

The Drama King of Green Bay

[00:00:00] Aaron Rogers has suffered a lot. So others should suffer as well. And more nobody has ever called him on the trauma, cruelty and egotism in this toxic stew that therapy and self exploration have yet to correct. Roger seems hell, bent on recommitting the sins of his elders. Like the fraternity brother who, after being hazed to, within an inch of his life as a freshmen, Decides that rather than examine the hellscape, he went through. Instead future pledges shall be subjected to exactly what he went through.

Plus, whatever bonus throw ins he's come up with in the meantime. And then attempt to make the experience exponentially worse. This while not one of his fraternity brothers tries to argue that that's a counterproductive and dangerous waste of time.

Maybe if Roger's draft night had gone differently and he'd ended up someplace other than green bay. Like the 40 Niners, the team of his boy hood. He wouldn't have tried to hold this entire NFL season [00:01:00] hostage. Hoping to have everyone who cares one word about the NFL. Hang on his, every word to learn whether and where he might play next season

and who will deserve the Accordant credit and blame for his ultimate decision. On this episode of wrecking the toy department where we won't just stick to sports because we don't have the privilege of doing so we'll trace the 18 year revenge tour. That's been Aaron Rogers, NFL career. This is the scrappy underdog story of a quarterback from the rural Northern California town of Chico.

Who used a draft night embarrassment in 2005 as his fuel to engineer. What has been without a doubt? Hall of fame career. Super bowl title four regular season MVP awards and the rewriting of the Packers franchise records previously held by his predecessor, Brett Farve.

As Rogers would write the screenplay of this post season. We've reached the point where our protagonist is at a [00:02:00] crossroads. Would he, as he approaches age 40. Come back to the only team he's ever played for and lead them to a second super bowl, title something, even the great farm couldn't manage. Would he leave town is the good guy done wrong, forced into the NFL wilderness to finish his career as the conquering hero for a long suffering franchise, like the Raiders or the jets.

Or would he bear out to the adoring cheers of his millions of fans, universally recognized as the best packer ever. Who, unlike that other guy who hazed him as a rookie. Played his entire career in green bay.

To bring this story to life as fully as possible. We'll speak to some of the most meaningful, impactful people in Aaron Rogers life. There's his loving family. His parents, Darla and ed. His brother, Jordan. The loves of his life. Olivia Mon and Danica, Patrick. His closest Packers friends. Mike McCarthy and Matt lift [00:03:00] floor. Along with special guests, Brett Farve, Jordan Levin, Christian Watson.

And of course his most enduring and devoted fan. The state farm insurance ad campaign. She is head whose one line in every commercial was.

All right, then let the love Fest begin. We'll go out to the guests line to speak with the two people. Roger says he couldn't have done this without mom and dad. You're on the line. Welcome.

Hm. That's odd. Seems we've been disconnected. Let's try again. Brett Farve. What did you think of Rogers when your team drafted him back in oh five? Did you have any idea then that he'd be the giant of the game he is today.

My apologies. We appear to be having some technical issues with phone lines.

Folks, it seems I'm severely mistaken. None of the affirmation. People want speak with us. I've been told it has nothing to do with us. They just don't have a good word to put in about Rogers.[00:04:00] They're referring us to previous statements wrapped in as nice Abella as possible. On a 2021 episode of running wild with bear Grylls, Danica, Patrick, in reference to her most recent boyfriend talked about having, had her heartbroken on both the sad and joyful. And so the relationship spectrum. The Patrick did not mention him by name, glamour magazine speculated. She was talking about Roger's. Whom she'd broken up with the previous summer. How about a pretty looking, but somewhat frayed Bo. In 2016, Roger's younger brother. Jordan was a contestant and the eventual winner on the bachelorette. When the bachelorette Jojo Fletcher visited Roger's family in California for the hometown data episode. Aaron was nowhere to be found. Jordan had said earlier in the season, quote.

I have a great relationship with my brother, Luke. Me and Aaron really don't have much a relationship. It's just kind of the way he's chosen to do life. And I chose to stay close with [00:05:00] my family, my parents, and my brother unquote.

In her fly on the wall interview. Fletcher said Jordan Rogers was quote, no one's brother. He comes from a family with so much love to give and quote. I don't know that there's a more time efficient way to paint Aaron as the family villain. Then the bows and kind words start falling off, leaving you with whatever's now exposed beneath the torn veneer of some ratty old wrapping paper.

Olivia Mon speaking on naked with Catt Sadler. The podcast hosted by the former III news anchor. Had this to say about a former relationship with a person she didn't name. She said her ex asked her to turn down professional opportunities. And describe the relationship as such quote. We had been in calm waters for a long time. It's always calm waters.

And then all of a sudden the boat capsized. I think a lot of women and men who are in relationships are like this, where you're [00:06:00] just walking on eggshells and you're just happy. Any time you can breathe a little bit. Even though you don't realize that you have a cinder block on your chest the whole time.

You're taking in little sips of air. When it capsized, I was still in the emotional place that I'd been in for those years. Which wasn't a good place. And then when you go through something like that, you do truly feel worthless. And quote. Her most recent boyfriend at that point was Rogers.

And then the ratty newspaper was torn away to reveal. A cardboard box filled with watered up tissues and toilet paper.

When the campfire, which damaged nearly 20,000 buildings and killed 18 people burn an area equivalent to the city of Chicago near Chico in 2018. Aaron Rogers donated a million dollars in equipment to the town of paradise. Which had been destroyed by the fire.

In response to Aaron's actions. Jordan wrote this since deleted post on Twitter. Please donate. Spread [00:07:00] awareness and send love. But when your own mom is home alone during the fires car packed, ready to evacuate, and you miss the fundamental first step of compassion.

Calling your parents to make sure they are safe. Everything else just feels like an act. Oops. This is not turning out to be the feel good story we thought it would be.

So where did it all go sour? Was it draft day when Rogers was the last player to leave the green room after falling to green bay at number 24. Ah, the green

room where you hang with the other top draft picks, people, ask if you're comfortable, bring you food and drink. And then it starts to empty out.

Gradually time slows. And the room grows smaller stuffier, definitely less inviting. Frustration or perhaps embarrassment grow.

And the green room becomes more like solitary confinement. The moment less celebratory and more chance to finally exhale and relief [00:08:00] before lashing out. First in an interview with WISN the ABC affiliate in Milwaukee. And then KPIX the CBS affiliate in San Francisco. Here we are nearly 18 years later and Rogers chooses to upstage the first Superbowl ever to feature two black starting quarterbacks. Kansas. City's Patrick Holmes and Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts. Kind of a huge bleeping deal. To tell the Pat McAfee show he's heading back to where it all started.

Sounds like the green room in 2005. Y the self isolation self-flagellation. It's because Rogers has become the drama king of green bay in the same way. Ferris Bueller became a Froman, the sausage king of Chicago. And the major da who refuses to seek Ferris NIST. Nudie. I mean, snotty friends represents everyone who snubbed Rogers on his way up.

Roger's wasn't even a bit character when this trauma [00:09:00] started back in 2002, the first time Brett Favre flirted with retirement. By 2005, eight years. And just to post-season wins, removed from their last Superbowl appearance. The packer selected Rogers to replace Barb who was 35. In age considered to be anxious at the time for any QB, not named Elway. To nobody's surprise Favre, Hamden hard about returning each off season.

Skipped as much training camp and summer workouts as possible. And took no interest in anything Rogers related. Left to his own devices. Roger's got the second stringers together to work out practice and get to know each other. Favre. Meanwhile had two down years before an absolute Renaissance performance in 2007.

At age 38, he finished second in league MVP voting and led the Packers to the NFC championship game. The fourth time in his career, he'd done. So. But the Packers couldn't take advantage of two giants misfield goals. And after a second Favre [00:10:00] interception. His last pass is the Packers quarterback. The giants won in overtime.

After the loss, Barb said, quote, For me. I kept thinking about how many opportunities are we going to let slip away? Unquote. We let the opportunity to

play in the Superbowl slip away. I'm someone to blame for this loss. 10 years on it killed him that he hadn't led his team back to the Superbowl.

We are now going on year 13 since Roger's one only Superbowl appearance.

Yet when Pat McAfee asked what his goals are for next season. When he'll be 40 years old. This is what Rogers said.

On the up and Adam's podcast with former NFL network personality Kay Adams.

This is what former Patriots tight end, Rob Gronkowski,

who won four Super Bowl rings in tandem with Tom Brady had to say about Roger's 20, 23 goals. Roger's thinks of Brady as both his arch [00:11:00] rival and measuring stick for success. It, how they measure success is completely divergent. Rogers has four MVP awards. Second, all time only to Peyton Manning. Brady has three.

Yeah, Brady went to 10 Superbowls twice as many as any other quarterback in NFL history. And as one seven. The second, highest by any other QB. Four. Roger's meanwhile though, he has a Superbowl ring. Has played in just one. Exactly. As many as NFL luminaries, like Rex Grossman and Trent Dilfer.

The ego that bears ESPN, Pablo Torry said on. Pardon? The interruption? Simply takes your breath away.

We will get to Rogers Chemonics [00:12:00] ceremonies. And beliefs in other forms of pseudoscience. But we also need to look at the purpose behind what he said, Pat McAfee. This PTI co-host Tony Kornheiser said.

Was the intended message.

This is a level of look at me that even Brett Favre who retired and unretired for three straight postseasons before finally retiring for good in 2011, couldn't ever hope to hold a candle to. There's something instructive in hearing Favre's first retirement speech in March, 2008. Especially in relation to how Rogers has flirted with the idea of retiring.

The retirement lasted all three months before Favre unretired for the first time. This he told ESPN is how new Packer's head coach Mike McCarthy reacted to the news.

Quote, he said, oh God, Brett. You're putting us in a tight spot. Brett playing here is not an option. [00:13:00] Those were his exact, exact words. Unquote. And with those words, the Packers anointed, Aaron Rogers, as their next starting quarterback. He led them to the playoffs in his second year, a Superbowl winning his third.

And won his first MVP award in his fourth. Brett hill.

That Brett met with then mayor Mike Bloomberg at city hall. And now it seems inevitable that Rogers will follow the same path as the man. He detested as a fresh out of college QB.

At age 39, it looks like he'll be traded from the Packers to the jets. Can you imagine a photo op with Aaron Rogers and Eric Adams? I imagine the conversation would be two people talking past each other, telling grandiose stories about themselves.

But how exactly did we reach this point? Was it Mike McCarthy, twice settling for field goals inside the Seahawks five yard line.

Before going into a slowdown or offense with a 16, nothing lead in the third quarter of the 2014 NFC championship game against Seattle [00:14:00] only to watch an epic overtime collapse. Was it two years later when the Falcons annihilated the Packers in the conference championship game in Atlanta. Before blowing a 25 point second half lead to Tom Brady and new England.

When Rogers had to have 13 screws and two plates and certain into his right collarbone in 2017. Or was it when the Packers slid to six, nine and one in 2018 season that featured Rogers bus tossing McCarthy. When the Packers fired him with four games left. After having trashed as offense, four weeks into the season.

Each event for told a nasty split to come between Rodgers and the Packers. But it might never have reached this point. Had the Packers not been such a weak need enablers. Of Roger's continued bad behavior. Entering the ultimately disastrous 2018 season. The Packers had already come to [00:15:00] his demands. That they renegotiate a five-year contract with a year remaining. In 2014 Rogers had signed a five-year \$110 million contract. Making him for the leaks, highest paid player. Four years later, he wasn't anymore. And so with the threat of free agency hanging over their heads, the packer succumb to his contract demands, they handed him a four year deal that would give Rogers essentially 80 million of the \$140 million in the first year alone.

The contract made Rogers the highest paid NFL player on an annual basis and gave him the largest ever contract guarantee. 100, \$3 million. And to cover the signing bonus, the Packers dipped into their reserve fund. No mention was made of where they were now going to come up with money under the salary cap.

To actually better the rest of the team. What were the Packers doing? Rogers was 35 coming off of broken collarbone is throwing shoulder [00:16:00] followed by a lost season, which he took no responsibility for anything.

So now Rogers has pushed out McCarthy and the Packers hire Matt LaFleur. Who's barely older than Rogers has two years experience as an NFL offensive coordinator. And exactly non as a head coach at any level. Inevitably there was going to be a clash of some sort between Rogers and LA Flor. It came two years later against Roger's arch rival, Tom Brady.

Packers versus box with a trip to the Superbowl on the line. The box behind Brady took a 28 to 10 lead early in the third quarter before Rogers led the Packers back. Down 31 to 23 with four and a half minutes to go on the fourth. They took possession at their own 34 yard. Fine. And drove down to set up a first and goal the Tampa bay eight yard line.

With 2:22 left in the game. They could tie it with a touchdown and two point conversion.

If you're looking to [00:17:00] intentionally alienate a quarterback, there is no greater textbook example on how to do so then the following four plays that took place. Incomplete on first down and again on second down. Then this.

Tony Kornheiser there the morning after the game, predicting Rogers would never play for green bay again. And Roger's reaction to his coaches. Fourth down decision. Kornheiser was wrong, but perhaps things would have been better all around. Had he been right? To steal a line from Charles Dickens heading into the 2021 season.

It was the best of times. And it was the worst of times in green bay. For two straight seasons Rogers had been named MVP while also falling a game short of the Superbowl. And heading [00:18:00] into is age 38 season three years older than far off was when they drafted him. Rogers was ancient by NFL standards for any QB not named.

Ironically. Tom Brady. So rather than sign or draft a free agent wide receiver, the Packer's traded up to select Utah state QB Jordan Love in the first round.

Further drawing Rogers Iyer. In a world-class show of understatement. Roger said his first reaction was quote unquote. Surprised his body and host of one of the most popular sports talk shows in America.

Pat McAfee summed it all up on draft night.

Walk it off as to one of the shows, producers, presumably a Packers and Rogers fan who got up from his computer and walked out of the studio when the pick was announced. Frankly, I'd have loved to have heard Rogers talk that night. But he showed with this play, what [00:19:00] he would have said. You want revenge tour? Aaron Rogers, the guy who lights up the league, you got him.

Roger's began as 2021 tour de force by skipping mandatory mini camp in a standoff with management, perhaps thinking there was no other choice, the Packers back down. Offering Rogers, the olive branch of calling the absences excused and thereby alleviating the burden of more than half a million dollars in accumulated fines.

After a week, one loss. The Packers won seven straight behind Rogers who threw 17 TD passes and was picked off just once. Then he tested positive for COVID. And it came out that an unvaccinated Rogers had been flaunting NFL COVID protocol.

He'd purposely misled the public to believe he'd been vaccinated while in actuality, he was not. He'd somehow badgered or snuckered the Packers into letting him follow the vaccinated player [00:20:00] protocol. Roger's referred to the NFL protocol as a quote unquote witch-hunt. He talked to his pal, Joe Rogan about taking ivermectin to ward off COVID.

Something recommended by Donald Trump, but not by the FDA. Which publicly said it not authorized or approved the drug. To treat COVID in animals or humans. Sitting on his couch, recovering from COVID and watching the Jordan Love fled Packers lose to Kansas city 13 to seven.

Roger's told reporters, he took responsibility for misleading folks on his immunization slash vaccination status. While saving the truth for pat McAfee.

When he returned Rogers picked up where it left off. But Hub ARkush, Bears reporter and publisher of pro football weekly. Felt moved to publicly stayed flat out. He would not vote for Rogers for 2021 [00:21:00] NFL MVP. And award Rogers went on to win. Arcus told Danny Parkins and Matt Spiegel in Chicago, six 70, the score.

That Roger's off field behavior. Overshadowed is on field performance.

After a spectacular flame out at home, a 13, 10 loss to the 49ers in a snow storm. This is how Rogers framed his football future.

After some quiet contemplation. Roger's held the Packers over the proverbial contract barrel again. Coming away with a three-year \$150 million contract. Two days later, Davante Adams, his favorite wide receiver and the packer. Second best player. Asked for and received a trade out of green bay. Kurt and long podcast. Co-host Sparky, Pfeiffer.

Explains his understanding of the machinations behind the trade. I Chicago, six 70, the scores Bernstein [00:22:00] home show.

Ken last of the cheese had.tv blog wrote that in 2021, Rogers were too often forced the ball to Adams rather than trusting his other receivers and assertion the numbers back up during the regular season 46.4% of his targets to his wide receiver Corps were to Adams. And the 49ers loss he threw to Adams 11 times.

The other wide receivers combined for eight. Had he not been heard at the time Marquez Valdez Scantling would definitely have seen his share of passes as well. Rogers actually liked and trusted him and talked him up publicly. But Valdez Scantling will leave as well.

His price and free agency got to a point, the Packers couldn't afford them.

With Roger's new contract. I can't imagine why that might be. So his two favorite receivers are gone. Replaced by rookies Christian Watson and Romeo Dobbs. Yet the 20, 22 off-season [00:23:00] proceeded as the one before it. Roger skipped mini camp and failed to build any kind of relationship with his wide receivers.

The consequences would come in week seven. When the Packers felt a three and four after losing to the giants and sheds before following that up with a completely flat performance against Washington. Asked what went wrong in that game? Particularly on third down, Rogers had this to say.

Here's Sparky Pfeiffer again, on how Roger's failures as a leader crystallized in this moment. Followed by an analysis of Roger's words from Washington post and CBS NFL reporter Jason lock and fora on the Tony Kornheiser show.

This is absolutely ridiculous. Rogers had torn the team to shreds for not helping out on offense and years prior is the reason the Packers player options, particularly after injuries hit the team were so limited. Roger's then doesn't help out the [00:24:00] rookies, rips them publicly and has one of the worst statistical seasons of his career.

And if his playing days with the Packers are indeed over what a way to go out. It was when and go to the playoffs, lose and go home. Green bay 10 and two at home versus Detroit with Rodgers under center. Detroit. Nothing to play for, but pride. Final result. Third straight season ending loss at Lambeau field.

And what was most likely as final throw as a packer was like far 15 years earlier. Game ending interception.

This is what Rogers had to say about his future after the loss.

Listen to how that compares with what he said a year previously.

As Tony Kornheiser puts it. Aaron Rogers is a whole one man show.

But you might not like the act.

I'm not against contemplation or the exploration of one's mental health to decide if continuing to play a violent game. When you're about [00:25:00] to turn 40 is the right thing for you at this point in life. And whether it will make you happy. I'm also hardly opposed the idea of someone wanting to use Iowasca as part of a therapeutic treatment either.

According to the national Institute of health, the drug is supposed to lower subjective ratings of stress and depression through quote changes, an effect satisfaction with life. And mindfulness that were significantly related to the level of ego dissolution experienced. During the Iowasca ceremony and quote.

Roger's credits Iowasca with making him a better quarterback. He did win two MVP awards after he began using it. But it sure didn't help him win playoff games, nor did it make him a better teammate or employee as he made each post season a mellow drama starring himself in which every episode ended on this cliffhanger.

Will Rogers returned to the Packers next year.

But no one in green bay seems willing to pick up the option on another year of [00:26:00] this. And so Roger's on his way out the doors looking to land the M night Shyamalan surprise ending. As though we could say something like. I see. Dead people. And Jason lock-in for explains the rest of the plot on the Tony Kornheiser Schiff.

In fact, it's always been the other way around.

Clearly the Packers were wrong in assuming Aaron Rogers wouldn't mess with them again. One year after signing a three-year deal. But why would they have ever thought that they have enabled him and his me first attitude at every turn? Just as they enabled farms, hemming and hawing about retirement for years on end, before that.

In fact, it was only when the Packers forced a decision that farm actually retired for the first time and the Packers moved on. Roger says never faced a similar accountability moment. Instead every time, such a possible confrontation with Roger's crops up. The team [00:27:00] backs down.

So the members of the Packers management team negotiating with Rogers, here's an old gambling adage. If you look around the table and can't figure out who the mark is. It's you.

Fortunately for you. There's a bigger whale at the table. Ready to pony up even more. The New York jets. It's an off season Christmas present for Rodgers, a new team to mess with. How do we know he will. According to ESPN's Diana Rossini. Rogers has this wishlist of wide receivers for the jets to sign.

Three current Packers.

Wideouts Allen Lazard, who signing with the jets was announced the day after the report came out. Randall Cobb. And tight end Marcedes Lewis plus free agent wide receiver, Odell Beckham Jr.

Cobb, despite being on the downside of career. Has been identified as the Roger's whisper to young receivers. Though, if you're just transferring everyone over, you don't really need Cobb for that. So, Good to have friends in high places.[00:28:00] Marcedes Lewis turns 39 in may. And had exactly seven passes thrown his way in 17 games last season. Which is more than can be said for Beckam who tours ACL and the Ram Superbowl win over Cincinnati more than a calendar year ago. He remains an unsigned free agent. It is weekly appearance on the pat McAfee show. Rogers had this to say.

He's talked before about wanting his opinion about the team's construction to be considered. Someone being paid an average of \$50 million per season is not giving out suggestions. Out of the goodness of his heart. He wants action taken on them. Now. Several years after he retired. Brett Farve spoke to the Milwaukee journal Sentinel about how he wants to be remembered.

Is it possible? Aaron Rogers will do this. Or say he wants to be remembered as a packer at all. Maybe. If it involves being irrevocably, declared the [00:29:00] best player in franchise history. Because we've learned, it's all about him. Always that even beneath all that ego destruction. Is just more IGA. The story of Aaron Rogers is all about Aaron Rogers. And that's why so many people.

Seem not to want to talk to him or about him. Or when they do, they only have negative things to say. I wonder if Aaron Rogers, best friend pat McAfee. We'll have the same time for him after he retires. And it's no longer the same kind of newsmaker he is now. Well, he still have his weekly show appearances or will it be. Radio silence. Eventually bad teammates get tossed over, even if it doesn't happen until they no longer make good content. Until then to the jets have fun with this. This episode of wrecking, the toy department was written, voiced, edited, and produced by me. Jake Williams. If you're enjoying what you're hearing, please subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

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