

Wonderful! 107: Deep Hug Stink

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Good morning. This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful.

Griffin: Ooh, a rare morning record for the Wonderful gang.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Doing this one. Comin' in hot. Rachel was producing some sounds and fluids. Do you want to talk about the sounds and fluids?

Rachel: My voice is better this week.

Griffin: It's better.

Rachel: Uh, I still have a cough that really sneaks up on me.

Griffin: I will say this – the sound and tambour have improved a great deal.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: The fluids...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Have been better, I would say.

Rachel: Yeah. It gets worse as the day goes on, so last night, when we typically would record, I opted to wait it out.

Griffin: Rachel has, in her contract, her Wonderful contract that we wrote for each other...

Rachel: Yes yes yes.

Griffin: It's one of our many contracts, folks. We have the Wonderful contract, we have the...

Rachel: The one around the dishes.

Griffin: The dishes contract. We have the... [laughs] Let's just say, the...

Rachel: The bathroom.

Griffin: The bathroom contract. Eugh. That could be anything in the context of what I was talking about! There's no bathroom contract.

Rachel: Well, and that you need a certain percentage of time.

Griffin: I need a certain percentage of time in the—the bathroom contract basically says there can't be a bathroom contract, because of how sort of unpredictable a system I am working with. But anyway, Rachel has a sort of like, y'know, escape clause, and she took it last night. Last night, she walked out on the live audience. We had to refund all their... have we ever talked about how there's a live audience every time we record?

Rachel: We haven't, because they're so quiet.

Griffin: They really don't enjoy our craft, huh?

Rachel: No. It seems strange that we keep bringing them in.

Griffin: Yeah, we keep bringing them in, and they keep looking really... not disappointed, just neutral.

Rachel: They're like, "There's no format to this show... you're just reading information you found on Wikipedia..."

Griffin: "Why don't you go back to talking about Bachelor..." Like, all that jazz. Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But anyway, I'm feelin' it. The sun's out, kind of. That's not true. It's super cloudy.

Rachel: My guns are out.

Griffin: Rachel's guns are out. She is wearing a—[laughs] It is November, and Rachel is wearing a tank top. The guns are out and shining. They're polished. What do you bench now? What are you up to?

Rachel: Oh, like two.

Griffin: What?!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Two...

Rachel: Started at one.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Up to two.

Griffin: Now you're here.

Rachel: Doubled.

Griffin: Got any small wonders?

Rachel: I do.

Griffin: You want to go ahead and take it? I feel like we both will—we're wanting to bring the same small wonder.

Rachel: I don't think that's true at all.

Griffin: Oh shoot, okay.

Rachel: I literally just thought of mine when I sat down in this chair.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Drawstrings.

Griffin: Ah, see, I was gonna say drawstrings.

Rachel: [laughs] Our son has a very, uh, narrow waist.

Griffin: Yep.

Rachel: He's very tall, so he needs to size appropriate for his age, but his waist is very small.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Little in the middle.

Griffin: And he doesn't even have much back.

Rachel: [laughs] And so, a drawstring that is actually functional is very useful.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: But a lot of times, they make decorative drawstrings, and I just— what is even the point?

Griffin: What's the point of that? You've just given the pants a mustache at that point, and it's meaningless.

Rachel: Yeah. What's your small wonder?

Griffin: I mean, I was gonna talk about the Queer Eye in Japan miniseries on Netflix. It's extremely good. I did not get that Queer Eye Terrace House crossover that I was so deeply hoping for.

Rachel: I know, we were waiting for it.

Griffin: Oh my god, it would've—

Rachel: It's Netflix! You'd think.

Griffin: You would think that they would get that done for you.

Rachel: It's a shame.

Griffin: Uh, I had something else... oh, Kero Kero Bonito. I'm going to see them in concert tonight. They're a great—

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: They're a fantastic band that you should go listen to. Uh, Augustus from the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay, uh, with Bo En, is in that band. Gus is in that band, and uh, I'm going to see them tonight at Mohawk. Very excited to go to that concert. By myself, like a cool concert goer.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm thinking about wearing sunglasses and smoking a big cigar, and just kind of like, standing in the corner.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah, because then I'll have some mystique, and I won't just be lonely concert goer. What do you think about that?

Rachel: I think you would draw a little more attention to yourself that way.

Griffin: I think you're probably right. I should probably just cloak it completely. Hey, I go first this week.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: My first thing... and we've been flirting with this for a long time. We've been dancing around it for a bit. But uh, let's really get into it. I want to talk about Bon Appétit. Specifically, I guess, I'm not a subscriber to the magazine, so I guess I want to talk about Bon Appétit's YouTube video presence in general.

Rachel: The personalities on this squad are incredible.

Griffin: So powerful. Very powerful. And that's what I want to talk about. I'm getting a... like an entertainment center delivered today, and I don't know how that's gonna happen, so I just saw a truck pull up, and if I see a person like, struggling to carry an enormous furniture box down our stairs, then we may need to pause the recording.

But anyway, Bon Appétit. I uh... it's been delighting me for months now. I was like, trying to think of things to talk about, and I was like, oh, how about this thing that like, we watch all the time?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: There was, I think, a natural evolution to how we got here, and like, the first part was like, we watched those short form Tasty videos on Facebook, and we'd be like, "Oh, here's 50 thousand ways to make chicken sliders."

Rachel: Yeah. But there's no—there's literally no personality in those.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Typically, it's just hands.

Griffin: I learned that there's a name for that genre, because that's actually what Bon Appétit started doing video content with back in 2012, after like, the Tasty stuff started to pop off. It's called hands and pans.

Rachel: Aww!

Griffin: I like that very, very much. Uh, so yeah, we kind of moved on to more long form content. Rachel and I like to wind down with a nice, like, y'know, Kiwami Japan half hour long making a knife out of tofu video, or some Baumgartner art restoration. Uh, and Bon Appétit I feel like is like, the one we look forward to the most, partially because like, it's more practical than the other things we watch. It's food, which we could ostensibly make.

Uh, and it's got that deep, like, primordial soul satisfaction of looking at tasty food, which is like, y'know, the only reason I watched the Food Channel. That's not true. There were a lot of good personalities on Food Channel also. But the personalities on Bon Appétit... oh, man.

So anyway, the magazine's been in publication since 1956, and it has always sort of had this slightly, like, highfalutin brand. Like, it's always been very upscale dining, fancy...

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, the fact that it's like, French...

Griffin: It's called Bon Appétit.

Rachel: The very name.

Griffin: [in an exaggerated French accent] Bon Appétit! Then you know that it's, y'know, they're gonna have... they're not gonna be dealing with like, here's how to make some rustic mac and cheese, or something like that.

Rachel: Yeah, or here's how to make a burger that's actually seven burgers on top of each other.

Griffin: Right. That's more the Tasty MO. But in 2012, they were like, "Well, hold up, we do actually want that Tasty money." And so, they started to make these hands and pans videos, but nobody really... I feel like I certainly didn't like, y'know, pay attention to them and these efforts until we started watching, like, their long form personality forward stuff, the first of which was a series that's still going.

It's called It's Alive, featuring Brad Leone, or perhaps Leon, who is frequently featured in the series that Rachel and I sort of were on boarded with, which was Gourmet Makes, starring Claire Saffitz, in which Claire, who is just fantastic. Just the best. Uh, tries to recreate sort of different junk foods.

Rachel: Yeah, you want her to be your best friend. You want her to be your sister.

Griffin: I want all of them to be my best friend. I want all of 'em be my best friend.

Rachel: You want her to be your neighbor.

Griffin: Brad seems like a handful.

Rachel: You want her to watch your dog when you're out of town.

Griffin: That would be—I'm sure she would do a really good job!

Rachel: Exactly.

Griffin: She would like, learn how to make Beggin' Strips for the dog.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Damn, I would watch that episode.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Of making Beggin' Strips.

Rachel: Where they bring a bunch of dogs in.

Griffin: Uh, there was a, uhh... [laughs] This is such a divergence, but there was a blog that I used to really, really like when I was younger. It was like, proto-internet blog era, called Steve, Don't Eat It or something like that, in which he would eat food that he shouldn't be eating, and one of them was Beggin' Strips.

There's a line from that review that has always stood out in my mind, and he said, "I expected it to taste like some sort of simulacrum of bacon. What I was not expecting was for it to taste like the smoky puke of a thousand maniacs."

Rachel: [laughs] That's beautiful.

Griffin: It's so good. But anyway, uh, that was sort of how we got onto it. She makes Gushers, she makes—all of it is so fascinating, and there's so much trial and error. But mostly, it's just like, watching Claire, y'know, try really hard, and sometimes fail and get very frustrated.

Rachel: And we've talked about—this was a small wonder before, but the idea is that she takes kind of junk food favorites and turns them into like a gourmet version that you could make at home.

Griffin: We were watching Takis last night. She was doing Takis. This like, just came out. And it made me realize, I've never eaten a Taki, and it's like, all I've been able to think about since we watched that video is how bad I

want to eat a Taki now. I may sneak out today, go to a gas station, get some Takis, and have secret Takis without telling you.

Rachel: Yeah? Mm-hmm.

Griffin: But what they've accomplished is kind of like the web video dream, partially because like, they've made something from nothing kind of. Because these efforts, uh, It's Alive started in October 2016, and that was really like, the first series where it's very like, humorous, and the editing is very like, um... it's very like, uh, what was that show? Blind Date on the CW or whatever, that had constant pop up like, uh, uh, subtitles and stuff like that? Like, it's very irreverent, and it's very not Bon Appétit, like, magazine brand.

Rachel: Yeah, exactly.

Griffin: This is a new effort, and it's been like, super, super successful. I feel like everybody started to watch Gourmet Bakes. And what the dream is that they've accomplished is that like, for us at least, it has brought us into like the whole ecosystem of the stuff that they make. Like, we've watched an episode or two of that Back-to-Back Chef show, where a woman named Carla Music brings in special guests, and they both cook a meal at the same time, but the special guest can't actually see what Carla's doing.

Rachel: I've watched that one.

Griffin: It's really, really good! Uh, Claire did a series called Baking School, where you like, learn how to make a cake, and it was super in depth and super informative and great. The one we've been getting into a lot lately is Chris Morocco. Chris Morocco is this very erudite, tall man who has apparently an incredible palate. He's a super taster. And so, they will blindfold him, and he will taste foods, and then try and recreate them. Including like, Guy Fieri's garbage can nachos. It is a very good series. Obsessed with this dude now. He is so fresh.

Rachel: Yeah, I am always delighted, because a lot of times, these people have tremendous skill, and they're very knowledgeable, and you think, "This is gonna be inaccessible to me." But they're all so charming and relatable.

Griffin: And they explain things in a very, like... very clear ways. And they're all funny! Like, and that's like, the thing that really appeals to me is like, you see the BA test kitchen, and it's just a big, open room. So you see everybody doing everything all the time, and so, everybody's in every video,

essentially. And so, there's this crosspollination where like, we saw this—we saw Chris Morocco in the other people's videos, and we're like, "Hey, he's funny." And so, when a new Chris Morocco video opened up, it was like, "Oh, let's watch that!"

Rachel: I know, isn't that kind of incredible?

Griffin: It's incredible, and it's also like, that is for... y'know, speaking personally, when I was at Polygon, like, that's kind of what you want, if you're going in that sort of personality forward direction. And they've accomplished it like, really, really well, which is impressive from a strategic standpoint. But it's also impressive from a like, I'm jealous and want to work there.

Rachel: I know.

Griffin: Because it seems like the chilliest, like, best, most fun place to be.

Rachel: It's like you kind of wish they did like a Disney on Ice tour, where they would come to your town and make something in front of you so you could see all of them.

Griffin: Yes. It's like the Marvel cinematic universe of cooking operations. And I just love it. There's so much—there's so much to dig into there, and they are—they're just firing on all cylinders. So that's Bon Appétit.

This is mostly me just like, checking this box, 'cause I feel like we've—when I started to write notes on this, I was like, "I swear to god we've talked about this before." But...

Rachel: Yeah, we just mentioned Gourmet Makes, but we didn't really talk about the whole franchise, which is very worth discussing.

Griffin: Very worth—oh. Chris Morocco makes Jamie Oliver's insanity burger. Throws so much shade at Jamie in the making and the process. It's so good. It's such a good series.

What's your first thing?

Rachel: My first thing is Play-Doh.

Griffin: Alright!

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Uh... [laughs] Okay.

Rachel: Oh, wow. That turned on you quick.

Griffin: It's just, we—now, our relationship with Play-Doh has changed. Since we are not the first-hand players with the Play-Doh, and we are now the second-hand sort of watchers. The second hand sort of, uh... we're Play-Doh police at this point.

Rachel: I know. I know, so it's challenging for me. So, Henry is going to be three this month. Uh, and he's just gotten to an age where he can be really creative with his toys.

Griffin: So good. It's so fun.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. So Play-Doh is like... is perfect for him, because he understands that he can make things, that he can combine colors, which is very stressful for me.

Griffin: That's a part that Rachel... I feel like any time he's like, "Let's get the Play-Doh out," your reaction, and therefore my reaction seeing your reaction is like... [inhales] Okay. 'Cause you know you're gonna be hovering and be like, "Ooh, you put the red on the green, that's just gonna turn into brown. Yucky." Every color turns the same when you mix them together. I don't know. It like, defies the laws of like, light and physics.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Yeah, I was successful for a while getting out one color at a time. Being like, "What color should we use today?" But then he realized, why not get all the colors?

Griffin: Y'know, I have to take some blame for this, because one day, he was really upset that we didn't have orange Play-Doh, so I took some of the red Play-Doh and yellow Play-Doh and mixed it together, and he was like, "Ohh!"

Rachel: I saw that happening, and I thought, "Well, it's over for us now."

Griffin: Over for you. I don't mind that weird sort of baby poop green-brown color.

Rachel: Here's the question, though – what container do you put it back in? This is what's hard for me.

Griffin: I know. I know, babe. I know. For you, the answer is a garbage can, and we'll get new—we'll get new Play-Doh. I'm so sorry. And Rachel—

Rachel: Well, I have a recipe for Play-Doh at the end of this segment.

Griffin: I've made Play-Doh before.

Rachel: Yeah, me too. But it's been a long time, so it was helpful for me to find a recipe.

Griffin: Why are we buying Play-Doh, man?

Rachel: Because of the colors.

Griffin: Eh, food coloring.

Rachel: There's like 50 colors now.

Griffin: That's a lot. That's quite a bit.

Rachel: Yeah, like, they don't sell 50 food colorings. And I don't want to spend a lot of hours making my own version of chartreuse.

Griffin: Yeah, that's a good point. I'm pretty sure it's just yellow and green, but it's a good point.

Rachel: Uhhhh... let's not get into chartreuse.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Let's not start this again.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. God.

Rachel: On page seven of the contract, we agreed...

Griffin: You're right, you're right.

Rachel: We would not talk about chartreuse anymore. [laughing]

Griffin: You're right.

Rachel: Do you know the history of Play-Doh?

Griffin: Absolutely not. Why would I know that? That would be a wild thing for me to know.

Rachel: [laughs] Well, it's one of those things that was made originally for a different purpose.

Griffin: It was for the war. They would use it to fill in bullet holes. It was like a makeshift...

Rachel: Well... [laughs] It was used to clean coal residue from wallpaper.

Griffin: Oh my god, okay. What?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I was goofing, but that's not too far off in terms of like, weird practicality.

Rachel: At the request of Kroger, they wanted a product that could clean coal off of wallpaper. Joe McVicker, uh, and Noah McVicker of the Cincinnati-based soap manufacturer put together a pliable, putty-like substance.

Griffin: So the—and then they were like, "Hey!" They were peeling coal off of wallpaper, and they're like, "Y'know what? This is kind of fun!"

Rachel: This is fun! Yeah, so, when—

Griffin: Why was there so much coal on the wallpaper? What were they doing?

Rachel: When they would, y'know, use like, coal stoves in the house...

Griffin: Ohh.

Rachel: Like, the smoke and stuff...

Griffin: I was thinking—see, you know me, I'm a coal miner's daughter. So I was thinking like, just the raw shit on it.

Rachel: [laughs] They were like, in the mines, just like, "This is gonna take forever!"

Griffin: Yeah. And then, I was thinking coal miners were coming up out of the mines, and then just like, accidentally bumping into the walls and leaving their like, y'know, their trails behind them.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, so what ended up happening was, Joe McVicker was the brother-in-law of a nursery school teacher who had seen an article about making art projects with putty. And so, she persuaded them, as the country moved away from coal stoves, for example, to use it as a child's toy.

And so, she and her husband came up with Play-Doh. Joe and Noah wanted to call it 'rainbow modeling compound.'

Griffin: That's a better—can I say, that's a better name, because guess what, folks? It ain't dough. That—

Rachel: Modeling compound, though, doesn't invite children. That sounds like a business person's toy.

Griffin: Dough invites children to yummy down on this, 'cause it's dough. Like cookie dough? You love this.

Rachel: Well, here's the thing. Usually, at least initially, it was made with flour, water, salt, borax, and mineral oil.

Griffin: You can almost eat all that stuff.

Rachel: None of that in a small quantity is gonna hurt you.

Griffin: Borax?!

Rachel: It's non-toxic. People are able to eat a little bit of Play-Doh and not hurt themselves.

Griffin: How much Play-Doh would I have to eat to hurt myself?

Rachel: This is a good question.

Griffin: Let's find out. I'll be right back.

Rachel: [laughs] Griffin, don't eat that. A reprise of his favorite show.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh, so, this has been around for a long time. It was demonstrated at an educational convention in 1956. And then, in 1957, they started running ads on Captain Kangaroo, Romper Room, and offering it in stores in red, blue, and yellow.

Griffin: That's all the—really, that's technically all the colors you need.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Yeah. As I mentioned earlier, now it's available in 50 colors. Um, started with a mascot in 1960.

Griffin: Ohh. Tell me about the Play-Doh mascot.

Rachel: Used to be a pixie.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: Before we saw Play-Doh Pete.

Griffin: Oh wait, so they started with a pixie, and they were like, "Get that out of here. Now we need Play-Doh—" Well, what is Play-Doh Pete? What's he look like?

Rachel: Play-Doh Pete... this says so much about our country.

Griffin: Uh oh.

Rachel: So initially, he was a little gentleman. A little kid in a smock and a beret.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: In 2002, they replaced that beret with a baseball hat.

Griffin: That's... in 2002?

Rachel: [laughs] In 2002.

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: You're telling me that like, Play-Doh was complicit in like, freedom fries, like, Bush-era, post 9/11 bullshit?

Rachel: Yep.

Griffin: Oh my god, that sucks. Hash tag bring back the beret, Play-Doh. What are you doing?

Rachel: Well, so now, in 2011, they started taking the little Play-Doh containers themselves and turning them into mascots called the Doh-Dohs.

Griffin: That's—a—this is revisionist—

Rachel: So those little plastic cups...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Are now like, turned into little cartoon figures themselves.

Griffin: And what's Pete doing? What's Pete supposed to do with that?

Rachel: He's gone.

Griffin: Pete died?

Rachel: I mean, he's working for somebody else now.

Griffin: Dang it.

Rachel: Maybe he got a job as like, the new Dennis the Menace.

Griffin: Ohh, yeah, 'cause Dennis... Dennis had to resign in disgrace.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: He went a little—

Rachel: He went actual menace.

Griffin: He went way too hard on Mr. Wilson.

Rachel: [laughing] Um, the other good thing about Play-Doh...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: The scent. The smell of Play-Doh.

Griffin: Oh, the scent. Okay, I didn't know that that was a whole sentence. Yes, the scent is quite good.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, the company has trademarked it in 2017, and they describe it as a combination of sweet, slightly musky, vanilla-like fragrance with slight overtones of cherry, and the smell of salted, wheat-based dough.

Griffin: Eat shit, guys. You're not a—it's not a fancy cabernet. It is Play-Doh, y'all. Like, stay true to your roots. Play-Doh's fuckin' changed, man. They used to be like, real. And the boy had a beret, and they were like, "Yeah, man, it's just some dough we put some borax in it. My wife."

Rachel: Did you ever have... so, speaking of how Play-Doh used to be real, do you ever have one of those Play-Doh sets when you were a kid? Like, that had all the little tools and stuff?

Griffin: Oh yeah, absolutely.

Rachel: Did you have that McDonald's one?

Griffin: Uhh, yeah, where you could make the French fries?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: You had like, yellow Play-Doh, and you'd push it out—

Rachel: And the pickles, and the hamburger...

Griffin: Yeah. The quintessential one for me was always the hair salon, because that was...

Rachel: Ohh, I always wanted that. You cut the little hair that would grow out of the head.

Griffin: I don't think we ever had that, but we had it at like, my church, like, y'know, uh, Sunday school for little kids. And I would have a lot of fun there while learning about Moses or whatever.

Rachel: So, and I'm gonna ask you to Google this, just so you can enjoy this.

Griffin: Oh boy, okay.

Rachel: Okay, in 2014, Play-Doh released a Sweet Shoppe Mountain play set.

Griffin: Shop... mountain... play set.

Rachel: That was a little controversial.

Griffin: Oh, 'cause it's—the food looks so delicious?

Rachel: No. There's a tool that came with that set.

Griffin: Okay, let me load it up.

Rachel: That was a little controversial. It was supposed to be a baker's pipette.

Griffin: Nope. No. No. No. That's not what that is.

Rachel: [laughing] You want to talk about what you're seein'?

Griffin: It's a—it's a—okay. It's a... it is a syringe-type shape. I imagine that's not why it was controversial.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: It's so dildo-y...

Rachel: Yes. [laughs]

Griffin: It's so hugely dildo-y. It is ribbed for the Play-Doh's pleasure.

Rachel: [laughs] Um, this, actually, Play-Doh came out and offered a replacement pipette, because so many parents were outraged by the very phallic shape of this.

Griffin: I gotta check the reviews on this.

Rachel: This object.

Griffin: "Question: Is this the phallic kit?"

"Not sure what you mean. It's a very age-appropriate Play-Doh set. My three-year-old daughter loves it. Nothing naughty about it." Okay.

"Can I just order the phallic extrusion piece?"

"No."

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: [laughs] There's five people saying, "No. No. No. No. Shame on you."

Rachel: It was released, I guess, right around Christmas time, as like, this is gonna be our big Christmas present, and um... people... [laughs] People could not contain themselves.

Griffin: Oh boy. Yeah. "This is clearly the product of sick minds."

"Why do the candles need to look like sperm?" I didn't even notice that. Hold up. Do the candles look like sperm?

Rachel: Oh, I didn't notice that.

Griffin: I think that that's—I think that that person is like, wanted...

Rachel: [laughing] They're just looking for it now.

Griffin: They were looking for sperm. Oh, no, the candles look like ca—ahh, they kind of do look spermy.

Rachel: [laughs] Um, so, do you want to know how to make Play-Doh?

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: There are a bunch of different recipes out there. A lot of them contain borax, some of them don't. I think it depends on how long you want your Play-Doh to last.

Griffin: Hey, the fuck's borax?

Rachel: Oh, I don't know.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I've only known it in the context of making your own slime and such.

Griffin: Yeah. Borax must be like...

Rachel: I think it's a cleaning product, I just don't know what you would clean with it.

Griffin: Yeah, let's make sure we eat that. Remember, Rachel loves it. Rachel loves eating it. It's sodium borate, or sodium tetraborate. Yeah, it's a component in many detergents. Yummy! Cosmetics. Mm-mm-mm! And enamel glazes. Mmm! My mouth is salivating just at the thought of eating the borax!

Rachel: [laughs] The recipe I found is probably not designed to last. I think that's the big difference is that a lot of these at-home recipes, uh, y'know, aren't really built to be more than one session of use.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Um, but yeah, you can make Play-Doh with uh, flour, baking soda, water, corn starch. You bring it to a boil and stir, and it thickens, and you got your own little at-home dough.

Griffin: Hey, that's fun! And then you put that in the oven...

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: You gotta extrude it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: With... with mommy's special helper.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Uh, I think Play-Doh's the best. It's super fun. I always enjoy playing with it with our son.

Griffin: I do too.

Rachel: He enjoys it a lot. It's been around, as I mentioned, since the '50s. Still just as good.

Griffin: Still just as good. It's one of things where every time I sit down and play with it, I forget how much I like modeling stuff out of clay. Like, Henry's like, "Make a tiger!" And I'm like, "Ooh, this is a fun challenge."

Rachel: [laughs] And by the time you're finished, he's already moved onto something else.

Griffin: Oh yeah, he was watching Peppa Pig or something.

Rachel: The other thing I read is, if you get Play-Doh on the carpet, you just let it dry, and then you can just remove it with a stiff brush.

Griffin: Interesting!

Rachel: Yeah, it's the best.

Griffin: Thanks, Play-Doh. That's nice. That's sweet.

Rachel: Hey, uh, can I steal you away?

[ad break music, but horrendously distorted]

Rachel: Can I tell you about our first sponsor this week?

Griffin: Yonp.

Rachel: It's Mod Cloth.

Griffin: Mod Cloth!

Rachel: Um, Mod Cloth has been around for a while now, and people absolutely love it, because the clothes and the products you find on that site are so unique. It's not like one of those stores where it's just like, "Oh, here's a boring blue t-shirt." It's all like—

Griffin: I hate those stores, man.

Rachel: [laughs] It's all vintage-inspired, made by in-house designers. It has bright, hand-drawn prints, and an inclusive size range.

Griffin: Yeah. And I—do you—what do you have? What's in your collection? 'Cause I know you've done some Mod Cloth diving.

Rachel: You know how I have that kind of marigold short sleeve sweater thing?

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Rachel: That's Mod Cloth.

Griffin: Alright! I love that!

Rachel: I know! It's also an exciting place to go to look for little holiday outfits. I was looking the other day. They had kind of like a velvety, green dress that I really thought about getting for the Christmas season.

Griffin: You should do that.

Rachel: I know! Mod Cloth is offering a discount to our listeners.

Griffin: That's nice of them!

Rachel: To get 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more, go to ModCloth.com, and enter code 'Wonderful' at check out. That's ModCloth.com, and code 'Wonderful' for 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more.

Griffin: Hey, I have a personal message. This one's for Daniel, and it's from Megan, who says, "Dear Daniel, happy anniversary! Not to put too fine a point on it, you are the only bee in my bonnet. Thank you for choosing to live your little robot life with me. I love you all the loves, even more than pizza, even rustico pizza. Love, Meg-Meg." They're taking over. The robots.

Rachel: The robots.

Griffin: I told you, babe. The first thing they're gonna do is take away all the podcasting jobs. The second thing that they're gonna do is they're gonna take away all the jumbotron spots.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: So that flesh organisms...

Rachel: Then they're gonna start making our music.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: Uh oh.

Griffin: Uh oh. We're boned!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, do you want me to read the other personal message?

Rachel: Yeah, please do!

Griffin: This one's for JP, and it's from Rakul, who says, "JP! Thanks for getting me into the wonderful world of podcasts. I can't believe the impact they've had on my life, and it's all thanks to you! Happy birthday and Christmas, because these jumbotrons are expensive." Um, not great advertising for the service that we... [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I suppose they—are they expensive? Are they—oh, maybe they were trying to say expansive. These jumbotrons—

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: The opportunities that they provide are impossible to measure.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: So expansive, aren't they?

[music plays]

Janet: We are so thrilled at your interest in attending Hieronymous Wigenstaff's School for Heroism and Villainy! Wigenstaff's beautiful campus boasts state of the art facilities and instructors with real world experience. We are also proud to say that our alumni have gone on to be professional heroes and villains in the most renowned kingdoms in the world!

But of course... you are not applying to the main school, are you? You're applying for our Sidekick and Henchperson Annex. You will still benefit from the school's amazing campus, and you'll have a lifetime of steady employment. Of course... there's no guarantee how long that lifetime will be.

Travis: Join the McElroys as they return to Dungeons & Dragons with The Adventure Zone: Graduation. Every other Thursday on Maximum Fun, or wherever podcasts are found.

Rachel: Can I hear your next thing?

Griffin: My second thing... the gooch. Anamanaguchi. I should've said that first, and then said the gooch, because people are gonna be like—

Rachel: Yeah, I'm sure they don't like that.

Griffin: "Are you talking about... is Griffin about to talk about the taint?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think that I am ever gonna do that as a segment.

Rachel: Wow. That would be a segment.

Griffin: That would be a heck of a segment. No, I want to talk about Anamanaguchi. This is inspired by the fact that I did see them in concert last weekend. Man, I'm a real concert goer these days, I guess.

Rachel: Yeah, listen to you!

Griffin: I know, I went a good like, year and a half without going to one, so I'm really breakin' the streak. Um, but yes, they did, uh, one of their tour stops as part of the USA expo, which they're doing to promote their new tour, uh, their new album, here in Austin. And during that, I did make an appearance at that expo where Peter and Luke, who are in the band, they did pitch me their pitch for Austin Powers 4.

Rachel: Is that recorded? Can I listen to that anywhere?

Griffin: I do not know if it was recorded. Somebody in the audience may have been filming it on their phone. I don't think we were rolling, uh, rolling tape on that, as they say. Very good pitch. Very surprisingly thorough and well thought out. Uh, but it just made me realize, like, hey, I haven't talked about them, and I've been, uh... I didn't realize like, how long I've been like, listening to them. And it's like, over a decade at this point, which uh—

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: Yeah, the time is a flat circle.

Rachel: They all seem like young fellows. That's incredible they've been around for that long.

Griffin: Don't we all? Don't we all?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, I think it's kind of easy to like, pigeonhole them as a chip tune band, which is like a, uh, y'know, a very specific subgenre of music made

with classic sort of game sounds. 8-bit game sounds, mostly. And sort of identifying that as a novelty thing. But I think that's, one, doing a discredit to that specific genre, but it's also like, not suitable for Anamanaguchi anymore. 'Cause what I really, really like about them is that they have like, evolved over time, over the decade that I've been listening to them, into something kind of else.

So, the genre that like, I see them most attributed to is bit pop, which is like a, uh, a different subgenre that's not chip tunes, because it's not like, all the music is made with a, y'know, and NES and that's it. It's just like, that is some of the elements of the music, is these like, sort of classic game-inspired sounds.

Rachel: How—how is it made?

Griffin: Uh, well, I mean, it can be made with like, actual hardware. So, Anamanaguchi, the first time I saw them here in Austin, back when I came here for South by Southwest in 2011, I think that was still during the era where they had like an NES plugged in, that had been like, y'know, hacked and modded all to shit so that it ran sequencing software. That is how they would—that is how they would play with that.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: But like, these days, you can also, y'know, load up those specific sounds into a DAW, like Logic or Ableton like I've been using, and y'know, just play them on a MIDI keyboard like I have set up in my office. And just do it like that. So yeah, I mean, there's lots of different ways to sort of accomplish that noise.

But now that that noise is sort of like, becoming a little bit more mainstream in that it's being used in other genres of music. Like, you will hear that sort of like, uh, low-fi, 8-bit, crushed to hell, like, synthesized drum sound in like, tracks from Snoop Dogg. And then there are bands that like, really make it a central part of their thing without it being just like, all chip tunes all the time.

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu is a big one. Freezepop is a big one. Those are two that I at least have heard of.

Rachel: Have you heard... have you heard the new Harry Connick Jr.?

Griffin: The new Harry Connick Jr., he's got that bit pop sound that I am super, super into. So yeah, like, when Anamanaguchi was starting out, I was like, writing about them for Joystick because of the novelty of, uh, they play on stage with, y'know, drums and guitar and a bass, and also, one of their band members is an NES. And so like, their songs sounded like, y'know, dope, classic NES tunes with a rock band playing over it.

And so, I want to play a song off one of their earliest albums. It's called Jetpack Blues, Sunset Hues.

[‘Jetpack Blues, Sunset Hues’ by Anamanaguchi plays]

Griffin: And so like, the sound was just super, uh... it was dope. Like, I was super into it. I remember moving from Huntington to Cincinnati, like, listening to uh, this album, Dawn Metropolis, nonstop. Uh, they also did the soundtrack for a video game. They did the soundtrack for the Scott Pilgrim video game.

Rachel: Ohh!

Griffin: Which was like, revered as being a fun as hell beat 'em up game that you now can no longer buy, because of weird licensing issues. It's just gone off the face—

Rachel: Ohh.

Griffin: I know, it's so tragic!

Rachel: Interesting.

Griffin: I love it so much. But they gained a lot of recognition for that. Uh, and that was in 2012, I want to say. And in 2013, they released an album called Endless Fantasy that we were actually covering at Polygon when it launched. I think we did a video essay thing on it. And it was this like, 22 track behemoth, and it had this aesthetic that was like, super unique and very consistent. Inspired by like, again, classic gaming, but also like, sort of Japanese pop aesthetic. That neon, Japanese future pop sort of look and feel that is in all the music videos.

They have a music video for one of their songs, Meow, that you should go watch, because it's like, super Tim and Eric inspired, and is absolutely hysterical. But like, what is so ambitious about this album is that like, the

sound had changed, like, really dramatically. Because now it wasn't like, here is an old song from like an NES game that this band is playing drums and guitar and bass over. Like, now, it had fully incorporated those elements into a part of a bigger thing, and had been like, a genre of music that I had never really heard before.

And it got more—I don't want to like, insult the original stuff that they were doing, but it sounded so much more sophisticated. Uh, so I'm gonna play some of Endless Fantasy. It's the title track, and it's my favorite one on the album.

[‘Endless Fantasy’ by Anamanaguchi plays]

Griffin: I just really admire like, any—I think this probably comes through whenever I talk about something like this on this show, like, I really, uh, adore this like, enterprising spirit that artists have sometimes, of just like, getting out there and trying a ton of new shit and collaborating with a bunch of likeminded people, and just being sort of like, voracious in how much like, new stuff they attempt to do.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And Anamanaguchi does that, not only with like, different projects, but also with like, their entire sound. Like, the entire DNA of what the music sounds like that they make.

Rachel: It's really—it's really adventurous, y'know? I feel like their—the majority of people when they think about starting a band or composing music, they think in a very kind of traditional, like, “Guess I'll have to learn how to play the saxophone.” Kind of way. [laughs]

Griffin: Right. Right. And there is like, a mastery of instruments that happens here, but there's also a sort of like, “Let's rethink the way that we make this—that we incorporate these elements.”

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, speaking of, this is like, the quintessential like, my favorite thing they've ever done. In 2016, they staged a Twitter dispute with a fictional game developer, because they were—they had apparently worked on the game soundtrack for this huge, ambitious game called Capsule

Silence 24 that had gone belly up, and so, it led to this acrimonious relationship between them.

And so, Anamanaguchi leaked the game's code, and you could download it for free and play it, and it was this unfinished, weird, broken piece of garbage game. But then you could like, slip into like, this developer back room space in the game, and it was like, this house that Anamanaguchi had coded for themselves inside the game, where you could go to like, their rooms. But you could also listen to the soundtrack to the game, and it was over 30 songs.

Basically, it was this whole weird ARG where they released an album.

Rachel: Oh my gosh!

Griffin: Like, the album was in the game. Uh, and it's Capsule Silence 24, and the music is fuckin' great, and like, that's how they released that album.

Rachel: Wooow.

Griffin: You couldn't get it anywhere else for like, a long, long time. Uh, they did a big tour with Hatsune Miku, and did a collaboration song with Hatsune Miku, which is like, their biggest—it's like, I don't know. It's—I just really love, uh, I love that Anamanaguchi is like, so experimental with their sound. You can hear it again in this new album that just came out, USA, is like uh, a little bit kind of back to roots. That chip tune sound is a lot more forward. But the way that they like, uh, the way that they arrange around it is different in this one. It's a really, really great album. I've been listening to it nonstop.

Uh, I just really love, uh... I really love how experimental, and like you said, adventurous they are with the music.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: Um, so, yeah. That's the—also, they wrote Pop—I'm gonna play Pop It, too. They never released it on an album. It's just like a single of this song called Pop It, and it's like, my fuckin' favorite. It ended up on like a, uh, a Target commercial and a Burger King commercial, which was very wild for me, seeing Burger King with Anamanaguchi over it. But anyway, I'll play Pop It and leave it at that.

[‘Pop It’ by Anamanaguchi plays]

Griffin: What’s your second thing?

Rachel: Okay, my second thing is kind of hard to describe.

Griffin: Ohh, these are my favorite.

Rachel: I wanted to kind of do it in terms that I thought you would understand.

Griffin: Oh, good.

Rachel: So I'm gonna use language that I think you would use.

Griffin: This is insulting already.

Rachel: I'm calling it, the stink of your lover.

Griffin: This is gonna be challenging.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I want you to know...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I want you to really listen to the sentence you said out loud, and then think about if you want to commit that to tape for a bunch of strangers to hear.

Rachel: I do.

Griffin: Okay...

Rachel: I'm ready.

Griffin: Okay...

Rachel: I thought about the consequences, and I'm ready.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: What I'm basically talking about is, y'know, how like, when you fall in love with somebody...

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And you get used to their smell.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And then you kind of... it becomes one of your favorite smells.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Yeah. That's what I'm talking about.

Griffin: When you said the stink of your lover, that sort of uh, brings to mind like, a sort of post-coital...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Do you know what I'm saying?

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And I'm sure there's lots of our listeners who went there, too. The scent of your lover is maybe... no, stink of your lover is better.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, here's the thing.

Griffin: Sometimes it stinks.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's what you're saying. I'm a stinky boy. I'm a stinky, stinky pig.

Rachel: Well, and a lot of it is kind of sweat-based, y'know?

Griffin: Interesting. Okay. I'm assuming there's a lot of science behind this that you're going to tell me about.

Rachel: So what I'm really gonna talk about is pheromones.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Um, but it's not like, I love pheromones. Like, the concept of pheromones. And I don't love just anybody's pheromones.

Griffin: Just mine. Just my special pheromones that I make.

Rachel: Griffin McElroy branded pheromones.

Griffin: Pheromones. Yeah. I've been bottling them. You can get them at the—uh, at dollar stores across the country.

Rachel: [laughs] Um, so, pheromones... um, it's interesting, actually. So, the word pheromone is a portmanteau of 'phero,' which means carry, and 'hormone,' which means stimulating.

Griffin: Right, okay.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Uh, but it is a secreted or excreted chemical that triggers a social response in members of the same species.

Griffin: Interesting. So, dog pheromones do nothing for me, is what you're saying. They can't. It's gotta be the same species.

Rachel: I mean, not—not on like, a deep... level.

Griffin: Right, okay.

Rachel: Uh, so, this is something that does exist, as you just highlighted, across species. Ants, moths, bees, and butterflies release sex pheromones to attract a mate. Many moths and butterflies can detect a potential mate from as far away as six miles.

Griffin: Good lord!

Rachel: Right? That's stink!

Griffin: There's a moth up in Round Rock like... [sniffs] "Mm, what's that fuckin'—mm, I gotta get down to Austin! There's a sexy moth down there!"

Rachel: [laughs] Um, it also works in a kind of a different way. Mice, through scent, can distinguish close relatives from more distantly related individuals.

Griffin: Well—okay.

Rachel: So they can use a stink to kind of be like, "Oh, I shouldn't—that's my second cousin. I shouldn't get in there."

Griffin: Yeah. That's my stinky nephew.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs] Uh, this is kind of a difficult thing to study, because in order to really get at it, you need kind of a base state of like, cleanliness of odorlessness, which is kind of difficult with humans to control.

Griffin: Yeah, we smell bad. I don't know what to say.

Rachel: You have to like, just get the stink, and not like a, "Oh, did you have ketchup earlier? You have to really..."

Griffin: Right. I love the smell of ketchup. I'm so horny right now.

Rachel: [laughs] But there have been a lot of studies recently on it. There are classes of pheromones. There's the kind that kind of come from sweat. There's the kind that come from your downstairs.

Griffin: My what—like my pee?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: My pee pheromones, babe?

Rachel: Um...

Griffin: No, you can't just say something like that and move on! You can't say there's pheromones that come out of my wiener!

Rachel: There's, um... when you go through puberty...

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: As a person with a vagina...

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: There is a smell sometimes.

Griffin: Ohh, I see. Okay.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Um, androstenal. Androstenal. In a 1978 study, people wearing surgical masks treated with androstenal, or untreated, were shown pictures of people, animals, and buildings and asked to rate on attractiveness. Individuals with their masks treated with androstenal rated their photographs as being warmer and more friendly.

Griffin: That's... a wild experiment. That's a wild experiment.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: First of all, there's gotta be somebody who puts on that mask like, "Yo, what the fuck is this smell? Why do you want me to look at pictures of buildings with this mask—this mask has a scent to it, gang. Are you sure?"

Rachel: [laughing] "I suddenly find this building very attractive, and this has never happened before, and that's really weird for me."

Griffin: "This stinky mask makes me want to fuck this building."

Rachel: There's a lot going on here. But the one thing that I found that I think is true is, it says that this hormone can make people feel more relaxed.

Griffin: Huh.

Rachel: So a lot of times, when I go in for a deep hug with Griffin, I find myself becoming more relaxed, and maybe some of that is that stink.

Griffin: Right. It's my—it's my—it's my stink.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It's getting a little—I am starting to feel very sensitive talking about my stink. We've made it a good like, eight minutes in this segment before I got kind of uncomfortable about airing—literally airing my dirty laundry like this.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, there was also a study at University of Chicago that talks about—have you heard about how people that get periods that live together will kind of sync up on their cycles?

Griffin: I always thought that that was like an insulting dudebro like, bullshit, not real thing.

Rachel: There's speculation that it has to do with pheromones.

Griffin: Huh, interesting. Okay.

Rachel: Yeah, which I thought was kind of interesting. They did a study where they um, where people who get periods kind of got a whiff of the perspiration from other people, and it influenced their cycle.

Griffin: Yeah, that's—I really don't like thinking—I really like thinking all my actions are because of my own sort of...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Ego decision-making abilities, and not because I smelled a smell, and my body was like, "Party time, dude." Do you know what I mean?

Rachel: Yeah. So, there have been a lot of efforts to kind of package pheromones and sell them.

Griffin: [gags] Okay.

Rachel: This idea that you could cover yourself in some attractive person's stink, and then, suddenly become more—

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: --interesting to other people.

Griffin: Wait, is that not just what perfume and—I guess that’s a different thing.

Rachel: Well, that’s kind of—y'know, that could be like, floral.

Griffin: Right, sure.

Rachel: Herbaceous.

Griffin: You're talking about a scent-free stink that’s covered in my particles.

Rachel: Yeah. There was a commercial pheromone called Athena that was tested, and 74% of people who used this pheromone...

Griffin: Were devoured by ants.

Rachel: In this study, experienced an increase in hugging, kissing, and intercourse.

Griffin: You—come on!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: “How’s the study going? Tell me about your results.”

“Well, I've had, uh... [laughs] Don’t want to brag, but a 74% increase in intercourse.”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What’s that mean?

Rachel: I've doubled my smooching.

Griffin: Doubled my smooching.

Rachel: Tripled my hugging.

Griffin: Only a 74% increase in intercourse, but hey gang, that ain't nothin’.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, I—

Griffin: How many were devoured by horny ants, though? How many where they sprayed the stuff on themselves, and then they went outside and were instantly turned into bones by horny, horny ants?

Rachel: I mean, that's tough to say, because some people wanted to be devoured by horny ants.

Griffin: Dang it, you're right.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, this is interesting. It's also the kind of thing that I always think is like, fake. 'Cause it's so like, Love Potion #9 fantasy bullshit.

Rachel: Well, and it's hard to tell what comes first, right? Like, when you come to like someone, then you—potentially, their smell is something that happens after you already like them.

Griffin: Interesting. Right.

Rachel: It's hard to believe that maybe the smell is what started it all.

Griffin: But who are we to disagree with these horny scientists?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, y'know what our friends at home are excited about? Uh, Billy says, "Hello, my wonderful thing is the 40th anniversary Happy Meal toy assortment at McDonalds. From November 7th to 11th, you can get Happy Meals with some of the best toys they've ever had. This includes, for example, the burger Transformer lad, a Space Jam toy, the original red Power Ranger, a Tamagotchi, and the cream of the crop, the purple platypus Beanie Baby." Holy. Shit.

Rachel: Ooh! Wow!

Griffin: This is—they are firing on all cylinders with these.

Rachel: That's kind of brilliant.

Griffin: It's wild after we talked about them, uh, that this is happening so soon after.

Rachel: Yeah. Well, y'know what? I've started to see... I mean, since we are of an age now where a lot of our peers, and including us, have children, I've seen a lot of kind of retro marketing motivated—

Griffin: This is that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This is that, like, fully fully fully. I may try and get that burger Transformer. I loved him. Uh, Rachel says—oh, sorry. Another Rachel says, "It's the season for leaf shadows! I think it's wonderful when fallen leaves collect on the sidewalk, and then blow away, leaving marks behind that look like shadows. It's like temporary wallpaper for the ground."

Rachel: Oh my gosh, that's beautiful.

Griffin: That is very evocative. Uh, I love that a lot. Uh, our leaves haven't fallen a lot, but we are getting a lot of... what are they? Like, little buckeyes. What are those little guys? There's like a thousand of them on the porch right there. I don't know what those are.

Rachel: Acorns?

Griffin: Are they acorns? They don't look like, y'know, the proper buckeye acorns. But I guess, yes, they are acorns. And they are falling... I would say about two a minute, and every one of them like, lands on the roof.

Rachel: Oh, and you get a little plink plink.

Griffin: Or lands on the—and every time... I'll have that and the washer running while I'm home alone, and I'll be like, every 30 seconds like, "Oh, someone's breaking in! Nope. Just an acorn and the washer going at the same time."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that's it. Hey, thanks to Bo En and Augustus for the use of their theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. And thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network.

Rachel: Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network! Y'know, a show that we haven't mentioned...

Griffin: What's that?

Rachel: Is the Jackie and Laurie Show.

Griffin: Yeah! The Jackie and Laurie Show.

Rachel: It's two comedians just talking to each other and bein' funny.

Griffin: Go check that out. Nice back catalog for you to dive into if you've never listened before. Um, we have... oh, a shirt!!

Rachel: We have a shirt!

Griffin: Yeahhh! Well, we didn't make it. Our uh, artist, Sarah McKay, made it, and DFTBA is selling it. But anyway, it's at McElroy.family. It's real cute. It's a raglan tee.

Rachel: We also are gonna be performing at Candlenights this year!

Griffin: That's right! Uh, what's—tickets for that go on sale, I believe...

Rachel: On Friday, right?

Griffin: On Friday, yes. On the 8th. I am going to mess up the details of that, but if you go to McElroy.family, I'm sure you can find all the information, as well as links to where you can get that new t-shirt.

Rachel: It's in Huntington, West Virginia.

Griffin: Well, right, I knew that. Yeah. It's gonna be at the Keith Albee, and it's gonna be general admission this year, which we haven't done before, but it's a much, much bigger venue than we've ever done before. But that Candlenights show, like, historically sells out within minutes. So like, hopefully that'll be abated by the fact that we're doing a much bigger venue, but do not sleep if you want to come to Huntington and see us.

We're gonna do MBMBaM, and Wonderful, and a couple of other McElroy family programs. But yeah, it'll be a good time! [in a strange accent] Good holiday time! Who's this?

Rachel: Who's this character? [laughing]

Griffin: Anyway... [doing a horrible impression] I'm Matthew McConaughey. I just—hey, I'm Matthew McConaughey, and I just... let me get in my Lincoln and say an end of the—hey, everybody. It's me, Matthew McConaughey.

Rachel: Okay, okay, okay.

Griffin: [still doing an impression] Okay, have a good night. Thanks for listenin'. I'm Matthew McConaughey. Talk to you later. Bye.

Rachel: [laughing]

[theme music plays]

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