something called Passport DC.

**Griffin:** Whoa?

**Rachel:** Which is a lot of these embassies like open up. It's a month-long showcase of the international diplomatic community. It happens annually. And a lot of the embassies will open their doors and have cultural events.

**Griffin:** I mean, that's fuckin' sick. We should—

**Rachel:** That is happening all month.

**Griffin:** We should do that.

**Rachel:** We already missed—there was an international city food festival, a flower mart, an EU open house. But throughout the month, there's a series of restaurants that you know, promote their region's food.

**Griffin:** That's really cool.

**Rachel:** There's also international programs. Yeah, it's just, it's happening all over the place. June 1<sup>st</sup>, apparently, is Fiesta Asia. A street fair and a signature celebration that occurs every May. Although this year, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** That includes crafts, live performances, food.

**Griffin:** Let's get there.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I know that they do—I like, you know, follow some DC like blogs that are like stuff to do this weekend.

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** And a lot of the times they do promote events that these—that the embassies like put on. And they are usually like free and very well attended. And they sound neat. But we just, we never—that's never like our first thought of something to do when we, you know, we've got the boys and—

**Rachel:** Yeah. You know, it's just like when you have very young children with very short attention spans, you have to like sell them an event.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** I talk about this with Griffin a lot. Like what's our angle on this pitch? Because a lot of times there is a thing we want to do, but we have to figure out how are we going to market it to our children in a way that they will get excited. [titters]

**Griffin:** They don't get that into like Epcot. They don't get that into the World Showcase at Epcot. And I know for a fact that that's probably more entertaining to kids than going to a—

**Rachel:** If we could say that Fiesta Asia had chicken nuggets and French fries—

**Griffin:** Yes?

**Rachel:** On offer.

**Griffin:** On offer. And also, the Ratatouille ride.

**Rachel:** And Pokémon.

**Griffin:** And Pokémon, yeah.

**Rachel:** Then both boys would be there.

**Griffin:** It would be sick. And a trampoline. Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** And Mickey Mouse.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's it, we're—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So, Disney World. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So I think we just described—yeah. Hey, do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** China says; "My small wonder is still being in love with the state I was born and raised in. I've been in Vermont for 33 years now and I still get

blown away by the landscapes, the mountains, the trees and leaves. I feel like a tourist in my own state most days, wanting to pull over in the middle of a commute to take pictures. I couldn't imagine being anywhere else."

**Rachel:** Oh, Vermont. If you have met somebody from Vermont, you know they're from Vermont.

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** A mutual friend of ours, Blanche—

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah!

**Rachel:** Is from Vermont.

**Griffin:** That total—I didn't even know that, but I fuckin' knew it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, right?

**Griffin:** Like totally big, huge Vermont energy.

**Rachel:** Everybody I meet from Vermont has like a real chill, peaceful vibe. And they just, they love the Earth.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I get it, man.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I gotta get up there. We've never—I don't think we've ever been to Vermont?

**Rachel:** No, and we're closer than ever.

**Griffin:** I do those like state... not quizzes. I did one of those very recently, to disastrous effect. But like click on the states you've been to. And like there's only like five or six I haven't been to because of the—my work that I'm in. And Vermont's one of 'em. Gotta get up there. Damn it!



**Rachel:** And Wyoming too, right?

**Griffin:** Wyoming, yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** [titters]

**Griffin:** I do want to go to Wyoming. Ruby says, "My small wonder is returning to school online after several years and discovering that I am still a good student. I was worried I'd struggle, but so far, so good."

**Rachel:** Oh, man.

**Griffin:** Did you wrestle with this when you were like going to grad school?

**Rachel:** Yes! I mean, for a lot of reasons. Like I had been—I mean, at that point, I had only been out of school for like two years.

**Griffin:** So you had a gap between your undergraduate and your post-grad?

**Rachel:** Yeah, I graduated college in 2004 and I entered graduate school in 2006.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** So I really only took a year off. And then my second year, I did like the GRE and applied and whatever.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And then—yeah. But I was going from like a big state school to like a small, like private university. And it was like very intimidating. A lot of people had come straight from college.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I just felt like I don't know what my experience is going to be like.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I was definitely dealing with a lot of imposter syndrome, pretty much the majority of time I was there. [titters]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So yeah, I totally feel this concern and experience, yeah.

**Griffin:** This has got to be exciting, to just start cracking those books and be like, "I fuckin' got it."

**Rachel:** [titters]

**Griffin:** I fuckin' still got it, man.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Raise your hand. "Teacher, teacher! I fuckin' still got it, man."

**Rachel:** Highlighting every line in the textbook like—

**Griffin:** Uh-huh.

**Rachel:** I know what I'm doing.

**Griffin:** Uh-huh. Yeah.

**Rachel:** [titters]

**Griffin:** And remember all this forever.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** Thank you so much for listening. Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use for theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. And thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. It's a pleasure and an honor and a treat and a joy. We've got some new merch over in the McElroy merch store. Including—

**Rachel:** Not particularly new at this point.

**Griffin:** Well, I guess not. But we will have new merch coming.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I guess when June comes around. But still, it's cool merch. There's like a DJ Thumbs sticker from TAZ and there's some other stuff over at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com).

**Rachel:** Hey.

**Griffin:** Hey, hey.

**Rachel:** Hey, Missouri?

**Griffin:** Missouri?

**Rachel:** Hey, Missouri? Are you listening?

**Griffin:** Listen. Are you there, McFly?

**Rachel:** [titters] There's gonna be shows happening in June.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** In Kansas City and in St. Louis.

**Griffin:** Yeah. And Tysons, Virginia. I don't know why you left out beautiful Tysons.

**Rachel:** I feel like as you know, an ambassador and a member of the Missouri embassy here in Washington DC, it is my duty to call out to my fellow countrymen and say—

**Griffin:** Yeah. But ignore your literal sort of state neighbor. Yeah, anyway.

Yeah, we're gonna be coming. I think we're gonna do a Wonderful there in St. Louis.

**Rachel:** In St. Louis. Or also known as Chesterfield.

[group chuckle]

**Griffin:** Yes, it's the cool, new name for St. Louis. So yeah, come see us. There's tickets over at—if you go to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family), you can find a link to our tours and get tickets for all the stuff. We've got some other shows that we've also recently announced, and come check us out. It's a fun time, I promise.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** And that's it. Thank you so much for listening. We appreciate you. And... I love you.

**Rachel:** [titters] Ooh? Are you talking to me or the listener?

**Griffin:** I'm talking to you.

**Rachel:** Oh, thank you. I love you too.

**Griffin:** I mean, our listeners are amazing. I don't know that I'm like there... Like I'm obviously incredibly grateful. Like incredibly, unspeakably grateful.

**Rachel:** Well, you're afraid of commitment. You know?

**Griffin:** I am.

**Rachel:** I had the hardest time tying you down.

**Griffin:** And you still do. Like every day I'm like, I am out of here!

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Uh-huh, that's your—that's the thing you say.

**Griffin:** Buddy!

**Rachel:** That's the thing you say.

**Griffin:** That's why I say. But then you're like, "Please, don't."

**Rachel:** Think of our children.

**Griffin:** Yeah, and then I'm like, okay, no way. But our listeners? I am out of here!

[theme music, "Money Won't Pay (feat. Augustus)" by Bo En plays]

Maximum Fun.

A worker-owned network...

Of artist-owned shows...

Supported directly by you.