

## Wonderful! 358: Ready to Rock Since Breakfast

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[theme music, “Money Won’t Pay” by bo en and Augustus plays]

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

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

**Rachel:** And this is *Wonderful!*

**Griffin:** [sings] Snoooow... [continues holding the note]

**Rachel:** [harmonizing on the long note, sings] Snoooow.

**Griffin:** That was pretty good.

**Rachel:** I harmonized with you!

**Griffin:** You did it actually pretty good! I thought we were gonna do a *White Christmas* thing, and then you did not disappoint.

**Rachel:** Oh no, I thought you were doing that song— Oh yeah, from *White Christmas*, yeah.

**Griffin:** From *White Christmas*.

**Rachel:** That’s what I was trying to do.

**Griffin:** That song’s so wild because it like immediately, I think it’s Rosemary Clooney—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** — the first thing that she puts up there is [sings] “I wanna wash my face and hair and hands in snow.” [normal] And it’s like you—

**Rachel:** And she says it over and over again. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Over and over, and it's— At some point you expect Bing to be like—

**Rachel:** "Wait wait wait."

**Griffin:** — "Are you sure about— You wanna wash your face and hair in snow?"

**Rachel:** "We're all talking about the like fun snow things that you would traditionally do." [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Bing's like [sings deeply] "I wanna go sledding," [normal] and she's like, "I'm washing my face and hair and hands..."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "In snow."

**Rachel:** Yeah, I have thought about that song a lot.

**Griffin:** Yeah, me too.

**Rachel:** And now any time anyone says the word "snow," I—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** — I launch into that.

**Griffin:** We got like I don't know, what was the final count?

**Rachel:** So—

**Griffin:** Like a lot of inches.

**Rachel:** The morning... that I checked, it was six inches and it was still snowing that day.

**Griffin:** I would say probably 10.

**Rachel:** So I mean I was gonna say eight.

**Griffin:** Eight to 10, for sure.

**Rachel:** Eight to 10, for sure.

**Griffin:** And then we're getting more this weekend. Just wild, wild.

**Rachel:** It's wild how quickly it started to feel normal, 'cause like Saturday— Friday and Saturday, they're saying like two to three inches.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I'm like, "Oh, that's nothing." [chuckles]

**Griffin:** "That's nothing at all." We're such like winter people now.

**Rachel:** I guess so.

**Griffin:** We weren't when we were in Texas, but I like it. I got a new coat. [sings] "I got a new coat." [normal] That's a small wonder, I got a new coat, it's nice.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I'm not gonna give the brand, but it's heavy as hell, it's like chain mail.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And it has a big furry hood, and it feels real nice.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** To wear out there, it feels like I'm ready.

**Rachel:** I never really saw the purpose for spending money on a nice like winter coat, 'cause I thought like you only wear it a few months out of the year, and I'm not really outside for very long, but.

**Griffin:** When I am outside, it's considerably better.

**Rachel:** Experiencing a nice coat, yeah, is a blessing.

**Griffin:** Is— It is nice. Yeah, no small wonders, just plain, the snow has been nice for us this year. The kids have been like really into it.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And had some fun times playing out there with them. And we're always stressed out about like doing enough stuff with them during the day on the weekend or a day off, so that like we all feel like we did something, and that they feel like we got a little bit of exercise, and got their energy out, and snow kinda like, I don't know.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Snow is very exhausting to be in, so.

**Rachel:** When the— Yeah, when the weather is just cold and it's just kind of miserable and dark.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like being outside just seems like a non-option.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But with snow, it's like well that's an activity in itself.

**Griffin:** Fu— Just another small wonder, if I can just rattle these off.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Microwave popcorn. I was gonna do a big wonder segment on it.

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah yeah yeah.

**Griffin:** And then you pointed out like—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** — there's probably not enough legs for that, and that's true. Also I've done non-microwave popcorn before.

**Rachel:** [through laughter] I know. [normal] This was a fun conversation last night where Griffin was like, "Heads up, I'm gonna do microwave popcorn," 'cause we both had been really into it lately, like it's—

**Griffin:** Like for like the past two days, this is hot off the presses.

**Rachel:** For years we had none in our house for— I don't know if it was like we were worried about waking up Gus or some—?

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

**Rachel:** We just stopped doing it, and it's returned in a great way.

**Griffin:** It rips, it tastes so good, so hot.

**Rachel:** And he's like, "Well I have done popcorn before." [chuckles] And I was like, "Do you think there's enough?"

**Griffin:** Probably not.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** We've been having nice nights watching the Blues absolutely go beast mode out there—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** — with a 6-2 win against the Ducks.

**Rachel:** I mean, now to be fair, they had lost two in a row prior to that, but.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But then they went— Well, the one before that they almost won. 'Cause they were up by quite a bit.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I watched that video, Monty the coach of the Blues just like sitting down.

**Rachel:** That I sent you?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Oh no no no, a different one.

**Griffin:** He's— No, it's that one, he sits down in front of the press and he's like, "I hope you guys are ready to rock."

**Rachel:** [laughs] Yeah!

**Griffin:** "We're ready to rock out there." And it's like, "How's Foska?" he's like, "He's ready to rock."

**Rachel:** [laughs] And then he said that he'd like been—

**Griffin & Rachel:** [simultaneously] – ready to rock—

**Rachel:** — since breakfast. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Doesn't mean anything, Monty, but the sure did. Do you have a small wonder?

**Rachel:** Um...

**Griffin:** You could talk about *Le Cercle*.

**Rachel:** Oh yeah yeah yeah! That's a great idea! We have been watching *The Circle: France*, we were kinda looking for something to watch, and... I was like, "You know, a season of *The Circle* would go down real smooth, and Netflix has France."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And it is a really good season.

**Griffin:** It's fantastic, I looked online like, "What's the good international season of *The Circle*?" and everyone suggested season one of *The Circle: France*. Everyone's playing really strategic.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** The cast is like really memorable I will say.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** You get to meet Ines, who was on *Perfect Match*, this most season—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** — recent season of North American *Perfect Match*, so get to see her origin story a little bit.

**Rachel:** Everybody's playing hard from like episode one, with the exception maybe of a pair of ladies who get eliminated and then complain. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** A pair of— They're older than everyone else there, and they're pretending to be like a 20—

**Rachel:** Their grandson.

**Griffin:** — a 21-year-old man, and they have no idea how to do it.

**Rachel:** [giggles] They do—

**Griffin:** They used the hashtag "what a gas"—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** — two different times, and everyone is like, "What?!" Yeah that's—

**Rachel:** Just immediately they're all like, "Oh, this is an older person."

**Griffin:** That show goes down so smooth.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So, so smooth. You go first this week.

**Rachel:** I do.

**Griffin:** What do you got?

**Rachel:** I have something that I'm gonna talk about in the context of hockey, but exists in other sports, and that is the hat trick.

**Griffin:** Oh yeah.

**Rachel:** I— This came to mind because the... other game we watched recently, Sodd, who has not scored many goals at all this season—

**Griffin:** That's Brandon Sodd, his Christian name, for those curious.

**Rachel:** [laughs] He got a hat trick.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** He hadn't scored— Like he scored hardly at all this season.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that was crazy, he was on such a dry spell, and then in one game, he just turned it on, and scored three goals.

**Rachel:** And the— when I looked at an article the next day, they referred to it as "a natural hat trick," and that is—

**Griffin:** That just—

**Rachel:** That is not something I'm familiar with, so I did some research. It is when a player scores three consecutive goals uninterrupted by any other player scoring for either team.

**Griffin:** Oh wow.

**Rachel:** So like he— for three goals, he was the only one scoring.



**Griffin:** That's wild.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I didn't know that that was a thing.

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** I thought a natural hat trick meant that one of them was not an open net, like a—

**Rachel:** That's what I assumed too.

**Griffin:** Like they had pulled their goalie.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But wow, that's a— that's even more of an accomplishment, it seems like.

**Rachel:** The record for the fastest natural hat trick is 21 seconds, set by Bill Mosekan— Mosienko, Bill Mosienko in 1952 for the Chicago Black Hawks.

**Griffin:** How do—

**Rachel:** 21 seconds.

**Griffin:** How do you get across the ice that fast?

**Rachel:** That must be right off the face off.

**Griffin:** Right off the face off.

**Rachel:** Just boom.

**Griffin:** A freak shot, three times in a row.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So a hat trick, and I'm sure most people are familiar with it, but it's just when you get like three points in a row, or three like— It's used in cricket also. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Oh interesting.

**Rachel:** Do you wanna hear what I means in cricket?

**Griffin:** I mean my— Are you okay if my eyes glaze over and roll back in my head while you explain it?

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** 'Cause I will never understand how cricket works.

**Rachel:** It is when you take three wickets with three consecutive deliveries. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yes. Fantastic.

**Rachel:** But yeah, in hockey it's three goals by the same player.

**Griffin:** You gotta— Here's a thing I didn't understand about hockey, and I ima— I— you know, I definitely don't understand it about soccer either, is that scoring a goal is really, really hard. And most players don't do it every game. Almost everyone doesn't do it every game, that would be completely insane.

People who get like long streaks of scoring goals in consecutive games is like a freak occurrence worth sort of celebrating, and turns them into all stars. So the idea of being able to do it three times in one game.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It does not happen often at all, it is a very rare occurrence.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean most hockey games are relatively low scoring, like it's not typical for a team to score over for goals in a game.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So to get three is kind of remarkable.

**Griffin:** Yeah, exactly.

**Rachel:** The like record, unsurprisingly, goes to Wayne Gretzky.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Who got 50 hat tricks in his career.

**Griffin:** I saw an image, and I don't know if it was doctored, but it was Wayne Greski holding up the like white poster board that said, "You miss every shot you don't take, Wayne Gretzky, Michael Scott."

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And he'd written "Wayne Gretzky" underneath "Michael Scott" again. I don't know if that was doctored.

**Rachel:** Yeah right.

**Griffin:** A doctored photograph or not.

**Rachel:** Holding up signs is a big pocket of like [chuckles] boomer memes.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Oh, absolutely.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** 'Cause you'll see Robert Downey Jr holding up a sign, and it's like, "Oh, he— Robert Downey Jr. really likes Olestra," like what?

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's wild.

**Rachel:** It's pretty amazing like niche in the internet. I always love it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, "Sigourney Weaver really likes these THC gummies?"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "The sign says it, so it's gotta be true."

**Rachel:** "Dwayne the Rock Johnson is really invested in Toyota? That's strange."

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Now the idea that Toyota would do this is interesting to me.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I betchu he celebrates Toyota on—

**Rachel:** Well, so it was Calvin peeing on Honda.

**Griffin:** Ah, I see, I see, I see.

**Rachel:** And then Calvin hugging Toyota. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Calvin hugging Toyota?

**Rachel:** I like this new idea I just had. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Of just Calvin...

**Rachel:** To put a positive spin on the crude.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like car decal of Calvin peeing on something.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Let's do some Calvin— [laughs]

**Griffin:** It's Calvin cleaning pee off of a Honda logo.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** What are we talking about? What are we doing?

**Rachel:** Oh, is it too late to make that our MaxFun pin? [laughs]

**Griffin:** [cackles]

**Rachel:** Will you contact somebody and see if we can get that?

**Griffin:** Yeah, let me contact Bill fucking Waterson.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Just to get the sign off on this. It'd be the first time anyone's ever contacted him to get the sign off on a piece of Calvin related merchandise.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But seems like the right thing to do, support the arts.

**Rachel:** Okay, so why is it called a hat trick? There's a lot of lore around this, but the story that I kept seeing over and over again is there was a... hat company in Canada that was offering free hats to players who scored three goals.

**Griffin:** Pretty good deal, I guess.

**Rachel:** So there was a company called Biltmore Hat Company that sponsored a junior affiliate team of the New York Rangers called the Biltmore Mad Hatters.

**Griffin:** Cool fuckin' name.

**Rachel:** When the Mad Hatters player recorded a hat trick, hats were thrown on the ice, and the player received a new Biltmore fedora.

**Griffin:** Well they're the Mad Hatters, they gotta get hats.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** This all makes sense all of a sudden.

**Rachel:** No, but it's important that you know that it was a new Biltmore fedora after the game. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So not a hockey hat.

**Rachel:** No, just a fedora.

**Griffin:** Traditionally.

**Rachel:** Just a nice fedora.

**Griffin:** That's awesome. Hockey would be a lot cooler if all the guys were out there just wearin' nice fedoras, I think. Just tippin' 'em to each other as they pass on the ice.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] I know, it becomes like a thing.

**Griffin:** Suffering terrible, terrible head wounds.

**Rachel:** [laughs] There are other kinds of hat tricks, I mentioned the natural hat trick. The Gordie Howe hat trick.

**Griffin:** My favorite!

**Rachel:** You know what's interesting about it?

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Rachel:** Okay so, the Gordie Howe hat trick is when you get an assist, you get a goal, and you get into a fight all in the same game.

**Griffin:** So— The— When I learned about this, it made me fall a little bit deeper in love with hockey.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's extraordinarily rare, right? Like you'll—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Usually you don't see more than one fight a game, if any. The idea that that player would assist—

**Rachel:** Well usually—

**Griffin:** — and score in the same game.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Is like I've only seen it happen I think two or three times while I've been watching.

**Rachel:** Well your like primary fighters are typically defensemen, right.

**Griffin:** Right, sure.

**Rachel:** Like the goal scorers are not always— So the thing that's interesting about that is that Gordie Howe himself only recorded two in his career. The record—

**Griffin:** I don't know who Gordie Howe is, what team was he on?

**Rachel:** Oh, he's like one of the most famous, accomplished hockey players ever.

**Griffin:** I mean I know the name, but I don't know his career, because obviously that was way before I was following hockey.

**Rachel:** I mean he played for a few teams. The Detroit Red Wings.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** The Hartford Whalers.

**Griffin:** Fuck yes.

**Rachel:** And then a team called the Houston Aeros, A-E-R-O-S.

**Griffin:** That's a cool name too. I bet you Hodgman's got ahead of that team.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] And... the person that has the most Gordie Howe hat tricks was actually a player called Rick Toche, who did it 18 times in his career.

**Griffin:** 18 times!

**Rachel:** Yeah right, like it had to get to a point where he would get a goal and an assist, and then just go lookin' for a fight. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I haven't like looked up statistics on this, but it feels like fighting is considerably less common—

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** — these days than it was back in like the '90s.

**Rachel:** Yes, it used to be multiple times a game. Like it was unusual to not see a fight.

**Griffin:** And I have to imagine that is because a— there has been a tightening up of what is permitted.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean they don't let 'em play anymore, you know, the refs. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Well fighting is explicitly not pla—

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** Not player— Like whenever there's a fight, everyone kinda stops playing for a little while.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah yeah, you're right.

**Griffin:** But it's— I don't know, it's always fucking wild whenever it does happen.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I never thought that would be a part of this sport that I enjoy.

**Rachel:** I know.

**Griffin:** But it is— It usually happens—



**Rachel:** It's—

**Griffin:** — because it— of some sort of retaliatory, like, "You got a really nasty hit on one of our little forwards—"

**Rachel:** Yeah, one—

**Griffin:** "— so I'm gonna beat the shit out of you."

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Seems to start it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, and/or like, "Our team is trailing and the crowd has gone completely quiet."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** "And we'd like to rally them." Now when we say, "fight," it's very rare that somebody comes out of that thing with significant like face damage, you know.

**Griffin:** No, they just—

**Rachel:** Like it isn't gruesome.

**Griffin:** They tussle.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's more of a tussle.

**Rachel:** As soon as a player falls to the ice, they like break it up.

**Griffin:** They stop it, yeah.

**Rachel:** Okay, [giggles] and then there's one I had never heard of called "a rat trick."

**Griffin:** A rat trick!

**Rachel:** This is recent, this is 1995, and I've gotta— This story is so amazing. Okay, so the Florida Panthers captain, Scott Mellanby, killed a rat in the Panthers locker room.

**Griffin:** What?

**Rachel:** With his hockey stick.

**Griffin:** Why?

**Rachel:** I mean it—

**Griffin:** What's wrong with him?

**Rachel:** It was probably a rat in there that was, you know, freakin' everybody out, and like maybe causin' some damage, and so he...

**Griffin:** Killed it with a hockey stick?

**Rachel:** With his hockey stick, yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** And then went on to score two goals later that night.

**Griffin:** So they said the rat was one. The rat counts as one, and then the traditional goals is the other two, completing the three.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** I guess that sucks, I think actually. If you hit a hotdog really hard with your hockey stick—

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** — and then go out and score two goals, you wouldn't be like, "He got a hot dog trick today."

**Rachel:** Well, here's what happened after. Some Florida fans threw plastic rats onto the ice, that they continued all the way through the 1996 playoffs.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** Which I don't know how everybody had plastic rats.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Were they like giveaways? I have to imagine they were giveaways.

**Griffin:** It's— It sounds like some sort of like union making a statement.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** About like strike— hockey strike busting.

**Rachel:** Anyway, the league eventually banned the activity and modified a rule—

**Griffin:** Rat killing?

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's a good one to ban.

**Rachel:** To impose a minor penalty against the home team for violation.

**Griffin:** Of what?

**Rachel:** I think for throwing things that aren't hats onto the ice in mass quantity.

**Griffin:** So you think— But then they would get a penalty for it?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That's weird.

**Rachel:** Well, it's just a way to discourage fans from like how are you gonna get them to stop, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah, I guess that's true.

**Rachel:** Like you can't— If a thousand people do it, you can't kick everybody out, you know?

**Griffin:** I guess that's true, yeah.

**Rachel:** The other thing I will just say is that after the play is stopped and the hats are collected, they are either turned over to charity, or the player that scores the hat trick has the option of choosing a couple hats. Apparently Alex Ovechkin, who has over 30 hat tricks in his career.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** By the way. Is said to be fond of looking through the pile and picking out one or two nice ones.

**Griffin:** I bet that's nice. But so there's no— They don't like put 'em by the exit, like in a big trash can and you can root through 'em if you want?

**Rachel:** At the Canadian Tire Center in Ottawa, the centers keep the hats for two weeks at guests services, and offer them back to the fans as long as they can properly identify them.

**Griffin:** That's sweet.

**Rachel:** That's like the most Canadian thing I've ever heard, and I love it.

**Griffin:** I know, I know.

**Rachel:** Anyway, that's the hat trick.

**Griffin:** I love it.

**Rachel:** Me too.

**Griffin:** I didn't know there were so many variations on it.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] I know.

**Griffin:** Can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

[*Home Improvement* transition music plays]

[ad break]

**Griffin:** I want to talk about the powerful, mighty, majestic Canadair CL415 Super Scooper firefighting airplane.

**Rachel:** Whoaaaaa.

**Griffin:** I— We are— We record this show—

**Rachel:** There were so many words you said there before I knew what you were talking about. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Yeah. We record this show well— like well in advance of when it comes out, so I don't know what the current status of the LA wildfires are.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Obviously, it is horrifying now.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And more or less everybody that I know who lives in LA—

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** — has been effected by it. And so when this episode comes out, I don't know what the current status of it is going to be, I know it is going to take a very long time to recover from. There's a lot of mutual aid organizations, you can go to [mutualaidla.org](https://mutualaidla.org) has a lot of resources if you wanna provide them, or if you need them.

But one thing that they— that has been used to sort of combat the flames this week has been firefighting aircrafts, specifically the Canadair CL415. Which is colloquially known— That's a tough word.

**Rachel:** Colloquially.

**Griffin:** Colloquially known as “the Super Scooper,” which our neighbors to the north have flown down to help us out. Firefighting airplanes, as a concept, have been around for about a century, which I was surprised by.

**Rachel:** Wow.

**Griffin:** They were originally like retired or salvaged World War II aircraft.

**Rachel:** Yeah, that makes sense.

**Griffin:** They had some of those lyin’ around, and so in a pretty like slapdash manner, they would modify those planes and like put big tanks on them in a kind of ad hoc manner. And then they’d be able to dump, you know, a couple hundred gallons of water before having to go back—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** — and refuel and refill.

**Rachel:** I mean if a plane is built to hold weaponry, like it can probably handle a large amount of water too.

**Griffin:** Yes, but not a ton, right? Because there’s so many— In researching this topic, the number of kind of like design... and aeronautical considerations that go into... making a firefighting aircraft is like mindboggling.

The first and sort of most... I don’t know. [chuckles] Problematic issue is that when you dump a bunch of weight off of an airplane, it flies different pretty fast.

**Rachel:** Ohhh.

**Griffin:** And like having to like design around it.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So like these old aircraft were not designed to do this thing, they were very much retrofitted.

And so in... the '60s, there was a company, I mean it's still around, called Canadair, that was contracted to design and manufacture a specialized firefighting airplane, which they worked on for several years, and then at the 1965 Paris Air Show, they revealed their design, which was the CL215. Otherwise known as the Super Scooper.

It could be more accurately classified as a flying boat, right?

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** 'Cause it is a seaplane, and it's fucking enormous! It's so big. It's so big, with these two huge engines and these long, really high wings. And it's designed for sort of like slower flying, right. It's not going to be making any like [chuckles] transatlantic commuter flights any time soon.

It's designed for like slower flying through high winds, and you know, dangerous conditions. They had all these problems to solve for. Corrosion is one of them, right?

**Rachel:** [sighs] Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like this is an airplane that [chuckles] scoops up a lot of salty water.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And like how do you provide enough thrust to lift, you know, a thousand or so gallons of water into the air over and over and over and over again. There's all these logistical concerns.

So the CL215 was like expensive as hell, Canadair's like initial production run of the aircraft that was then like sort of picked up in several provinces throughout Canada, and other places around the world, the original line was just 30 planes.

But the result was like a sky boat that could fly twice as fast as like other firefighting craft available at the time, while carrying about 1400 gallons of water, which is so, so much water.

But the true genius of the CL215 design, and it's the same as like the current model as well, is how it earned its name "the Super Scooper." It would drop its payload on a blaze, which it could do in less than a second.

**Rachel:** Wow.

**Griffin:** Which is a lot. The plane could then make a water landing, but keep the engines running, keep moving forward. It would scoop up another 1440 gallons of water in about 12 seconds.

**Rachel:** Wooooow.

**Griffin:** And then it would be back up off the water, back up into the sky.

**Rachel:** Are there videos of this? Did you watch videos of this?

**Griffin:** There are.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I watched a lot of videos of this.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And it's— it is very, very cool. Because you see them come down, make a sea landing, they're on the water for like 20 seconds total, and then they're back up. Each run just takes several minutes, just depending on like—

**Rachel:** Yeeeeeah. Wooooow.

**Griffin:** — how far inland they're having to fly. But then when they do fly inland, they're flying into smoke and 90 mile and hour gusts of wind.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Wow.

**Griffin:** The front of the plane, I was reading, is like made of really thick aluminum, like heavy aluminum, because you know, if you're land-locked, you can't go into the ocean, so sometimes you're scooping up water from a lake, which might have shallows—



**Rachel:** Oh yeah.

**Griffin:** — might have like old tree stumps buried under the water—

**Rachel:** Wow.

**Griffin:** — that you have to kind of like smash through. These things are monsters that are capable of this like remarkable logistical feat, and it genuinely does look very, very cool when they do what they do.

But they're able to make these trips, like within the span of a few minutes, over and over and over and over again without ever having to stop at an airfield. And so they are really, really, incredibly effective at what they do.

I was watching videos of them and reading comments, and the comments were almost all from people who were like, "This thing saved my home."

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** "Like we were in the middle of this terrible wildfire, and then we started to see this like giant, you know, albatross in the sky just dumping an entire, you know, lake onto the forest."

**Rachel:** I know, I can't imagine the impact and the sound that that makes. Like when a— that much water falls from the sky.

**Griffin:** Yeah. That's—

**Rachel:** Like that's the thing that I like had the hardest time wrapping my mind around.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like and what is this sensa— Like what is the sensation of that?

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

**Rachel:** I don't know, it's wild to think about.

**Griffin:** So in the early '90s, they continue to kinda iterate on the 215, and like whenever some knew aeronautical kind of innovation happened, they would sort of adapt the line a little bit. But then in the early '90s, they made the successor, the CL415, which is what is going around right now, and what has been in LA.

They made some additions, there's a stronger turbo prop engine, it can go faster and it's more maneuverable. They added air conditioning in the cockpit, which I read and I was like, "That's silly," but then I thought "I bet it gets pretty hot actually—"

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** "— in there."

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So the 415 Super Scooper is what you see out there fighting the LA fires. One of them is grounded right now. There's two on loan from Canada, one of them is grounded because some dipshit flew a drone into it.

**Rachel:** Oh my god.

**Griffin:** And so now they're having to repair it. Big ups to whoever did that federal crime, fuckin' idiot, but— So in 2016, a different company called Viking Air acquired the sort of like CL415 line, and has been working on the successor, the CL515, which is going to be faster and have more capacity.

It is expected to go into production in the next couple of years. But again, like these are not widely... created or circulated aircraft, because the CL415 costs \$30 million to produce.

**Rachel:** Oh my god.

**Griffin:** Because it has to have all of these different like insane specifications to it in order to accomplish this feat.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Well I wonder too about the pilot training for that, 'cause I have to imagine that is a very specialized skill.

**Griffin:** Where within the span of one second, the weight differential of the chan—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** — plane changes—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** — by 12,000 pounds.

**Rachel:** Jeez.

**Griffin:** It is like crazy to think! My knowledge of aviation is so limited, and—

**Rachel:** Yeah, sure.

**Griffin:** — and so like— But it— [chuckles] My assumption is always like, you know, it is really hard to get things up off the ground, and so you have to factor in all of these different kind of like elements of weight and—

**Rachel:** Yeah. I mean if you think about just like a commercial airplane, you know how sometimes they talk about like, “We have too much weight on this side of the plane.”

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Oh right, exactly.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Like that’s just people riding.

**Griffin:** This is an aircraft that can... pick up and drop off 12,000 pounds of water—

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Griffin:** — really, really, really quickly, and it is just really, really fuckin’ good at what it does, and it’s very cool to see it in action. So hopefully that second one gets back up off the ground soon, and hopefully by the

time, you know, this episode comes out, the wildfires will be, you know, under control.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And recovery can really start. Again, that link is [mutualfundla.org](https://mutualfundla.org), there's so many different ways to help out people who have been affected by the wildfires, and I encourage you to go to that link and find an option that you could maybe use, or if you're in need of something, there is no shortage of resources out there for people who need it. Do you wanna know what our friends at home are talking about?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Sarah say, "My small wonder's the process of peeling and eating a mandarin orange. My fingers smell like citrus after, it is always perfect inside, and when I separate those tiny sections and pop them in my mouth, it makes me feel like a giant eating a regular-sized orange." I wanna eat a mandarin orange right now.

**Rachel:** Wow, I'm really noticing the way you say that fruit.

**Griffin:** Orange?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Orange.

**Rachel:** I think I say, "orange."

**Griffin:** Orange.

**Rachel:** And you just say, "orange."

**Griffin:** Orange. I didn't—

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I— Can I say something? When I was saying it just now, I also was like, "That's weird."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Am I saying it different now?

**Rachel:** I don't know, I've never noticed it.

**Griffin:** Orange. Let me—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Hand me the orange paint. Hand me the orange paint. Orange."

**Rachel:** I think it's just an Appalachian thing.

**Griffin:** Yeah, maybe.

**Rachel:** I think it's how deep into your lineage you wanna go.

**Griffin:** It comes out a lot, I've noticed, these days.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I don't know why.

**Rachel:** You're tired? Probably just when you're tired.

**Griffin:** And it's so— When I'm tired, yeah. When I'm tir'd.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Arlo says, "My small wonder this week is Ana Gasteyer. Relistening to early eps of *Death Blart* reminding me just how great she is, and I've been spending my holidays rewatching some of her great performances. Strongly recommend *Reefer Madness the Musical* if you haven't seen it."

**Rachel:** Ohhh, we haven't seen it.

**Griffin:** I've seen *Reefer Madness*.

**Rachel:** Okay, well I haven't. Well, I haven't seen the musical.

**Griffin:** Uhhhh, [mutters] I've seen *Reefer Madness the Musical*.

**Rachel:** Okay, well yeah, I probably should've guessed. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, we watched a Christmas movie called *A Clusterfunk Christmas*.

**Rachel:** Yeeeeeah.

**Griffin:** That is like a parody of Hallmark Christmas movies—

**Rachel:** I—

**Griffin:** — that Ana Gasteyer and Rachel Dratch made.

**Rachel:** It's definitely gonna be in the rotation, it's a kind of amazing— I feel like for a few years now, we have found a new holiday film—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** — that we will bring with us into future Christmases.

**Griffin:** I— Yeah, I think it mostly hits. It's not like amazing, perfect.

**Rachel:** There's a lot of jokes per minute, like.

**Griffin:** There's a lot of— The JPM is pretty high.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Griffin:** But whenever I see Ana Gasteyer show up during my annual watches of *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*—

**Rachel:** And Rachel Dratch.

**Griffin:** Well *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*.

**Rachel:** I know, I know.

**Griffin:** Rachel Dratch sadly not in *Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2*, but Ana Gasteyer is, and is— she's hysterical. Hey, thank for listening. Thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the description.

Thanks to MaximumFun for havin' us on the network. Go check out [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) and see all the great shows they've got happenin' over there, and find a new one for you just to fall in love with.

We have announced our first tour dates! Of 2025, we're going to be doing *MBMBaM* and *TAZ* in Tampa in February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and then February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we're gonna be doing *MBMBaM* in Jacksonville, Florida. Tickets go on sale— Well they're on sale now, actually, by the time you hear this.

Go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours) and see if there's any available for the city near you. We got new episodes of *Clubhouse*, *Clubhouse* is back, you can watch Travis recap—

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** — all of the first season of *Yellowstone* for an hour and 45 minutes, it's much more entertaining than it sounds. And we have some new merch up in the merch store. We have an energies dragon pin, featuring our dad from the *McElroy Family Clubhouse*.

And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. That's all at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). Thank you for listening! And join us again next week and we'll have more great stuff for you, coming, right— coming soon.

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

**Griffin:** Stay— Don't touch the dial. And don't ever listen to another podcast.

**Rachel:** Wow, alright.

**Griffin:** Don't even think about it. Except for all the— other— our ones.

**Rachel:** You know what I think about a lot when we're trying to end an episode?

**Griffin:** What?

**Rachel:** I mean how would Clint McElroy do it? I mean he had years and years in radio. Do you recall?

**Griffin:** I mean he worked at a radio station, so he'd just give the call sign, right?

**Rachel:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** So keep— [in a radio host voice] Stay tuned to... Good Times, Great Country.

[theme music fades in]

**Griffin:** [in a radio host voice] W— 103.3, WTCR.

**Rachel:** There you go, that could be our sign off.

**Griffin:** I just gave myself chills.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

[outro theme music plays]

[ukulele chord]

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