Wonderful! 006: Book Stink

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[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful.

Griffin:

Ah, man, it sure is, isn't it?

Rachel:

Mm, it got really chilly in Austin, Texas today.

Griffin:

It— Oh, brr, what's that? It's a— Mr. Popper's Penguin strolling down my street, that's how fricking cold it is. Fricking icicles hanging from the tree and...

Rachel:

Griffin wore a long sleeve shirt.

Griffin:

I wore a long sleeved shirt.

Rachel:

It's a big deal here.

Griffin:

From J. Crew, and I wore it and I'm still wearing it and it's my new favorite shirt. It's very cozy and it's got stripes which is very slimming and it's the

new fall look. And then for lunch, I went down the street, there's a new taco stand that just opened up like 50 feet away.

I went and I was like, "Let's try it out, try one of their barbacoa tacos," it was balling. And then came home, hung out with you, hung out with our wonderful baby and played around with him and then we just got... I just had some tonkatsu from our favorite Japanese place. It's a fucking good day.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

This is my first thing and it's all the good stuff that I did today. Not a very relatable one, but man, some good stuff was done today. I'm feeling fresh.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Got a new cup.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Can we talk about the new cups? We went to Target and we bought new cups. This is another unofficial thing.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

This is— We haven't started yet, but we got two copper mugs 'cause I've been drinking Moscow mules lately, 'cause we go to this farmers market where they sell this incredible ginger beer and so I started making Moscow mules. Listen to this. [metallic clinking] The, the touch, the feel of copper cups. It's the new...

[laughs].
Griffin: But I also got a plastic cup. Do you want to tell them why I got a plastic cup?
Rachel: I don't know what it is, I can't explain it, um, if you put a glass of water, uh, anywhere in my proximity, I will manage to knock it over, um.
Griffin: Usually karate kick it over.
Rachel: [laughs]. This, this was a extreme example. This was like a Rube Goldberg actually. I was moving Griffin's very large body pillow and it swung behind me, hit the glass of water off his nightstand.
Griffin: Yeah.
Rachel: Glass didn't break.
Griffin: Didn't break, it's a good, it's a good glass. And many, many, many, many, many other glasses have broken.
Rachel: Yes, yes.
Griffin: They have met with a sorrier fate.
Rachel: Yes.

Griffin:
And so, we actually had to go and buy a special cup for me, but really it's for Rachel.
Rachel:
[laughs].
Griffin:
Um, I love special cups, man. And just love when you look at that cup, you know, "I know what you're there for, little copper cup. You're there for Moscow mules to be drank out of."
Rachel:
Hey you guys, all these wonderful things are for free. That's not even the episode yet.
Griffin:
This isn't You haven't even gotten into the real shit yet.

... shit yet. Uh, do you want to kick us off with our first thing?

Rachel:

Griffin:

Rachel:

Griffin:

Rachel:

Griffin:

Okay.

Okay.

Yes.

These are little amuse-bouches.

This is a real sensory experience.

Rachel: I want you to put your nose in this.
Griffin: Okay.
Rachel: Take a big old huff.
Griffin: This is, uh, Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s Welcome to the Monkey House.
Rachel: It's an old, old copy I would say.
Griffin: Oh.
Rachel:
Isn't that nice?
Isn't that nice? Griffin: What is that?
Griffin:
Griffin: What is that? Rachel:
Griffin: What is that? Rachel: You want to describe the, the smell? Griffin: It's So it's Rachel's handed me an old book, right? And so you get handed that and you think, like, it's gonna have sort of that musty old book smell. I don't know that I would describe that as what this is. Like, I feel like

I might give some ASMR too. [flips pages of book]

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Oh, that sounds incredible. I mean, it's definitely a little musky, but it's almost sweet. There's like, almost a sweet, almost sort of, um, uh, what's the word? Incense like sort of smell to it, as if like— Paperback, because it's paperback, it has like absorbed the smell of the room around it. How long have you had this book? Did you have this in sort of your, your more crunchy phase that you went through?

Rachel:

[laughs]. Um, I mean, yeah, actually. I probably got it in college.

Griffin:

That might explain it. I didn't know there was a Kurt Vonnegut Junior.

Rachel:

That's Kurt Vonnegut.

Griffin:

Why did he go by junior?

Rachel:

I mean, he was maybe a junior?

Griffin:

All right.

Rachel:

[laughs]. But my, my wonderful thing is not Kurt Vonnegut, although I really do...

Griffin:

It's pretty good.

... I do love Welcome to the Monkey House.

Griffin:

You know they're making a TV adaptation of, um, uh, Cat's Cradle?

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

That's gonna be very good.

Rachel:

Uh, old book smell, is my wonderful thing.

Griffin:

I love this, I love this. But I— There seems like there's multiple old book smells, isn't there? Or is there just the one?

Rachel:

Well, here's what I'll tell you.

Griffin:

Okay, okay, I'm so excited.

Rachel:

Because I did a little research. Uh, so an international team of chemists did a study in which they, um, looked through a whole bunch of books, um...

Griffin:

Smelled them all.

Rachel:

Smelled them all.

Griffin:

Those nasty perverts.

And they described the smell as a combination of grassy notes with a tang of acids and a hint of vanilla over an underlying mustiness.

Griffin:

I get that, yeah, I think the vanilla is what I ... what was hitting, hitting my snoot.

Rachel:

This is from a Mental Floss article. "Uh, books are made up almost entirely of organic materials. Paper, ink, glue, fibers. All these materials react to light, heat, moisture, and even each other over the years and release a number of what's called volatile organic compounds." Um, so, these...

Griffin:

So this has nothing to do with how they interact with the environment around them? It's just you put ink and fiber and paper all in the same spot and you squish them together for a few decades and they just produce this scent?

Rachel:

Well, so, books will absorb... because it's paper, they will absorb smells.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

I love the examples they gave. It said, uh, "Some books have hints of cigarette smoke. Others smell a little like coffee and still others, cat dander." [laughs]

Griffin:

These are the different smells that there are, thank you.

Rachel:

Well no, I just thought it was funny like, they were describing a very specific kind of person that might have a bunch of old books, uh.

Griffin: A person who owns a lot of books probably also does have a cat and also does smoke.	
Rachel: Mm-hmm.	
Griffin: Just saying.	
Rachel: So, they use these compounds, uh, as a way to determine the condition and age of books, by using special sniffing equipment.	d
Griffin: Okay.	
Rachel: Um.	
Griffin: No, now I need to know	
Rachel: So, some of these compounds	
Griffin: is it nose— is it nose safe, the sniffing equipment? Is it like a big	
Rachel: I don't know, Griffin.	

Is it look like something sort of Peewee Herman-esque like?

Rachel:

Or Double Dare?

Gı	ʻiffii	า:		
Is	it a	Double	Dare	C

hallenge?

Rachel:

Or you pull a flag out of the...

Griffin:

You pull the flag right out of there.

Rachel:

Uh. So-

Griffin:

Henry did that to me the other day. He, he did his own... I was laying down next to him and he had this one razor sharp, uh, fingernail. Uh, it's very hard to cut all 10 of his nails at once and so Rachel typically does like two at a time, which is a, a...

I was just on the wrong part of the cycle there. He jammed that shit up to the fucking fatty part of his palm, up into my brain looking for that, trying to finish that physical challenge. Holy shit, it was the worst thing I ever felt in my life.

Rachel:

So I want to tell you about these compounds.

Griffin:

Yes, yes, the compounds.

Rachel:

Uh, so, and I apologize to the chemists that listen. You're not going to enjoy my pronunciation. Uh, so I read an article that talks about the different odors or the different compounds that create this kind of aroma.

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Okay.

Um, benzaldehyde is almond-like. Um, and then we have ethylbenzene and toluene, which is a, a sweet smell.

Griffin:

These chemicals are worst... Are these chemicals where all smells come from?

Rachel:

Well, these are specifically the ones that you'll find in paper, ink, glue, and fibers.

Griffin:

I know, but is it, when you smell an almond, it only smells like an almond because it's got ben—benzo—

Rachel:

Oh, man, that is another episode, I cannot help you.

Griffin:

Shit, dude, I gotta learn anything about science.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, there's a, uh, 2-ethylhexanol, which is slightly floral.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

Um, so it's... I just thought that was interesting, you know, 'cause I personally, and a lot of people, like that old book smell.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And I realized it's because, uh, the books are decaying [laughs].

Griffin:

And it's... yeah, that's probably not great. But it's... in my opinion, it is miraculous that this is the smell that these books produce, because it's not like, you know, um, Gutenberg, when he was making the book, when he was inventing the book, was like, "Oh, no. We can't use this type of paper, it stinks... It's gonna stink too bad in 30 years."

You know, they were just using... So we could have had, like, stink books with the stink chemical in it. You know what I mean? Like, sliding doors. We could... all books could just be like, "Oh, how old is that book? 10 years old? Get rid of that thing, it stinks so bad, it smells like old pizza."

Rachel:

It's like a, it's like a wine or a cheese.

Griffin:

Yeah, but it could have been anything. But this is what they smell like, and that's great to me.

Rachel:

That's actually, speaking of wine and cheese, it's true. Like, as it gets older, the compounds break down...

Griffin:

'Cause it has the cheese chemicals in it.

Rachel:

... and you get a different kind of smell.

Griffin:

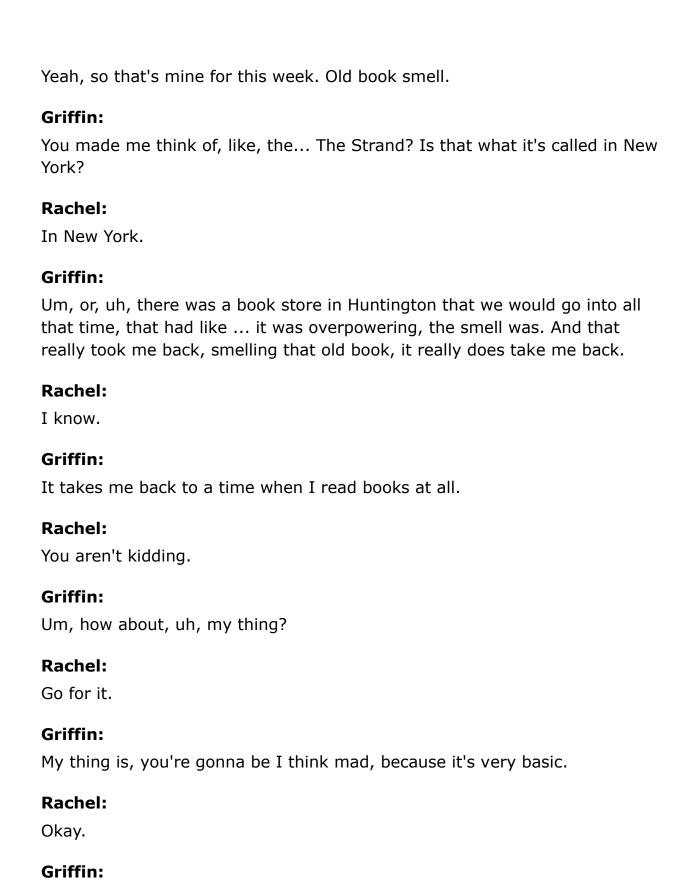
And it's good.

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, that was a very good one.



It's pumpkin spice.

Racnel:
Oh, um, clove?
Griffin:
Yeah.
Rachel:
Um, ginger?
Griffin:
Yeah. That's it.
Rachel:
Yeah.
Griffin:
And, and, "sometimes actual pumpkin." Okay.
Rachel:

[laughs].

Um, um, I don't have a lot about pumpkin spice, except to say that I genuinely love it so very much and I recognize that that is probably like, you hear that and it's like, "Oh man, I was really hoping they weren't going to talk about pumpkin spice on the podcast."

I think it's incre— I think seasonal, and more— I enjoy seasons. I enjoy holidays. I enjoy little checkpoints throughout the year that let you know that you've gotten to a new thing and then celebrating traditions around those checkpoints I think is a very cool thing and it's a, it's something that I've always really been attracted to, and the idea of a seasonal flavor is very exciting to me. 'Cause there's no like spring seasonal flavor. There's not really a summer seasonal flavor. Um, winter I guess kind of, but that's more attached to, to holidays. This is a holiday agnostic, just like, it's fall, it is fucking pumpkin spice time.

Well, and you know what's crazy about pumpkin spice, like, I don't know if you remember this, but I remember the first time I had just like canned pumpkin, without the spice and I was actually surprised. I was like, "This tastes nothing—"

Griffin:

This doesn't taste like pumpkin spice at all.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, so you can't not talk about pumpkin spice without talking about the PSL. The Pumpkin Spice Latte. Uh, Starbucks introduced the Pumpkin Spice Latte in 2003, it is now their most popular seasonal beverage, of course. Um, as of 2015, 200 million had been sold. That data is two years old and I imagine that that number has...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... probably doubled at this point. Um, when they were creating the recipe for the Pumpkin Spice Latte, worked on it for a long time up in Washington. Um, and, you know, experimented with some stuff, tried some stuff out, trying to find the right balance between, you know, the pumpkin flavor and the more sort of like, chemical artificial flavors and sweeteners, if you will. And what they landed on was what if there was not any pumpkin in it at all? Um, so, did you ever have a Pumpkin Spice Latte before 2015?

Rachel:

I think so.

Griffin:

Yeah, there was no pumpkin in that one, unfortunately, even a little bit.

Rachel:

[laughs].

There was not even a little bit of pumpkin in it. Um, around 2014 people started to catch on, like, "Hey, hey Starbucks, there's like no pumpkin in this thing. Also it's, like, bright orange. So what, I guess, is going on with that?"

Rachel:

Well, and it's shelf stable too. Like, 'cause I did used to work at a coffee shop, um, and those syrups they just sit out on the counter all the time. So it seems like if you're going to put real pumpkin in there, that might be kind of a challenge.

Griffin:

This blew my mind. And I realized, like, this is also a very old news story and there was like, this is like a thing that everybody talked about a few years ago, been out of the Pumpkin Spice Latte game for a little bit. Rachel got me one the other day and I drank it and I said, "Well, that's pretty sweet. That's extremely sweet."

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Um, that is maybe because they changed the recipe in 2015 in response to these criticisms. They cut out the artificial colors, now it looks like a coffee beverage again, uh, and it now uses what is called a pumpkin pie sauce, uh, which includes sugar, condensed skim milk, pumpkin puree, uh, coloring, and preservative.

Rachel:

That explains it, 'cause I looked it up when I was on my way there, I looked up to see if it was dairy free and it is not.

Griffin:

No. So, there is— It didn't taste very good.

Rachel:

Oh, no.

And I'm gonna get back to talking about how good the pumpkin spice flavor is in general...

Rachel:

Yeah, this is supposed to be Wonderful, Griffin.

Griffin:

... but that Pumpkin Spice Latte I drank the other... like, two days ago, like, I... It left me wanting and I'm wondering if it was because they changed the recipe to make it less chemical and less, like, carcinogenic apparently.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And now...

Rachel:

You miss that.

Griffin:

[singing] Don't it always seem to go? Wouldn't you just love to get in the car right now and just turn on fucking Joni Mitchell's Blue and just like, drive to Dallas tonight?

Rachel:

Yes. 100%.

Griffin:

Windows rolled down, that 60 degree air...

Rachel:

Oh, that'd be real cold.

Griffin:

... just coming. Oh my God, are you kidding me?

With the old recipe pumpkin spiced latte in our hand.

Griffin:

With the old PSL and an old Four Loko.

Rachel:

I think there's people on eBay selling the old sauce.

Griffin:

Which is rancid. Actually it's probably still good. It's probably still good.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

There's definitely a, sorry, a Four Loko aftermarket. Anyway, okay. So introduced the PSL in 2003, changed shit up in 2015, now it's stronger than ever. Maybe, I don't know, I didn't think it was that tasty.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I also don't like... I don't have as big a sweet tooth as I used to.

Rachel:

Whoa, Griffin.

Griffin:

What? I know I say a lot of stuff. Like, I'll eat some Skittles or whatever like that, but like, if I'm drinking a coffee, I don't want to get... It makes my tummy hurt. There it is, straight up. That, that much sugar just gets...

Rachel:

I was gonna say, I haven't seen you ever turn your nose up at any kind of sugar treat.

Griffin:
But because of the Pumpkin Spice Latte, pumpkin spice fucking exploded and now it is everywhere and in everything you ever eat.
Rachel:
Mm-hmm.
Griffin:
Um, a few facts here. At Trader Joe's, the number of pumpkin products has steadily increased since the, uh, grocery chain began offering them in the mid 1990's, according to a company spokesperson. So I guess they were first in the game in sort of foodstuffs. Um, this year Trader Joe's shelves will be stocked with more than, guess how many pumpkin based items they have?
Rachel:
Now is this 2017?
Griffin:
Uh, yes. This is from a, uh, I think a Business Insider article or a Washington Post article, one of the two.
Rachel:
32.
Griffin:
More.
Rachel: 67.

Rachel:

Griffin:

More.

93.

More than 70 items. More than 70 pumpkin spice items.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Are you kidding? That's more than one shipping cart can probably hold, but I will fuck with most of it because they know what they are doing around with some pumpkin spice stuff. They know, they know what's up. Uh, according to Datassential Menu Trends, restaurants' pumpkin inspired limited time offers, uh, are up 234% from 2008 to 2012.

This is specifically, not just about pumpkin flavored foods, this is like, only for the next two fucking weeks, get in here, bring your Pumpkin Spice Latte 'cause once it's gone, it's gone, uh, which is sort of like, another big appeal of the PSL. Um, while, uh, overall limited time menu offers have grown 143% over the same period. I didn't read this this close when I was putting it on here, this is more about limited time offers and how great they are.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Um, but there are new pumpkin flavors in from anything from M&M's, to Dunkin' Donuts, to flavored coffee K-packs, to pumpkin flavored whiskey. There are fragrances, there's pumpkin spice lotion and shampoo and candles.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And all that said, it's all very good. I am excited to get myself, my hands, on some pumpkin pie.

Rachel:

Bread.

On a pumpkin log. On a pumpkin bread, oh my God.

Rachel:

Wait, pumpkin log?

Griffin:

Yeah, like a pumpkin log that's like a...

Rachel:

The, the thing that's rolled like a...

Griffin:

Yeah, like a Swiss roll.

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

Uh, yeah, my mom always called it a pumpkin log, but I guess a pumpkin Swiss roll would be more accurate descriptor. Pumpkin spice baked goods are my shit, they're back. Pumpkin Spice Latte, a little cool on those, but pumpkin, man. You eat it and it's like you're eating like a month. It's like, "Mm, I'm eating November right now."

Rachel:

That's beautiful.

Griffin:

And there's nothing else like that I don't think, right?

Rachel:

I mean, peppermint in December.

Griffin:

I guess so. Yeah, December, how come all that shit— How come they— Uh, I, uh, I talked just now about holidays and checkpoints and all that as, uh,

being very good. How come pretty much all the big dope ones are like all back to back? Do you know what I mean? Like, Halloween rules, uh, Thanksgiving rules, and then Christmas, uh, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, whatever you celebrate. The winter holidays...

Rachel:

Valentine's Day.

Griffin:

No, Valentine's Day is—

Rachel:

Easter.

Griffin:

No, fuck that, fuck that, fuck that.

Rachel:

Are you kidding me?

Griffin:

No, it's good, it's good, but I'm—

Rachel:

Valentine's Day and Easter candies are super good.

Griffin:

They're good, but neither of those holidays are as dope as Thanksgiving or Halloween or whatever, December, winter holiday you celebrate. None of them are that good and all of those are right back to back. Thanksgiving is the best and then winter time holiday is the best. And they're right next to each other. I feel like Thanksgiving should be in June, talk about it.

Rachel:

[laughs] Um, for those of you that don't know this about Griffin, he is very intense about holidays.

Griffin:

Oh, God, am I.

Rachel:

Uh, you... We'll probably do some special episodes.

Griffin:

Oh, then... Starting the day after Halloween, the next weeks of episodes are going to be insufferable.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Having a whole album dedicated to the Sufjan Stevens Christmas albums. Straight up, that's coming down the pipe. Uh, probably just going to do a whole baked good episode, just like, straight up. And then one about, you know, the real meaning of Christmas.

Rachel:

Um, okay. We'll do some Christmas movies, I'm sure.

Griffin:

Yes. I mean, not just... and I don't just want... I—

Rachel:

Some Thanksgiving dishes.

Griffin:

What I like about like, the idea of Candlenights from MBMBaM and Adventure Zone is it's an all inclusive affair.

Rachel:

Oh yeah, you know we could do some Hanukkah dishes.

Griffin:

Let's do some Hanukkah dishes, dude.

Griffin: Hi.
Rachel: Can I steal you away?
Griffin: Oh, [vocalizes], whoa!
Rachel: Oh.
Griffin: So I did a fusion there
Rachel: Oh, a little Joey Lawrence at the end.
Griffin: of Joey Lawrence into Home Improvement, what if?
[ad break] Griffin:
Do you want to read that first jumbotron for me?
Rachel: Sure, this message is for Past Gracie. It is from Future Gracie. "I know you're sad because of your break up, but now it's fall. You're a 2L and your friends love you and I love you. You're a kick ass future lawyer and a great dog mom. Remain on the smooth tip and keep listening to the best couple on the podcast airwaves. You rock, hang in there."
Griffin:

Um, hey, Griffin.

[laughs] That's a very good, powerful message. It just reminded me of remains on the smooth tip. The fucking... Oh, sorry. That was the, that was the MC Skat Kat. That is how the record label described MC Skat Kat...

Rachel:

Oh, really?

Griffin:

... as like, a hip guy who remains on the smooth tip.

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh.

Griffin:

The greatest thing I've ever heard in my entire life. Uh, Gracie, keep doing it.

Rachel:

Way to go Gracie.

Griffin:

Just keep...

Rachel:

You're making it.

Griffin:

Just claw at the fucking thing.

Rachel:

You're doing it. You're doing it every day. Congratulations.

Griffin:

Got another message, this one's for Dencha and Frog Monster and it's from Nanner, who says, "Hey ladies, Dencha, happy almost-a-versary. Froggie—" [laughs] "Froggie happy almost birthday. Hopefully by now I've gotten you to listen to all the McElroy products with me and you are hearing this come from Griffin's sweet lips. If not, well, hey Hannah, happy b-day. Keep going.

You got this. And even if you don't, the McElroy's are always there, right Griffin? Right?" Yeah, like we're... Yeah. Like, right, yeah, I agree.

Rachel:

They are obligated to always be there.

Griffin:

I want to know if this is a real frog that was in the mix there, or if it's just like a cool college nickname.

Rachel:

Probably a cool college nickname.

Griffin:

Maybe it was a message for a frog. No, it's probably a cool college nickname. Frog Monster is maybe the coolest college nickname.

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Rachel:

You wanna hear my second thing?

Griffin:

I absolutely wanna hear your second thing.

Okay. I've teased this before. You've heard me talk about them. If you heard our promo, you may have heard me mention it. Overalls.

Griffin:

Oh, oh my God. This is a very fall episode.

Rachel:

I... I know. I love overalls.

Griffin:

This is true about Rachel.

Rachel:

I have... Griffin, Griffin got me a pair of cloth overalls that I have not worn very much. They're, they're unfortunately too long.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I'm a very short woman.

Griffin:

Overalls are extremely difficult to shop for someone else for.

Rachel:

Yes. I... My preference...

Griffin:

Most measurements do not come in overall sort of metrics.

Rachel:

Well, also my preference is for the denim overall where the strap over the shoulder is adjustable.

Griffin:

So you can just take it right off like you're in TLC or something.

Well no, you can adjust it so that the length on the bottom...

Griffin:

Or you can just let it hang like you're in TLC or something.

Rachel:

Yeah, or, or you could let it hang like you're in TLC. Uh, so...

Griffin:

God, that'd be such a good look on you, babe.

Rachel:

[laughs]. Overalls, uh, were created in the 1700s.

Griffin:

What?

Rachel:

Yeah, dude. 1700s. Uh, they were called... Okay, now this article, I don't know if it can be relied on or not. But this article said the very first bib overalls were often referred to as slops.

Griffin:

Yeah, that sounds right. I think I've heard that before.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Since I'm from the, you know, the country.

Rachel:

It's a, it's a working mans outfit. Uh, at the time, they were not made of denim, but instead a tough cloth, uh...

Griffin:

Oh, I bet that felt bad.

Rachel:

... and they, they were worn over another pair of pants. So you could—

Griffin:

Did they... Do you think back in the day they would also let a strap hang down?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I want to know who came up with that first, 'cause it's—

Rachel:

That would probably be a hazard.

Griffin:

It's just... it's such a hot look. How come nobody is doing this anymore? It was just TLC and Jennifer Aniston for a little bit and then nobody.

Rachel:

Um, Will Smith, back when he was the Fresh Prince, used to do a little—

Griffin:

He would wear overalls with one—

Rachel:

With one off, yeah.

Griffin:

Okay. All right.

Mm-hmm. Uh, so then in the 1850s, they started specializing overalls for the industry. So it was white for painters, blue for farmers, and pinstripes for railroad workers.

Griffin:

I never... I— Holy shit.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I knew that, but I didn't know that.

Rachel:

I know, I didn't think about it either.

Griffin:

But now that you said it, it's like, "Oh yeah, they are always wearing that shit."

Rachel:

Uh, in the earlier 1900s, OshKosh B'gosh began selling bib overalls for children, which oh my gosh, the best.

Griffin:

Can we just say to Mr. Osh, Mr. Gosh, and Mr. Kabosh...

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

I didn't say it right. Just well done. Good ingenuity. Good entrepreneurial spirit. Thank you for your service.

Rachel:

Um, the, the idea was that the kids could dress like their dads, by wearing these overalls.

[laughs]. Oh my God, OshKosh B'gosh.

Rachel:

Um, once they were features in the Miles Kimball catalog, sales went through the roof.

Griffin:

Miles, king maker.

Rachel:

Yeah, I don't know who Mile Kimball is.

Griffin:

I can't stop thinking about the colors matching the different professions.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm. I know. It's, it's mind blowing isn't it?

Griffin:

Sorry.

Rachel:

Um.

Griffin:

I'll, I'll get my head back in the episode now.

Rachel:

So overalls became kind of a fashion thing in the '60s. Um, and then, where we are familiar with them is then in the '90s, when a lot of, uh, musical groups would wear them with one strap unbuttoned. Also Kris Kross, backwards...

Griffin:

Kris Kross, backwards, holy shit, yeah.

... overalls. Mm-hmm. Um, and yeah, I would— So middle school is when I really went for the overalls, uh.

Griffin:

Describe your everything about your middle school fashion, please.

Rachel:

Oh, man.

Griffin:

I'll do mine if it makes you feel better afterwards.

Rachel:

Okay. Um, middle school's where I started to get into kind of thrift shopping.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

So I had a lot of large, um, polyester shirts.

Griffin:

Pssss. But shit, it was 99 cents, you remember that.

Rachel:

Nobody—

Griffin:

Baby, baby, baby.

Rachel:

Nobody wants that anymore.

Griffin:

Well, do you— Do you remember it?

Yes, I do. I do.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, yeah, I had a lot of, um...

Griffin:

It's the same title of the song and you said it.

Rachel:

There is a place in St. Louis I used to go to called Value Village that was enormous and had a lot of polyester button down shirts with like butterflies and stuff on them. Uh, I used to wear little plastic barrettes in my hair, little baby barrettes.

Griffin:

Oh, that's good stuff.

Rachel:

Um, either a wide leg pant or overalls, as I mentioned. Uh, I used to dye my...

Griffin:

When you say wide leg pant, how close to...

Rachel:

Not JNCOs.

Griffin:

No, I know, but give me like a JNCO percentile.

Rachel:

Like a bell bottom. Uh, no, not even, not even close.

Griffin: Not even like two percent JNCO?
Rachel: Like flair at the, at the calf.
Griffin: Like a bell bottom?
Rachel: Yeah.
Griffin: Oh, that's a good look too.
Rachel: Um, like a, like a skater shoe.
Griffin: What do you like a Vans, or a-
Rachel: Yeah, but probably not a Vans. We weren't, we weren't name brand families.
Griffin: [laughs].
Rachel: Um
Griffin: Vans were cheap back in the day though. I remember Vans being fairly affordable. Chucks.
Rachel:
Oh yeah, I definitely had Converse.

Griffin: Non stop Chucks.
Rachel: Yeah, um, I used to dye my hair red, purple.
Griffin: What?
Rachel: Mm-hmm. I never—
Griffin: Babe!
Rachel: I never bleached it though, so it was always kind of like a hint of color.
Griffin: How am I gonna are there pics? I want to see pics of purple-haired Rachel.
Rachel: Honestly, I don't think pics exist.
Griffin: Will, you dye your hair purple just so I can get an idea of like, what you were, what you were We can time it with a Halloween costume.
Rachel: Okay. I'm not gonna do that.
Griffin: Damn.
Rachel: Um, and

Griffin:
I'll dye my hair purple.
Rachel: No, you won't.
Griffin: If you do it, I'd do it. I don't give a shit about my hair. Nobody fucking sees me ever.
Rachel: Oh, that's true. People definitely do see me though.
Griffin: That's a good point.
Rachel: A few days a week, which is gonna be a challenge.
Griffin: You can wear a big hat.
Rachel: [laughs] Like a big blossom style hat.
Griffin: Yeah, a big blossom style hat. Did you own one of those? I bet you did.
Rachel: I did.
Griffin: Yes.
Rachel: I did. Um, yeah, that's, that's about it. Uh, I would say just a lot of unnatural fabrics, uh, and overalls.

Griffin:
Loving it.
Rachel:
Um, I remember my friend at the time had a pair of denim Unionbay overalls and I saw them and I thought, "Oh cool, people are wearing overalls now, I'm gonna go out and get some." I also happened to go out and get Unionbay overalls in a different color and everyone was like, "Why are you trying to be like her? Why are you trying to chomp the flavor?"
Griffin:
Oh, were you like, "No, look, they're pinstripe, it's 'cause I work on the railroad."
Rachel:
[laughs].
Griffin:
She's wearing white and
Rachel:
It was devastating.
Griffin:
Yeah. I'm sorry, babe.
Rachel:
Uh, I wore those for a very long time.
Griffin:
But to be fair, that is what you exactly what you did and they did get you.
Rachel: I know.
Griffin:
They caught you chomping flavor and

Rachel:
I know.
Griffin: I love you, but you can't be a flavor thief in this, in this world.
Rachel: I just want to wear overalls all the time.
Griffin: I know, but not because your friend, you know, wore them and then you gotta chomp that flav.
Rachel: I just, I needed somebody to let me in to the overall universe.
Griffin: I think you're ready to come back.
Rachel: I will I actually, when I was researching today, I got online to see if anybody was carrying an overall. 'Cause last season I saw them in Old Navy and Gap and everything.
Griffin: Didn't, didn't jump? Didn't strike while the iron was hot?
Rachel: Didn't see them yet.
Griffin: Damn it.
Rachel: No.
Griffin:

All right.
Rachel: Didn't see them yet.
Griffin: Um.
Rachel: Oh and, you know, pockets, hammer loop, those are good too.
Griffin: Oh, shit, yeah.
Rachel: Love all those pockets, pull a pencil.
Griffin: I had a lot of hammer loop pants and I never once carried a hammer in them.
Rachel: I feel like I did once, just for the novelty.
Griffin: Why? You brought a hammer to school?
Rachel: Well no, not at school. When I was working around the house, put a hammer in there.
Griffin: [laughs] That's very good.
Rachel: [laughs].
Griffin:

I think I used to like, I'd put an umbrella in it just to, to be very practical. I think in middle school, literally all I wore was cargo shorts and bowling shirts. I was, I was a heinous, heinous beast.

Rachel:

How did you have so many bowling shirts?

Griffin:

Uh, Hot Topic sold them, I think...

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

... for a while. No, I know, it's not a good answer. Also consignment shops like Non Stop. That is like, where we got all our clothes growing up, was consignment shops. Um, okay, so, how about my second thing?

Rachel:

Go for it.

Griffin:

I have a music thing and it's kind of timed to like Halloween a little bit, but I'll have to walk you there a little bit. Um, my second thing is a, uh, musician and composer, uh, who goes by the name Disasterpeace. Uh, real name Rich Vreeland, um, and uh, he is a composer. He is mostly known for his work on soundtracks, he has a pretty wide catalog at this point. Um, but, but he mostly does soundtracks and that's what he's mostly known for, um, particularly in games and one particular uh, uh, soundtrack for a movie that I won't to dive into.

So I'm going to play like, a few things and sort of talk about like, why I like him. He is like uh, a very influential musician for me. A lot of this stuff that I did for The Adventure Zone soundtrack was inspired by listening to his music. Um, and also like, I think he's probably my favorite composer, like, soundtrack artist alive right now. Uh, so, he, uh— His first like major release was for uh, a video game called Fez, uh, which came out in 2012 and that

was kind of his breakout thing. And it's probably my favorite game soundtrack ever. There are these incredible themes throughout and these leitmotifs that just thread the whole thing together.

Um, he uses very distinctive synths that kind of define his music. I'm gonna get to the place where you probably know him from here in just a second. Uh, but he uses a lot of like '80s synth sounds and bit crushers, um, and for Fez like, the, the music was so like, each song was so unique to all of the different environments in the game which really helped to bring them to life. Um, so just to sort of set up, if you've never heard any of his, his music before, this is the theme song for Fez. It's called Adventure.

[Adventure from Fez clip plays]

So the next sort of big thing that he did was a film soundtrack to a horror movie, um...

Rachel:

Is, is it, uh... Oh gosh what's the name of it?

Griffin:

Do you remember?

Rachel:

What... was it, It Follows?

Griffin:

It Follows. That's right.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

So this is—

Rachel:

When you, when you said like, '80s, that's what I thought immediately.

Griffin:

Yeah, so, he did the theme song to uh, a really great horror movie called It Follows, which is just about this, um, invisible monster, uh, that is only visible to you if you have its kind of curse and the only way you pass the curse on is by having sex with somebody.

Um, and the whole thing is that the monster never stops, the monster is always, always walking towards you no matter what and so you have to keep moving or bone down and spread the curse to somebody else. Um, and so he did the... Disasterpeace did the theme song to this movie and it was sort of his first like, major film, uh, soundtrack role and it rules. It's extremely good.

It has this very, very dark tone. It's very atmospheric with lots of, like, distortion in the synths, but at the same time, I remember the first time I saw the trailer, I knew nothing about the movie but I was like, "Oh shit, that's Disasterpeace," because I recognized a lot of like the synths and sounds that he uses in, in the rest of his music.

He does that here, but he uses them for more sort of, um, sort of subtle like, atmospheric, like, building tension sort of purposes. Um, it has my favorite theme song to any horror movie ever and I'm not being hyperbolic when I say that, the title song to It Follows is just called Title, and it's great. That's not what I want to play. What I want to play is, um, he used... he threads like, a lot of, of leitmotifs through like all of his work and uh, it's not different here in It Follows.

Rachel:

Wait, what, what are you saying there? Are you saying lake motif?

Griffin:

Leitmotif is like a-

Rachel:

Leitmot— Wh— I don't know what that means.

Griffin:

It's like a, uh, like a recurring theme that is... shows up multiple times in like a collection or a soundtrack or anything...

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

... uh, that reuses themes and usually it ties those themes to a specific like character or situation.

Rachel:

Oh, okay.

Griffin:

Um, and so what, what is so genius about the It Follows soundtrack is, uh, in horror movies, this idea exists of characterizing the monster or the evil or something with a very ... like, with a recurring element in the music, right? So, I say that...

Rachel:

Yeah, like, Halloween with Mike Myers.

Griffin:

Right, that. Or even to be even more simple, like the best use of this, in Halloween it's the... Oh, how does the Halloween...

Rachel:

[hums the Halloween theme]

Griffin:

Yeah. That's good, so that's like, what? Three or four notes in an arpeggio going down. Jaws is two notes, right?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And that's it. Scream is just the violin shriek, the [imitates violin]. Right?

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Um, in It Follows, Disasterpeace does this with his same like synths, his like crunchy synths. Um, but it's just one note and it's non stop and it is set, usually to like a pulsing beat that is coming at you non stop, just like the monster in It Follows.

Rachel:

Oh, that's clever.

Griffin:

It is fucking incredible and it is fucking terrifying.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, and it is throughout like, every... uh, throughout the soundtrack, like, you'll be listening to it and you'll hear this, [hums], and you'll be like, "Oh, that is where the monster shows up in the movie," and you know it and it just feels like this thing is coming for you. So this is a... the theme song to the, the movie is great, but this is, uh, not that. It is the first song on the album called Heels and it, it is going to show you just what I mean. Just it accomplishes so much just with one note.

[Heels clip plays]

Griffin:

And that's what I like really love about his stuff is how much he accompli— Like, his synths are beautiful and his compositions are incredible, but he accomplishes like so much just with the recurring use of like, the simplest elements to like an extent where I don't know how he pulls it off.

Like, I don't know how you use a single note to like, accomplish something like that. Um, one other thing that he did, uh, last year, there was a video

game that came out called the Hyper Light Drifter, that was one of my favorite games last year. His soundtrack was incredible.

He had a lot of acoustic piano and synths and stuff in it too. Um, and just like his other stuff, there's, there's themes that recur throughout and a lot of it happens just with these three notes that he plays in these songs to sort of establish this kind of spooky, ruined, dying world. Um, and it just plays throughout the whole thing and, and just with three notes, like, he gets across so much about this world and I think it's, it's just genius. So this is a song off that called Vignette Corruption.

[Vignette Corruption clip plays]

Rachel:

Um, do you know anything about this dude? I always get intimidated by people's like, performing names. And then it's like, makes their whole persona a mystery to me, like, who's this guy?

Griffin:

Yeah, no, his, his real name is Rich Vreeland, uh, I'm pretty sure he's a New York dude, he's young, he's like 31.

Rachel:

Mm.

Griffin:

Um, and yeah and I... It's— I've been following him since, since Fez. I played Fez and was like, "Holy shit, this is the best." We have the Fez soundtrack on vinyl, I think it's really, really great.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

And so it's been really cool to like watch him go on and do like more stuff. Not that making a video game soundtrack is like, you know, uh, not, not laudable enough, uh, but then to see him like go on and do It Follows and get a bunch of different soundtrack work has been really, really cool. And I

don't know, I just think it's like... I think he's got a really, uh, great way of boiling down sort of these characterizations of these worlds into just a handful of notes that happen throughout the whole composition.

Um, and he just puts it ... I talk a lot about Mort Garson, who did the theme song to, uh, The Adventure— Well, he didn't do the theme song to The Adventure Zone, we used a song of his for the theme song to The Adventure Zone. He was this like '70s Moog electronic pioneer. Um, and I feel like Disasterpeace has kind of a similar ear, like, whenever I hear a Mort Garson song, I'm like, "Oh, that's Mort Garson," because I can tell, like, the synth that he uses and I feel the same way about Disasterpeace, so that's cool, like...

Rachel:

It's so interesting to me that you did Nick Drake, and now you're doing Disasterpeace. Like, that— They're— I can't think of two more different...

Griffin:

They're very different but I, I listen to both of them a lot.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I listen to Disasterpeace a lot. Like, I listen to a lot of soundtracks. Um, I listen to soundtracks. Like, I like listening to a soundtrack because usually I'm working when I'm listening to music.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And soundtracks don't have any words and because Disasterpeace makes these soundtracks that help build character in a video game world, or in the case of It Follows, like, a film world. I don't listen to that much It Follows, because it is kind of spooky and a lot of it is very sort of dark and dreadful. Um, but I listen to Fez and Hyper Light Drifter a lot because when the music is designed to make, like, a world, uh, feel more vibrant and alive and detailed, when you listen to that music when you're not playing the game or doing whatever, I don't know, it's more... It's like transportative in a way that I can really get down with.

Rachel:

Yeah, I can see that.

Griffin:

And I... The... A lot of this stuff I'm talking about, like, minimalist, powerful, recurring themes and world building, all that stuff, like, I think he's the best dude in the biz right now and that's why I wanted to talk about him. Also because It Follows is a really good spooky movie. If you wanna...

Rachel:

It's super good, yeah. We should watch that this Halloween.

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure. I think we have it, we just haven't watched it. And probably because I'm afraid.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, do you want to talk about what some, some of our listeners are finding wonderful?

Griffin:

I would love to talk about some submissions, yes. Here's one from Victoria from Seattle, who says, "I really love winning a challenging round of classic Microsoft Solitaire. Watching the cards drop always feels like a little congratulatory fireworks show meant just for me."

Rachel:

Oh my gosh, that and, and FreeCell, I was a big fan.

Griffin:

FreeCell, SkiFree, and JezzBall, fuck yeah, dude. Not MineSweeper though.

Rachel:

No, I don't...

Griffin:

Too much work.

Rachel:

Yeah, too much work.

Griffin:

Uh, here's one from Alex who says, "My boyfriend and I have stumbled upon a very good Korean cooking show on Netflix called, Chef and My Fridge. The premise is that celebrities bring their entire fridges and chefs have, uh, cook offs, using only the ingredients from the fridges. There's a lot of good natured ribbing between the chefs during the competition and it's become our go to comfort food television for a lazy Sunday." Rachel and I read this and we were like, "Yeah, that sounds pretty good," and watched it while we had dinner tonight.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, it was good. It was— It's— Each episode's an hour long and there's only one cooking thing in there and the rest of the time is sort of padded with these Korean celebrity sort of interrogations.

Rachel:

Well...

Griffin:

At least that was the episode we watched was all these chefs and hosts like...

Rachel:

We only saw one of the celebrities though. There were two celebrities on there I think.

Griffin:

Uh, yeah, I don't know.

Rachel:

I don't think we saw the second half.

Griffin:

I think this was like a best of... Anyways, uh, it... I enjoyed it and I really, really loved the cooking section but a lot of it is like, I feel like I would enjoy it a lot more if I knew, uh, who Korean celebrities were.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I know who some Korean celebrities are, but not this particular Korean celebrity. Um, here's another one from Rebecca who says, "Hey, Griffin and Rachel, I was recently watching Frasier with my beautiful mother when she muted the television and said, 'Apropos of nothing, I used to do ventriloquy semi-professionally, and I don't regret a second of it,' and then immediately went back to watching the show while I laughed so hard I thought I was going to permanently damage my body. Any further questions were curved in favor of watching Frasier. I certainly don't think this is a universal experience, but oh my God, did it make my year."

Rachel:

Do you think she thought, "Today is the day, I'm gonna reveal my secret. What television show would be most appropriate for revealing this secret?" And she landed on Frasier?

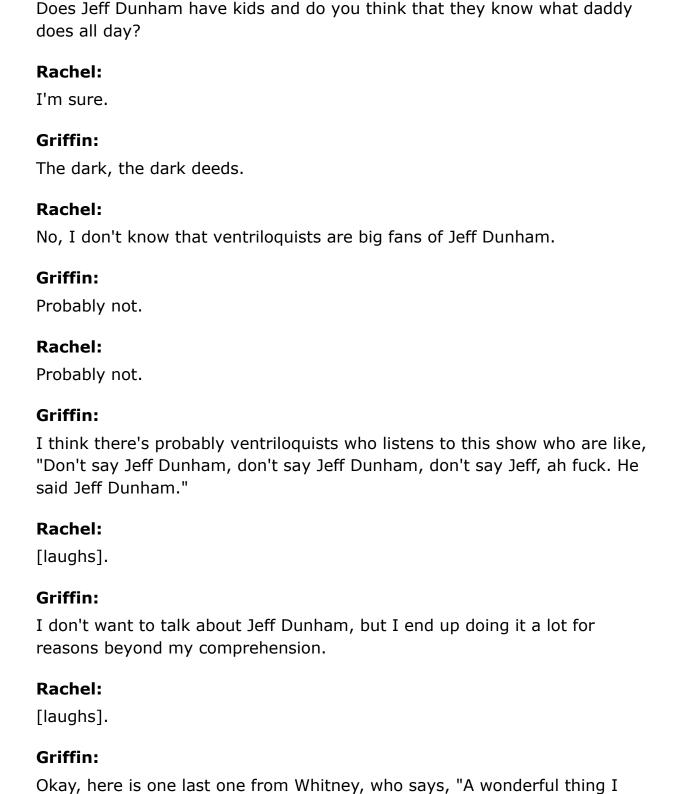
Griffin:

It's possible, is there a good time to tell your child that you used to semi professionally be a ventriloquist? I don't think so.

Rachel:

I mean, as soon as, I mean, as soon as possible.

Griffin:



enjoy in fall is toast soup." You heard of this?

Rachel:

I don't think so.

Griffin:

"It's a few slices of lightly burnt toast, simmered in bacon infused chicken stock, blended together with a bit of Cornish hen brine, Dijon mustard, and butter. It's so strange and soothing all at once and a perfect fit for a rainy day."

Rachel:

I mean, it sounds delicious.

Griffin:

It sounds really, really, really good.

Rachel:

I wonder how burnt this toast has to be.

Griffin:

So, a little bit. Because they sent a, uh, recipe along. It's Jennifer McLagan's Toast Soup on Food52.com. You can go find it there. Um, and they talk about like bitter being kind of a flavor that nobody really uses, so it's like, a little bit burnt, a little bit. I like it, I want to eat this. I'm looking at a bowl of it now, it looks real good. Toast soup. I also just love, like, those two things shouldn't go together, you know.

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Egg cereal. What?

Rachel:

[laughs].

Griffin:

Who thinks of these things? In order to get to toast soup, there's probably a chef who had to like walk there and they probably did, were like, "All right, egg cereal, let's try it. Damn it, nope."

Rachel: Think about soup in a bread bowl, you know, like, you're already
Griffin: Think about bread in a soup bowl. That's what we're doing.
Rachel: Exactly [laughing]. It's beautiful.
Griffin: Oh boy, this has been wonderful and uh, thank you all of listening and if you leave a review on iTunes or tell a friend or do literally anything to help us out, we would appreciate it. I didn't mean for that to sound like
Rachel: [laughs].
Griffin: "Come on you ingrates." Um, no, we do, we appreciate your help and um, we appreciate Max Fun for having us on the network, go to Max Fun at MaximumFun.org and check out all the great podcasts there. What are you, what are you into these days, baby? In the Max Fun milieu?
Rachel: Oh my gosh. I listen to a lot, a lot of shows. Um, Stop Podcasting Yourself just recording their 500th episode.
Griffin: Oh, wow.
Rachel:

Rachel:

Well...

Griffin:

"Spaghetti waffles? Still no, damn it."

Yeah, and
Griffin: So did JJ Go, right?
Rachel: Jordan, Jesse, Go did theirs, I think last week.
Griffin: Wow. They all had such an early start.
Rachel: I know.
Griffin: [laughs].
Rachel: Um, and I like, uh, One Bad Mother, I like Bullseye.
Griffin: Classic.
Rachel: I like, um, all the McElroy shows.
Griffin: Oh, thank you, you can go to McElroyShows.com and check out all the great podcasts and videos there.
Rachel: Mm-hmm.
Griffin: Thank you, baby, for setting me up for that one.
Rachel:

You're welcome.

Griffin:

You literally said McElroy shows.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Uh, is there anything else that we need to talk about? Oh, we have a PO Box. It's PO Box 66639, Austin, Texas, 78766. Um, tweet at Rachel, let her know where all the great overalls can be bought this year.

Rachel:

Yeah. Um, if you are interested in sending me an old pair of overalls. [laughs].

Griffin:

No, don't say... You can't say that 'cause this... it's a small box and two pairs of overalls will fill this thing up.

Rachel:

Well no, I was just going to request that they hit me up and ask me what my size is. I'm not gonna give it out on here.

Griffin:

Oh, so you... but you have just suggested, "Hey, listeners, hit me up and ask me what my body sizes are," and that seems okay?

Rachel:

[laughs] Maybe I shouldn't.

Griffin:

Maybe you shouldn't.

Rachel:

[laughs] I just really want overalls.

Griffin: I know you I'll figure it out.
Rachel: Okay.
Griffin: I'll make you overalls.
Rachel: Okay. Please.
Griffin: I'll take my old jeans and I'll take two belts and I'll make overalls out of them.
Rachel: Please. Take all those cargo shorts you still have and turn them into a pair or overalls.
Griffin: I have one pair of cargo shorts, get out of my butt hole. Thank you all for listening, until next time, I'm Griffin McElroy.
Rachel: I'm Rachel McElroy.
Griffin: In the end, I will be there.
Rachel: [laughs].
[theme music plays]
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[Max Fun ad]

Speaker 1:

Uh, love it.

Speaker 2:

Good stuff.

Speaker 1:

Uh, man, every time. Uh. Well, I hope that you're enjoying this podcast you're listening to as much as we are pretending to. But anyway, why not listen to another podcast, too? It's called The Flop House.

Speaker 2:

And on our podcast, uh, we have recently watched, uh, a movie, often a bad movie and we review it on our podcast, but mainly talk about other stuff and, I don't know, hang out.

Speaker 3:

It's all about hanging out. Feeling like you're being with your best friends. Who are your best friends? Us three. Dan McCoy, Emmy Award winning writer for The Daily Show, Stuart Wellington, owner of the best bar in Brooklyn Hinterlands, and Elliot Kalan, former Emmy winning head writer for The Daily Show with John Stewart, former head writer of Mystery Science Theater 3000, The Return, uh, so many things. Author of the upcoming children's book... [crosstalk].

Speaker 2:

All right. That's enough.

Speaker 3:

The Elliot's credits just go on and on.

Speaker 2:

Yeah. But if you like the idea of listening to three funny guys talk about bad movies, then why not come over and listen to The Flop House. It's, uh, available at MaximumFun.org, or wherever fun podcasts are found.

Speaker 1:

So, get outta here.