

## Wonderful! 335: Late Night Overnight Docent

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[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:** Welcome to Wonderful! It's a show where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we are into. And this is episode 300 something, which is wild. We never really—we haven't stopped to check in about how high the number's getting. Are you comfortable with how high the number's getting? Because it's creeping up there, man.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean, I didn't have like a terminal number in my mind of like—

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** "We'll never hit this number."

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, I think that's fair. I mean, we've got—it's outlived Rose Buddies I think by a significant degree at this point. Which is the only metric that I have to go off of. For me, I feel like once a podcast hits 300, you can start talking about it to your friends and your family.

**Rachel:** Oh, is this a hint to me? [chuckles]

**Griffin:** No, I was not trying to guilt you—

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Rachel!

**Griffin:** To sound like you do not acknowledge the existence of this podcast to your friends and family. But just like you know, before 300 episodes, it's like you don't know whether or not it's gonna be a thing. You know?

**Rachel:** Yeah, okay? So at episode like 200, it's like, "Okay..."

**Griffin:** "Okay, sure."

**Rachel:** [titters]

**Griffin:** Do you have any small wonders for me to snack on over here?

**Rachel:** I was gonna say, maybe for the first time ever, I have the phone number of our next-door neighbor.

**Griffin:** Oh, great?

**Rachel:** I honestly don't remember how that exchange happened, but it has been tremendously useful. I say that because the other day, we got the recycling container out a little bit late. And I was doing that dance of like, do I keep leaving it out? Nobody else has theirs out. And so I texted our neighbor, Jill Biden, and I said, "Jill, is it okay that my recycling is still out, or did they already come?"

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And she was like—

**Griffin:** And then she was like, listen—

**Rachel:** They already came.

**Griffin:** And she doesn't always respond to the text. She has a little more time on her hands now.

**Rachel:** And if she does respond, she's like, "Rachel, urgent message, if you—" And then it's—

**Griffin:** And it'll be like, "Hey, should we take the trash out or bring it back up?" And she'll be like, "Barbara Streisand, 600% match! Text now or we're fucked!" And it's like, That's not helpful. That's not what we asked.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I don't think Jill would swear like that.

**Griffin:** No, but every other campaign ad that I get texted does. My small wonder, I'm gonna say, is Noah Lyles. He's a runner for the US Olympic team. I don't know exactly what his jams are, running-wise.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] That's what they call them, right?

**Griffin:** Yes, if it's like a long distance—I think he's like a sprinter guy.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** And he's going to the Olympics. And he's been showing up to his like qualifiers and stuff with Yu-Gi-Oh cards, of various rarities.

**Rachel:** Has there been an interview with him? Does anyone know like what—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I believe so. I just, I don't know if there's been an interview with him about it, but I've seen some news stories about it. But yeah, he ran this qualifier and then he reached into like his... unitard—what's that thing called that athletes wear when they're doing athletic stuff for the Olympics? Their little onesie. And he pulled out a Blue-Eyes White Dragon.

**Rachel:** Singlet?

**Griffin:** A singlet. And he pulled out his Blue-Eyes White Dragon, famous Yu-Gi-Oh card. And then he showed up for this promotional like shoot for the US team, holding a full Yu-Gi-Oh like machine deck around his forearm with

all the pieces of Exodia. Which is like a rare thing you can do in Yu-Gi-Oh? I don't know much about Yu-Gi-Oh, but I do know that I like this dude's style.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Is machine deck like, that's what it's called? That's like a thing?

**Griffin:** No, it's like a deck... I think it's called a deck. And it's like, they wear it on their arm. And when they play their cards, they put it down on their on their deck.

**Rachel:** Oh?

**Griffin:** But then like the thing comes out. Like, so like, you know, Yu-Gi-Oh will be like, "I play my Blue-Eyes White Dragon." Boom, he slaps it down on his little forearm machine. And then what's that out there? Holy shit, it's actually a dragon, I guess.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** I never watched Yu-Gi-Oh, aside from clips.

**Rachel:** Do you feel like you're letting everybody down?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** I feel like people would be like, "Well, Griffin, you know about Yu-Gi-Oh?" And you would be like, "Sorry, guys."

**Griffin:** No, only tangentially. He's, you know, he's just a strange friend, who sometimes when I was trying to watch Pokémon, he would be on. And he would be like, "Are you ready for me yet?" And I'd be like, "Nah, man, your shit is so intense. I don't think I'm ready for you yet. But I'll get back to you." Who goes first this week?

**Rachel:** It's me!

**Griffin:** Let's do the dang thing.

**Rachel:** Okay, my topic this week is the meet cute.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm! Mm-hm.

**Rachel:** And I'm talking about M-E-E-T.

**Griffin:** No, yeah, I do like a little steak—[in a baby voice] A little steak.

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

**Griffin:** [in a baby voice] And a tiny little pork chop.

**Rachel:** I was curious if there was like an origin for this. This is like kind of one of the like most signature moments of a romantic comedy.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Is when the two potential love interests meet, usually in some kind of like wacky, surprising way.

**Griffin:** Or cute way, even.

**Rachel:** Well, it can be both.

**Griffin:** It can be both.

**Rachel:** Often, it is both.

**Griffin:** Sometimes, they hate each other's fucking guts. Like in *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Rachel:** It's true. "I will never speak to that man."

**Griffin:** Yeah. "I'll never marry him."

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** She tells her sisters. But guess what? At the end, they do always get married.

**Rachel:** So, the earliest example in literature, and this is—when I say like earliest examples, o the Oxford English Dictionary will track, you know, phrases and words like this to identify in print where it appeared. And so, the mystery novel, *The Case of the Solid Key*, in which a character says, "We met cute," as they say in story conferences.

**Griffin:** Story conferences?

**Rachel:** [titters] Story conferences

**Griffin:** Ah, man, I bet those were lit back in—oh, that was a good joke I didn't even mean to do just then. I would love to go to a story conference in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**Rachel:** Lit.

**Griffin:** And they're like—

**Rachel:** Lit. There was the... was the thing.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Just forget about it.

**Rachel:** Okay, so the term was already well-known in a 1996 *Paris Review* interview. Screenwriter, Billy Wilder, was referring to a 1938 screwball comedy film called *Bluebeard's Eighth Wife*.

**Griffin:** Sounds pretty funny, man!

**Rachel:** And I wanted to give you the plot of *Bluebeard's Eighth Wife*.

**Griffin:** When was this film created?

**Rachel:** 1938.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it sounds about right.

**Rachel:** On the French Riviera, wealthy businessman Michael Brandon wants to buy pajamas, but just the tops. When the store refuses to sell the pajamas without the pants, an attractive woman named Nicole offers to buy the bottoms.

**Griffin:** I need a remake of this.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I need a reboot of this franchise, pronto. I need this on my desk by EOD, Hollywood. Please and thank you.

**Rachel:** Another early—

**Griffin:** Kevin James and Sigourney Weaver.

**Rachel:** Wow? Interesting pairing.

**Griffin:** You wouldn't pair those two up usually.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But my man only has tops, but she's gonna get him with the bottoms.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** And her bottom game is so tight.

**Rachel:** [chortles] Is this gonna be a thing we work into every episode?

**Griffin:** [laughs] But through a series of unfortunate events, we are recording this episode one day after we recorded the last episode. So, I still have that sort of—

**Rachel:** I think Rachel made it the title of the last episode.

**Griffin:** My bottom game is not so tight? Yeah.

**Rachel:** Something like that, so—

**Griffin:** All right!

**Rachel:** People will probably recognize that reference.

**Griffin:** Fantastic.

**Rachel:** In George Axelrod's play, *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter*, in 1955, a character explains, "Dear boy, the beginning of a movie is childishly simple. The boy and girl meet. The only important thing is to remember in a movie, the boy and girl must meet in some cute way."

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** "They cannot meet like normal people at perhaps a cocktail party. No, it is terribly important that they meet cute."

**Griffin:** That's... okay.

**Rachel:** So, I—of course, there are endless lists about the best meet cutes in romantic comedy history.

**Griffin:** Oh, man, I would love to talk about this.

**Rachel:** So, this is the list from BuzzFeed, which I think really has cornered the market on lists. So I just went with that one.

**Griffin:** Is it ranked?



**Rachel:** It is ranked.

**Griffin:** Okay, great.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Can I guess number one?

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Is it When Harry Met Sally?

**Rachel:** It is.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Nice work.

**Griffin:** You cannot beat that. I mean, that is the quintessential... that is the quintessential—it's maybe the best romantic movie ever made. But it's like that meeting of like, "We don't like each other, I'm not going to marry you. I'm never gonna marry this guy, for sure."

**Rachel:** And then they keep running into each other through like surprising circumstances for years after.

**Griffin:** It's very good.

**Rachel:** Number two is a film I have not seen. I believe that you have, though. And that is the movie Hitch, from 2005?

**Griffin:** Kevin James.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Sigourney Weaver.

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Will Smith.

**Rachel:** Will Smith, yes.

**Griffin:** No, yes, I have seen Hitch. I saw Hitch in theaters. But I was in high school when Hitch came out, so that's okay. That's fine.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Everybody makes mistakes.

**Griffin:** Everybody—it wasn't a great flick, but I don't—

**Rachel:** I think, I mean, the premise sounds fun.

**Griffin:** Will Smith is like a relationship expert, who like helps guys marry the attractive women in their lives.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no. I mean, that's Hitch, baby.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Another, I mean, there's a few on here. 50 First Dates is number three on this list.

**Griffin:** I mean, we gotta have Celine and Jesse up in the mix, right? They gotta have Jesse and Celine up in there also.

**Rachel:** Oh, I don't know if it's in this list. It was definitely in another list. Oh, I think it was in Entertainment Weekly's 24 best meet cutes. This one is only 15.

**Griffin:** The fact that it doesn't crack the top three of this list is a travesty. Before Sunrise is a meet cute. It's a film, a motion picture length meet cute. And the best one of all time.

**Rachel:** Yeah, Entertainment Weekly lists that at number 12 of 24.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** The Wedding Planner I have not seen, but apparently Jennifer Lopez's character literally gets her heel stuck in a manhole cover. And Matthew McConaughey's character has to save her so she doesn't get hit by a vehicle.

**Griffin:** That's cute.

**Rachel:** So, I thought it would be fun, if you go to [screencraft.org](http://screencraft.org), they give you meet cute scenarios that you can use in your story.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** And I thought it would be fun for me to give you a scenario and then you build a meet cute out of it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, absolutely. Easy. This is what I do all day, basically.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** This is basically my job. I thought you were going to say scenarios in which you can have your own real life meet cutes.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] No, no.

**Griffin:** So it'd be like, just go to the deli down the street and get your heel stuck in the manhole cover. And then just wait for the love of your life to appear!

**Rachel:** So some—this is not your—

**Griffin:** High risk, high reward, the manhole cover strategy.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Just every day, out there, hoping.

**Griffin:** Some poor, exhausted construction worker or city utility worker just like, "Come on, lady!"

**Rachel:** [chuckles] "Again?"

**Griffin:** "Again?" But then what's that? They start talking, the lady and the utility worker. They start talking. He brings her a cup of coffee.

**Rachel:** Griffin, this is not your prompt!

**Griffin:** You're right.

**Rachel:** Don't waste all this good energy.

**Griffin:** You're right. You're right.

**Rachel:** Okay. So, some of the ones on this list of 100—

**Griffin:** Jesus.

**Rachel:** Include like both reach for the same book on a shelf, bumping into each other while reaching for the same coffee, wanting to adopt the same dog. The one I'm going to give you is number 24, a museum, discussing a historical artifact. [titters]

**Griffin:** Okay, that's cool. They are—it's Kevin James and Sigourney Weaver.

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

**Griffin:** And Sigourney walks up and Kevin's there. And he's like a docent.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** For the museum. And you're probably thinking already, what a twist. I certainly would have expected of those two, Sigourney to be the— anyway, and then she's like, "Oh, what is this called?"

**Rachel:** Or that he would be a museum security guard.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, he's a docent.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** He's like smart about like old stuff. And he's like, "Well, this is the ankh of..."

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Of the—this is the ankh—

**Rachel:** The Pharaoh.

**Griffin:** The Pharaoh's ankh.

**Rachel:** The oldest Pharaoh.

**Griffin:** "The Pharaoh's golden Ankh. It was recovered, by which I mean stolen, from a tomb many years ago. And some say it has magical powers." And Sigourney Weaver's like, "Interesting." But the whole time, she is like looking at the sort of security systems around the golden ankh.

**Rachel:** Oh! Mr. And Mrs. Smith!

**Griffin:** No, he's a docent.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Okay.

**Griffin:** But then she has to—she tries to steal it. But he is working late as a docent, a late night, overnight docent shift.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] An overnight docent.

**Griffin:** And he's the one—

**Rachel:** Security guard. The thing you're describing over and over again seems natural for him to be a security guard. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I'm not finished. He's not a security guard.

**Rachel:** Okay, okay.

**Griffin:** He went to museum school for 10 years to become a docent. It's his life's dream, and I will not let you take that away from him.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** He catches her in the middle of the night, break in. She's—[spoofs glass cutting sounds] doing the glass cutting. Opens up the box and he's like, "No, stop!" She grabs the ankh. He reaches out, grabs her hand.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** The ankh starts glowing.

**Rachel:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** They switch bodies.

**Rachel:** Oh! Vice versa.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Have you seen the film, with Judge Reinhold and Fred Savage?

**Griffin:** No, but that's the body swap motion picture you want to reference?

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's the body swap motion picture you want to reference?

**Rachel:** They like each grab like this like historical artifact and switch, or something. It's something similar to that.

**Griffin:** Okay, that's fine.

**Rachel:** Anyway.

**Griffin:** I guess then, in that sense, it is more germane than Freaky Friday. The sort of socially accepted body swap motion picture reference.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** They switch bodies. They fall in love with each other. Bing-bang-boom.

**Rachel:** In each other's bodies?

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's fucked up. [titters]

**Rachel:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** You don't usually get that. Actually, there's a great anime movie called your name that was pretty similar in premise, that was very, very good. But yeah, Kevin James and then Sigourney Weaver, they fall in love with each other swapping their bodies. But then at the end, they swap back and they fall—they're still in love.

**Rachel:** They're still in love. I love that. Thank you. Thank you.

**Griffin:** I'm tired.

**Rachel:** I was gonna give you more prompts, but you took a fair amount of time on that one.

**Griffin:** [guffaws]

**Rachel:** So, I think we can call that a segment.

**Griffin:** I think we can call that a segment. That is—yes, okay. Can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Now I'm embarrassed.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

**Griffin:** All right. Mine is going to should be a surprise to you, I think. And to a lot of people. It is not something I personally subscribe to, but it is something that I am immensely interested in. That is tarot card reading. You're shaking your head.

**Rachel:** I can't believe you're walking into this space, because there are people that are very, very knowledgeable.

**Griffin:** I understand this. I understand this. And I'm going to keep it—

**Rachel:** There are people that have built like a significant amount of time around interpreting this and being able to do this. And you're saying, "I like it."

**Griffin:** And please understand—

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** I'm not going to profess any sort of great knowledge about it.

**Rachel:** Okay, okay.

**Griffin:** But I will say, as an outside observer looking in, I always see that world, that space, that craft. And I'm like, pretty cool.

**Rachel:** We should go do this together, as like a little, like a date you would see on a reality television show.

**Griffin:** That would be—

**Rachel:** Where we get our tarot cards read.



**Griffin:** That could—that would be neat.

**Rachel:** As a couple? I don't know if they do that.

**Griffin:** I think that does happen in *Before Sunset*, or *Before Sunrise*. One of those before movies. Anyway, I find the whole practice of cartomancy pretty neat.

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean, you like cards.

**Griffin:** Yes! That's number one. Absolutely, I do.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** My exposure to this is mostly through like video games. Like there's the *Persona* series, which is probably my favorite game series ever, which includes a lot of references to like modern occultism. Specifically to the Major and Minor Arcanas of the tarot deck. Before we get into this, how much do you know about this?

**Rachel:** I have never had my... my tarot cards read?

**Griffin:** I have not either.

**Rachel:** I don't even know if that is the right way to say it.

**Griffin:** I've never had a reading done either.

**Rachel:** No. I have seen other people do it.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** I feel like I have witnessed other readings. I have also had friends talk about it in detail.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** But I do not know the experience personally.

**Griffin:** Okay, I am the same. I'm in the same boat. I feel like I had friends in college who were into that, who like had a deck. They never did one for me. But I don't know, I feel like you see it a lot in TV and cinema. And especially in the late 1990s, if you're watching television late at night and you see Miss Cleo pop up doing her thing.

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** So, tarot readings are usually executed by a—executed is a weird way of putting it—by a sort of knowledgeable practitioner. And it requires like a lot of sort of training and practice in order to, you know, really do a good tarot card reading.

**Rachel:** Yeah, and I assume you have to be pretty perceptive. Because I think... I mean, as I understand it, like you share information that you believe is going to be relevant or useful to the person.

**Griffin:** Sure. I'm not even talking about like how good you have to be at like understanding a person's problems, and how these cards that are laying on the table might have some sort—I'm talking about the fact that there's 78 fuckin' cards in a tarot deck.

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

**Griffin:** There's 78 cards!

**Rachel:** Yeah, that's a lot of cards.

**Griffin:** That's way more cards than I thought—

**Rachel:** Yeah, you would have to know what each card meant.

**Griffin:** Exactly.

**Rachel:** Because you don't know which one's gonna pop up.

**Griffin:** And I mean, that sounds like a challenge that I could really sink my teeth into.

**Rachel:** There's also like a way to lay them down too?

**Griffin:** Yes, so there are different spreads that you can lay them down. I believe there's like the—there's a cross that you like lay them down in. So, every card has like sort of a different meaning, which changes dramatically based on a few different variables. So, of those 78 cards, there's 56 Minor Arcana cards, in a tarot deck.

Which are actually, you can think of as sort of our playing—like playing cards. Like normal playing cards have 52, spread across four suits. This is 56 spread across four suits. There's an extra card in each suit. So, there is wands, swords, cups and coins. Those are the four suits. Which are the counterparts of clubs, spades, hearts and diamonds, respectively. So, these Minor Arcana represent sort of like the more mundane aspects of life.

Wands represent like creativity and career ambition. And I mean, all of these represent a lot of things, but to sort of give a brief, uneducated summary. Swords represents conflict, usually. Cups represents like love and relationships. And coins represents like material possession. Each one of these suits has 10 numbered cards, like an ordinary, you know, I believe French deck of playing cards is what we all use.

But then there's four face cards. There's the jack, the knight, the queen and the king. So that, those are the Minor Arcana, and those cover less groundbreaking sort of meaning. The things that sort of I think focus on stuff you might encounter in your day-to-day life.

**Rachel:** Yeah, like don't suggest huge changes to your life necessarily.

**Griffin:** Yes. Then there's the 22 Major Arcana, which are sort of the inverse. They're the ones that like you are probably familiar with some of them, even if you are not like deep into this scene. The Major Arcanas, they differ depending on like what type of deck you use. But I am most familiar, and I think probably if people are only exposed to this world through pop culture, are familiar with what's called the Rider Waite deck. Which has the

Fool, the Chariot, the Tower, Wheel of Fortune, which is always fun when that pops up. Death, you know, all the classics.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And Major Arcana cards cover like bigger life topics and themes. A lot of which have something to do with a change. Or you know, in the inverse, a stagnation that you are sort of suffering from. All of these are often like open to interpretation, depending on the like question or intention that the reading is focused on. And the orientation of the Major Arcana cards also have an implication on their meaning. Because you can deal a card and it will be, you know, normal sort of—

**Rachel:** Yeah, okay.

**Griffin:** Right side up or it can appear upside down. And if it's upside down, then the meaning of the card is inverted. So like, the Hermit right side up is like a positive, like you're soul searching, you're going through a period of introspection. But if it is upside down, if it's inverted, it could reflect like isolation or loneliness.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm. Do you know—you may not have learned this part, but like... does the recipient of this reading, do they like cut the cards? Do they shuffle the cards?

**Griffin:** Yes. I believe the recipient of the reading is the one who shuffles all of the cards.

**Rachel:** Oh, okay. Because like if I'm gonna invest in this, I have to believe that somehow these cards have touched me so that they have some connection to me. You know?

**Griffin:** Can I just say, I think that fuckin' rules, baby.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You're saying that like, "I don't know if I'm gonna—if I believe in sort of like tarot readings. But if I were to believe, I need to touch them."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "I need to touch them, so a bit of my—"

**Rachel:** I mean, the idea is that the person is laying the cards out.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** If I never put my hands on them or involved in any shuffling or cutting or whatever, like then it's more about the person reading than me, you know? Like anybody could have sat down in that chair. The cards would have been the same for them too.

**Griffin:** Okay. So if you got like a sort of fortune telling with like a crystal ball, you would be—immediately like slap your hands right on that orb.

**Rachel:** [titters] Yeah!

**Griffin:** Because if I don't touch the orb, what's the fucking point?

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah, if I'm gonna believe that the person that is doing this reading is pulling something from me or about me, related to my present or future, like I gotta get my fingerprints on that somehow?

**Griffin:** Yes. This is where we start to get into the area of showing my ass potentially, right? Because I don't think that this—that tarot readings are about telling the future. It's not about soothsaying, as much as it is like... I don't know, sort of helping you contextualize different events or factors in your life that you are experiencing. Certainly, I'm assuming it can be used for like, "Oh, man, you got Wheel of Fortune. Get ready, baby! Let's go to Vegas!"

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** But for the most part, my instinct, just sort of based on researching it today, is that it is much more about like understanding, and less about like here's what you got coming down the mystic pipe.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And I think that's neat. I, again, like, this is not—I think that if I really believed in the power of this, like the occult power, if you want to like think of it that way, I would have sought it out by now. But I do see like the... the kind of like meaning that people get out of it.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And that's very, very cool.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean, if you have the opportunity to sit down with a professional of any kind, it's always kind of nice to get their perspective on an issue as it relates to you. Because it's somebody who has some kind of background, you know? Like they do this a lot, they have familiarity with this and they're telling you something that you couldn't figure out on your own.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I kind of appreciate that.

**Griffin:** I do, like, I do—I would like a professional, I think, because—

**Rachel:** Like, when you go to like a new—like a new doctor, for example.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And they're like, "Tell me about you. And what does this mean?" And blah, blah, blah. And then it's like, you get this new input from somebody who has some kind of background in what you're talking about.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** It's nice.

**Griffin:** And that background is, again, like this is a difficult thing. Because not only are there, what, what did I say, 78 cards in the deck, there's

different meanings depending on if they are inverted or normal. And also, you lay them out in a pattern. So, if you lay them out in a cross, then the meaning of a card could be influenced by the card that is adjacent to it. So, like the number of variables are so enormous and incalculable.

**Rachel:** I wonder if when the reading is done, if people ever take pictures. And then they like bring it to somebody else and they're like, "Would you have interpreted it this way?" Like, this person thought this was going to happen—

**Griffin:** Almost certainly not.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Almost certainly not.

**Rachel:** What would you say, based on this table?

**Griffin:** I'll tell you my main worry. I think the reason that I haven't sought this out is not because I have some staunch belief that like, "Well, this isn't real, hm!" I think it's that my busted brain would try to win the game of tarot.

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

**Griffin:** There is like a—these were playing cards. There's like a whole history of tarot cards that like, honestly, confuses the shit out of me. Because they were introduced as playing cards in like the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and then they threw these Major Arcana cards in there. And I guess that changed the game of tarot? And some people were like, "Yeah, well, this has ties to, you know—this cartomancy has ties to ancient traditions, to the... you know, Kabbalah and I Ching and all of sort of that stuff." And then there's people who are like, "No, this is a fairly new tradition." I saw that, I looked at the history of this world and I was like, I'm not going to focus on that.

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

**Griffin:** Because, frankly, I think it would be a little bit boring, but also because I'm sure I would do a very bad job of it.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** But as a, again, outside observer, there is so much about the concept and the, frankly, the aesthetics. I get served ads sometimes—this bit was inspired by—I got served an ad for like this upscale tarot deck, that looked so fucking cool, like—

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

**Griffin:** They have cool art on them and shit. That I was like, I have always thought that was so interesting and I've always been so fascinated by it. Even if I haven't dipped into it. And I don't usually do topics like that on this show, because I try to I think talk about things that I'm like deeply familiar with. But as I like on a whim was like, I'm gonna look into some of this stuff. I started to realize like, mostly through my exposure to video games like, oh, okay, a lot of this is kind of familiar.

**Rachel:** Did you make the connection in your head to like role-playing games, like DnD? Because there is something about the randomness of the card and the way that changes the story and how it's communicated, that feels very like similar.

**Griffin:** Okay, so, let's get even deeper. I'm gonna take this one layer deeper. We just finished our season of TAZ called TAZ Versus Dracula. Which was inspired by a big campaign module for DnD called the Curse of Strahd. Which is a like fantasy take on, let's hunt down and kill Dracula. I thought that was cool. I didn't want to do it straight up, but I was very, very interested in that. It has a whole system where like entire branches of the story, entire arcs, are determined by a Tarokka Deck. That you do actual like readings with to determine like where they can find the weapon that can kill Dracula.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So, like, yes, is the long, long answer to your question.



**Rachel:** Yeah. I just, I think you would potentially be a very good tarot card reader, is what I'm saying.

**Griffin:** I don't think I would be. I think I would be way too—

**Rachel:** I think you're good at taking like concepts and ideas, and like weaving. As evidenced by your Kevin James, Sigourney Weaver movie. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But that is different, right? Like there is a... I appreciate you saying that. I feel like there is a level of intuition and perception about a person, and a sort of connecting of the dots of like the events that they have told you, and the things that are being revealed to you, that I do not think I am or would ever be good at.

**Rachel:** See, I think I might be good at that part. So maybe we should be a team?

**Griffin:** The first ever husband and wife—this is, again, my ass has fallen out of my pants and it's showing to everyone.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Probably not the first ever.

**Griffin:** Probably not the first ever married tarot readers. But there is... I mean, there's probably a lot of money in that world for us.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's Tarot. Hey, I got some small wonders from our friends at home, if I may share those. The first one is from Iz, who says, "My small wonder is root stairs! When hiking up or down a hill in the forest, the roots of large trees can grow across the trail and form root stairs. It makes me feel like some sort of magical forest elf when I walk up or down them."

**Rachel:** Oh, that's cool!

**Griffin:** Iz included a little picture of root stairs. With a little meme guy saying, "When the trail got root stairs." That I do like a lot.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I love that. JJ says, "My small wonder is the new robot litter box my roommate and I just got. Nothing funnier than receiving a notification in the middle of the workday that one of our cats has just taken a dump."

**Rachel:** [laughs] I think, is this the one that Justin has?

**Griffin:** Justin has one of these products, and it—

**Rachel:** Where you can like track the like, yeah, the waste.

**Griffin:** I don't know how much it's changed the workflow over there, but I will say that as somebody who stays in their basement, where the cats usually roam, it is a much more pleasant sensory experience to have this tiny, little, discrete, cybernetic helper in this field.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's it. Thank you so much 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 thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on network! Go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), check out all the great shows that they have over there.

We got some new merch over at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com) that you can go check out. Especially once August rolls around, which I believe it has by the time this episode goes up. If you're listening to this on release day and you want to come to Gen Con, me and Travis and dad are going to be there. We're going to be doing some signings and photos and a couple panels.

And then we have live shows coming up all across the country. If you go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours), you can find links for where you can get tickets and more information, and see if we're coming near to you. I think that's it. Let's get the hell out of here, man. Let's get on my recumbent bike.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** And just fucking vibe, babe. Never look back. Our kids will be pretty bummed. And so will we, pretty fast.

**Rachel:** I'm having a hard time visualizing how we would take off in a recumbent exercise bike.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It'll take a while. We'll both need to take turns pedaling.

**Rachel:** [titters] Okay.

**Griffin:** Eventually, the fan inside will—no, wait, this one's magnet powered. We're not going anywhere on this thing.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm...

**Griffin:** Roller skates it is.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

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

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