

## Wonderful! 106: Here Comes the Juice Demon

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[theme music plays]

[sound of a can opening]

**Griffin:** Hell yeah. It's Miller time!

**Rachel:** Are you ready?

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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

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

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful.

**Griffin:** The doctor is in. And let me diagnose you real quick. Let me look. You've got... ooh.

**Rachel:** Got a ghost in my throat.

**Griffin:** Got a ghost in your throat, got a skeleton in—well, we all have skeletons in our bodies. And in our closets, some of us.

**Rachel:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** About what happened on that dark, dark road.

**Rachel:** Should we start over?

**Griffin:** 15 years a—no.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Um, Rachel is... it's funny, I feel like people can listen to the whole McElroy family of products and hear—

**Rachel:** And track the illness?

**Griffin:** Track the illness like they work for the CDC.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** They can draw up like a virality map and how it passed to each person. Justin and Travis and their families were all together last weekend, so like, that's a clue that you all might need to chart out the epidemic. But anyway...

**Rachel:** This is not related to McElroy illness, though. From what I can tell. Although, it may have come from our son, to be fair, who is a, in fact, a McElroy.

**Griffin:** He is a patient zero for sure. Uh, so yeah, Rachel is sick. We're gonna keep this one I think kind of short. I know we often say that, but uh, Rachel has no voice, and we just, y'know, I'm proud of you, I guess. First and foremost.

**Rachel:** I was thinking we should make like a substitute noise that is less labor-intensive for me to replace laughter.

**Griffin:** Ohh!

**Rachel:** So let's say I think something is funny. Laughing would take a lot out of me.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** But could I do something like... [makes a strange, breathy sound] Hu hu hu hu.

**Griffin:** Well, even that, I think anything that involves exhalation, or the activation of the vocal cords at all is problematic. So might I suggest... [makes a sound with his lips that sounds like bubbles popping]

**Rachel:** Oh, that's good. Or what about, what about... [slapping sound???

**Griffin:** She's uh, slapping her cheeks there, folks. That's good. You could also just raise your hand, and I'll see that you're laughing.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Okay.

**Griffin:** And that's funny that I've said that now, 'cause I can make you be laughing at anything now. That's awesome. That's a fun superpower. I have a small wonder. My small wonder is uh, the Foo Fighters. This is a big—I mean, I could arguably do a big wonder segment about it, but Henry likes when he gets in the car with me to drive to day care. He says, "Rock and roll!" 'Cause that's just the genre he's into right now. So we've explored Queen, and Led Zeppelin, and y'know, the usual—the big dogs. Some Heart. Got some Barracuda in there. That was—he was real into that.

But today, we discovered Foo Fighters. And there's so many good jammers in there for a toddler to just shred out to, and also, he likes saying the name of the band. And that's good. I've always really been super, super into them.

**Rachel:** Yeah. That was actually really cute when he got home and said Foo Fighters to me.

**Griffin:** It's very good. Uh, Color in the Shape. I like, melted that CD. I took that CD to church camp one time, and then, during Monkey Wrench, when he's like, [sings] "The things you said and all the shit," I would like, turn the volume down super quick so that my counselors couldn't hear it. Anyway.

**Rachel:** On your Discman?

**Griffin:** On my Discman. Do you have any small wonders?

**Rachel:** I do. Um, there is a Twitter account called Muppet History.

**Griffin:** Oh! Do you operate this Twitter account?

**Rachel:** I do not.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** But very frequently, it'll tweet little video clips and pictures with little Muppet facts, and I...

**Griffin:** That is very good.

**Rachel:** It just brightens my day.

**Griffin:** I like that. I like that. More good Twitter accounts, I think. Once they outnumber the um, shitty Twitter accounts, then I'll hitch my... hitch my boat right back up to that good, good harbor... Twitter. That wasn't a very good metaphor. You start this week. What's your first thing?

**Rachel:** I do! The Smithsonian Institution.

**Griffin:** The Smithsonian... The whole thing.

**Rachel:** The whole thing. The whole package.

**Griffin:** The whole deal. I feel like that's cheating. That's so many things!

**Rachel:** Oh, you think I'm like, cutting out some possible other topics?

**Griffin:** We could do like five different topics, man!

**Rachel:** Well, then maybe I should say, um... James Smithson?

**Griffin:** No, go ahead and just blow... blow your wad, man.

**Rachel:** [laughs] So I was in Washington DC last week.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I think it was actually kind of funny, because I did an Instagram pic, and everybody just assumed the whole McElroy contingent was in DC. I was like, "No, I still have..."

**Griffin:** Sometimes we travel sort of separately from each other.

**Rachel:** I still have a job that I travel for occasionally.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Um, and I went to the Smithsonian Zoo, which was not something I was aware existed, and it was a really great zoo.

**Griffin:** I didn't know that it existed either.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So I did a little research. So, the Smithsonian Institution has 19 museums.

**Griffin:** Holy shit.

**Rachel:** And 21 libraries, nine research centers, and a zoo.

**Griffin:** All in DC, or like...

**Rachel:** Um, mostly located in DC.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** There are some other locations in New York and Virginia.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Okay, so James Smithson.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Was a chemist and a mineralogist born in Paris. He was the child of the Duke of Northumberland.

**Griffin:** Okay. [laughs] That sounds made up.

**Rachel:** Which I'm assuming is where he made his money, and not as a chemist.

**Griffin:** Ohh. You think that Duke is rollin' in it?

**Rachel:** I think so. Okay, so, Smithson died.

**Griffin:** Aw, beans.

**Rachel:** And his will stipulated that his estate, um, be left to his nephew, if his nephew died without heirs.

**Griffin:** Wait. What?

**Rachel:** If the sons outlived the nephew, then they would get it? I don't know. It's not important.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Okay.

**Rachel:** The interesting thing is that his nephew also died. And so, the final stipulation was that the estate be used to "found in Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's the—okay. If I beef it, don't give it to my shithead sons. Give it to my nephew. If my nephew, for some reason, also beefs it—

**Rachel:** Oh, Smithson never had any kids.

**Griffin:** Oh, oh, I see, I see, I see.

**Rachel:** I should've clarified. That's why he picked the nephew.

**Griffin:** Okay, okay, okay.

**Rachel:** But then when the nephew didn't make it, he said, "Oh, here's this super noble, ambiguous statement."

**Griffin:** [laughing] Right.

**Rachel:** An American diplomat went to collect the money, and returned in August with 105 sacks containing 104,960 gold sovereigns.

**Griffin:** I don't know what that means.

**Rachel:** It was equivalent to about \$500 thousand at the time, which is equivalent to \$11 million in 2018.

**Griffin:** That's pretty good.

**Rachel:** Just a bunch of sacks.

**Griffin:** Pretty good sack of cash, bud.

**Rachel:** So what happened next is, there was eight years of haggling over how to interpret the mandate.

**Griffin:** Oh my god.

**Rachel:** And finally, John Adams convinced them to preserve it for an institution of science and learning, which was then established in 1846. So this took like, 11 years to figure out.

**Griffin:** After he beefed it.

**Rachel:** Um, but yeah, then there were just a whole bunch of museums that were created. There's a holdings of over 154 million items, and there are 30 million annual visitors to these locations, and they are admitted without charge.

**Griffin:** I love that. I forgot about that until we did our most recent tour, and I went to the Air and Space Museum like, "Alright, let's shell out some money." And then it was free! Free 99!

**Rachel:** The crazy thing is that Smithson never went to the United States.

**Griffin:** So why did he say that then?

**Rachel:** I don't know how it was put together. He didn't have any kids. He said, "Give it to my nephew. My nephew doesn't have any kids. I'm gonna put all this great stuff in Washington."

**Griffin:** It's just like... if I beef it, my stuff goes to Henry... or, I guess, the nieces, or barring all that, I want to make sure that we build like a rec center in, um, Kiev. Can we do that?

**Rachel:** Even that—even that's more specific than he was. It was more like, "I want to encourage the use of play in Kiev."

**Griffin:** [laughs] Alright. That's wild.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Well done. Yeah, I like that these museums are there. There's always stuff to do. I like that. I like going to a place where there's stuff to do.

**Rachel:** Yeah, and it's like, no commitment, too. Y'know?

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** If you're gonna go to a museum that costs like, \$30, you're gonna be a little more skittish.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Kid barfs down the front of your shirt... just go home. No harm done. Except unless it got on a dinosaur bones.

**Rachel:** What's your first—

**Griffin:** Been there, done that. I think you're really gonna like my first thing. I enjoy my first thing a great deal, and my first thing also has a game in it that I think you're really gonna enjoy, and it's gonna sweep the nation. My first thing is bootleg Halloween costumes. I believe that human civilization, comedy as an art form, has peaked with bootleg Halloween costumes, and I think it's the funniest shit ever, and it's my favorite time of this spooky time of the year. And that is not hyperbole.

Do you know what I'm talking about when I say that?

**Rachel:** Unlicensed?

**Griffin:** Unlicensed Halloween costumes that they sell, usually at those like, seasonal Halloween pop up shops that are so clearly designed after licensed materials or peoples, but they're given names that could... hey, man. That could be anything. Hey, don't tell on Disney or Nintendo on us. That could mean anything, man.

Uh, I don't usually enjoy copyright infringement, but when it's this like, brazen? When there's so much good comedy at play here? I cannot help but just absolutely adore it. Um, especially because like, it's Halloween, right? So you're buying a costume that you want people to recognize the character that you're dressing up as. And yet, they cannot market it as such. And so, there's almost like a little riddle in there from the uh, costume makers to the potential costume purchasers, of like... "Y'know, video game guy? With the red hat? Mmm, you get it?"

**Rachel:** I kind of love that.



**Griffin:** I love that so much. It's very playful. The comedy formula of like, "I'm being sly, but not actually so sly," really, really works on me. Uh, and that's just the main conceit here. Like, every model on these packages may as well be winking. The models are so choice, too, because they're just trying to sell the characters so hard, 'cause they know that they don't have name recognition to count on here.

So, I want to play a game with you. Are you ready to play this game with me? I know that you are ill. I know that you are under the weather. But I feel like this could, uh, reduce the severity of your symptoms.

**Rachel:** Are you gonna say the name, and I'll have to guess what it is?

**Griffin:** I'm gonna say the name of a bootleg Halloween costume. You have to tell me the character that it depicts.

**Rachel:** Okay. I love this.

**Griffin:** Uh, and I already did one of them, video game guy is Mario. So we'll strike that one from the list. Uh, I'm gonna start with what might be my favorite. Juice Demon. Juice. Demon.

**Rachel:** Kool-Aid Man?

**Griffin:** Beetlejuice. That's very close.

**Rachel:** Ohh.

**Griffin:** I do like the idea of juice—[laughing] I do like the idea of Kool-Aid Man smashing through the wall and everybody yelling, "Nooo! Juice demon!"

**Rachel:** Wow, okay. Alright.

**Griffin:** Hermany. Grinder.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] Hermany Grinder.

**Rachel:** I mean, that's Hermione.

**Griffin:** That's Hermione Granger, yeah. That one's very—that one is probably the most brazen. Listen to my cadence. A lad... in a costume.

**Rachel:** Aladdin?

**Griffin:** It's Aladdin. [laughs]

**Rachel:** That's awesome.

**Griffin:** It's an Aladdin costume, and he's—that one, the guy playing Aladdin looks so, like... he looks so proud of himself, as if he thought up "a lad in a costume." Creepy husband. Creepy husband.

**Rachel:** Oh! Um... Jack Nicholson from The Shining?

**Griffin:** No. I do like that, though. And I don't know what that costume would look like, unless he was like, frozen. Spoilers, I guess. No, that one is Gomez Addams, the creepy husband.

**Rachel:** Oh gosh.

**Griffin:** Notionless.

**Rachel:** Notionless?

**Griffin:** Notionless.

**Rachel:** I don't even know what to guess.

**Griffin:** It's Cher from Clueless.

**Rachel:** Oh my god.

**Griffin:** [laughs] It's so choice! It's so delectable! Drizzle it over like, pancakes and let me eat that! Uh, factory owner. Hey there, I'm factory owner. "What are you dressed as this year?"

"Factory owner."

**Rachel:** These are a lot more difficult than I was expecting!

**Griffin:** Yeah. Let me set the the—let me set the stage for ya.

**Rachel:** Okay, please.

**Griffin:** Imagine the most famous owner of a factory in cinema.

**Rachel:** Oh! Willy Wonka?

**Griffin:** It's Willy Wonka. [laughing] Willy Wonka, and his factory that he owns. Kansas sweetie.

**Rachel:** Oh, um, Dorothy?

**Griffin:** Dorothy. You got it. See? [laughs] Hungry rebel girl.

**Rachel:** Hungry rebel girl...?

**Griffin:** [laughing] My throat just made a noise I've never heard before. Smiling. I think I just glurked at 'hungry rebel girl.'

**Rachel:** Oh. Tomb Raider?

**Griffin:** Katniss Everdeen!

**Rachel:** Hunger... Hunger Games.

**Griffin:** Katniss Everdeen from Hunger Games!

**Rachel:** I get it. I get it.

**Griffin:** This is the last one. It's a trick. It's a tough—it's a tough one. Cyber man, *or* padre. Cyber man, *or* padre.

**Rachel:** Is it... Keanu Reeves from the Matrix?

**Griffin:** It's Neo from the Matrix... or, a priest's vestments, if you—it can be either one that you want it to be.

**Rachel:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** I don't know why they couldn't say 'cyber man or a priest's vestments.' I don't know—

**Rachel:** That's pretty good that I got it, though.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it is really impressive. I am very impressed. You did good. I would say you got more than you lost. Notionless I thought for sure you were gonna—

**Rachel:** Oh, god, I mean, how?

**Griffin:** You were gonna swing big at.

**Rachel:** All I was thinking was that it would be a person that was confused, and I was stuck on the word 'confused.'

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah. Well, it's a trick, and see, that's how they get you. Because whoever made Clueless, whatever TV studio or film studio made Clueless, saw that costume and said, "Notionless? I don't know what that means." And kept on walking! Kept on walking down the store! Until they saw like, green stink giant, and they were like, "Oh, that's clearly Shrek." It's like, so choice. It's all I want to do.

All I could do is sit around, when I was looking at these names, sit around and try and think of bootleg costume names, and I couldn't think of anything as good as juice demon.

**Rachel:** Yeah, no, that's kind of incredible. It is hard to come up with, like, on your own, just on the fly. Like, okay, let's say you wanted to do a... Batman costume. What would you call it?

**Griffin:** Hmm, Batman costume...

**Rachel:** Like... like, nighttime cave crime fighter.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Cowled... vigilante.

**Rachel:** Ooh, that's good too. I like that.

**Griffin:** Joker hater.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Okay, what about Dory from Finding Nemo? Blue forgetful fish.

**Griffin:** Memory fish. It would be—it would be so much... Memory fish. Literate memory fish.

**Rachel:** Ooh, I like that.

**Griffin:** That's good. The keeps swimming underwater friend.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Forgetful underwater son finder. Any of these works really good. Uh, hey, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

[home improvement theme plays, but really high pitched this time]

**Rachel:** Can I tell you about our first sponsor?

**Griffin:** Yes, you may.

**Rachel:** It's Third Love.

**Griffin:** Third Love. What's first and second love?

**Rachel:** I was just thinking that. I mean, I feel like your third love is just richer and deeper, y'know?

**Griffin:** Oh, for sure, for sure. Your first and second loves is jokes. Third love is like a fine wine you've learned how to touch and caress them.

**Rachel:** Uh, Third Love makes high quality bras. Uh, I have several of these, and they're not only high quality – they look nice. They are no show under clothes. You can wear it. You can set it. You can forget it. It's a beautiful look every day. I'd recommend it.

**Griffin:** Watermelon slingshot.

**Rachel:** Huh?

**Griffin:** Watermelon slingshot.

**Rachel:** Is that what bras are called?

**Griffin:** You could do it with them if you wanted, probably.

**Rachel:** Oh, okay. Well, every customer is—

**Griffin:** I definitely have not been watermelon slingshotting with your bras, so like, don't even get worried about it.

**Rachel:** Every customer has 60 days to wear it, wash it, and put it to the test. I don't think they're talking about watermelon slingshot in that example.

**Griffin:** They won't know. They're not gonna ask any questions.

**Rachel:** If you don't love it, return it, and Third Love will wash it and donate it to a woman in need.

**Griffin:** That's nice of them.

**Rachel:** Third Love knows there's a perfect bra for everyone, so right now, they are offering listeners 15% off your first order. Go to [ThirdLove.com/Wonderful](https://www.thirdlove.com/wonderful) now to find your perfect fitting bra, and get 15% off your first purchase. That's [ThirdLove.com/Wonderful](https://www.thirdlove.com/wonderful) for 15% off today.

**Griffin:** Our next sponsor is Noom, which is the opposite moon that hates the moon, and one day, will destroy it.

**Rachel:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** That's the whole advertisement.

**Rachel:** Weird.

**Griffin:** It is also, uh, an application that is all about helping you learn healthier habits and eating habits, and uh, all designed to help you sort of

feel better about yourself, whether that means getting more stamina to keep up with your busy life, or y'know, whatever. Whatever helps you feel good and helps you break bad habits, like for instance, eating a whole box of Sour Patch Kids at 11:30 at night.

**Rachel:** Yes. Yeah, so the thing that I've really—I've been using Noom for a while now, and the thing I really like about it is that it emphasizes healthy living. So it's more about identifying what foods, y'know, are gonna do the best things for your body. Um, and it's—it goes beyond kind of calorie counting, to really focus on like, y'know, what are your kind of goals, personally, that you want to achieve, and how can you change your diet and your lifestyle to meet those goals?

**Griffin:** Yeah. I need an app to do that for me. Or y'know, uh, an actual person that can help you out, and Noom can hook you up with that, with a goal specialist who can help give you tips and uh, set you up in a community of people like, trying to achieve the same thing. So you don't have to change it all in one day. It's all about, y'know, small steps making big progress. So, sign up for your trial today at [Noom.com/Wonderful](https://www.Noom.com/Wonderful).

What do you have to lose? Visit [Noom.com/Wonderful](https://www.Noom.com/Wonderful) to start your trial today. That's [Noom.com/Wonderful](https://www.Noom.com/Wonderful). Let's go out there and get the moon together, and show it who's boss. Throw it away. Pitch it into the infinite, black abyss. Aim for the sun. Show it what's what. It says all that here. Isn't that wild? These guys hate the fuckin' moon.

**Rachel:** That's so wild. Do you want to hear a personal message?

**Griffin:** Please. I want a very personal message.

**Rachel:** Uh, this one is for Amanda, and it is from Joseph, Flynn, Olivia, Kitty, and Ollie. So not super personal. I mean, there's a lot of people in there.

**Griffin:** Because it's a—yeah. [laughing]

**Rachel:** “To the woman whom I'd talk about if I had my segment on Wonderful... oh wait, here it is! Ten years was only the start. Amanda, you make our lives wonderful.”

**Griffin:** That is incredibly sweet, and ten years of... friendship? Ten years of...

**Rachel:** Maybe those are all the kids and the pets.

**Griffin:** Maybe? That's possible. Maybe they're all part of an elite sort of like, rollercoaster thrill seeker society.

**Rachel:** Ooh, or storm chasers.

**Griffin:** Storm chasers maybe! Crocodile wrestlers in the swamp, and they've been doing that for a decade? Holy crap! How many toes do you still have? Anyway, got another one here.

This one's for my best and only sister, and it's from Peter, smiley face emoticon. "Kat, I'm so glad my infectiously fun interests like McElroy podcasts and D&D have spread to you, too. I remember when we were younger, you introduced me to all of my interests, so now it's my turn. I hope the Jimmy Buffet concert is everything you've dreamed and more." Of course it is! "I can't wait until I'm able to crack a cold one with you in Margaritaville."

Oh, god, that would go down so smooth right now. Cold one at Margaritaville?

**Rachel:** Are you gettin' the Buffet bug?

**Griffin:** Mmm...

**Rachel:** Mmm...

**Griffin:** I'll never tell!

**Rachel:** You're getting on in years.

**Griffin:** Shit, you're right.

**Rachel:** It'll happen.

**Griffin:** Things I enjoy: the beach. Margaritas. Steel drum.

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



**Griffin:** Damn it. They've got me.

[music plays]

**Amy:** Hello, this is Amy Mann.

**Ted:** And I'm Ted Leo.

**Amy:** And we have a podcast called the Art of Process.

**Ted:** We've been lucky enough over the past year to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum to find out how they actually work.

**Amy:** And so, I have to write material that makes sense, and makes people laugh. I also have to think about what I'm saying to people.

**Speaker 1:** If I kick your ass, I'll make you famous.

**Speaker 2:** The fight to get LGBTQ representation in the show.

**Speaker 3:** We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

**Speaker 4:** I really just became a political speech writer by accident.

**Speaker 5:** I'm realizing that I have accidentally pulled my pants down.

**Ted:** Listen and subscribe at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), or wherever you get your podcasts.

**Speaker 6:** It's like if the guinea pig was complicit in helping the scientist.

**Griffin:** What's your second thing?

**Rachel:** Okay. I warned Griffin that my topics this week were a little boujee, and this is maybe peak.

**Griffin:** Uh oh.

**Rachel:** But it's drink pairings.

**Griffin:** Drink pairings?

**Rachel:** It's when the alcoholic beverage you're enjoying is best suited with a particular dish, and you get to find out what that dish is.

**Griffin:** Okay, sell me on this, 'cause I'm still—I think I am unsold on the whole concept.

**Rachel:** Okay, here's the thing. So, the idea is that out there, there are cocktails and wines and beers that will emphasize particular flavor notes in the dish that you are enjoying.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** And I think maybe what I like most about it is that it is a decision made for you, that guarantees that you have made the right choice.

**Griffin:** Oh, I see. You have paid—

**Rachel:** And I do like that.

**Griffin:** Yes. You have paid for the option of—you've cheated on the test.

**Rachel:** When you go to a restaurant, and they give you like a beverage list that's like, six pages long, and you're like, "I don't know how to do this, and I don't want to pick the cheapest one..."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** "If you would just tell me what to get, I would love that."

**Griffin:** [laughs] You've just made me realize my entire wine buying strategy at restaurants, and that is that I go, and you're right, I don't want to buy the very cheapest one, so then I buy the next cheapest one.

**Rachel:** Yep.

**Griffin:** Do you do that too?

**Rachel:** I mean, yes. Or I will ask the waiter to recommend a few, and then I will purchase one that is on the low end of that few.

**Griffin:** [laughs] I say, the lowest one? That's dirt. I wouldn't drink that with my worse enemy's dogs mouth. I will have the *next* cheapest one.

**Rachel:** I bet if you went to a restaurant and ordered the lowest one, they'd be like, "No one's ever ordered that before."

**Griffin:** "No one's actually ordered that before."

**Rachel:** "We don't even have that. That's a decoy price."

**Griffin:** That is, uh... that is a big realization I've just had about myself. Okay.

**Rachel:** So I wanted to share some pairings with you.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** So this is from Food and Wine.

**Griffin:** Well, it's right there, isn't it?

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

**Griffin:** [laughs] They would know.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Here's what goes together, folks. Food and wine. It's been right there on the ten the whole time. The mystery's been solved.

**Rachel:** Do you—do you want to play this game? I'll give you a dish, and then you tell me what wine you would pair with it?

**Griffin:** Sure, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:** We can stop this at any time.

**Griffin:** Sure, once I embarrass myself immediately.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** Okay, let's say you were eating a dish that is made with mushrooms and truffles.

**Griffin:** Mushrooms and truffles...

**Rachel:** What kind of wine would you pair with it?

**Griffin:** A white. A red. You want to get an earthy red in there. And so, I'm gonna say something like a... ooh. Maybe a... cabernet? A nice red cab? Deep red, old cabernet.

**Rachel:** I mean... pinot noir.

**Griffin:** Pinot noirrr.

**Rachel:** Which is kind of like a fancy cab, right?

**Griffin:** Oh, I guess. I don't know. Anything.

**Rachel:** Alright, this one will be easy.

**Griffin:** Oh, sure.

**Rachel:** What if you're eating a fish or a seafood dish?

**Griffin:** That one's gonna be a white.

**Rachel:** Yep.

**Griffin:** And that one's gonna be a... a... what, a grig? Or maybe a chardonnay?

**Rachel:** Chardonnay!

**Griffin:** Fuck yeah!

**Rachel:** Look at you, classy guy!

**Griffin:** Adult man!

**Rachel:** Way to go, babe.

**Griffin:** Thank you. I only know that because we used to buy those huge bottles of Rex Goliath chardonnay for like four dollars at HEB, and would eat them with tilapia. Oh, those were the days.

**Rachel:** Those were the days. I will say, they also recommend pinot grigio, if you are eating seafood.

**Griffin:** Hey.

**Rachel:** But a light seafood dish.

**Griffin:** Oh, eat shit. It's all light.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Um, what about... let's reverse it.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Rachel:** Let's say you're gonna do, like, a malbec.

**Griffin:** Oh, a malbec? A dark malbec, or a light malbec?

**Rachel:** What would you eat with that?

**Griffin:** Like an earthy malbec, or a light—like a spritely malbec? What would I pair with that? [blows raspberry] Spaghetti.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** With a malbec, I would do spaghetti every time.

**Rachel:** It says, a malbec is big and bold enough...

**Griffin:** Just like spaghetti.

**Rachel:** ... to drink with foods brushed with heavily spiced barbecue sauces.

**Griffin:** Ooh, ah. Like my spaghetti. [laughs]

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

**Griffin:** Like mom's barbecued spaghetti. Y'know the recipe I do for you every year?

**Rachel:** Yeah, you take the barbecue sauce...

**Griffin:** You take a the barbecue sauce, get it really hot. You boil it in a big pot, and then you put the spaghetti noodles in there. That's barbecue spaghetti, folks.

**Rachel:** Ooh. Ooh, my mouth is waterin'.

**Griffin:** Just like mama used to make it.

**Rachel:** Alright, what if you're eating like a spicy Asian or Indian dish?

**Griffin:** Oh, that one, you need to have a rose. For sure. Or something to wipe it off your tongue. Wipe this hot spices off your tongue, so I'm gonna say champagne with that one, definitely.

**Rachel:** I mean, you do want a slight sweetness.

**Griffin:** You do want a slight sweetness, and that's what I was trying to say, is, I think with that one, you are going to want a blend. A blend of rose and champagne.

**Rachel:** This recommends a Riesling.

**Griffin:** A Riesling! Damn it!

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm. See, I think part—I need a list of wines in front of you. I think part of it is, you're not recalling.

**Griffin:** You're right. You're right. Let me look at all the different wines that there are. Types. Of. Wine. Types of wine.

**Rachel:** You got something in front of you now?

**Griffin:** Okay, actually, I've just Googled that, and Google returned, "If you have to ask, then you're not ready for wine."

**Rachel:** What if you're eating a tangy food like a scallop?

**Griffin:** A tangy food like a scallop, I think you're going to need a sauvignon blanc.

**Rachel:** Are you looking at my list now?

**Griffin:** No, I'm not. I'm looking at a list of wines, and it's the only white wine that I haven't said yet.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Was I right?

**Rachel:** You were right.

**Griffin:** [makes explosion sounds] Wine man. I'm gonna be one of those professional wine mans that takes the big test.

**Rachel:** Alright, let's do one more.

**Griffin:** Okay. Do `em all, baby. I ain't afraid.

**Rachel:** Now let's say you're gonna have a steak or pork chops.

**Griffin:** Steak or pork chops...

**Rachel:** Or a lamb chop.

**Griffin:** Hmm. I've already said a cab, right? I don't think I've said a cab.

**Rachel:** Well, you were wrong when you said it the first time. Do you want to try it this time?

**Griffin:** Yeah, I want to try it on this time.

**Rachel:** You're right.

**Griffin:** Alright!

**Rachel:** You are a gourmand!

**Griffin:** I'm a bit of a... I told you.

**Rachel:** A sommelier!

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

**Rachel:** A [bad French accent] sommelier?

**Griffin:** A small meemaw? Is that a different type of wine?

**Rachel:** A small minion.

**Griffin:** Okay. Banana! That's what he'd sound like.

**Rachel:** That's good.

**Griffin:** Thank you.

**Rachel:** Alright.

**Griffin:** Yellow mischief worker.

**Rachel:** Do you want to do one last one?

**Griffin:** That would be what the bootleg Minion costume is called.

**Rachel:** Oh, that's good.

**Griffin:** Thank you. Goggled mischief maker.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Let's say you are having a cumin-spiced burger.

**Griffin:** Oh shit. That's so specific.

**Rachel:** And you're looking—okay, I'll give you another hint. Looking for a red wine with lots—

**Griffin:** Yeah, I knew it'd be red. I knew it'd be red.



**Rachel:** --with lots of spicy notes.

**Griffin:** Lots of spicy notes. Uhh... shiraz?

**Rachel:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Yes! Fuck yeah! I'm crushing it! I swear to god—

**Rachel:** You promise you're not cheating?

**Griffin:** Look, it's just types of wine on Wine Folly.

**Rachel:** You are the classiest man.

**Griffin:** I'm fucking crushing it! Hey babe? Hey babe? I'm just guessing.

**Rachel:** [laughs] You're very good.

**Griffin:** Thank you! I was gonna say that or zinfandel. It was literally a 50/50.

**Rachel:** You're very good at this.

**Griffin:** I have a gift, I guess.

**Rachel:** Clearly.

**Griffin:** I'm a juice de—I'm the juice demon. If the juice is wine.

**Rachel:** You need to be making all of our pairing choices from here on out.

**Griffin:** Oh god, that's a lot of pressure for somebody who got very lucky at a game that we just played. Can I tell you about my second thing?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** It's Rudy.

**Rachel:** Awww.

**Griffin:** Rudy. It's something about this time of year. Something about the fall, something about the temperature getting a little bit cooler. For me, it's all about Rudy. It all comes back to Rudy, folks.

**Rachel:** Griffin had me watch this movie with him, and it was like he had taken me to the church that he grew up in.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** He treated it as if I was visiting a place that was very meaningful to him.

**Griffin:** It was. I mean, it's not like I grew up in it. I didn't—I didn't see this movie for the first time until I saw... I think I was in school, at a high school. We like, watched it in school in some class someday, or over the course of like, three days or something like that. Uh, and that's weird, because my dad has like, always been low key, like, obsessed with the film Rudy, as I imagine a lot of folks' dads are.

Uh, and I don't think it's like, the best sports movie ever made, but I do think it is like, the quintessential sports movie that so many others that followed were sort of like, tailored after. And also, it's the sports movie that can just like, fully fuck me up every time I watch it, guaranteed. This one's gonna get some moisture. Chance of precipitation 100% from these eyes.

Part of that is because it's got Sean Aston in it. Sean Aston, my favorite little... my favorite little professional little guy. Sean Aston.

**Rachel:** He's the most lovable man.

**Griffin:** Very—he was also Samwise Gamgee, and I know that doesn't resonate with Rachel in the way it resonates with me, but it basically—all those things add up to meaning that this man has made me cry more than any other living actor at this point, so well done, Sean.

**Rachel:** And uh... and uh, Stranger Things.

**Griffin:** Bob on Stranger Things. I don't know if he got a tear on that turn, but he did aalright. So, Rudy is a film about a small guy, and he wants to play football real bad, get out of the steel mill that he works in. His whole family works in in Illinois. Got dreams. Big dreams to go play football at

Notre Dame, and the only thing holding him back is that he is not very academically gifted, and he is also super bad at football.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Does this remind you of your quest to play basketball?

**Griffin:** It kind of reminds me of my quest to play basketball, if I had an ounce of determination to continue to play basketball, and also, if my family worked in a steel mill. It's like, "I gotta get on the basketball team so that I can not work at a clear channel radio station," would be the analogy there.

Uh, so yeah, bad, dangerous, exploding steel mill. Uh, and he is... y'know, he applies to Notre Dame, 'cause he wants to make his dream come true, and it doesn't. He doesn't get into Notre Dame. They reject him. Uh, and then the rest of the movie is him just going on this like, back breaking odyssey to get Notre Dame and make it on the football team and play a game. That's like, all that the movie is.

Uh, and unlike so many other sports movies, what I really like about it is like... this one, like, I won't spoil it necessarily, but like, it doesn't end with him like, making the big touchdown, and then everybody's like, "Holy shit, you're amazing!" And then he goes on to be the NFL, like, hall of fame champion.

**Rachel:** Yeah. He doesn't grow like eight feet, and suddenly, he's super great at football.

**Griffin:** No. It is about a person putting in like, an outrageous amount of work, and like, emotional work, for what is like... y'know, arguably kind of a small reward. But for him, it means like, everything in the world. And it's that kind of like, disparity that is so like, emotionally resonant for me. Um, and I don't know how to talk about Rudy without like, kind of spoiling it.

But I don't know, it is—it is something about like the journey, not the destination element of Rudy, of just like, every time you think like, "This is it, Rudy's big break!" And then it's like, "Oh shit, you got turned down from the school again? Like, again, dawg?"

**Rachel:** It's kind of like the opposite of a baseball movie I mentioned a long time ago on this show, which is *The Natural*.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Where it's like a super mega talented player who just is like, naturally gifted. It's kind of the opposite of that.

**Griffin:** No, Rudy was quite bad at football. It was the only thing. But he wanted it so bad. And I think that that is a sort of superhuman trait in and of itself. Like, that is what makes Rudy such a neat character is like, the lengths to which he goes—the—the amount of things that gets like, shit on him, and he's like, "Well, I really do need to play football."

**Rachel:** It's like the ultimate underdog story.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I mean, it's like the... the identikit for like, underdog sports movie stories, for sure. The last 20 minutes of this movie just like, ruins me. And there's this famous scene where all of the like, senior players on the Notre Dame team essentially lay down their jerseys in protest so that Rudy can, y'know, take their spot on the team and play in a game.

And it's so heavy handed, but god, it just gets me every time! Watching all these guys say like, "I'm givin' up my chance so that Rudy can have a chance, 'cause he's just a good—he's good Sean—look at him, coach! It's good Sean Aston! He's so little, and we must protect him!"

**Rachel:** Do you think it appeals to guys that just kind of grew up their whole life just wanting to be good guys? I feel like that's part of it, right?

**Griffin:** Mm, I guess.

**Rachel:** Is that like, here's a good guy, and he like, gets recognized for bein' a good guy.

**Griffin:** The double-edged sword of that though is like, this is a good guy who also wasn't secretly like, a shithead who actually did work to try and like, achieve the dreams that he wanted, instead of, y'know, just waiting for them to come to him because he was good.

**Rachel:** [laughs] That's true.

**Griffin:** The thing about that scene, the jersey scene, is that it's actually quite contentious, because the coach in that scene, who is kind of like, y'know, the brick wall at that point keeping Rudy from playing football, uh, was an actual guy. This is based on a kind of true story.

Um, and the coach at that time was uh, Dan Devine. And the movie, like, he understood that the movie was gonna make him look like the antagonist, because it kind of had to be in order to create that emotional friction. But this scene, like, did not happen in real life. Like, in the real Rudy story, this scene of all the senior players coming in and laying down their jerseys didn't happen, and that pissed him off a lot.

Joe Montana played at Notre Dame during the time that Rudy was on the team, and he corroborated the fact that like, yeah, that didn't... that didn't happen. It's a movie, and they have to make fun stuff happen, but that would be wild.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I can't imagine a bunch of players would take that kind of stance against their coach.

**Griffin:** Yes. [laughs] Um, but man, the movie's real—a real tearjerker, if you like watching little guys achieve their dreams in front of a bunch of, y'know, doubting family members. The soundtrack, too. The soundtrack is from Jerry Goldsmith, and it is so powerful. The last track is called The Final Game. I might just play a little bit of it. But it's a banger. It's the song that plays over, appropriately enough, the final game in the movie, and my dad had this soundtrack, both on cassette and CD. And any time that we had... uh, any time we were driving in the car to the opening night of one of our plays, we would like, listen to it.

**Rachel:** Oh my god, that's the cutest thing I've ever heard.

**Griffin:** To get like, fully pumped up.

[‘The Final Game’ from the soundtrack of Rudy plays]

**Griffin:** So I don't know, if you haven't seen Rudy, uh, which some of you out there might not have if you don't care about sports, and y'know, don't care a whole lot about old sports movies. Uh, you should watch it. Especially if you love Lord of the Rings. If you love Sean Aston and you love Samwise Gamgee, you like, have to see the first time that he essentially did play Samwise Gamgee, and it was Rudy. And with less swords, and more football. But it's still... it's still pretty good.

**Rachel:** Oh, y'know, and it's football season.

**Griffin:** Hey, yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:** So it seems like, appropriate.

**Griffin:** Toss the pig skin around, baby.

**Rachel:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** Can I tell you about our submissions from our friends at home?

**Rachel:** Please do.

**Griffin:** Connor says, "I just wanted to submit my own small wonder, the bratwurst man at my university campus. This wonderful sausage man comes to visit every Tuesday with his sausage stand, and delivers the good, good meat to everyone around. The food is so delicious, but what really makes me happy is that he's just so proud of the product as he serves it to you, and he's so justified in that attitude."

Bratwurst man. Damn. That's a good... I feel like every area has like, a traveling vendor who want—in uh, Roscoe Village where I lived in Chicago, it was the tamales man, and this dude would just like, roll up at the bars in Roscoe Village, and he would just have a big, like, box warmer full of tamales. And you would get so psyched when you saw him. And I really like the idea of that, but Bratwurst, because damn, I love Bratwurst.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I was just thinking, we didn't have that.

**Griffin:** You didn't have that?

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Hmm. Maybe it's not as... [laughs] Universal as I thought it was.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I don't think the world has food men that wander around. Which makes it all the more special.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I guess so. Uh, here's one from Elizabeth who says, "My small wonder is when board games have special ways of picking who goes first, like when a game says, "The person wearing the most green," or "Who most recently ate a bowl of cereal goes first." I think it's just real neat, and it makes games a little more special and fun for me."

**Rachel:** Yeah, what is that game we played where it was the youngest person started?

**Griffin:** Uh, I don't remember who—which one was the youngest person. My very favorite of this is Pandemic, and in Pandemic, the person who was most recently sick goes first, which is, uh, very appropriate. Rachel would have a—actually, it would be tough if the McElroys all got together to play Pandemic right now.

**Rachel:** I know, 'cause somebody is always sick.

**Griffin:** Yes. Well, that just means somebody's guaranteed to go first always. Uh, that's it. Uh, 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. Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. They got a bunch of good stuff.

**Rachel:** They got a bunch of good... buncha buncha... buncha buncha good stuff.

**Griffin:** Yeah they do, and uh, that was great, and we're doing it. Art of Process is one of them, and uh, Mission to Zyxx, and a whole bunch more at MaximumFun.org. We have other stuff at McElroy.family, including hey, tomorrow, the new season of Adventure Zone starts.

**Rachel:** Woo!

**Griffin:** On Halloween. I'm really excited for it. I'm almost done slapping music on Travis' product. It's coming down the assembly line, and uh, I'm really happy with it. I'm really proud of him. And y'know what? I'm proud of you, because this episode is—we've recorded quite a bit, but I imagine it's gonna be actually very short when we cut out all the coughing breaks. Rachel... I kept asking if you wanted to stop, because Rachel was like, dying.

**Rachel:** It didn't look good there at the beginning, but I recovered.

**Griffin:** At the beginning... but you pulled it together. I'm so proud of you.

**Rachel:** Your joy has powered me through. You know that, right?

**Griffin:** My joy has—I think it was the juice demon. I think the juice demon smashed through the wall, filled you with his red power, made you tall and strong, and ready to just do the podcast.

**Rachel:** How is that not the Kool-Aid Man?

**Griffin:** I know. Beetlejuice should be like, undead... nasty... teenager husband? Eugh.

**Rachel:** Striped... striped suit man.

**Griffin:** Prison... ghoul...

**Rachel:** Multiplicity...

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** Multiplicity... dead man.

**Griffin:** Multiplicity dead man! I love you.

**Rachel:** I love you too. [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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