

## Wonderful! 194: Deep Fried Halloween

Published August 25th, 2021  
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[theme song plays]

**Rachel:**

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:**

Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:**

And this is Wonderful!

**Griffin:**

A show about things we like, things we're into. And I know you are wondering, "Who the heck are we to get to sit up here on our two matching thrones and tell you what's good?"

**Rachel:**

Ah, this is my secret fear. This is my secret fear...

**Griffin:**

Oh, shit! Yeah, what am I doing?

**Rachel:**

This is my secret fear that everybody who listens to this show has this thought. That you were just demonstrating.

**Griffin:**

Who are these two clowns— clown-o's up there saying, "Hey, you better start liking persimmons," or whatever.

**Rachel:**

Well, we both went to eight years of tastemaker school.

**Griffin:**

That's true! That...

**Rachel:**

Um...

**Griffin:**

Oh, Jesus, is that all we are? I don't think we are. I don't think when I talk about like, you know, Ruffles potato chips, on this show the next day there's a spike in Ruffles stock.

Which, of course the toktiker shorthand form is RUFF. Get there though it's about to hit a big boom, I don't know anything about stocks. Do you have a small wonder?

**Rachel:**

I do!

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Um, there's probably a better way to talk about this but, ah, water-proof clothing?

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

We, ah, are planning one final trip for the summer months and I have been looking for clothing that I can wear that will not become damp.

**Griffin:**

Yes!

**Rachel:**

In this hot climate.

**Griffin:**

Yes!

**Rachel:**

And I have been particularly interested in these fabrics, these moisture wicking fabrics.

**Griffin:**

They're very important to me.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

At this point in my life, I have no patience for damp clothes that I may damp with my body stuff.

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I'm kind of a 'Sweaty Betty' I guess?

**Griffin:**

I think we all are, these days.

**Rachel:**

Well, I think I'm going to maintain that I am sweatier than you. I'm just gonna say it.

**Griffin:**

I'll allow that.

**Rachel:**

I think my kind of...

**Griffin:**

But in my defense, I don't exert myself.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I think my nervous energy comes out in sweat.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Rachel:**

And your nervous energy just causes...

**Griffin:**

Ah, yes, yes.

**Rachel:**

Your skin to fall off.

**Griffin:**

Okay, cool. I guess I have lots of like, issues with my bod?

**Rachel:**

Well hey I'm saying I'm sweaty, it's not like I'm...

**Griffin:**

Oh, wow, yeah.

**Rachel:**

Putting myself on a pedestal.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, you get weird poops, and you get your skin falls off. And I guess I get a little sweaty so we're even. Uh, I'm going to say my good friend here is Theodore Lasso. Uh, holding down the set over there across the pond.

**Rachel:**

People are kind of freaking out about this season it seems.

**Griffin:**

In which way, in what way?

**Rachel:**

I think they're nervous about Ted Lasso's kind of turn from perfection.

**Griffin:**

Oh! Interesting, I think it's been very good.

**Rachel:**

Well no, the character himself.

**Griffin:**

Oh, I see. Yeah, I mean...

**Rachel:**

This idea that he's having kind of a crisis of confidence.

**Griffin:**

Yeah! It's very interesting to have like, it would be like if in the second *Mighty Ducks* movie, like somebody came in and was like, "Hey Gordon Bombay, you're doing it wrong." And he's like, "Oh, shit! Am I? Oh, man." Yeah, it's fantastic! And they are taking fucking huge swings with it too.

**Rachel:**

Oh, my gosh, so charming.

**Griffin:**

There's a Christmas episode!

**Rachel:**

That Christmas episode it...it...Griffin has introduced me to the idea that prior to the holidays you watch holiday themed shows.

**Griffin:**

Yes!

**Rachel:**

And this one has entered the rotation.

**Griffin:**

I think definitely. For sure.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, hey, you go first this week with the big, with the big boy. What do you got for the big boy? What do you got for the big boy?

**Rachel:**

I mean that's kind of an appropriate way to couch my wonderful thing.

**Griffin:**

I can't wait, are you going to talk about Frisch's Big Boy because...

**Rachel:**

No.

**Griffin:**

Oh, boy.

**Rachel:**

No, I am going to talk about uh, state fair food.

**Griffin:**

State Fair food!

**Rachel:**

Um-hum!

**Griffin:**

Get down there!

**Rachel:**

Um-hum!

**Griffin:**

Texas State Fair just announced no masks, no shots, required. You can get shots, on the campus of the fair!

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Get your self a double stuff super fried Oreo and also, uh. immunization. A sort of deactivated pathogen that will make you immune to the global pandemic.

**Rachel:**

Uh-uh.

**Griffin:**

Not immune, but mostly, get your shots folks.

**Rachel:**

You think the shots are deep fried?

**Griffin:**

I think that they probably are, yes. I think they hide them in the Oreo. You take a bite of the Oreo and you go, "Ow! What was that?"

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I wanna couch this and say that I...the fair food I am thinking actually it has not been acquired from a state fair. I do not believe I have been to a state fair.

**Griffin:**

You're— What!?

**Rachel:**

I don't think so.

**Griffin:**

They didn't do one in St. Louis?

**Rachel:**

So, uh, we had carnivals. Carnivals, is what I went to.

**Griffin:**

Fine. But...

**Rachel:**

So, like...What I really honestly want to talk about was funnel cake.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay.

**Rachel:**

But there's not much of...

**Griffin:**

Not a lot.

**Rachel:**

There's not much of a story with funnel cake, it is exactly what you think it is. But, um...

**Griffin:**

Ever hear of it called elephant ear?

**Rachel:**

Yes! Although, that is apparently a slightly different thing.

**Griffin:**

Oh, is it?

**Rachel:**



I think it's...

**Griffin:**

There's like a big flat funnel cake.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I think it's kind of in the way it's created.

**Griffin:**

Dutch baby, interesting.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, um, but I realized that ultimately what is exciting to me about the idea of attending a carnival or a fair is the food you can get there.

**Griffin:**

Yeah that's about, I mean, I don't know if I could go on tilt-o-whirl at this...at this age, at this juncture. Or like scrambler is one of them or the um, oh boy, spider or yo-yo. All the big ones.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, ah, carnival rides are terrifying.

**Griffin:**

I'm sure there's, I'm sure we have, uh, carnival workers who listen to this show who take great pride in their craft and that's fine. But I...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I just, when I go on a ride I operate under the assumption that I would hear about a disaster if it had happened. But, um, it's difficult when a ride just pops up in a parking lot to feel total confidence in that ride.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that's fair. But again we are pretty anxious people.

**Rachel:**

Well, yeah...that's fair. So, I wanted to talk a little bit, about kind of the start of fair food.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

And then give you some sneak peeks into the Texas State Fair food of this year.

**Griffin:**

Ew, I can't wait. Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so state fair used, uh, to just kind of be like look at this big tomato, look at my beautiful pig.

**Griffin:**

And can we just get back to that please? I want to check out your big topato, tomato?

**Rachel:**

Did you forget how to say it?

**Griffin:**

I wanted to...my brain. Okay here's what happened my brain, my mouth is the exit for words that come out of my brain and tomato was like let me through, and potato was just like, no it's my turn.

**Rachel:**

Topato.

**Griffin:**

And they kinda went out there the same time.

**Rachel:**

How about it science?

**Griffin:**

I want a tapato, I would, no I don't want it. Potatoes are, potatoes are kind of, they kinda got it in one with potatoes. Um, I don't want them trying to chop and screw it.

Although damn, if you could get ketchup like built into the like DNA lattice work of the french fry?

**Rachel:**

Oh, I don't know, but you yourself have talked about the pleasure of dipping.

**Griffin:**

Oh, you're right. I love it. I saw somebody dipping at the airport. Like snoose or snuss, or whatever.

**Rachel:**

Oh!

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I hadn't seen that in maybe ever.

**Rachel:**

I mean I guess if you are a smoker and you need access to your sweet tobacco...

**Griffin:**

Need that stuff.

**Rachel:**

That is one way to do it, in an airport.

**Griffin:**

Maybe. Yeah, anyway, that was a gross aside.

**Rachel:**

Okay, state fair uh, Syracuse State Fair of 1841 is the beginning of state fair-etude.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, But, you know, we didn't really see the like confections until like, the 20th century. Uh, I wanted to talk about, somebody named Able Gonzalez Jr.

**Griffin:**

Okay, please tell me.

**Rachel:**

Who's nickname is Fry Jesus.

**Griffin:**

Alright!

**Rachel:**

Uh, he is a multiple Big Tex, which is the Texas State Fair, award winner. Uh, he invented deep fried butter for the 2009 Texas State Fair.

**Griffin:**

Invented is a fun word there. I guess you just, what do you do...what do you do, you freeze it.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, You freeze it. Yeah. And then you encase it in dough and then fry it.

**Griffin:**

Okay. So you're kind of, I mean not to be that guy, but you're, you have deep fried dough at that point with just like lots of butter. I'm sorry folks...

**Rachel:**

Doesn't that sound good though?

**Griffin:**

No!

**Rachel:**

No?

**Griffin:**

What are you talking about?

**Rachel:**

Oh so you don't like butter on bread?

**Griffin:**

I don't like...there...I don't, okay I wouldn't eat a hot pocket of butter.

**Rachel:**

Well, it's not...

**Griffin:**

That is what it, that is...

**Rachel:**

No, but its not that size. I do not imagine that they are giving you a like a hotdog sized encased butter.

**Griffin:**

Would this liquid butter be super hot, like super, super-duper, scalding hot?

**Rachel:**

No, cause its frozen.

**Griffin:**

And then they fry it.

**Rachel:**

And then they fry it. And so it like probably like just reaches melt temperature when they pull it out.

**Griffin:**

I can't, I can't go, I can't, you are going somewhere that I cannot follow.

**Rachel:**

Wow. Um, alright, so candy apples, um, sorry I didn't mean to move on from Able Gonzalez so quickly. He apparently has this whole show that I am not familiar with. Uh...

**Griffin:**

Oh, Butter Boys, on Bravo!

**Rachel:**

Deep Fry Masters.

**Griffin:**

Oh, is that on Bravo?

**Rachel:**

I can't imagine it is.

**Griffin:**

I only watch Bravo!

**Rachel:**

He was...

**Griffin:**

The only cooking shows I watch are on Bravo! And that's it.

**Rachel:**

He was a database analyst before quitting his job in 2009 to become, deep fried food guy at the state fair. But he has been just kind of all over the scene not just with the butter but uh, cookie dough, fried coke.

**Griffin:**

Oh!

**Rachel:**

Fried jambalaya.

**Griffin:**

Oh! Okay, hold up, you've got me back now.

**Rachel:**

Chicken fried cactus bites, jelly and banana sandwiches and deep fried pineapple rings.

**Griffin:**

There's a lot of stuff in there that I think we can all get on board with.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yes!

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yes, so I wanted to get back to fair foods, um, mentioned the candy apple, funnel cakes, uh...

**Griffin:**

Do you like a candy apple?

**Rachel:**

Not really, no.

**Griffin:**

Okay, good.

**Rachel:**

I like, a like, a caramel apple with the nuts, but that's mainly because I like the caramel and the nuts, you know.

**Griffin:**

Yeah I don't really like biting into an apple.

**Rachel:**

Oh, just, full stop?

**Griffin:**

Full stop. I like a cut up apple, but I don't really like biting into an apple. If you can cut up an apple and dip those in caramel and put some nuts on them, oh boy, that would be good.

**Rachel:**

That's a good idea.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it's a great idea.

**Rachel:**

I'll get into Texas in a moment, but I also wanted to talk about the deep fried Oreo.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Invented in 2002.

**Griffin:**

Wow, it's been almost 20 years.

**Rachel:**

Uh huh, um this came the year after the deep fried Twinkies.

**Griffin:**



Oh yeah. Natural progression.

**Rachel:**

The Oreo is dipped in pancake batter, deep fried, drizzled with chocolate, coated in powdered sugar.

**Griffin:**

I mean, yeah.

**Rachel:**

I've never had one, have you?

**Griffin:**

I haven't because its, you know me. I'm 34, I just, I can't, there are certain..

**Rachel:**

Not in 2002.

**Griffin:**

I feel like I've always had this sort of digestive constitution of a 34 year old man.

**Rachel:**

I will say that does not stop you though.

**Griffin:**

It doesn't stop me for a lot of things, but like, just eating like a sugar, I don't like sugar, on sugar, on sugar, on sugar, on sugar.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, that's fair.

**Griffin:**

You know what I mean? It's the dipped in chocolate and then powdered sugar, like deep fry me up an Oreo I'll eat that bad boy, sure. But like also coated in chocolate, and also coated in powdered sugar?

I don't think I like powdered sugar very much. It gets on [clicks tongue] gets up there. [clicks tongue]. Eating pancakes with powdered sugar, you're like, "Mm, this is a good pancake." [clicks tongue]

**Rachel:**

Oh, that noise.

**Griffin:**

Is that bad?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay.

**Rachel:**

Uh, um, okay so now I wanna talk about Texas.

**Griffin:**

Please.

**Rachel:**

Uh, so since 2005 the Big Tex Choice Awards have been offered. Each year, state fair confectioneries fry up food for a chance to become a finalist in the awards.

**Griffin:**

It's just fried foods?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

Yes, so here are the finalists for 2021.

**Griffin:**

Oh, boy.

**Rachel:**

Here are the savory finalists...

**Griffin:**

Okay so wait this is happening soon, right? The Texas state fair is soon right?

**Rachel:**

Uh, huh, it's a month away.

**Griffin:**

Okay, wow, get stoked.

**Rachel:**

Okay, so savory finalists, we have crispy, crazy, corn.

**Griffin:**

Um, yeah, okay cool!

**Rachel:**

Which is just, you know, fried corn. But in little individual kernels. Um, then we have what we have the deep fried I-35.

**Griffin:**

Oh, shit.

**Rachel:**

Which is a fried kolache.

**Griffin:**

Oh, God! What's inside that kolache? Just sausage?

**Rachel:**

Well, so there's brisket, there's peach juice.

**Griffin:**

Wow!

**Rachel:**

Uh-huh. Doesn't that sound incredible?

**Griffin:**

I'm wicked into all of those. Yeah, see there's a lot of complexity in there.

**Rachel:**

Deep fried sea food gumbo balls.

**Griffin:**

Sure, man!

**Rachel:**

Something called pork shots.

**Griffin:**

Fuck yeah, pork shots! You're telling me I can get Covid-19 shots and pork shots? At the same event?

**Rachel:**

They take a sausage, uh...

**Griffin:**

Is this pork shots?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Okay, awesome.

**Rachel:**

Okay, they take a sausage and they wrap it with bacon, and then they fill it with mac and cheese.

**Griffin:**

I'm, I'm, nope. That was it.

**Rachel:**

You want me to stop there?

**Griffin:**

Yeah that was it. How do you fill a sausage with mac and cheese?

**Rachel:**

It's so they, like the bacon around the sausage creates a little bowl, in which they like put the mac and cheese around...

**Griffin:**

Something called pork shots could be so fun.

**Rachel:**

Uh, there's also the lucky duck dumpling...

**Griffin:**

Okay!

**Rachel:**

Uh, which is a pastry filled with cream cheese and duck, bacon and sweet corn.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay, sure!

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm. Okay sweet finalists.

**Griffin:**

All right this is where it's going to get a little too rowdy, I feel like.

**Rachel:**

Something called the armadillo, which is a cookie butter ice cream sandwich. Shaped...

**Griffin:**

That is fried?

**Rachel:**

Yeah, shaped like an armadillo.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay.

**Rachel:**

Brisket brittle.

**Griffin:**

What?

**Rachel:**

Which is a, uh, kind of like a peanut brittle, but...

**Griffin:**

But with sweet brisket?

**Rachel:**

The peanut is replaced with the brisket.

**Griffin:**

How's that sweet?

**Rachel:**

Well I mean there's still the brittle part.

**Griffin:**

I guess.

**Rachel:**

The buttery sweet brittle.

**Griffin:**

Yeah that doesn't sound very good.

**Rachel:**

And then a Texas pumpkin poke cake.

**Griffin:**

Okay!

**Rachel:**

Which is a pumpkin cake, with vanilla glaze caramel with cream.

**Griffin:**

And then you fry it? Are you sure? How do you fry whipped cream? Damn it, what will they think of next?

**Rachel:**

Well, the pumpkin cake. The pumpkin cake is fried.

**Griffin:**

Oh and they put whipped cream on...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:**

Okay, okay, okay

**Rachel:**

Okay two more, sorry, I— This, I know, is a lengthy segment.

**Griffin:**

I'm on pins and needles.

**Rachel:**

I know. Deep fried Halloween.

**Griffin:**

You can't do that!

**Rachel:**

This sounds so brilliant.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Rachel:**

This is Isaac Russo.

**Griffin:**

Is this your front runner you think?

**Rachel:**

I mean...

**Griffin:**

Put money on it, let's see. We'll follow up.

**Rachel:**

It, okay, so it is a large soft pretzel. First, dropped in the fryer, bathed in candy corn syrup.

**Griffin:**

Oh, man.

**Rachel:**



Followed by rainbow sprinkles and powdered sugar.

**Griffin:**

Oh man.

**Rachel:**

Then, they take orange and white buttercream icing...

**Griffin:**

What?!

**Rachel:**

...and put Halloween candies on top. ah, marshmallow whipped cream, Reese's peanut buttercup, Hershey's chocolate syrup, and candy corn.

**Griffin:**

The most...

**Rachel:**

You want to see it?

**Griffin:**

I'm not sure I do!

**Rachel:**

It just kind of looks like they dropped something in a pile of candy.

**Griffin:**

It's just...the most rowdy debaucherous— I feel like Guy Fieri, on his worst day, would take a look at that and be like, "That's...criminal. That's too much stuff."

**Rachel:**

It's the pretzel really that got me. Like the idea of putting...

**Griffin:**

The pretzel's great!

**Rachel:**

A pretzel in a fryer, I'm like all right you've peaked my interests.

**Griffin:**

But then candy corn syrup, something else, buttercream frosting, and then Halloween candy...what is Halloween candy sprinkled in top? You're describing the gamut, the whole spectrum of candy?

**Rachel:**

It's deep fried Halloween!

**Griffin:**

Okay, that's fair.

**Rachel:**

Okay and then finally a fried toffee coffee crunch cake.

**Griffin:**

That's my shit, that's all I need right there.

**Rachel:**

Um hum, it's like a cake donut and its got toffee and almonds...

**Griffin:**

God, yes.

**Rachel:**

It's dipped in an egg product and dipped in panko and vanilla cookie crumbs.

**Griffin:**

Oh, okay. Okay. Yeah, sure. That's mine, that's mine right there. That's not gonna win I feel like, can I be honest with you? I feel like brisket brittle is going to win, because it's like...

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah, I can see that.

**Griffin:**

Because its like, its something new. It's a new genus of...man, we have spent a long time on this segment. Not that it's dragging, but that like, I only want to talk about fair food. And the science of it and the development of it.

**Rachel:**

It made me realize that there is a...there is an opportunity for Munch Squad to go in a new direction, that I should reach out to your brother...

**Griffin:**

You can not, that is a, that is a threshold, that once we cross it...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Then the, the title of this show will need to change.

**Rachel:**

When I was doing my research, I read about a state fair, because you know, they're all over the country and they all follow this kind of fair food ethic now. Uh, somebody took a burger and instead of buns used funnel cake.

**Griffin:**

Alright, kick ass.

**Rachel:**

So yeah, there's a lot of potential there and I'm just excited about it. You know the innovation. Um, granted again, I have not been to a state fair, so I can't claim a lot of knowledge, but oh it's exciting.

**Griffin:**

Hey, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:**

Yes.

**Griffin:**

Please, thank you.

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**Rachel:**

Hey, what's your thing?

**Griffin:**

Are you ready for that, for the heat?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I want to talk about kids' cameras. Or photography for children.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

Tell me, did you, did you have a camera, or did you have access to maybe many cameras growing up as a child?

**Rachel:**

Yeah. I mean I feel like it, it is kind of, I don't know the practice in our house at least was as cameras got more advanced, I got, you know, the camera that was less advanced to play with.

**Griffin:**

Interesting.

**Rachel:**

I remember a camera that I had that looked kind of like a laptop battery, it was like a long bar...

**Griffin:**

Yeah!

**Rachel:**

With a little wrist strap. Uh, and yeah that, I remember using that, um, and also you know just the disposable ones.

**Griffin:**

That is a concept...do disposable, disposable cameras are like extinct now right?

**Rachel:**

I don't know, I feel like people still use them at weddings don't they or no maybe not?

**Griffin:**

Me? I don't know?

**Rachel:**

I don't know. But yeah it seems like now everyone has a camera on their phone, you probably wouldn't see that.

**Griffin:**

I can't believe I have to say this. But there's probably people listening who don't know what it...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Disposable, they were like little cardboard and plastic cameras that you could take like 24 shots with.

**Rachel:**

They had a little, like, plastic wheel that would advance after you'd taken a picture.

**Griffin:**

To the next frame and you would take it to, like a...

**Rachel:**

Walgreens, or whatever.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, or like a Walmart, or anyplace that had a photo center.

**Rachel:**

And you'd give them the whole camera.

**Griffin:**

And you'd give them the fucking camera and they would print out the pictures like a few days later and give them to you.

**Rachel:**

But there was no way to know what they looked like.

**Griffin:**

Yeah!

**Rachel:**

And so you would just kind of hand this box to somebody and then see if anything you took had came out.

**Griffin:**

I met Ben Folds on my 16th birthday at the first concert I ever went to, and my friend took a picture of us with a disposable camera and then like a month later they're like here's the picture and it was so off center and like blurry and bad and I was like fuck, I should have had you take multiple pictures, but there's only 24 snaps on this one bad boy and then you throw it away. It's so wasteful.

But we did have those any, like, any vacation we went on or like church camp we would have like a disposable camera.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, because those things were cheap.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Rachel:**

You know, and like it was not a scary thing if you damaged it in some way.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, uh there were also, so the sort of form factor, you've just described like this long, rectangle was like a common thing for, like lower end cameras. We had one in our family that was, like, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

theme. And any picture you took on it, you would take the film out and get it developed at a photo center, and then it would have a tiny little superimposed image of Michelangelo in the corner.

**Rachel:**

Specifically Michelangelo?

**Griffin:**

I don't know if there were other, like other turtle cameras you could get, we had the Michelangelo model. Which is like not even, he's not even my favorite.

**Rachel:**

Oh, really?

**Griffin:**

I like Donatello.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, I guess, you're kind of an intellectual.

**Griffin:**

Okay. I mean I also like to party, so...um, there is, these days, I feel like there are, like, digital cameras for children. Henry has one, you can buy very cheap, cheap, cheap digital cameras.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, they're covered in, like, thick plastic so if you drop them...

**Griffin:**

You could chuck them out of an airplane window.

**Rachel:**

They usually have less buttons so it's pretty straightforward how you take the picture.

**Griffin:**



But they also can do some fun stuff, uh, we were playing around with Charlie who got a little digital camera that can do like green screen stuff, uh that, that was, like, kind of advanced and very interesting.

And there is something so delightful to me about a kid with a camera, because it's so empowering because even if you don't have like an artistic bone in your body and you cannot uh, draw, I have never been a good artist, like at all, I do not have the ability to draw things. I just never really learned how.

But you can take a picture and obviously there is an incalculable skill ceiling of art for taking pictures also, but you can, you know, without knowing how to pick up a pen and draw certain shapes or whatever, you can take a, you can hold up a camera and press a button and have this piece of art, essentially.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, well and it's also, I mean this is like a larger art history conversation but it's also interesting just to see what a kid would want to take a picture of.

**Griffin:**

Exactly, yeah! No it is a picture, is like a representation of what that person was seeing at the time that they took the picture. And so that gets so interesting for kids because it's like, yeah, maybe you're not following the rule of thirds or whatever, but Henry has grabbed my phone and taken some pictures on it that are like, oh that's, that's kind of cool. That was like what you are looking at and how you wanted to frame this and how you sort of captured this moment in time, that is so neat.

**Rachel:**

And it also is kind of a way to learn, I don't know, to kind of learn what photos are for.

**Griffin:**

Yeah!

**Rachel:**

Because I will say as a kid if I went to the zoo for example I would take a lot of pictures of the animals.

**Griffin:**

Yeah

**Rachel:**

Or like my trip to Washington DC when I was in eighth grade, I took a lot of pictures of, like, monuments, but it was the pictures of my friends that I actually wanted to return to.

**Griffin:**

Yes. And that is a really interesting thing that differed from person to person. I will never forget, we went to...we were at, I think we were at some amusement park in Hong Kong, and there were a ton of tourists there who were taking pictures of like every single, like stop at this aquarium thing that we walked through and every single—

And I remember thinking like, it's such an interesting thing, the thing that people think like, "This is the thing I'll want to look at later. Or this is the thing that I'm gonna wanna post online so that people know that I saw a jellyfish."

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Which is not inherently like a culture to culture thing, you know, it's like our parents take pictures differently than we take pictures. Just like our children take pictures differently from us.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And it's so cool.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Um, the main reason I wanted to talk about this, I've been getting into, uh, Game Boy collection modification stuff again and I dug out my old Game Boy camera. Have I ever showed that to you?

**Rachel:**

Oh wow, no!

**Griffin:**

It's a Game Boy game, it's a cartridge that goes into the Game Boy and it has this little bulb on top that you can actually swivel 180 degrees. So you can do selfie mode if you want to, uh, and then you can take these 128 by 128 pixel grayscale images with it.

You can take like, you can snap like 30 of them and save them to the cartridge. And then you can, there's like on the game itself you can add silly stickers or, you know a little doodle onto the images, or like superimpose words into them.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

You could also, like, take a picture of your face and then, like, put it on like an old Game and Watch game, so that, like, you're sprinting on like a race track playing, or like doing a side scrolling, like, space shooter but your head is on the other.

**Rachel:**

That's cool.

**Griffin:**

Yeah this thing came out in 1998.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

So, it's kind of, like, incredible. I think we had this before we had a digital camera like at my house.

**Rachel:**

Yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:**

And where it got really wild, I still have my Game Boy camera which is like a collectors item now, because you just can't reproduce, you can't emulate that, like it's got a frickin' camera on top of it.

What is really hard to find and what I don't have anymore, there was a printer so you could print out your pictures in these like postage stamp size thermal paper stickers, so you could make your own stickers. So I had like, for like a couple years, like all of my binders and folders and pencil cases were covered in these like home made stickers I'd made.

**Rachel:**

Oh.

**Griffin:**

But the Game Boy camera, and it was like such a rad thing because again like I always had like a creative streak but for, like, visual arts like I had no venue for that.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I had no way to sort of get that out. And here comes the Game Boy camera.

**Rachel:**

That's clever. Yeah that's what was so exciting about the Polaroid camera. Um, we never had one in our house. But it was so cool, this idea that you could take a picture and then, like, immediately see it.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I've always thought it was a very, like, cool thing and now, like, there are an infinite number of photography apps so with an infinite number of, like, completely bonkers filters on them and the escalation that has happened there makes me wonder what's it going to be like?

Will Henry be able, and Gus, be able to, like, foster that creative streak with like any app that makes their face look like, you know, Pikachu's face or whatever the fuck.

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like that's a huge escalation. I feel like if I had access to that when I was a little kid like it's all I would do ever. Uh, but I don't know. I'm not trying to get Andy Rooney up here it's just, yeah, it's just something I've been thinking about.

There is something to be said for the dealing with the constraints of this is a 128 by 128 pixel grayscale camera, now let's make some cinema, now let's make some magic with it. Um, yeah. God. Pour one out for the Game Boy camera.

**Rachel:**

So does your Game Boy, like, still have the pictures you took?

**Griffin:**

Oh, I don't think so, I think...I remember looking and it's not...

**Rachel:**

'Cause that would be incredible.

**Griffin:**

Like 10 year old Griffin, like...

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, no unfortunately in my baggy pants...

**Rachel:**

Flexing?

**Griffin:**

Flexing my huge muscles. Hey I want to thank Bo En and Augustus for these, for our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You'll find a link to that in our episode description and uh, hey, thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), check out all the great shows that they have on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). Shows like, uh, frickin', the Flop House.

**Rachel:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

And uh, how about Story Break?

**Rachel:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Triple Click. Don't say I don't know the shows in the Max Fun network, I know them all.

**Rachel:**

You know them all.

**Griffin:**

Uh, I think that's it. I'm gonna go, I'm gonna get going.

**Rachel:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

It's been real.

**Rachel:**

Wait, are you going forever?

**Griffin:**

Oh! Don't make me put a label on it. I'll be gone a period of time.

**Rachel:**

And then you'll come back?

**Griffin:**

With Taco Bell, for both of us.

**Rachel:**

Oh!

[theme song plays]

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