

Wonderful! 345: Moons of Jupiter in Her Ear

Published October 9th, 2024

[Listen here on mcelroy.family](https://mcelroy.family)

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

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: What's up? It's Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: What's up, squad? Come on in.

Rachel: I don't think people say squad anymore.

Griffin: Come on in, squad, we got a big podcast for yah.

Rachel: I think squad's over.

Griffin: I don't think you can get rid of squad. I think squad was first of all coined by the tactical military elite.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's got staying power for its tactical sort of purposes.

Rachel: You know you have a lot of good things to say about our military. I noticed that lately.

Griffin: Well, support 'em. No questions. Do not question.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Only support.

Rachel: Only support.

Griffin: This is show where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we are into. And... my moons are lookin' pretty— Moon Watch, my moons are lookin' pretty good right now.

Rachel: Oh gosh, I can't believe you still do this.

Griffin: Pretty good in a— Well no, listen, because last week they were way messed up.

Rachel: You had suggested that the moons were good, and then we got a call almost immediately after that our son had to be picked up.

Griffin: Yes. For actually it was mid-recording, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: No, my moons were pretty, pretty fucked up at that point. But I'm tellin' yah, I've been watchin' the charts, babe.

Rachel: Alright.

Griffin: I've been watchin' the charts, Titan and Io are woop! I can't even see fuckin' Io anymore, 'cause Titan's all the way up— lined up with it.

Rachel: You're saying these like these are things. Am I supposed to know these are things?

Griffin: These are moons of Jupiter.

Rachel: Ohhhh.

Griffin: The two big moons.

Rachel: I love that song.

Griffin: You ask me to name a third moon of Jupiter—

Rachel: Love that song. [chuckles]

Griffin: And how's that one go?

Rachel: Um... [sings] "Say she's back in the atmosphere."

Griffin: That still works for space stuff, kinda.

Rachel: [sings] "Moons of Jupiter in her..." Is it hair? Ear?

Griffin: Yeah, in her ear.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That was it, "drops of Jupiter in her ear" was the original lyric. "Goddamn, my ear is so— I have the worst earache. What's goin' on? I went swimming on the moons of Jupiter."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "I must've gotten some of those damn drops in there. And those never come out, because of that atmospheric pressure."

Rachel: You say that like the song is completely logical start to finish and I have somehow wrecked it.

Griffin: I always assumed that "Drops of Jupiter" was some sort of literary, or perhaps like, you know, Greek folklore reference that I didn't know about.

Rachel: You say that, there's lemon drops. Lemon drops are a thing.

Griffin: Yes, but are lemon drops of Neptune? Is that— I don't know— I'm saying specifically drops of Jupiter.

Rachel: It's poetry, baby, you know.

Griffin: Right?

Rachel: Anything goes.

Griffin: Train's a poet. I've always said that about Mr Train.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Did you know that it's not a band name, the guy's name is Train.

Rachel: Is Train. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's cool.

Rachel: I would love that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I would love to have that experience upon meeting Train.

Griffin: Yeah. You walk to the Train concert but it's just Train. He shows up, no band.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: He's playing an acoustic set.

Rachel: "Hi, we're Train, and the royal we."

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: "'Cause I am Train."

Griffin: "I am Train. My full name is Choo-Choo Train."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [sings] "Now she's back in the—"
 Do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: I do actually, I'm ready this time.

Griffin: Hell yes, dude.

Rachel: I want to talk about bouncy floor.

Griffin: Bouncy floor is— Oh man, I—

Rachel: It's changed everything for us.

Griffin: It's gonna be great. So many times we talk about like main stays in like easy children's entertainment or engagement.

Rachel: Balloons, bubbles.

Griffin: Balloons. And we're always like, "Where does it start? Where did this thing start? Where did this—" I feel like we can say pretty confidently in the future, when everyone's like, "Everyone does bouncy floor, where'd it start?"

Rachel: I mean—

Griffin: [makes a popping sound] We'll have the— We'll have it right here.

Rachel: I'm not claiming that the construction elements of bouncy floor started with us.

Griffin: No?

Rachel: I think the name "bouncy floor" started with us.

Griffin: Maybe. Can you explain what bouncy floor is?

Rachel: Yeah. I took all the cushions off of our couch, and I put them on the floor, and now we have what one might call a bouncy floor.

Griffin: We have a sectional, and so we're talkin'— Gang, this is a lot of cushions.

Rachel: Lot of seats.

Griffin: Lot of seats we're workin' with, so the bouncy floor is... enormous.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's very big. It takes up pretty much most of the living room.

Rachel: We've had a lot of rain recently, and so bouncy floor has been essential.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Because our kids still have energy and nowhere to put it. And what's great about bouncy floor, dancefloor.

Griffin: Dancefloor.

Rachel: Good for gaming.

Griffin: Good for gaming.

Rachel: As in those like, you know, those games that we play in— on the TV.

Griffin: Sure, our next playground.

Rachel: Yes. And somersaults.

Griffin: Somersaults. I feel like both boys have really come a long way in their somersault game—

Rachel: True, true.

Griffin: — because of bouncy floor. Lot of bravery, lot of courage, and a lot of playing together and wrestling with pillows.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Another— You can do so much on bouncy floor, and it wears the dang kids right out, you don't even have to go outside. Now, your house look a mess for a little bit, but bouncy floor's so easy to clean up.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Takes like a minute to put all those cushions back up on.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah. I will say it is easier than obstacle course, which our kids kinda burn out on.

Griffin: They burn out on obstacle course.

Rachel: I feel like we suggest obstacle course all the time, they are not into it.

Griffin: Well they're not babies anymore.

Rachel: Oh, is that a baby thing?

Griffin: They— These— This is the...

Rachel: Tell *American Ninja Warrior* the obstacle courses are a baby thing.

Griffin: If *American Ninja Warrior* runners had to go across two-foot-high foam wedges.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Maybe— I mean they already did *Ninja Warrior Junior* and it changed the fuckin' face of the sport forever by lowering the age of entry to like 13 years old for main *Ninja Warrior*. I don't think it's out of the question that we're gonna get like *Toddler Ninja Warrior*, or if you will, *Ninja Wowwior*.

Rachel: Awwwww.

Griffin: Awwwww.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I'm gonna say, I think I talked about it already, I definitely talked about it on *The Besties*, we finished this season of *The Circle*. That shit slaps so right. That shit hit real, real good.

Rachel: I always feel mixed about saying that. Like the— it was a very fun season to watch, and the reveals of the catfish were soooooo good.

Griffin: Truly, truly next level.

Rachel: A lot of the players, questionable choices.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Again, a season where a lot of the people that seemed to be playing a good game got eliminated.

Griffin: Yeah, it's wild that I'm saying this about the season because all of my favorite people got eliminated.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But I feel like there was just a lot of gameplay going on, and I found it very interesting, and there were a few people there who were making some pretty great moves sort of in the shadows.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: A lot of secret alliances that end up kind of defining the whole season of the game.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Some gimmicky shit with the Disruptor stuff, which I wasn't so crazy about.

Rachel: Yeah, I don't think they'll do that again.

Griffin: I was also hoping to get a return of the AI—

Rachel: Yeah, me too.

Griffin: — contestant, 'cause I think that they really struck gold with that. But I had a great time watching that with you, and oh my god.

Rachel: So many shows.

Griffin: I imagine we will also at some point talk about *The Golden Bachelorette*.

Rachel: Yeees.

Griffin: I don't know if we're gonna do a full segment on it, but It has been a breath of fresh air.

Rachel: We watched— Yeah. We watched the first two episodes, maybe three?

Griffin: Nah, two.

Rachel: Two.

Griffin: The second one was long as hell, man.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles] Yeah, we never finish one episode in a night.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: But I will say... Again, it's a situation where the friendships among the contestants are so precious.

Griffin: And it jacks— This season jacks it up to a million, because pretty much every contestant is a widower in his 60s, who I can guarantee you hasn't hung out with anyone in a long time, probably since their spouse died.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so these guys, these two dozen sextigenarians I think is the word for it. They are so delighted by each other, they—

Rachel: And the house.

Griffin: The hou— They're so impressed by all the appliances and the size of the pool.

Rachel: [chuckles] The amenities.

Griffin: The amenities are insane.

Rachel: They decide— And I don't know, do you believe that they took it upon themselves to turn the pool party into a cookout?

Griffin: Man, maybe.

Rachel: It was presented as if they all decided to make meals together, and based on the meals they made, it really seemed like these guys are really usin' the equipment in this kitchen.

Griffin: Yes. They did a grilling party in lieu of a cocktail party.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Which is fucking great. Except then you had like one dad who was like makin' the hamburgers, and he was like puttin' barbeque sauce on 'em, like, "It's New York style," and then there were like seven other dads—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: — who were like, "No way, man! That's not how I do my burgers!"

Rachel: The garbage disposal stops working and somebody gets down on the floor and fixes it. [chuckles]

Griffin: There's a two-minute-long scene of someone fixing a garbage disposal, like, "Don't worry guys, I need that hex wrench, let me—"

Rachel: This would be a great one, I was telling Griffin, to do with like a bingo card, like we used to do when we watched the show.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Because there's so many dad moves happening each episode.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's amazing.

Griffin: A lotta, "Great group of guys!" A lotta that. It may end up being— It may sour, as these seasons of television so typically do.

Rachel: Yeah, Griffin and I are worried, and this happens a lot, that the blandest rise to the top, and then the— your last few episodes are just like three regular, boring guys, with nothing interesting to say or do.

Griffin: Well and some of the zany guys are kinda one trick ponies.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: With regards to their zaniness, and it's like episode three and they're like saying their catchphrase, and it's like, "I fuckin' get it, Urkel."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "I've seen it."
You go first this week.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: What have you got prepared for the class? This is a class, by the way. This is technically a seminar series for—

Rachel: Oh, are listeners earning credit right now?

Griffin: Yes, at Phoenix Online University.

Rachel: [chuckles] Old POU.

Griffin: Old Pou.

Rachel: I wanted to talk about circle time.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: As in the activity that preschool children do.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Yes, not on the show that we just discussed, like—

Griffin: I thought you were talking about the time in which we do sit down and—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: — make space for *The Circle* in our lives.

Rachel: No. No, I'm talking about... in the morning typically when children all sit down on the rug with their teacher, and they do their little routine.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I find it so charming. This is something that I'm pretty sure Henry was still doing in first grade, I don't know if he's doing it in second grade.

Griffin: I don't think so, man. I don't know where they'd have space for it with all the desks and... whatnot.

Rachel: That's what I'm thinking. But yeah, there's almost always like a particular rug involved, and there's usually songs, and like days of the week, and discussions on what the activities are gonna be..

Griffin: A sort of baby agenda.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like, "Today we will do math."

Rachel: I'm just saying I would— I was thinking about how useful this would be in my current position.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Because the way it is set up in a large organization is that you only have a full group meeting—

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: — like once every few months.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And then you have your little team that you meet with maybe more frequently.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But there's no songs. [chuckles]

Griffin: I love the idea of a circle time, and like one of the kids raises their hand and is like, "Mr. Morris, could this have been an email?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I love that. That's like *Boss Ba*— That would've been like *Boss Baby*.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah!

Griffin: *Boss Baby* like, "Couldn't this have been an email?" I can't do a Boss Baby voice.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But like imagine what Boss Baby sounds like. Or a Young Sheldon.

Rachel: Yeah, oh, oh yeah and we know a lot about Young Sheldon.

Griffin: I know a lot about old Sheldon that I can kind of extrapolate backwards.

Rachel: So the origins of circle time are pointed largely towards the guy that started kindergarten, Fredrick Frobel.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Who I think you've talked about before.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: 'Cause kindergarten in the States took off in St Louis.

Griffin: That's right.

Rachel: Like you talked about at our live show. But yeah, he talked about kinda the benefits of children learning in a group. This idea that you kind of assemble them together and you build community and self-esteem through all of them kind of working together, and doing their like routine.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Which is really useful for kids in the morning. Like this is one thing that we noticed, one of the first daycares we took Henry to, it was always a little chaotic, and—

Griffin: That is— You are being so generous right now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It was fucking pandemonium every time we went to that place.

Rachel: It just seemed like the kids were kind of allowed to just kinda be rowdy until the day started, whenever that was, and it was very... intense for our shy, gentle son. And I will say, like a very nice routine of like we come in, we all sit in a circle.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: We all do the same song every morning, it's very nice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it can be very collaborative. So there are of course benefits of circle time, beyond what I mentioned. So the routine I mentioned, socialization is a— that the kids are like sharing together.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: In a group. Like a lot of the ways school is set up now, like you go off and you do your little choice time.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So you'll go into like a corner or whatever, and so you have your kind of small group of people that potentially you always play with, but

circle time kind of makes sure you get together in like a little town square.

Griffin: I do like that.

Rachel: There is something about being in a classroom. We went to little son's back to school night, and it just feels so much like a little town.

Griffin: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Rachel: You know? Like they're all just trying to get their work done together—

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: — in this little, tiny community. It's very sweet. It also develops listening communication skills, especially if you're doing like a song together.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know?

Griffin: Well, and you have to look at each— Like you have to look at each other. It's a circle.

Rachel: [chuckles] It's a circle. And I will say that circle time really I think took off during the '80s. There was a British author named Murray White who published a book on circle time called *Magic Circles*. [chuckles]

Griffin: Cool.

Rachel: Which raised the profile and popularity of circle time in the '80s. There's another author named Jenny Moseley who has her own book on circle time. Yeah so Jenny Moseley is more recent to the space, she wrote *The Circle Time Guidance for the UK Government's Primary and Secondary National Strategy Social and Emotional Aspects* [chuckles] of *Learning Curriculum*.

Griffin: Aw, drips right off the tongue, doesn't it.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, all to say there's a lot of thought kind of put into how you start your day and get your kids kind of working together, and I just— I feel like it is— it's very sweet, and I think it's been very helpful for small son. He... He had a first few weeks that were super breezy.

Griffin: It was his first week that was super breezy, and then—

Rachel: Was it his first week? I thought he made it through two, but not?

Griffin: And then— Maybe he got through two.

Rachel: Maybe he got sick in the second one and didn't actually...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Either way, all of a sudden he realized like, "Oh shoot, this is my life now."

Griffin: "This is forever," yeah.

Rachel: "And I don't have any power over whether or not I go." And I just— I feel good knowing that they have these little routines that he can kinda depend on.

Griffin: I feel good that that has at least gotten a little bit better.

Rachel: Yeah, true.

Griffin: I would say that's a big part of my moon— my lunar sort of alignment is that [chuckles] I don't spend 20 minutes every morning trying to convince him that that is al—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's all so chill, dude.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's all so chill. He's like down now.

Rachel: So yeah, all that to say that I wish... I wish the elements of circle time were more present in my life now.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: I think that would be helpful.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Like I don't even watch like a morning news program, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: My mornings are pretty different every day.

Griffin: Well do you— Does your team use Slack or Microsoft Teams or?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: 'Cause that's sort of like always circle time. It's sort of like—

Rachel: That's true.

Griffin: — always on circle time, a sort of I guess panopticon is a cynical way of looking at it.

Rachel: But there's no songs. You don't look at—

Griffin: Sometimes you post songs in there.

Rachel: Oh yeah? [chuckles]

Griffin: Sometimes we all message each other on Slack, like, "Okay, everybody sing the morning song in three, two, one."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And then you just trust that everyone is at home singing the morning song.

Rachel: It's one of the benefits too I think of being back in person too.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: I think about all the students trying to do circle time over Zoom, and how—

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: [chuckles] How— I think we actually tried that, didn't we? I feel like for a while with Henry's school, some of the students were still in person and they tried to do circle time over Zoom, and it was—

Griffin: I do remember that.

Rachel: It was useless.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Because the kids who were there looked so bummed out.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That the other kids didn't have to be there. Like.

Rachel: And there was like a lag too, and there was no way to position the laptop so that you could see all children, and of course all children were completely distracted by this laptop.

Griffin: And also all children didn't wanna be on the laptop.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And had a hard time sitting, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[*Home Improvement* transition music plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: This segment that I have this week continues a sort of trend for the segments I bring sometimes, recently, of me falling in love with jams from the late oughts and early 2010s, because one of our kids, usually our smallest kid, becomes obsessed with it. The first time I did this was with of course Lil Jon's "Turn Down For What."

Rachel: Yeeeeeeah. Oh, we need to break that back out.

Griffin: Oh, for sure. That would be a bouncy floor dance night classic.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: The song in question I'm speaking of Rachel will not be surprised to hear, is LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Here's the thing. I am worried, more so than with "Turn Down For What," I'm worried people are going to think this is a purely ironic choice. But I— Dear listener, I wanna play a clip from "Party Rock Anthem," and as I do, I want you to try and listen with open ears and an open heart.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And see the world through the heart of a child's eyes.

[audio clip fades in]

Griffin: And listen to this clip as if for the first time. Here's "Party Rock Anthem."

[audio clip from "Party Rock Anthem" by LMFAO plays]

[audio clip fades out]

Griffin: I mean it's pretty good, right?

Rachel: Yeah, Gus calls this the, what, "Every Day I'm Shufflin' Song?"

Griffin: "Every Day I'm Shufflin'," or sometimes he calls it "Play Funky Dance Party."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Is what he will also call it. The beat is undeniable, those crispy little synth chirps are just iconic. If you hear that [imitates the synth notes from the song], you know like—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: You know it's on. The lyrics just absolutely like take it to the hoop like several times throughout the song. There's a line that's like, "We take it to the top, no lead in our zeppelin." They're so like—

Rachel: Oh, that's what he's saying.

Griffin: Yeah. What did you think he was saying?

Rachel: I thought it was a music reference. [chuckles] And I couldn't hear it.

Griffin: It is a reference to Led Zeppelin.

Rachel: I thought it was "No Lennon or Zeppelin."

Griffin: "No Lennon?"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like you're referencing John Lennon?

Rachel: John Lennon, I don't know, it didn't make any sense to me either.

Griffin: I mean, "No lead in our zeppelin" doesn't make like a ton of sense.

Rachel: [laughs] A little more.

Griffin: But it makes a little bit more than “no Lennon or Zeppelin.”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: It also has that incredibly powerful, and not a lot of songs can pull this out, but the fake ending.

Rachel: Yeeeeeeah.

Griffin: Where it’s like, “Shake that...” [pause] “Every day I’m shufflin’.”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: [imitates the synth notes again] Like.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: It hits so right every time, and despite the fact that Gus demands this song like several times a day, there are still times where he’s— as soon as that break hits and it’s like, “Shake that,” he’s like, “I want to pick the next song!”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ‘Cause he knows he like has to put a quarter on the machine, and they hit him with the “Every day I’m shuff—” It’s really— It’s one of the most powerful twists in the history of pop music.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: LMFAO I didn’t know anything about until I did—

Rachel: Yeah, I don’t either.

Griffin: Okay. So LMFAO consists of Red Foo, is the— one of the two performers in LMFAO. Red Foo is the son of Barry Gordy, who is the founder of Motown Records.

Rachel: [surprised] Oh.

Griffin: Sky Blue is the other member of the band, so sort of a nice symmetry there.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Red Foo and Sky Blue. Sky Blue sounds like a vape brand, which is great that that's a person's name.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Sky Blue is Motown Records founder Barry Gordy's grandson, so he is the son of Red Foo's half-brother, Barry Gordy IV. I believe that makes Red Foo the uncle of Sky Blue, or half-uncle of Sky Blue.

Rachel: Oh jeez, you lost me so long ago.

Griffin: Red Foo and Sky Blue are the two dudes in the band.

Rachel: Yes, yes.

Griffin: Red Foo is Sky Blue's half-uncle.

Rachel: [giggles] Half-uncle.

Griffin: Or just uncle, I don't know if you can— if you get that sort of like granular.

Rachel: So if Travis was your half-brother.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: He would be Henry's half-uncle.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I guess so.

Rachel: Maybe.

Griffin: I'm uncomfortable all of a sudden with these—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: With the terminology. They're— They're related fairly closely.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Which is didn't know about the LMFAO gang.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Especially since they're not really performing together anymore, and have not since like 2012. Which I didn't know that was an option. When you had a family band, I thought you had to ride that shit out.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like into the ground. So LMFAO came up in the LA sort of electro club scene, garnering attention with their sort of wild stage shows. According to Wikipedia, will.i.am is Red Foo's best friend.

Rachel: Okay. Interesting, in my head, because it was popular at the same time, I like affiliate them with the Black Eyed Peas.

Griffin: That's so fascinating, I would not make that affiliation, although... It almost seems like, and I'll talk more about this later, LMFAO... is something of a... parody band, almost like not quite Flight of the Conchords level, but like a parody band of like this genre of mindless dance pop.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Club bangers, dance hits, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Whether or not they own that, we'll discuss later on in the segment. So will.i.am, best friends with Red Foo.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Really liked their stuff. Signed LMFAO to his own label which wasn't like a development label, they didn't like seek out star— like young stars who were like cuttin' their teeth and helped them build up their careers, like they needed to be basically big hits to release records on this label.

And so LMFAO got access to the kind of like resources that they needed to make a pretty big, huge first album, that kind of needed to be a smash hit. And—

Rachel: Well they're best friends. According to Wikipedia.

Griffin: Will.i.am and Red Foo?

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, they're best friends, they're half-uncles.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: There's like a lot of like deep relationship happening here, and you can feel that love. You can feel that love when you listen to the music.

Rachel: I just love the idea that will.i.am maybe got on the Wikipedia himself.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And was like, "We're best friends." [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't know if Red Foo is will.i.am's best friend.

Rachel: Right.

Griffin: I don't know. We could get—

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: I should ask him some day. So that first album that they released was called *Party Rock*, and it dropped July 7th, 2009. In their review of *Party Rock*, *Los Angeles Times* described [chuckles] the album as quote “14 virtually interchangeable odes to night life.”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] Which is really good.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This album wasn’t a smash hit. But the songs started to get licensed by all sorts of TV shows.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Specifically everything on the MTV network. This was the era of like your *Jersey Shore*, for example.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So like their songs started to show up everywhere, even though they weren’t like a huge name. Then David Guetta, who’s like a big electronic musician DJ guy, did a song with them that kinda hit it big in 2010, so their star sort of started to rise.

They were working on their next album, but before they put that on in early 2011, they put out “Party Rock Anthem” as a single off their first album, which came out two years prior. And it was almost a way to say like, “You’ve probably heard some of our shit on *Jersey Shore*.”

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: “This is like the big one. We’re LMFAO, we’re gonna do a bonkers music video that’s like a parody of *28 Days Later*.” Have you seen the music video for this before?

Rachel: I mean, if I did, it’s been like 10 years.

Griffin: In the music video, Sky Blue and Red Foo release “Party Rock Anthem” and then slip into comas for 28 days.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Slip into comas. They slip in Tacoma.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Is what I thought of. And then when they wake up, the world has basically been destroyed because everybody is shuffling. Everybody— So there’s like zombies on the street.

Rachel: Ohhh.

Griffin: And somebody like grabs them as they come out of the hospital, like, “You gotta be careful, you gotta put these headphones in, don’t let ‘em get to you or you’ll start shuffling.”

Basically their song created a disease that turned people into members of LMFAO. So like in the video like a crowd of people shuffles up to this one guy, and then when they part he’s wearing like fuckin’ leopard print.

Rachel: Oh, that’s fun.

Griffin: One of those gazuba? What are the big, big, big, big pants called? Zubas?

Rachel: Maybe, I think that sounds right.

Griffin: Something like zubas. Anyway, it’s a great video. And then... people went absolutely apeshit for “Party Rock Anthem,” and so much so that it boosted sales of their next album which came out a few months later called, of course, *Sorry for Party Rocking*.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Which is like the fact that there is a narrative thread between these albums—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: — when that definitely doesn't need to be a thing is part of I think the infinite charm of "Party Rock Anthem." Here's the thing about "Party Rock Anthem," if you are still feeling like this is just sort of a, you know, a silly thing to talk about that I don't actually believe in.

Rachel: "This isn't music, this is just noise, Griffin."

Griffin: Here's the thing. "Party Rock Anthem" was the biggest fucking song ever for a long time. I did not realize this, it hit number one on the music charts of 51 different countries.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: It is Australia's best-selling single of all time, and it is the third best-selling digital song in US history.

Rachel: I wonder if that was like an Olympics thing. Does— Was it maybe on the Olympics? [chuckles]

Griffin: It was everywhere.

Rachel: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: I mean it was absolutely everywhere. They performed with Madonna during the Superbowl.

Rachel: Okay. That's like— Yeah.

Griffin: And did like, "Sexy And I Know It" and one of their other ones.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like they were fucking massive, they were so huge, and they broke up pretty fast.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Just sort of citing creative differences, they went on to do their own things, Red Foo made some pretty deplorable music I think but

coming out of LMFAO. But for this very brief moment, these two relatives with ties to—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: — you know, Motown Records royalty, came out fuckin' fast and hard, released an album that no-one really gave a shit about except for Snookie.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And MTV, and then they tried it again and became the biggest fucking band on the planet for a long time. There is this mystique to LMFAO that I referenced earlier because they insist, Red Foo and Sky Blue, insist that the band and the song and their whole oeuvre is not a parody. They are not a living parody band.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Of like this dance music pop electronic scene that was like very ever-present in that time period. So they constantly say like, "This just it, this is us," but they're kind cagey about it because there's no fucking way that you can be like that serious about... you know, "Sexy And I Know It," like you can't be that serious about it.

Rachel: Yeah, and to name your next album *Sorry for Party Rocking*.

Griffin: Yeah dude, like it's... Come on.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But also— They always say it's not parody except for they got sued by Rick Ross for like \$7 million because he claimed that the "Every day I'm shufflin'" line was stolen from a song of his has a line "Every day I'm hustlin'."

Rachel: Ohhh.

Griffin: And they argued like, "No, it's parody, it's fair use," but the judge apparently disagreed, and they were ruled against in that particular case.

Rachel: It does— I was like, “Why does that line always sound so familiar to me?” that is why.

Griffin: Yeah, huge Rick Ross fan of “Every day I’m hustlin’.”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I don’t know man, this song exists in this— and this band exists in this like liminal space of authenticity, right? You never can get a bead on LMFAO, in the way that you felt that you could with like a Lil Jon or a T-Pain.

Rachel: Lil Jon and T-Pain can come at— Their multi-talented, you know, diverse bodies of work that they have excelled in all these different directions, but there’s always this like... You know what they’re about, they have a sort of persona that they are very up front about.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That they kind of are. But Red Foo and Sky Blue, it’s always like, “Are you— Is this a bit? Like is it a bit?”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I was never willing to extend that much, I feel like, to them, which like at the end of the day, doesn’t fucking matter, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because I think this song is a bop, and I hear it three to four times a day.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: In the car ride to school, or—

Rachel: Oh you listen to it on the way to school now too?

Griffin: Yes, we do a pump-up jam for each boy on the drive to school, and Henry’s is always like, “I want the *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* theme.”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And Gus is like, “Party Rock Ant—,” or sorry, “Funky dance music!”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: “Every day I’m shufflin’!”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It doesn’t matter, right, that authenticity, it just adds to the mystique of this band that popped up, burned bright and fast like a dying star, was on the fucking Superbowl, and had the number one— number three digital single of all-time in the US, and the boop! Was gone. Was gone from our lives as quickly as they appeared.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And I find that very, very interesting.

Rachel: One might argue that very few people are shufflin’ now.

Griffin: I think it’s gonna come back around.

Rachel: You think there’ll be more shuffling in the future?

Griffin: I don’t think we’re gonna get out of this decade without an LMFAO reunion.

Rachel: Well that depends on the election, you know.

Griffin: The true— [wheezes] I mean I—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, probably maybe, as a lot of things are depending on the results.

Rachel: Look at your candidates in your area.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And figure out whether or not they are in support of shuffling.

Griffin: Yeah, it's— they're— I— Every— No-one's really committin' to it.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Because I think no-one really knows how to feel about shufflin'.

Rachel: Maybe shufflin' in moderation.

Griffin: Yes. But how can—

Rachel: Maybe that was too much shuffling.

Griffin: How can you fucking stop?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: How can you stop? Maybe they saw the music video for "Party Rock Anthem" and they thought it was like a warning.

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: Like, "If we get too into party rocking."

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: "We'll shuffle and turn into members of LMFAO."

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: "LMFAO" stands for "laughing my freaking ass off." If you're gonna say ass in it— That's what canonically the band acronym stands for, "laughing my freaking ass off."

Rachel: "Freaking?"

Griffin: If you're gonna say, "ass" already.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: You know what I mean? Anyway. Do you wanna know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Christina says, "I work at an animal hospital and my small wonder is animals with human names. Nothing makes a day better than meeting a dog named John, or a cat named Rebecca."

Rachel: That's really good.

Griffin: I do like it. There's so many— I'm not a pets guy so much anymore, but there's so many good ways to name a pet animal.

Rachel: Yeeees. I will still, and I know you do too, think of good pet names.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: I really should be keepin' track of these, 'cause maybe one day we'll have a pet again.

Griffin: I'm sure we will. I don't think that our two boys are going to allow us to raise them in this house without eventually getting an animal that will live with us.

Rachel: We've been lucky in that there— It's waves, right?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Like some— Like there's a week period where all of a sudden we're talking about a pet, and then.

Griffin: And it's usually after we have visited peeps in CC, and...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And Henry has, you know, realized he actually really likes dogs. I— We'll get it— We'll someday, I don't know.

Rachel: Someday.

Griffin: Tessa says, "My small wonder is that someone has installed a miniature Loch Ness monster in the lake near my house, so every time I drive to or from home, I see a little Nessie poking up out of the water. Sometimes a heron sits on its head, which is a bonus wonder."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I like that, I like a bonus wonder mixed in there.

Rachel: That's great!

Griffin: I feel like I'd get a little scared sometimes though. That's a plesiosaur, that's a big beast.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: And if I go jet... skiing in the lake and I see a plesiosaur, I might freak out, crash my jet ski.

Rachel: You— I'm... The Loch Ness monster is canonically a plesiosaur?

Griffin: I mean basically.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: It— True believers are like—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: — "It could just be a plesiosaur," which was real.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: So you can't say the Loch Ness monster isn't real, it might be a real dinosaur. Hm.

Rachel: Hm!

Griffin: Didn't think about that, did you? Skeptics.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's it. That's it for our show, thank you so much for listening. Thanks 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.

Thanks to maximumfun.org for having us on the network, check out all the great shows they have poppin' over at maximumfun.org. You're gonna find something you really like, I guarantee it. Over at the McElroy merch store, mcelroymerch.com, we got a new Trav Nation long sleeve T-shirt that I—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: — that I adore. There's the *TAZ* Hunger dice set is back in stock, we got a *TAZ* 10th anniversary coin. [from a distance] Have you seen it, by the way?

Rachel: I mean I'm looking at it now that you're pointing it out.

Griffin: [from a distance] It's really nice. Look at— Feel that, it feels really good.

Rachel: It's got a good weight.

Griffin: Got a good heft to it.

Rachel: Ohhhh, that's really nice.

Griffin: Yeah, right?

Rachel: It's got all the campaigns around the corners of it.

Griffin: Mm-hmm, yeah. Anyway. It's all up at mcelroymerch.com. We got some shows coming up, next week in fact we're gonna be at Denver and Phoenix, so come out and see us, we're doing *MBMBaM* and *TAZ*.

We're gonna be comin' to Indianapolis and Milwaukee later in the year for sort of our last run of shows for 2024. If you go to bit.ly/mcelroytours, you can find out about tickets and all the information, so come check us totally out. That's it for this show. Now you're holding that coin in a sort of like... You're sort of...

Rachel: Like a Bond villain? [chuckles]

Griffin: You do look sort of like a villain at— Like you're playing baccarat or something.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: It's— And I see you kinda doin' a little fidgety spin with it. That's cool, baby.

Rachel: Yeah, no I mean this is arguably a very cool thing.

[faint metallic tinkle]

Griffin: Ooo, that sound it made, ooo.

Rachel: Oh, that was on my ring.

Griffin: Can you hit that right into the microphone? It's gonna be hard to recreate. That's good metal, folks. [chuckles]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [claps] Bye!

[outro theme music plays]

Maximum Fun.
A work-owned network...
Of artists-owned shows...
Supported directly by you.