

Wonderful! 410: A Wet Napkin and A Sticky Drink

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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 podcast where we talk about things that we like, that's... good—*heh*... that we're into. Got winded mid-intro—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Don't even worry about it. I'm busy boy, aren't I?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I never toot this horn, but I'm busy boy this week, aren't I?

Rachel: You just flew in from Connecticut.

Griffin: I just flew in from Connecticut and I'm heading back out the door to Boston in two days.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Such as the life of an author.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Such as an author's life.

Rachel: Hey, this is the week.

Griffin: Yes, this is the week, it is the day this episode comes out. My new book, *The Stowaway*, a Choose Your Own Adventure adventure will have been out for 24 hours.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Maybe you've gotten it in.

Rachel: You got that call from Oprah yet?

Griffin: I have not gotten the Oprah call quite yet!

Rachel: What about Reese Witherspoon?

Griffin: Yes, but I had to turn her down.

Rachel: Oh. Jenna Bush Hager?

Griffin: That one, you know, all day, let's go.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] Unproblematic fave, let's fuckin' party.

Rachel: Those are the book clubs I can think of.

Griffin: There's the three big ones, yeah, for sure.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Hey, it would be so cool if you would pick up that book. Not you, Rachel.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: We have like 50 copies here at the house. But you listening at home, bit.ly/griffinstowaway. That was the pre-order link, but now there's probably lots of just order links out there.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You might just be able to even find it in a store, or whatever.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But first week of book sales, they're so important.

Rachel: And if not, you can go to your local bookstore, and I bet they would order it for you, because that's a thing that local bookstores do.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure. Anyway, I hate to self-promote, but—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: You know, it's—that's the life of an author.

Rachel: You'll feel more comfortable when you promote your next book.

Griffin: Yes. I mean, we do have another book coming out in July.

Rachel: That's true.

Griffin: So, that is—there's an element of truth to that.

Rachel: Yes, but I meant—I meant you.

Griffin: Me—

Rachel: In your solo career.

Griffin: My next solo... who knows? Who knows what it'll be? What genre haven't I tapped yet, biography? Hm...

Rachel: You haven't done any like history, like historical.

Griffin: Historical biography.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles] Do something about Mark Twain.

Griffin: I'll do something about Craig Twain, his little brother.

Rachel: Ooh?

Griffin: Not a lot of people know about Craig Twain.

Rachel: You know his real name was Samuel Clemens?

Griffin: Yes, but his little brother was named Craig Twain Clemens.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's where he got the name Twain from, it was his little brother's middle name.

Rachel: Canonically.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Hey, do you have any Small Wonders, my love?

Rachel: I have what I think is really getting back to the roots of the Small Wonder.

Griffin: Oh? Heck yeah.

Rachel: Which is when you have something big in the fridge that's taking up a lot of space, and then you like eat it or throw it away, and then you have this big chunk of space in the fridge again.

Griffin: Yes. So good. *Love* getting groceries, bringing them home, and having some big items in there, you know?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And going like, gosh, how am I gonna—but then you open it up and there's a—there is a cavity for it.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: There's a cavity waiting for that rotisserie chicken.

Rachel: Mm-hm. [titters]

Griffin: Or what's another big thing that goes in the fridge?

Rachel: Like a big salad.

Griffin: Like a big salad.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I love that too, babe.

Rachel: I mean, mostly, it's leftovers that I'm talking about, like when you finally tear it down, and then you've got new real estate in there.

Griffin: Yeah, I love it.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: You know, I gotta talk about Pokopia! I don't think I've talked to you about Pokopia at all.

Rachel: No. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's the new Pokémon game, just came out on Friday. Only, get this, in this one, you are a Pokémonn. You're Ditto, the blob who can transform.

Rachel: How has it taken them this long?

Griffin: It hasn't!

Rachel: Okay?

Griffin: They've done games where you've been Pokémon before, but in this one—

Rachel: But like just Pikachu? Or like any Pokémon you wanted?

Griffin: In this—I mean, they've done so many games where you can be Pokémon. There's like a whole series called Pokémon—

Rachel: Oh, okay. Ditto is perfect—

Griffin: Ditto is perfect! And Ditto looks like his old trainer who he's trying to find. He like disguises himself as a human, and then tries to rebuild the world of Pokémon, where everybody has gone missing and all the Pokémon have gone missing. You gotta put the—all their habitats back together, and then the Pokémon come and they live with you! You can build little houses for 'em, it's like—

Rachel: Is this a—is this like an adorable game?

Griffin: It's so adorable!

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But it's also so addicting, because you're just like constantly like, you know, freakin' Maychoke will show up and be like, "I can't find my friend, Graveler." And you'll be like, "I'll find him." And you find him, and then you build the two of them at a little house together.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Where they can live in—not in sin, in happy, in bliss.

Rachel: [chuckles] So, if you know—a lot of times like knowing a Pokémon's like type comes in handy when you're playing these games.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: If like a Pokémon is water type, will you like find 'em chilling by a lake?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Really?

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: Oh, wow.

Griffin: You'll have to like, you'll have to grow some grass like by a lake. And it'll be like, that's its own little habitat. And then you'll get a little Pokédex notice that's like, "Hey, this is where Squirtle likes to kick it."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And then Squirtle will show up and be like, "Hey, I live here now. Let me know if you need any mud cleaned up or anything like that."

Rachel: What about the weird ones? There's like these weird types that like aren't habitat-based.

Griffin: I mean, yeah, there's—

Rachel: Like if it's psychic type, where do you find it?

Griffin: There's some like fighting type one, is like you have to find like a training speed bag, and put that next to a bench.

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: And then Hitmonchan will show up and be like, "Nice, a place to train, and then to sit."

Rachel: What about psychic type, though?

Griffin: I don't think I've found any psychic type Pokémon yet. But there's weird shit in the game, like you—I'm sure there'll be a way of like, you know, you put spoons—

Rachel: You go into like a little fortune teller's place.

Griffin: Yeah, you put a little crystal ball next to a—next to a spoon, next to a deck of cards, and then it's like—

Rachel: Are you impressed how long I've talked about Pokémon with you?

Griffin: Are you impressed how long I've talked about Pokémon with you?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I tried very hard to avoid... Yeah, it's really—it's really great! It's really, really truly excellent.

Rachel: It sounds adorable.

Griffin: It is, but—it is adorable, but it is also like, I don't know, the systems and like.. how it allows you to build houses just out of anything, and then tailor it to Pokémon's like specific like needs and stuff is like actually pretty dank like gameplay stuff. So—

Rachel: Does Henry like it? Has he played it yet?

Griffin: He's on the fence. I think he—I think the problem is, honestly, it's on Switch 2 only, and we only have one of those.

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: So, I took it with me. So, I think maybe if he had some time to sink into it. But like, I don't want to buy another Switch 2, man...

Rachel: No, please don't.

Griffin: I might have to, babe!

Rachel: No, no...

Griffin: I might have to, babe! When that new Pokémon, when Winds and Waves comes out, the next generation of Pokémon game, you know we're gonna have to have two Switches 2s—

Rachel: And when is that coming out?

Griffin: I don't know, 2027 sometime.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But why not—

Rachel: By then, they'll be like—

Griffin: Why not—

Rachel: 50 bucks. [chuckles]

Griffin: No way, dude! I go first this week.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: This one's so specific, gang. I really struggled to find like the words for the title of it, so I'm going to take a drink of my La Croix before I even attempt it. When you catch a bartender or server on what seems like a great shift.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: This could technically, I guess, apply to any person in any kind of like service industry. But for the purposes of this segment, I'd like to hone in on the experience of like, when you have a bartender experience and you can tell they're doing good. And the experience leaves you feeling like a million bucks.

Rachel: [chuckles] I have so many questions.

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: Because I guess I'm trying to narrow in on what the indicators of that might be.

Griffin: There's lots of indicators, and—

Rachel: Because sometimes people are just like friendly, and they're able to like turn it on, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, and that's, again, like I'm not so much focusing on that, right? Because I'm also not saying that like this is anything outside the norm, or that bartenders aren't usually friendly folks. It's more about like a celebration of the circumstance of like when a restaurant isn't busy or a bar isn't busy, and you are there, and the bartender is just like super cool to you, and seems to be having a good time with his co-workers or her co-workers.

Like, that shit's really great. This is a very—I was at the Hartford airport Saturday night, flying home from a show that we did at UMass Amherst. And I had like three hours before my flight, so I went to this charming little gastro pub to get a chicken sandwich, at a little diner called Beer Code. And there was just like me and two other people dining there—I was sitting at the bar. And there was just a bartender and a server there, and they were just like shooting this shit and watching a hockey game that was like up on the TV.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And you know, doing their stuff like cleaning up and you know, counting out the register or whatever.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But they were just like chatting and having a good time. And then like the bartender was very like... you know, he was—paid a lot of attention to my needs, and made sure I got the chicken sandwich that I needed very, very quickly. And he also kept calling me "bud." [yells out] Oh, god!

Rachel: Oh, god, that's good.

Griffin: Do you see what—are you start—am I painting an accurate picture now?

Rachel: Yeah. Know what it reminds me of, honestly? So, I got secret shopped once when I was working at the Barnes and Noble coffee shop.

Griffin: Oh, nice.

Rachel: And I was working with this guy who was real like puppy dog-like, like just very kind of like, like happy and bouncy. And so, we were talking, and I'm like helping people with orders, and we're like having fun. And then later the secret shopper like talked about like, "Woman is distracted by co-workers."

Griffin: Oh my god!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's horrible!

Rachel: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, it was a Barnes and Noble coffee shop. It's crazy to me, like—

Griffin: What kind of like stoic crafts—dedication to the craft they demand at the Barnes and Noble.

Rachel: Yeah, I don't know. I mean, when I was there, they served Starbucks products and it was like a real big deal of like, we have to maintain this quality of the brand. [chuckles]

Griffin: Best behavior, sure. Yeah, I guess that makes more sense now.

Rachel: But anyway, I know exactly what you're talking about, and I also love it. I love it! It's happy.

Griffin: And it's like, it's always good when you have that feeling of like, someone in the service industry was nice to me. But like to me, this is like a layer beyond that. Like a layer of sort of empathy where I cannot imagine how challenging I guess being a bartender in general is, right? There's a lot of sort of social interactions that I imagine that job requires of you, at a baseline job requirement level, that I simply would not be able to contend with. I am not good around people who are like fucked up in a very serious way.

Rachel: Yes, yes, like unpredictable.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And like, and you don't have a lot of protection in that role, generally.

Griffin: Yes. And then layer on top of that, you are working at a—at an airport restaurant, right? Where like already people are going to be on edge more often than not, right?

Rachel: Yeah, no kidding.

Griffin: So, and then you can combine those two things. And I imagine it's like really, really a tough gig sometimes. But I feel like also this experience I'm describing has happened to me more at airports than in other places.

Rachel: Huh?

Griffin: And I think that's just sort of by nature of like the foot traffic patterns that they get, like maybe there's just not a bunch of arrivals or departures coming in around this time. So just like, the place is—the place is absolutely dead.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I actually feel a lot of pressure in these situations to like not fuck up the vibe. Like I don't want to get—as a customer, I don't want to get in the way of like the very chill shift that you're having. So like, I want to tell them like, "Hey, don't stress about—my flight's not for three hours. You guys are vibing."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "You're watching this Rangers-Devils game and like you're having a great time. I'm loving the vibe. You're like including me a little bit sometimes."

Rachel: They're like, "Hey, bud."

Griffin: "You're calling me bud a lot, like I'm feeling so good, you do not need to—do not need to stress about me, please."

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: But I worry that that energy would also make them uncomfortable, that kind of like hyper obsequious—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like, "Please, please, just ignore me, I'm not here."

Rachel: "I'm the cool customer!" [chuckles]

Griffin: "I'm the cool customer, so just do—do bad at your job for me, so you can party, please."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: There is like, at the same time, there's the inverse of—I don't know that there's any human behavior—I shouldn't say that, there's lots of human behaviors that I would find like absolutely disgusting.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But like, I have no patience for people who are like weirdly dicks to their food and beverage service professionals.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because one, like come on, man. Like, we're all just trying to get through the day, there is absolutely no need for that. But two, like why would you try and make someone's shift that much harder? Why would you try to make someone's work day that much harder?

Rachel: I think there are people that have just never worked in any kind of service role ever, and they probably like grew up around people that carried that kind of like rudeness with them, and they've just kind of learned it as the way that you do things. Because I feel like anyone that has ever worked any kind of like retail or service job is aware of like, you're not making any decisions. Like, you don't have any authority, and you're pretty much treated as replaceable.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: In any position. And so like, when people are angry at you, you're like, this is not the right place to do that. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah! I mean, the thing that I think is particularly gross is this feeling of like, "I'm out at a restaurant where I am paying for the food and service, so I want to be the pampered prince of the—"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "If everything is not to my exact specifications—that is your job here!" It's—

Rachel: "This is my special airport reference."

Griffin: Right, it's like...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: So dehumanized. It's like really, it's so gross. And the alternative is, maybe you help them have a better shift, and then they're vibing, and then you're vibing, and they're calling you bud, and it's all so groovy.

Rachel: Yeah. [titters]

Griffin: I don't understand why people would go the other route, like why power trip on them? I have never watched Cheers, but I do think that like getting sage advice from a friendly bartender on a good shift would be like life changing for me. This is obviously above and beyond the thing that I'm describing, I've never had this experience—

Rachel: I don't—I don't want to be that guy, but you've never watched Cheers?

Griffin: No. No...

Rachel: Wow. It was on in syndication, probably still is.

Griffin: Yeah—

Rachel: That's how I caught it. Like, I'm not a super-old. [chuckles]

Griffin: It was on the bubble of like, this show is too old—this show is too old for me to watch.

Rachel: Oh... Ted Danson?

Griffin: Don't get me wrong, I know now. I remember watching that scene in *The Good Place* where Ted Danson's character is talking to Eleanor, and he's like pretending to be a bartender.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I was like, god, damn, he's good at this! And then it turns out he's just doing Cheers.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, I don't go out to bars, like ever, anymore. Really, I guess this would only happen at a restaurant where I was sitting at the bar to eat—

Rachel: That is—

Griffin: The chicken sandwich. So like, my opportunities for having a sage bartender experience are quite limited—

Rachel: You know what? We did go out to dinner at that little restaurant, I can't even remember the name, so I can't plug it, where we were like the only couple there, which happens to us a lot.

Griffin: Oh, yeah! What was that place?

Rachel: Because it was like 5PM—I can't remember. But yeah, we got like really great service and the guy was really friendly. And it was clear like he didn't have a lot to do, but also like he just seemed, you know, like one of those people that was going to be like, "Hey, you know what you would like?"

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: And then we got a really great—a great beverage experience out of it.

Griffin: I did, yeah, we had that awesome, what's it?

Rachel: Cider.

Griffin: That cider, on... not On Show, something like that.

Rachel: No, that sounds right.

Griffin: Yeah. Anyway, I never had a bartender dispense wisdom to me. I did at this airport restaurant learn a trick where the bartender overfilled like my drink, and the foam came out and got the cup all wet.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And he put a cocktail napkin down, and he sprinkled a little bit of salt on the cocktail napkin before he put my drink down on it, so the cocktail napkin would not stick to the bottom of the drink.

Rachel: Wow...

Griffin: That's incredible. I wouldn't have learned that if I had been a dick to this person, probably. He probably just would have let me have a sticky drink.

Rachel: Yeah, a wet napkin.

Griffin: A wet napkin and a sticky drink. Yeah, I don't really have a whole lot—I don't really have a whole lot more to say. I just, I think that this experience really stuck with me this time. And this is like, on a like more personal level, when I—when I am traveling by myself, it is—it is a weird and like self-dehumanizing sort of experience. By which I mean like I get so out of my rhythms, and I get so out of my habits, and I don't see the people that I see and love seeing every day, i.e. you and our kids. And I don't like—

Rachel: Aw.

Griffin: And so everything is so different, and I don't know, it really kind of... it makes me feel sort of like untethered, in a way.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so having like a good, kind of chill human to human sort of experience like this—obviously, I was there as a customer and this person was an employee of this place. But to kind of like come in and be like, oh, you all are like—y'all are having a pretty good shift, it seems like, and now you're calling me "bud." And that's just—and you did a little magic trick with the salt. Like, that's all just like, I don't know, it shook me out of the funk a little bit and kind of, you know.

Rachel: It does feel very vulnerable, especially when you're in an airport, because you feel like you don't know kind of how it's supposed to work.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Or what to order, and like what food makes sense at an airport. And it just feels like you're very disoriented already.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so to have somebody be like, "Hey, it's all right."

Griffin: So anyway, that was—

Rachel: "You're safe here."

Griffin: That was my segment; when you catch a bartender or server on what seems like a great shift.

Rachel: I do not envy—is it Rachel that has to come up with the subject matter?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: "Griffin's favorite airport bartender experience."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That sounds like I went to some sort of like fancy like—

Rachel: Like a flare, like—[chuckles]

Griffin: \$20—yeah, like... damn, that's good—sorry, I should append to the end of my segment. It is also cool when the bartender does big tricks with the bottles.

Rachel: Yeah, but don't ask for that.

Griffin: Don't ask for that.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: They have to do it organically.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: That's how you know they're really having a good time.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They don't flip those bottles unless they are so excited. Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Thank you.

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

Rachel: Okay, do you want to know my thing?

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: Again, it's a little bit hard to describe, because I'm trying to make it more universal, but it is when an athlete scores a point or a goal and has a little celebration after.

Griffin: Yes. Yes! Yes.

Rachel: In hockey, they call it cellies.

Griffin: In hockey, I find it very—in hockey, I love it. I have seen football cellies that I've been like, all right, dude. Like, come on—

Rachel: [chuckles] See, I love that too. I love it when it's like a whole skit and all of them are in it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? They all like are—they're like in a circle and they're doing some kind of skit related to celebration.

Griffin: Yes, I think it's maybe just because it feels harder to score a goal in hockey than it does to get like a touchdown in football. And so like, in hockey—and I don't know, they're so slippery, and like they could always include that into it.

Rachel: [chuckles] Also, your options are limited, yeah, because you're on ice.

Griffin: You're on ice, you have knives on your feet. Like, you can only do so many different things. And I love seeing—

Rachel: And you don't want to celebrate and embarrass yourself in the process—

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Rachel: It kind of takes the wind out of your sails.

Griffin: Do they ever call penalties for—like, I don't think that's a thing in hockey—

Rachel: Not in hockey.

Griffin: That's definitely a thing in football.

Rachel: Yeah, I actually looked into that, because I knew about that, and I was really curious. But yeah, I mean, obviously my experience is mostly with hockey. I don't actually know if this happens in baseball, because I realized that after you hit, for example, a home run, you still have to run the bases.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? It's not like you can just stand there and dance. [chuckles] You have to go all the way around the bases. And then I guess when you get to home plate, you can do like a little jump. But like it's just—it seems like—

Griffin: Yeah, I don't—yeah.

Rachel: Baseball doesn't really work. I think basketball they probably do, right?

Griffin: I don't know, you're scoring so often in basketball! It'd be crazy for you to like score a dunk and then like do a dance. And it's like—

Rachel: [laughs] Every time.

Griffin: It's 14 to 22, like what are we doing? Chill. It's the—it's the end of the first, like—

Rachel: Well, and the clock doesn't stop either, that's the other thing, like—

Griffin: Yeah, right?

Rachel: In most sports, when you—when you accomplish the objective, like there is a period of time after—

Griffin: Also in baseball, one of the big things is like they throw their bat all cool sometimes when they like slam it out, and then they—but sometimes they'll throw the bat too cool, and the ump will be like, "You're out of here. You threw the bat too hard, too cool."

Rachel: One of my—so I obviously, again, don't know a lot about other sports. One of those other sports I don't know about is soccer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: If you look up goal celebration on Wikipedia, one of my favorite things is they list out common celebrations in soccer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like bullet by bullet. [chuckles] And some of them are like...

Griffin: Is the Mia Hamm shirt rip off on there? That's the—that's the most newsworthy one that I can remember.

Rachel: One of 'em is the scorer putting the ball underneath their shirt to indicate the pregnancy of a loved one.

Griffin: That's fuckin' great!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely. To indicate the pregnancy of a loved one.

Rachel: [laughs] You know. I mean, I—Wikipedia, I imagine, you know, largely edited by...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: By individuals. The scorer pretending to fire a machine gun, the scorer putting an index finger to his lips, as if telling the crowd or critics to be quiet.

Griffin: "Shh!" That's cool.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's awesome.

Rachel: But yeah, it's interesting to see how they innovate on it, like how they make it like specific to the sport. And obviously in hockey, I mean, you've got a stick. A lot of players will kind of like sheathe their hockey stick, like a sword, after they—

Griffin: Like one of the three musketeers, yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, like after they score a goal, they pretend that they're like putting it back.

Griffin: A lot of prop work with the stick.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: I always appreciate.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Are you gonna go beat by beat through the video that you sent me? Because I saw some shit in there that I thought was like really, truly revolutionary.

Rachel: Yeah! I was gonna talk a little bit about it. One of 'em I wanted to talk about was actually Ovechkin.

Griffin: Yeah, Ovechkin's was the worst of the bunch, I think.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: That was the—that was the dorkiest dork-ass celebration I've ever seen in my entire life. And I don't know what game it was from.

Rachel: Yeah. So, March 2009, he scores a goal, and then he lays his stick on the ice. And what he's supposed to be doing, like because it's hard to interpret exactly what he's doing—

Griffin: Yeah! Even the commentators were like, "It seems like it's radioactive?"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "I don't know what he..."

Rachel: Well, I have the—I have the full—the full story behind it.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But he lays his stick on the ground, and then he kind of moves his hands over the stick.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So, apparently—[chuckles]

Griffin: It kind of looks like he's casting a spell a little bit.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Apparently, the goaltender was the one who suggested that celebration.

Griffin: Yes, okay.

Rachel: Who said, "He never gave me credit for the concept. He looked more like a guy playing the piano than a guy warming his hands near a fire."
[chuckles]

Griffin: So, this is—this is what I love the most about—and I think hockey cellies is like where, I guess, where I imagine it the most, where it feels like they have been dared to do it. Or they said before the game like, "Hey, guys, if I score a goal this game, just to let you know, I'm gonna do that dumb thing that I said, that I came up with during practice."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Just to let you know." Because the response to it from the other teammates always seems to be like, "Holy shit, he actually did it." The Ovechkin thing is really, really truly—

Rachel: Yeah, I don't think he ever did that one again.

Griffin: I don't think he ever did that one again.

Rachel: But it's like, if you look at like top 10 celebrations, that one always comes up. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: One of the other ones, there was this hockey player named Tiger Williams.

Griffin: Tiger Williams with the all-time best, I think.

Rachel: Which is a nickname.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Again, a lot of these old players, gross individuals, I don't know anything about this, other than he has a lot of penalty minutes, and I imagine he's a terrible person. But—

Griffin: Because of his many penalty minutes?

Rachel: [chuckles] Well, just based on the time period.

Griffin: Oh, okay, sure.

Rachel: It was long time ago.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But he would get on his stick and pretend to ride it across the ice, but he would like sit on it.

Griffin: Gang, listen, he wedges it between his legs, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: With the blade of the stick side up, right? And he's holding it with two hands, and he squats.

Rachel: No,—his the blade of the stick is on the ice.

Griffin: Yes, the blade of the stick is on the ice, but like curving up. And then he squats on it, sort of like a witch's broom situation.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But he's also using the stick as a kind of fulcrum to like hold himself up in this squat.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And he zooms, gang. And it's pretty fuckin' great. It's pretty cool.

Rachel: Did you see the guy that went—pretended to go swimming?

Griffin: Yeah, so that's another fun one.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: When they incorporate the slipperiness of the sport into it, that is an all-timer for me. I forget the guy's name, but he just kind of like does a few pump fakes, and then just dives—

Rachel: And then dives. [chuckles]

Griffin: Forward onto the ice and pretends to swim for a little bit. That's pretty cool. There was the flurry celebration where he just like scores a goal, and then turns around and he skates by all of his teammates, his encroaching, celebrating teammates, and gets up a full trot of speed and then just fuckin' falls to the ground and like spins around, bounces off the wall, off of his butt. And it's like, dude! Are you good? Are you okay?

Rachel: [chuckles] That's what's funny about these clips, is you have no context for why this celebration is so heightened. You kind of can get some from the commentary, but it just seems like, wow, something really big must have happened.

Griffin: How did you feel about the one where the guy scores the goal and then he takes off his glove and throws it in the air, and then holds up his stick like a rifle and pretends to shoot it.

Rachel: Yeah. That apparently has been done by multiple players.

Griffin: It seems like when you're—the hockey stick cuts a similar silhouette to some sort of long barrel gun.

Rachel: Uh-huh. This is a like, I think it's Sports Net, is the compilation we're talking about.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: When I was looking for just kind of a best of.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: There are certain players that had like signature like... ya... ya... Yager? Who was on the Penguins, used to take off his glove and like salute. I saw another clip of men just like taking off their gloves and shaking hands.

Griffin: Shaking hands, yeah, the gentleman's handshake celebration.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: I think a stoic—a stoic celebration is—there was the one guy who scored his first goal of the season in a shootout to win the game, and then just kind of like skated around with his hand in the air like the Statue of Liberty.

Rachel: Oh, yeah, they call it the Statue of Liberty.

Griffin: Just stone face, no celebration at all.

Rachel: The real classic one, and I don't know if somebody started this, but is where you get down to one knee and you're still like sliding.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: And you do some kind of like arm pump.

Griffin: Arm pump, yeah. Or like a guitar, like you're—[spoofs an electric guitar sound] on a guitar and you're hitting the Johnny B. Good riff from fuckin' Back to the Future.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That one seems undeniable. I probably will never play hockey, but if I did, I would never score a goal. But if I did? I think I would organically just kind of fall down into that, one—to a knee to like, one, thank God. Thank you, God, for getting me out here on the ice and letting me score a goal.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But then I would eventually turn it into a—[spoofs an electric guitar riff]

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, I—

Griffin: The body just wants to do that. The body wants to go into that role.

Rachel: I was—I can't substantiate this, because I only found one website that said it, but it used to be like a common practice—because obviously there weren't a lot of like different angles of video camera footage you could look at. So, the common practice was that if you scored the goal, you would raise your stick in the air.

Griffin: Hm?

Rachel: Just to draw attention and make it clear to anybody watching like who actually scored.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I feel like commentators still kind of use that. Because when you're watching it live, you know, you can't tell. And then they will look for the person that seems to be celebrating and they're like, "Oh, it must have been him." [chuckles]

Griffin: It's so confusing, gang, hockey is. Because I would say about half the time, when a goal is scored, there's like three dudes like up on the net. There's like three—and you can't really tell who's the last one that got it up in there—

Rachel: Well, and there's deflections all the time.

Griffin: There's deflections, sometimes it like bounces off the goalie's butt or something. And then it's like, did the goalie's butt get a point?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: No, that's not how—I had to learn that's not actually how it works.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, no, this is a lot of fun. I stand by I still find some other celebrations grating. I have never seen a hockey celebration that I've—aside from Ovechkin's really, really weird playing an invisible pipe organ thing he did. But I usually find them so charming.

Rachel: Oh, you just reminded me, I wanted to look up the rules for the football excessive celebration thing, because I was confused about it. So, in 2006, the NFL amended its rules to include an automatic 15 yard penalty against any player who left his feet or uses a prop like a towel or the goal post or post base, or more specifically, the football.

The penalty was called "excessive celebration," and the yardage was charged against the offending player's team. Then, in 2017, it was scaled back, and then it was like, well, you just can't do lewd or violent gestures, or prolonged celebration to delay the game. In 2019, it was revised again to give the defensive team the option of enforcing the penalty on the extra point attempt, which could potentially push the extra point kick out to 48 yards—

Griffin: Jesus.

Rachel: [chuckles] I know.

Griffin: That seems—oh, man...

Rachel: Simply spiking the ball is not interpreted as excessive celebration.

Griffin: It's just vibes, guys. It's simply vibes—

Rachel: Jumping onto the outer wall to accept contact from fans is also not—

Griffin: Well, yeah, they had to grandfather that in for the Green Bay Packers, I do believe. That's sort of their whole thing.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: I do—I do actually appreciate that the Green Bay Packers have a like mandatory celebration, that they kind of—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know of another team that's like, and when you do it, this is—

Rachel: This is—yeah.

Griffin: This is what you—this is what you have to do. Because, and what I find especially sort of like impressive about that is, I bet it's pretty hard. That is not a short wall, guys.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a pretty big wall to try to get all up on.

Rachel: Well, a lot of those people that catch the football can jump pretty high.

Griffin: That's true! But sometimes like a nose tackle will catch the ball and be like, "Oh? Okay." And run in for a touchdown. And then that nose tackle has to be like—

Rachel: "Here I go."

Griffin: "Guess I gotta—here I come, guys!"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Lean way down, please!"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Man, I have not watched—I have not watched football in a really super-duper—

Rachel: Did we watch some of the Super Bowl? It feels like we did. Maybe we just watched the halftime show. I can't remember.

Griffin: I don't know. I think we did, because I do remember thinking like, man, this is a lot of kicking.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: The score was like nine to 12, and it was like, so, we're doing a kicking one, huh?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: For my first football game in probably a year, this is not a—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Such a—anyway, I don't want to talk shit about other sports, because I really like hockey. And I don't like when people talk shit about hockey.

Rachel: Same.

Griffin: Do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Max says, "My Small Wonder is the new Boys Go to Jupiter album, Now You're A Circle. Every single song fucks severely—"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: "And I've had it on repeat since it came out. I instantly bought a concert ticket, and I'm so excited to see them. Again, thanks for introducing

me to this band. "Last Last Time" was my top song last year." Have you been—have you been listening to the album?

Rachel: I haven't yet.

Griffin: Ah, babe.

Rachel: You played a little bit for us, though, like when we were all hanging out.

Griffin: Yeah, we were driving, .

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Us and our kids were hanging out, just like chilling.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I was like, "Hey, boys, you're gonna love—" No, yeah, we were driving down to the—down to the wharf, and listening to the album. And I've been listening to it a bunch today, *it's so good*.

Rachel: It's vibey.

Griffin: It's *so good*!

Rachel: Do they have like a—like a standout, from your perspective? Like a—

Griffin: God, "Flying Machine" is really, really exceptional. "Revenge Tour" I really love a lot. "Headstand," I think it's called, is great. They're honestly like, it's really— "On And On," I think is... Now I got to look up the name of that song, because I've been—that's the one I've been— "Do It Over."

Rachel: Oh! I know that one.

Griffin: [sings] Wanna do it over.

Rachel: Yeah, I've seen them perform that one.

Griffin: God damn, it's good.

Rachel: Yeah, reminded me—that song reminded me a lot of like Bird and the Bee.

Griffin: Yeah! Yeah, I could see that, for sure.

Rachel: Did you tell your brother Justin McElroy about this?

Griffin: No, I need to tell my brother Justin McElroy about this.

Rachel: I feel like we should give him credit again, because he is the reason that we know about that band.

Griffin: Yes, that is true.

Rachel: And I don't want people to think that we're like—

Griffin: Cool tastemakers, no.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: As always, the cool music that I hear about has come from someone else, absolutely.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Sierra says, "My Small Wonder is when you're driving to an event or a restaurant for a night on the town and you happen upon a primo parking spot by the grace of the parking gods. When every spot is taken, the streets are lined with cars, and it seems like you'll have to park six blocks away, when suddenly, after taking a couple loops, someone pulls out of their spot just in the nick of time! It feels like magic."

Rachel: Oh, I love that so much.

Griffin: I do too. Parking stresses me out so—you know what? Parking does not stress me out so much in DC. I feel like there's ample parking options here.

Rachel: Well, it's because of that app we found where you can like—

Griffin: Yeah, that's true.

Rachel: You can like reserve your spot.

Griffin: We do use—we do use the app.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But, I used to—every time—

Rachel: Austin, Texas—

Griffin: Every time we knew we were going downtown in Austin—

Rachel: I feel like there were two parking garages in all of downtown Austin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And everybody was trying to use them.

Griffin: There's like, one in like—on like rainy—it was like, which end of downtown do you want to park at? And then, you know, you'll have to circumnavigate to the place you're actually trying to get to.

Rachel: And we just, yeah, we just—we just stopped going. [chuckles]

Griffin: We just kind of stopped—well, then covid—

Rachel: We also got old. [chuckles]

Griffin: And we also, there was a pandemic.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Thank you so much for listening to our program. 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 episode description. And also, thank you to maximumfun.org for having us on the network. Got a bunch of merch over at mcelroymerch.com, including a new "Helping is always a free action" T, and a bunch of other stuff over there. And again, I will mention, probably for—I mean, I'll probably keep plugging in a little bit here and there, but I'll back off, I promise, if you're tired of hearing about The Stowaway!

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: My new Choose Your Adventure book. It came out yesterday, Tuesday, March 10th. And it's an—it's set on a spaceship, and you're a stowaway on that spaceship, and you're—and you're the only one on board. And you're like, "Whoa, what's going on?" And you gotta figure it out. And there's mystery and adventure and intrigue and excitement.

And it's for—written for middle grade readers, and for, also, for anyone who likes adventures. So, bit.ly/griffinstowaway was the pre-order link, I'm going to check right now if I—where that even goes, before I continue saying it. Yes, indeed, that will still get you there. You can just go ahead, go to that link, and it'll tell you where you can buy the book. Thank you so much for listening! Do you have anything you want to plug?

Rachel: Don't put me in this position. [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't want to put you in this position. All right, well, I think that's gonna do it for us. We didn't even talk about the other big hockey news, about all the—all the—

Rachel: Oh, the players that got traded. I...

Griffin: We're still in mourning, we're still in—Blues Nation, we're still in mourning.

Rachel: I mean, I can't imagine it's a significant percentage of our listeners that have any awareness of any of these players, and what hockey is. [chuckles] So, I feel like I can't make this whole episode hockey-focused.

Griffin: They trade—they done traded the captain away.

Rachel: They did...

Griffin: And also, the—Justin Faulk, who had a really great mustache, and was scoring goals like fuckin' left, right and center.

Rachel: He did have a really great mustache...

Griffin: He had a great season, really great—he still has it. It's just now it's—now that mustache is on the Detroit Red Wings.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: With David Perron, who does not have a mustache anymore. Anyway, thanks for listening to the show. We'll be back next week. That's your hockey mustache update, with Griffin and Rachel.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Keep it locked. Bye!

Rachel: Bye.

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

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