

Wonderful! Episode 8: Candy Bones

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[theme music plays]

Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Click, clack. Click, clack. This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

[pause] And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin:

You're making a f-, a face. Was it the... That sound was, I know you're confused, my skeleton bones 'cause I'm a skeleton. I'm doing Halloween fun. I'm a skeleton, so I walk around, it goes click, clack, click, clack. When I eat soup, it falls right through my bones body 'cause I don't have uh, skin to catch it. Skin is basically a tote bag for all the food that you eat.

Rachel:

Ooh!

Griffin:

Oh, no. She's a M-Medusa. No. Tha-that's the ghost sound. I did ghost last week. I thought you might wanna mix it up and be a Medusa or a, you know, a mummy or a swamp thing or a Iron Man or a-

Rachel:

I'm the plaaanet and I'm heating uuuuup.

Griffin:

[laughs] That's... See? Now I'm getting genuinely kinda-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, this is Wonderful!. It's a podcast where we talk about things that are good. And since it's our special Halloween episode, 'cause we're not gonna have another episode until November 1st, we thought we'd s-... we'd get real scary. And that's why I am sorry I deceived everybody and pretended to be a skeleton. I have flesh. I have organs. I got brain and eyes.

Rachel:

I'm your hair, and it's turning graaaay!

Griffin:

Why are you doin' that to me? You're doin' real world problems. I hate them.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Skeletons don't exist, except the ones inside our body. But I don't have to see those every freakin' day.

Rachel:

It's true.

Griffin:

It's our Halloween spookspacular, and I'm so excited for this holiday. It's probably, what, third, fourth best holiday? Do you count my birthday as a holiday? Or I guess your own?

Rachel:

I do not, no.

Griffin:

Okay. Well, third best holiday then.

Rachel:

My birthday stopped mattering after I turned 30.

Griffin:

That's a dark picture you've just painted for me.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

'Cause I just had that one. Are you saying 31-

Rachel:

My birthdaaay stopped mattering! [laughs]

Griffin:

Oh no, baby. Um, I'm so excited. Are you... How are you vis-à-vis Halloween? 'Cause I, I get... feel like I know the answer.

Rachel:

Yeah, Griffin knows this about me. I have lost enthusiasm for Halloween almost entirely because all it seems like now is a list of chores that I have to complete by October 31st.

Griffin:

Now, i-... uh, I wanna paint, I wanna, I wanna explain. All of this is because we just cannot go out and get turnt anymore. And I really feel like there's a lot of things I really about this holiday, even though we don't go out and get turnt anymore. But that really is, like... You get your costume and you put it on, and then you go out and you have, like, a fun night with... You know, a fun, mischievous night with lots of, you know, pranks and spirits and-

Rachel:

Can I tell you the other thing?

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

I mean, not only am I gonna be missing the mischievous pranks this year-

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... but I'm also still not eating dairy, and my-

Griffin:

Yeah, 'cause of the baby.

Rachel:

... favorite, favorite things to eat are little fun-size Snickers.

Griffin:

I know. I love fun-size everything.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Griffin:

But it's, you know. You could still have all my favorite candy, like Sour Patch Kids. You can't have it 'cause it's mine, but, um-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah, I, I still love me a good Halloween, though, and I'm excited to talk about our favorite Halloween stuff.

Rachel:

Yeah. I mean, even, even for a, for an old scrooge but for Halloween... What would that be?

Griffin:

Three gh-... It could still be scrooge 'cause three ghosts showin' up and it's still like, "Whoa. Yeah."

Rachel:

This is spooky.

Griffin:

How haunted.

Rachel:

Uh, anyway, even for an old ghost scrooge like me, there are still, there are still some, some good parts.

Griffin:

I love Halloween. I'm not gonna let you poop... poo-poo the spirits.

Rachel:

[laughs] You wanna hear my stuff?

Griffin:

I wanna hear your first thing, yes please. I love how you print it out.

Rachel:

I do. I take notes and make sure it fits on one piece of paper.

Griffin:

Oh, God. That's good.

Rachel:

Yeah. I use, like, a size nine font, get it all on there.

Griffin:

Oh, baby. You are singing my tune.

Rachel:

[laughs] My first Halloween item that I think is wonderful and accessible to me as a dairy-free woman is the candy pumpkin.

Griffin:

Candy pumpkin, like the little... Not the-

Rachel:

Like the mellowcreme.

Griffin:

... Reese's pumpkin, like the-

Rachel:

Like the mellowcre-... Do you say Reese's [pronounced "ree-sees"]?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Oh, that's sweet.

Griffin:

Reese's be-... Pieces.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

So wait, which one are you talking about? Like the whole waxy little-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... son of a gun?

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

Baby, this is an unexpected turn-

Rachel:

It is.

Griffin:

... of events.

Rachel:

I don't usually like sugar candy. Uh, the mellowcreme pumpkin is made primarily from corn syrup, honey, carnauba, carnauba wax and sugar.

Griffin:

Okay, wax being sort of the key... Th-these is candy corns in the shape of pumpkins.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

And which is why I was so surprised, 'cause you're not a candy corn fan, are you?

Rachel:

I think I like the density of a pumpkin. Uh, it feels more like a substantial treat than-

Griffin:

But you do not like a-

Rachel:

... a candy corn.

Griffin:

You do not like a candy corn.

Rachel:

I mean, I ju-... I don't dislike a candy corn. It's just almost like nothing. It's over before you even start it.

Griffin:

See, my thought when I eat a waxy, waxy candy corn is never like, "Mmm, I wish there was like 2.5 times this much mass in a different shape, but still a lot of-"

Rachel:

I think, you know I think what it is, I think it's texture. I think it's the honey in there. Um-

Griffin:

Okay, and the car-... and the Chris Carrabbas wax. He's the lead singer of Dashboard Confessional.

Rachel:

Okay, thank you. I was gonna ask. Uh, spooooooky.

Griffin:

[singing] Wow, we did that at the same time. That was sort of a Halloween-

Rachel:

Spooooooky!

Griffin:

... Dashboard Confessional mashup. I'll do Dashboard Confessional one of these episodes. I don't give a fu-... I literally don't. We're on episode eight. I don't give a fuck anymore. I'll talk about Dashboard.

Rachel:

I mean, I guess so. When I was in college and that band was popular, it was, it was not for me.

Griffin:

Hmm.

Rachel:

It was for the, for the people that were-

Griffin:

The youths. The people who felt. Oooooogh!

Rachel:

Yeah, the people that were just a little bit more sad than me.

Griffin:

I feel everything!

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um.

Rachel:

So-

Griffin:

Tell me more about this wax-

Rachel:

Lemme tell you about this pumpkin.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Here's what I love about Wikipedia. Sometimes you get little gems like, uh, "sometimes called candy corn's first cousin."

Griffin:

Not. It's just can-

Rachel:

No. [laughs]

Griffin:

You can't call it... If I take a Snickers bar and I roll it up with 2.5 times more Snickers bars and I put it in a big lump-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... it's not "This is the cousin of Snickers."

Rachel:

It's not like if I went into Walgreens and was like, "Oh, yeah. Excuse me, where do you keep the familial relation of candy corn? You know."

Griffin:

You know what I mean.

Rachel:

"You know, the cousin?" Uh, so candy pumpkins are-

Griffin:

I've never seen you eat one of these. I feel like you're talkin' a bunch of yay right now.

Rachel:

No, I do. I like them. [laughs]

Griffin:

All right. Do you have a secret stash, like, in the bathroom ki-... like you keep it in a... the toilet tank and you just, like, dip in there? You hide it in the vents like you're Walter White and you go-

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

... in there you have a little pumpkin party?

Rachel:

I don't have a problem, Griffin. I just enjoy it.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Um, okay, so believe it or not, they are made using a similar process to the way they make candy corn.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs] [crosstalk 00:06:56]-

Griffin:

A different, a different mold though, I bet.

Rachel:

A lot of earth-shattering information-

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... I'm gonna provide here. Uh, here's the thing that I found interesting.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, they've been around since, like, the mid-20th century, so like the '50s.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Which surprised me.

Griffin:

That actually tracks for me.

Rachel:

You, you, you're not surprised [crosstalk 00:07:15].

Griffin:

It doesn't seem like a modern sort of invention. By the way, that's the first time I've said that word halfway normal in almost a decade.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, so like the '50s is comin' around and it's like we need more stuff to throw in these kids' bags and-

Rachel:

So candy corn has been around since the '20s.

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

Took them-

Griffin:

Okay, but tr-... like, trick or-

Rachel:

... several decades to get to that pumpkin.

Griffin:

Trick-or-treating in popular culture has not really been around since the '20s, which to me means... It's the '20s. Oct-... Uh, All Saints', uh, E-Eve or whatever rolls around and folks are like, "We need something to eat." This

was not like a, a dispensing mechanism. This was like, "I wanna eat this waxy corn."

Rachel:

Well, yeah, I mean, candy corn doesn't necessarily have to be seasonal, if you think about it.

Griffin:

It absol-... What are you, what, what have you, what have you just said?

Rachel:

Okay, take out the colors. Let's just say it's like a yellow corn.

Griffin:

It's just white like a dog's tooth? Like you're eating dog teeth?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Yeah, love it.

Rachel:

Kinda like a s-

Griffin:

Have a merry, merry Christmas. Here's some dog teeth.

Rachel:

Or like the summertime treat, which is corn.

Griffin:

Holy shit. You just made me think about just, like, chillin' on the lawn in July and I reach into a big bag of candy corn or candy dog teeth-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... and I just start chewin' away at those. And you've you've, you've sent a chill up my spine.

Rachel:

[laughs] Ooh, spooooky!

Griffin:

Happy March. Here's a candy cane.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

What are you saying?

Rachel:

So mellowcreme is when all those ingredients I mentioned earlier are combined and, uh-

Griffin:

Make love?

Rachel:

... turn into a syrup. Uh, it has kind of a mellow creamy texture, which is why they call it mellow crème.

Griffin:

Is there anything dairy in it?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

Can you call it cream at that point?

Rachel:

No, honey. Think about honey.

Griffin:

What, baby?

Rachel:

Hon-... No.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Totally just razzed you and burnt you up. Oh, damn.

Rachel:

Is this how our podcast is now?

Griffin:

Uh-huh.

Rachel:

We just try and make fools of each other?

Griffin:

[laughs] Burn was so good, I'm playing my ribs like a xylophone. I'm not a skeleton. I gotta stop this.

Rachel:

Okay, here's what I li-... here's what might be kind of a turn-off to you.

Griffin:

'Cause I'm rock hard right now-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... thinking about eating pumpkin... wax pumpkins.

Rachel:

Next line. The mellowcreme slurry is then divided into two uneven amounts.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

With the large amount receiving orange food coloring and the smaller receiving green food coloring.

Griffin:

Now, which part's which in that one? Just kidding. I know.

Rachel:

You being, you being cute right now?

Griffin:

Um, and then they just put it together in a mold and bada bing, bada boo?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Uh, sent to a drying room to dry for 24 to 36 hours. Once dry, the candy is shaken violently to remove excess cornstarch-

Griffin:

Get the fuck outta here. Get the, get the fuck outta there, pumpkin can-...

Rachel:

And a-

Griffin:

"I'm so comfortable!"

Rachel:

... final glaze is added to give the candy pumpkin a sheen. Okay, all of that, great. Next phase.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs] This, this is when I was like, "Should I really talk about these pumpkins? Griffin's not gonna be interested."

Griffin:

Uh, can I tell you something though? I was not into it at first. Somehow, you describing how it's made made me think of, like, *How It's Made*. And if I saw pumpkin candy on, like, *How It's Made* or-

Rachel:

Yeah, it'd be nice-

Griffin:

... *Un-Unwrapped*-

Rachel:

... wouldn't it?

Griffin:

Well, anything I see in *Unwrapped* or *How It's Made* I'm like, "I wanna fucking eat that." It's like are you sure? 'Cause it's, uh, car rims.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, candy pumpkins played a role in the current US implementation of daylight savings time.

Griffin:

Oh, God. What... Di-did they petition against it, please?

Rachel:

Since the 1960s, candy makers had wanted to get the trick or treat period covered by daylight savings, reasoning that if children have an extra hour of daylight, they could collect more candy. And so during the 1985 US Congressional hearings on daylight savings, which hold on to your-

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

... hold on to your butt, guys. That must've been thrilling. Uh, the industry went so far as to put candy pumpkins on the seat of every senator, hoping to win a little favor.

Griffin:

So they were hoping that daylight savings time would be repealed so that kids would have more time... Right? 'Cause in the, in the... Oh, no. I guess in October-

Rachel:

It would be extended.

Griffin:

Okay. Past Halloween.

Rachel:

So that kids could trick or treat longer-

Griffin:

Interesting.

Rachel:

... and get more candy.

Griffin:

So it used to be daylight savings would roll over sometime before Halloween.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

From what, from what I gathered, yeah. So in-

Griffin:

God, if only there was an easy way to, like, fix all of that, like, say, abolishing fucking daylight savings time. What the fuck are we doing, guys? It's 2017.

Rachel:

I don't wanna get into that, Griffin.

Griffin:

No, it's dark at 3:00.

Rachel:

Griffin, Griffin, this is Wonderful!. This is the podcast Wonderful!.

Griffin:

You know what's wonderful? The sun.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Give it to me.

Rachel:

I'm not gonna argue you on that one. Uh, so on July 8th, 1986, Reagan, uh, signed the Federal Fire Prevedention and Control Act into law.

Griffin:

Which changed time?

Rachel:

Which contained a daylight savings rider which continued daylight savings time until the early morning-

Griffin:

Oh, God.

Rachel:

... of the last Sunday in October.

Griffin:

Politics are so fucking buck wild.

Rachel:

And then-

Griffin:

Fire is bad, and also it's a hour I gave you. I'm Ronald Reagan.

Rachel:

Here's something that's crazy that just slid by me. In 2005, daylight savings time was extended to the first Sunday in November.

Griffin:

Why-

Rachel:

In 2005. This happened, like-

Griffin:

That was the year I graduated high school.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

How did I not fucking know that?

Rachel:

I don't know.

Griffin:

So we can all agree. We're playing fucking Calvinball with-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... daylight savings time then.

Rachel:

Yeah. It was extended to the first Sunday in November, just long enough to include Halloween. Isn't that wild?

Griffin:

That is pretty wild.

Rachel:

I never really thought about it. I, I, being a Midwesterner, thought about it and its relationship to, uh, the people that had to go out and work the land.

Griffin:

The agricultural community.

Rachel:

And so I thought it was very much based, uh, on the seasons for each particular year. I did not realize it was just legislation.

Griffin:

Or just playin' fun. Or just playin' fun.

Rachel:

And just big candy sliding' pumpkins onto chairs.

Griffin:

Jesus. And that's all it took, was one pumpkin?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

One wax pumpkin candy? How many people fucking sat on it and got all over... Fucking Robert C. Byrd sat down. "A pumpkin!"

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"No, I've been bedeviled!"

Rachel:

[laughs] Hey, lobbyists. Don't, don't worry about so much money. Just-

Griffin:

All you need is just some wax pumpkins.

Rachel:

Just one pumpkin.

Griffin:

Can I ask you... I don't have any candy as either of my thing, so I wanna take... Do you have another... Is your other one also candy?

Rachel:

No, it is not.

Griffin:

Okay, then I wanna ask you, what's your favorite Halloween candy? Is it, is it pumpkins? 'Cause-

Rachel:

I think it's the, the Reese's chocolate peanut butter-

Griffin:

Pumpkin?

Rachel:

... business, but I just love chocolate peanut butter in general.

Griffin:

Yeah, yeah.

Rachel:

Um, so yeah, I mean I guess I could've talked about that, but it's, it's not as wonderful to me since I am... will not be eating it this Halloween.

Griffin:

I always liked Dots in a Halloween b-because-

Rachel:

Oh my gosh, you're the weirdest person in the world!

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Griffin not only likes Dots, um, do you eat Good & Plenty?

Griffin:

Fuck, no.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

I eat Mike and Ikes.

Rachel:

Mike and Ikes. That's what I'm thinking of.

Griffin:

Good & Plenty's gross. Good & Plenty's like little-

Rachel:

It's like the kind of candy where you see it at the movie theater and you think, "That must've been there since 1992."

Griffin:

Okay, but I won't buy a big box of Dots at the movie theater. Lemme explain. Dots are little gum drops. That's all they are, is just gum drops. And they take forever to eat.

Rachel:

Yes, and they take out every single filling you have in your mouth.

Griffin:

Yeah, but I mean, it's not like I have any fillings. Oops. I have like 16.

Rachel:

Oops. Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, I get a... You get a little box of it and you pull it out of the bag, and then you see it and you're like, "Mm, I don't know. I, I, I don't know about you, Dots." But you... then you think about it and it's like, "I can spend like a half hour eating this small box of five dots." You, you got... you cannot argue with that, that time to candy ratio.

Rachel:

What other food in your life do you think, "This will take me a long time to eat, and I'm excited about that"?

Griffin:

I mean, very little. But, I mean, it's not candy. If I see a, a, a 3 Musketeers or a Milky Way... Milky Way's probably my favorite candy bar.

Rachel:

Mm. Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Griffin:

You crack open a Milky Way, it's like mmm, yeah. I'm about to eat a Mil-... Oh, no. It's gone. Dots are like, "Here I go. Lemme get a book." Um-

Rachel:

So if candy came on bones, let's say-

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

... like ribs or like inside a shell, you would be super into that.

Griffin:

If... Oh my God, baby. if I had to crack open a crag... crab leg and inside was, like-

Rachel:

Nougat?

Griffin:

... gummy worms. Not nougat.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But, like, you know Sour Patch... Actually, I take it back. Crab meat is the greatest invention. Can I do my first thing?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

I'm gonna, uh, switch mine up 'cau-... because, like, it's so germane now. Uh, because it's our first *Wonderful!*, I feel like I can go pretty broad. And so-

Rachel:

It's crab legs.

Griffin:

It's crab legs. Thank you.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

A spooky Halloween treat. They look like big red spiders. Uh, I just wanna do trick-or-treating.

Rachel:

Oh, this is... I got suspicious earlier when you seemed to know so much about when trick-or-treating started.

Griffin:

[laughs] So, uh, the act of, like, trick-or-treating... And I wanna be very clear here that I'm talking about a separate thing than Halloween, uh, and I also don't wanna spend, like, a super long time getting into the origins of it-

Rachel:

Are you gonna talk about the thing-

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... that is unique?

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Uh, it has, it has... Uh, the act of, like, trick-or-treating has a lo-... like, a few different origins from like... ranging from, like, ancient Celtic festivals to, um, Scottic trad-... uh, Scottish traditions which they called guising, which is one of the, like, earlier forms that it took in, in North America. Um-

Rachel:

Wait. guising?

Griffin:

Yeah, like disguising where-

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Yeah. Um, but, like, since forever, uh, the act of mumming i-... has been like a fairly commonplace thing when it is time for a holiday. And mumming is literally just going door to door and performing in some way in exchange for some sort of offering. Uh, so like carolers is one, one form of this. This is not like an uncommon thing, um, and that is essentially what trick-or-treating is.

Um, but in, in the US, it first started to achieve popularity in like the '30s. There are some earlier examples of it sort of popping up from, from time to time. Um, but in the late '40s and early '50s, it started to be depicted in popular culture, like in magazines and, uh, uh, radio programs. There was a Disney cartoon called Trick or Treat I think in, like, '52 or something like that. And at that point, like that is when it kind of took hold.

It was not like one year people were like, "All right, y'all. We're gonna do this thing. You're gonna dress up like a mummy. You're gonna be a Medusa. You're gonna go door to door and you're gonna get fucking wax pumpkins, [laughs] candy corn, I guess, because candy corn's 30 years old. It's 1952 and everything's kind of wild right now." Um, the... There are reports, and I don't know if you heard this, that, like, it was a way to redirect this sort of mischievous energy that young folks had, where they would just go around and fuck shit up.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah.

Griffin:

That's largely apocryphal. That is, like... There's actually not a whole lot of evidence to that being, like, this, this, like, grand conspiracy of our nation's adults getting together and being like, "I don't know, man. They burned down my fucking house. Couldn't we just give 'em some wax pumpkins and maybe they'll calm down about it?" That's the origins of it.

Now, about the practical application. It was the best. Like, when I was a kid, it was absolutely the best. Um, I feel like I've talked about this before, but like we, we were not ones to receive just sort of, like, random stuff. Like, it

was not like my dad would come home and be like, "Here's a big bag of candy. Hell yeah." Like, we, um-

Rachel:

I have a hard time believing that 'cause the McElroys are so deeply-

Griffin:

It's definitely true. Um, we, uh, we... I talked about it with, like, uh, video games. Like, I loved video games. But if I wanted video games, it was either on my birthday I would usually get one or on Christmas, I would get, like, a few, and that's why-

Rachel:

You-

Griffin:

... Christmas was, was such a bonanza.

Rachel:

No, I'm talking specifically about sugar.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, because you told me that your family would get together and watch American Idol and eat a bunch of candy.

Griffin:

That was later. Yeah, I think that was in, like, the later years.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Uh, when I could go out and buy my own Shock Tarts.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Or to be more realistic, um, like, Justin would steal them from Blockbuster or something.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and so, like, I wasn't always gettin' a bunch of candy all the time, and so Halloween was, like, so fucking exciting for the same reason that kind of Christmas was. Um, and there is nothing like finding out the best houses that had, like, the dope candy. I feel like that's kind of a trope whenever people talk about Halloween. Um, there's a few... The Halloween episodes of *Bob's Burgers* were so, so great. Uh, especially the Candy Randy episode is, is fantastic, but it, like depicts this thing of like, "Oh, you gotta go to the house that hands out the full-size candy bars." I knew where those fucking were. There were three of 'em down by Ritter Park up near the tennis courts. You get up there, you get the full-size 3 Musketeers and just, like, lose your mind.

Um, and I remember... Do you have a favorite Halloween costu-... Like, a trick-or-treat costume from when you were younger? Can you think of one off the top of your head?

Rachel:

Um, oh gosh. I may have to ask my mom if she can track this down. One year, I was Lisa Simpson.

Griffin:

Oh my God. I would pay anything to see that.

Rachel:

It was such a team effort. My mom crocheted me a red dress, uh, and made me a headband with spikes, and then my dad drew a saxophone on a piece of cardboard.

Griffin:

God, that's good.

Rachel:

And my mom drew, like, eyelashes on my eyes.

Griffin:

Oh, to be an only child and get that... just that pit crew-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... workin' on you Halloween night. Um, I got to be Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the USS Enterprise one year.

Rachel:

Oh my gosh. Did you wear a bald cap?

Griffin:

No. I mostly just had... My dad went to some sort of con and came back with-

Rachel:

Oh, gosh.

Griffin:

... I think all... He came back with three of the Starfleet uniforms.

Rachel:

Your dad must've been so excited. [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah, it was a very good day. Um, so then you go out and you go trick-or-treating and it's very good and very fun. Then you come home and there's lots of rituals for what you do with the candy afterwards, like candy trading. A couple years, we played candy poker, which was very exciting for me, but I was too young to really understand it so I usually just got taken to the cleaners. I mean, I was smart about it. I would get out before.

Anyway, these days trick-or-treating... 'Cause Henry's too young to be trick-or-treating. He is a very, very small child. Uh, some call them babies. And, um, I think it's still great because it's basically like a dope costume fashion show where we can sit outside, you can sit outside and just here comes a bunch of folks, usually little, little kids, and it's good. They dress up like little barn animals and that's good shit.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Or alternatively, they dress up like some sort of murderous ghoulish demon, and that is also very good shit. Like, seeing a little kid, like, wearing just a demon costume-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

...or like, "I'm a murderer," like oh, shit. Great.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You're five. That's wild, but I'm in... I'm lovin' it. [sings the mcdonalds tune]

Rachel:

Lemme tell you something that, as far as I know, only happens in St. Louis, Missouri. Uh, you can look this up. The phenomenon of trick-or-treating in St. Louis is such that when you ring somebody's doorbell and say, "Trick or treat," they expect you to tell a joke.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And this was always a little stressful. I, I used to try and, like, lift from other trick-or-treaters I would run into along the way. [laughs]

Griffin:

Well, the-... But then you hit the same houses as them, and then the people handing out the candy is like, "I already heard that one." Did that not happen? You never get caught?

Rachel:

Yeah, I definitely feel like people have demanded multiple jokes.

Griffin:

Oh, god.

Rachel:

'Cause there was this pressure of, like, really delivering.

Griffin:

Baby, I can understand why you do not celebrate this holiday as intensely as I do.

Rachel:

Well that, and also, um-

Griffin:

Oh, you weren't allowed to have candy. Holy shit.

Rachel:

No, it wasn't-

Griffin:

I completely forgot.

Rachel:

No, it wasn't that. It was, it was that there was a misconception that I had a chocolate allergy when I was a kid.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

So I didn't have chocolate until I was about 10 or 11 years old.

Griffin:

God.

Rachel:

Which made Halloween kind of a... just a tidal wave of things I couldn't enjoy. Um-

Griffin:

So yeah, it's not a great holiday for Rachel.

Rachel:

But.

Griffin:

But Dots. You got Dots and you'd get stoked.

Rachel:

The joke telling thing. I didn't realize that was regional until I moved away and nobody was prepared to deliver on that.

Griffin:

Yeah, that's very, very stressful.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Speaking of regional weirdness, and I think-

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

... this is the thing you wanted to talk about.

Rachel:

Yes, definitely.

Griffin:

Uh, when I moved t-to Austin, I think it was my first Halloween here and I asked Rachel when is trick-or-treat this year. And Rachel looked at me like I was just the dumbest person alive.

Rachel:

I thought you legitimately could not remember what day of the year Halloween was on.

Griffin:

But that is because I am from Huntington, West Virginia and in Huntington, West Virginia and lots of other places, not lots of other places, a few other places, I think Ohio has the tightest concentration of places that do this, uh, trick-or-treating happened on a different day than Halloween. Um, and there are a few different reasons for this.

Uh, first of all, Halloween night, everybody, not everybody but, uh, certain irresponsible parties go out and they get fucked up. And then they drive around, and that is not an especially good cocktail for a bunch of kids dressed up like fucking ninjas or Batman or enter dark-clothed thing here, um, which I totally get, right?

Uh, the other reason... And I, I was kind of researching this, and there is very f-... there is very little SEO for this phrase of like, "Why is trick-or-treat not on Halloween?" But one thing that I found is it's, uh, kind of prevalent in rural communities where if Halloween falls, uh, on a weekend, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, they will traditionally move it to the Thursday before. If it's Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, it can be on that day. But if it's on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, they move it to the Thursday before. You wanna guess the reason for that?

Rachel:

In rural communities... Um, I mean, I'm guessing in rural communities, houses are so far apart that they do trick-or-treating somewhere else.

Griffin:

No. It's because they're trying to counter-program against, like, high school football games and church events.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Yeah. Um, I guess... And maybe that's not necessarily, uh, inherently a rural community thing, but like everything that I found, uh, there are very few major cities that do this. Um, and so yeah, in Huntington it was just always kind of all over the place. And that news would be distributed, like, on the radio and on TV and in the paper like, "Trick-or-treating is gonna happen-"

Rachel:

Yeah, I was gonna ask that.

Griffin:

"... f-... at this very set point."

Rachel:

How did, how did everybody find out?

Griffin:

Everybody knew. Everybody, everybody... When you, when you grow up with it and you live in that, uh, a, a town with it, you just kinda come to expect it and, and know to look out for it.

Sometimes this day has another name. They refer to it as beggars night. It's a very good name for it. Uh, sometimes a town will do a beggars night, and then kids will also try to trick or treat on Halloween, and I definitely appreciate that, um, uh, that, that entrepreneurial spirit. But yeah, th-... I can finally explain to you why I trick or treated on a different night than Halloween growing up if it was on a weekend.

Rachel:

I mean, I kind of, I kinda get it. I mean, like, as far as school went, I know that there were certain days assigned where we would wear our costumes to school.

Griffin:

Mm.

Rachel:

I still remember this because in third grade, I think, uh, this kid I went to school with showed up as a cereal box, um, but holding a plastic knife and was a serial killer.

Griffin:

It's very good, but not for school, probably.

Rachel:

In, like, third grade. And he got in a lot of trouble.

Griffin:

Yeah. Imagine that.

Rachel:

Um, I just remember thinking like, "It's clever."

Griffin:

But.

Rachel:

But whose parent would allow that to happen? [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah. I mean, s-... uh, like, concerns about safety has also given rise to trunk or treat, where... which'll take place in, like, uh, you know, a church parking lot or I guess really any parking lot.

Rachel:

I think our daycare's doing that this year, actually.

Griffin:

Yeah, where you just go around to people's cars and they give you candy out of the back of their trunk and you do that-

Rachel:

Which is... Also seems a little suspect to me. [laughs]

Griffin:

Maybe a little bit. Uh, but yeah, trick-or-treating, it rules no matter what age you are. I'm very much looking forward to, uh, probably here in a couple years taking, taking Henry trick-or-treating, which'll be very fun, but I'm also looking forward to just the, the parade of all the costumes-

Rachel:

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Griffin:

... this year. It'll be fun. Um, hey. Can I maybe steal you away, though, for like a minute? May I howloween? Do howloweens? Do you have one?

Rachel:

Can we tag team? Let's tag team. [howls]

Griffin:

...[howls...sort of] I turned into a horse.

Rachel:

[laughs] Wh-why a horse?

Griffin:

I don't know. It's unexpected. That's the nature of comedy.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, our sponsors this week, I'm so excited to talk to you about them. They don't exist. [laughs] We don't have sponsors this week. [laughs] I'm still excited though. Um, [inaudible 00:27:19]... What am I supposed to do with this excitement, babe? Where am I supposed to put this energy?

Rachel:

Our sponsors this week include, uh, just love.

Griffin:

Love and-

Rachel:

Um, and-

Griffin:

Halloween, Halloween, [inaudible 00:27:29]-

Rachel:

Togetherness.

Griffin:

Togetherness and, um, just uh-

Rachel:

Kindness.

Griffin:

Kindness is up there.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Griffin:

Shit, dude. I have jumbotrons though. Can I do those?

Rachel:

Yes, please.

Griffin:

This first one is for Livvy, uh, AKA Larvaea, and it's from Sophie, AKA, Shlarfy. I hope I'm pronouncing that right. Shlarfy

It says, "Happy belated birthday to the wonderful person who introduced me to the McElroys and all of their good, good content. I'm so glad to have you as a friend." Larvaea and Shlarfy, just two good buds keepin' it real. Better watch out, though, for the, um, you better watch out, you better watch out, though, for the bug man comi-... Hold on. What's a scary thing, like a-

Rachel:

Vampire?

Griffin:

Vampire. Oh, God. Don't even ge-... No, that was too scary, babe.

Rachel:

Oh, I'm sorry. Um, taaaxees!

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs] This message is for Jenna. It is from Phalia.

Happy birthday to my best friend in the world. I am so glad you were born. Let's keep kicking trivia's ass together. I think you rock.

Griffin:

Lotta birthdays and a lotta friends.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Lotta friends, lotta birthdays. Lotta birthdays and lotta [singing the *Friends* theme] Theme song.

Rachel:

Should that be our new stinger into the money zone?

Griffin:

Oh, I would do anything to get off this *Home Improvement* train. It's been just-

Rachel:

You-

Griffin:

... screaming off the tracks for so-

Rachel:

... have been so insistent that we continue it.

Griffin:

... so long.

Rachel:

I would love to leave it.

Griffin:

Um, Jenna, happy birthday. Phalia, fantastic name. I think you both rock. Go fuck that trivia up.

Rachel:

Heavens.

Brea:

Are stacks of unread books taking over your apartment?

Mallory:

Do you constantly miss your train stop because you're caught up in reading?

Brea:

I'm Brea Grant.

Mallory:

And I'm Mallory O'Meara.

Brea:

We party hard.

Mallory:

And by party hard, we mean read books.

Brea Grant:

So join us every Thursday on Reading Glasses, a Maximum Fun podcast about reading and book culture.

Mallory:

Get more out of your reading life.

Brea:

We'll help you conquer your to-be-read pile.

Mallory:

Get out of that book slump.

Brea:

And squeeze more reading time into your busy day. Learn how to read better.

Mallory:

Learn how to read better. Wow, that was good.

Brea:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Do you wanna tell me about your second thing?

Rachel:

Yes, in a Halloween theme.

Griffin:

Oh, gosh.

Rachel:

Uh, semi-permanent hair dye. [laughs]

Griffin:

Baby.

Rachel:

Specifically Manic Panic.

Griffin:

What are you... I don't know what the f-... I don't know what any of this is.

Rachel:

Oh, see I thought maybe this would happen. Uh, Manic Panic are those little four-ounce jars of, like, brightly-colored hair dye-

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

... that you could get, uh, at Sally Beauty fly... Beauty Supply, for example.

Griffin:

This is nepotism.

Rachel:

Uh, so, uh, you may all not know. I used to work at Sally Beauty Supply when I was in college for about two years. Uh, and it was just super fun. Around Halloween, people would come in looking-

Griffin:

Model employee, by the way, based on some of the stories I've heard.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Just a ... [laughs]

Rachel:

That was a culture created by my manager.

Griffin:

Oh, okay.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Sally.

Rachel:

Sally.

Griffin:

I hope you like my beauty supplies.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm [affirmative]. Um, so-

Griffin:

I don't know why I'm judging you. I was never great in any of the retail jobs I-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... um, attended, but that was largely due to the culture.

Rachel:

Let's just say we were, um, encouraged to use products and then place them back on the shelf. [laughs]

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

We all would regularly paint our nails and then put the bottle of nail polish back on the shelf.

Griffin:

My bad behavior was due to a culture created by weed mostly, I think, probably.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I can't believe you stole... Did you steal Manic Panic ever?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

But you would use it and put it back on the shelf?

Rachel:

Well, no. I mean, ha-... You can't steal hair dye and put it back on the shelf. Once you-

Griffin:

It's the perfect crime.

Rachel:

Once you popped that top, there is no returning.

Griffin:

That's fair.

Rachel:

Uh, Manic Panic comes in super bright colors like Ultra Violet, Vampire Red, Cotton Candy Pink, Psychedelic Sunset, Electric Lizard, um-

Griffin:

These sound delicious, which I know-

Rachel:

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Griffin:

... is wrong.

Rachel:

Lasts four to six weeks, uh, and-

Griffin:

Is this when you... Uh, you told me that you dyed your hair blue. Is that what, is this what it was?

Rachel:

I never did blue. I did purple-

Griffin:

Purple.

Rachel:

... and red.

Griffin:

Is that, is this what that was?

Rachel:

Purple, yes. The thing that I loved about semi-permanent hair dye as a kid and especially, like, around Halloween time is it's one of the only things you can access, you know, as a teen, um, on your own. Like, you take your money and you go to the store and you can buy it, and nobody can stop you, you know?

Griffin:

And then you've dyed your hair on a semi-permanent basis.

Rachel:

Yeah. I just... I-it was like, it was an act of rebellion-

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

... that was fully accessible.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You didn't have to, like, break any laws to rebel in this way. Uh-

Griffin:

When did you start, when did you start doin' this? Wa-...A-and was this like a-

Rachel:

Middle school.

Griffin:

And then, and you would just do it around Halloween or you would do it frequently?

Rachel:

Not frequently.

Griffin:

'Cause I think it's ballin'.

Rachel:

Uh, so the thing that's kind of fun about Manic Panic, it was started by sisters Tish and Snooky Bellomo.

Griffin:

Is that the fun thing, the fucking names are the best names I've ever heard?

Rachel:

Uh, they opened a boutique in St. Mark's Place in New York's East Village, uh, in 1977. Uh, and it was kind of like a punk rock thing. They were both musicians. Uh, they sang back up with Blondie.

Griffin:

Holy shit.

Rachel:

Uh, and had their own punk band and-

Griffin:

Did they help Blondie get that, get that look goin'?

Rachel:

I, you know, I don't know. Maybe. Probably. Definitely. Sure.

Uh, and they were known for having kinda wild hair color and in the, uh, '70s, they started selling the hair dye. And then quickly, that became their whole business. Before, it was like vintage clothing and the whole, like, aesthetic and then it became just hair dye.

Griffin:

Do these come in the little bottles that are, like, see-through and you can see, like-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... the bright color?

Rachel:

Exactly.

Griffin:

Okay, I know exactly what you're talking about.

Rachel:

That what I meant, the little four-ounce jars.

Griffin:

Yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

They look like, like little candles, almost. Uh-

Griffin:

With, like, black print on them?

Rachel:

Mm-hmm [affirmative].

Griffin:

Yeah, definitely.

Rachel:

Yeah, the, the, the label says, "Live fast and dye your hair."

Griffin:

Oh, that's fun. See? They have... [inaudible 00:33:31]. It's punk rock, but they're also having a lot of fun with it.

Rachel:

Uh, [laughs] so they now have 44 shades of hair color, uh, 11 shades of styling gel, 48 shades of lipstick, 32 eye colors, glitters, nail polishes, et cetera, all vegan, cruelty free. Um, and, and yeah, I just... I brought it up

because there's something really fun to me. And, and granted, I haven't dyed my hair in maybe 20 years now-

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

... at this point. Yeah.

Griffin:

But I get it. It's like a, it's like a, an identity thing, like you're planting your flag on the ground.

Rachel:

It's like the spirit of Halloween too. It's like, you know, I can become a totally different person by doing this-

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... temporary, fun thing.

Griffin:

I always wanted to do that, um, not necessarily a, a, a Manic Panic color necessarily, but for a while... Um, I was into Green Day for about four weeks.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

And I wanted the jet black look for like a second.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um.

Rachel:

Oh my gosh, with your blue eyes, Griffin.

Griffin:

No, it would, it would be very much, uh-

Rachel:

That'd be, that'd be striking.

Griffin:

... Billy, Bi-Billy Joe... What's-

Rachel:

Armstrong.

Griffin:

King. Billie Jean King-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... is what I was thinking. That's not who it was. Um, yeah, Billy Joe Armstrong, that look, that fierce look. I thought that would look good. One time at church camp, I did get liberty spikes.

Rachel:

Oh my gosh, I don't know this story at all.

Griffin:

Okay. I was at church camp and some kid had hair gel. I was like, "Can you give me liberty spikes?" And he was like, "Yeah." But I had my, like, really, like, thick-

Rachel:

Yeah, your floppy hair. [laughs]

Griffin:

... floppy, matted, just sort of spongy hair and, uh, it essentially looked like udders.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

It looked like udders, like small nipples appearing from my head instead of these tall, proud spires.

Rachel:

That does actually remind me. Um, part of the curse of Manic Panic that you do not get appropriate information on as a kid, uh, it will stain absolutely everything.

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

So they actually say... If you look on their website, they say in the instructions, "Do not use in your shower." [laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

Um, because that was exactly what happened to me. It, it stained our, our bathtub-

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

... and my hands. If you don't put Vaseline on your skin, it will stain your scalp. Uh, none of these things did I know to do in advance. Uh, so-

Griffin:

Oh, babe. That's so fucking rock and roll though.

Rachel:

... pretty much the, the whole bathroom was purple when I dyed my hair.

Griffin:

How did, how did Dave and Linda take it when you had that hair?

Rachel:

You know, it came out... My mom actually, uh, to her credit, um, was always very supportive of, uh, of hair dye.

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

Not that she encouraged it, but she, uh, would allow my friends to come over and dye their hair at our house too. It was just kind of-

Griffin:

And if you got some hair dye in your hair-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... then c'est la vie?

Rachel:

Somehow, it always came out. I don't know what she did or how it happened, but, um-

Griffin:

I'm talking about your hair, like-

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

... you come up... you come downstairs. You're like, "My hair's purple now."

Rachel:

Yeah. Well, here's the thing. I never bleached it, uh, and I have-

Griffin:

So it was never, like, especially [crosstalk 00:36:21].

Rachel:

Yeah. I have relatively dark brown hair, so whenever I would dye it kind of an extreme color-

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... it would... One, it would wash out in a few weeks, and it would also never be, like, bright. Uh, so yeah, it, it was not particularly damaging or wild.

Griffin:

We should dye our hair and just roll up to daycare the next day like, "This is us." That's what that show's about.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Do you want my second thing?

Rachel:

Yes, please.

Griffin:

So I wanna do a movie. I wanna talk about a spooky movie. It's very hard to find one that has sort of stood up against the test the time and is-

Rachel:

Oh, I know.

Griffin:

... a true Halloween movie and [crosstalk 00:36:51]-

Rachel:

I wanted to do the same thing, and then I kept reviewing these thoughts I had and I was like, "This is not appropriate." [laughs]

Griffin:

This is not really appropriate. And I think that's because, like, there's a lot of, you know, shitty, shitty tropes in these movies that maybe haven't aged

very well, um, largely because I think this genre birthed a lot of these shitty tropes.

Rachel:

So much misogyny too.

Griffin:

Like, wildly yes.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, I mean, not just that, but just harmful depictions of every imaginable-

Rachel:

Yeah, that's true.

Griffin:

Um, yeah. So, uh, and I'm not saying that this movie is free of it, but it is, I, I think, uh, a movie that gets, gets, uh, by just by being a lot of fun, for the more part, and very campy, for the most part. And the more I thought about it, like while there are a lot of Halloween, a lot, a lot of, like, scary movies that I really love, I love *The Thing* and I love, uh, *Alien* and *Aliens*, I don't necessarily think that those are great Halloween movies 'cause they're more-

Rachel:

Yeah, I thought when you were gonna talk about a movie, you were maybe gonna talk about *The Thing*.

Griffin:

Uh, no. I li-... I do enjoy *The Thing* quite a bit. I only saw it for the first time a few years ago, and it scared the shit out of me and I thought it was a very good film. The movie, though, that I came back to that I really wanted to talk about is the one that I feel like I watch every Halloween, and it is *Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn*.

Rachel:

Oh my gosh. How did I forget about that?

Griffin:

Yeah, I don't know. Um, *Evil Dead II* is just a movie I wanna watch on every Halloween. I think it is a perfect sort of Halloween movie, um, and it sort of represents kind of my favorite type of scary movie, which is a scary movie, uh, that is just fun and funny and, and campy.

Rachel:

Also campy. Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, and I think that *Evil Dead II*, like, does that stuff really well. So if you've never seen it, it is strange. It's a strange, like, categorization of films because it is a sequel, but it also opens up with, like, an extended, like, 15-minute long recap of the first movie, but it's not a recap. They shot new stuff with, uh, fewer characters. They cut two characters completely out.

Like, it's uh, uh, Ash, uh driving, uh, in this old car with his girlfriend and two buddies up to this cabin in the woods. Um, and horrible things happened to them in *Evil Dead I*. In *Evil Dead II*, it opens up and it's just Ash and his girlfriend, and his girlfriend's played by a different actress, and the two buddies just aren't in the car. And then they go... p-... continue to play out the first movie in 15 minutes.

Rachel:

Yeah, so this is kind of embarrassing, but probably totally understandable. I did not realize that it was just a remake. I thought it was a sequel and they just-

Griffin:

So it is a s-... it is a s-... That's what I'm saying.

Rachel:

... happened to do basically the same movie again.

Griffin:

That's what I'm saying. It is a sequel. Uh, the, the categorization that the film studio uses, far as I can tell, was parody sequel, which is buck wil-... a fucking, like, wild-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... way to describe any movie. Also, it's *Evil Dead II*. It is a, it is a s-, it is a sequel and... Anyway. Um, *Evil Dead I* is, is okay. And I think it is a, a laudable film for what it achieved for, uh, I think it was made with, uh, 33 dollars.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and it sort of established, uh, a lot of things about Sam Raimi's career and this, this, this genre and, like, how much... Like, the special effects, specifically the gore, for what they had was pretty, pretty phenomenal, and it had sort of that dynamic, uh, editing and the... a lot of the chase cams, maybe a little bit too much of the chase cams, that would continue to be in the rest of the films. But *Evil Dead II*, uh, is I think a, a much better movie because it does not take itself nearly as seriously as *Evil Dead I*. And I think it is the film that more than any other he made, uh, th-that Sam Raimi made, like really, really encapsulates his, his oeuvre.

Rachel:

Well, and he... So you can tell after the first one, I think he recognized kind of the talents of Bruce Campbell because-

Griffin:

Abs-... Yeah.

Rachel:

... he gives him a lot more to do in the second one, and it is, it is so much more entertaining.

Griffin:

Right. In the first one, he is just sort of a handsome action star hero. And there is some, there is some comedic stuff kind of in the first one, but in the second one it's like, "Okay, Bruce. Just fucking have fun, dude." And I'm so glad that that did happen because some of those scenes are, are... Uh, this is almost like a super gory, sometimes scary, slapstick comedy movie. Um, a lot of that tone came from the, uh, collaboration of Scott Spiegel, uh, who co-created this movie with, uh, Sam and had worked with him on some, like, short experimental films when they were much younger.

Um, and he just insisted that, that *Evil Dead II* have this, like, way less serious tone, um, and... well, they, they lived together with, uh, like, the Cohen brothers. They made a mo-... Sam Raimi made a movie with the

Cohen brothers, and I can't remember... *Crime Wave*, I think is what it was called. I've never seen it.

Rachel:

Oh, I don't know that one.

Griffin:

I've never even heard of it. Um, but they were living together and with, like, Frances McDormand and, uh, the Cohen brothers and a bunch of people. And while they were working on that movie, they, they hashed this one out. Um, and Scott Spiegel helped kind of give it this, this comedic tone. Um, and the result of that is, like, there are so many sight gags in this movie. I've seen it probably 20 times and every time I watch it, it... like, there's just some little thing in the background. Um, a lot of it is very, like, in your face. The entire extended hallucination sequence where the, uh, various objects in the cabin are laughing at, uh-

Rachel:

Oh my gosh. That's so creepy.

Griffin:

... at Ash. It's very, very creepy, which is another thing that I wanna talk about. Uh, but there is a, uh, also an extended almost, like, old *Looney Tunes* style Bugs Bunny pranking Elmer Fudd style fight between-

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

... Ash and his own disembodied hand that takes up, um, when you're watching it, it feels like approximately three quarters of the movie, uh, but it is very good. And there is a section in which, uh, Ash finally gets the better of the hand and traps him under a big pile of books, at the top of which is...

Rachel:

A Farewell to Arms?

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's fucking great. It's like... And there's stuff like that all throughout the movie. And you just mentioned it, but that mix of comedy and horror-

Rachel:

Yeah. Well, it's, i-it feels-

Griffin:

... makes both so much stronger, I feel like.

Rachel:

It feels delirious.

Griffin:

It does.

Rachel:

You know, it feels like when you're slap happy because you're exhausted.

Griffin:

Well, and also when you're laughing and then all of a sudden, the monster in the basement punches up through the floor and drags his... this guy to his bloody death, it's like, "Am I supposed to be laughing still?" Like, the, the whiplash from that is, like, really traumatic. And then when you're really scared and something really funny happens, like, the relief that you feel from that makes it-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... all the more relieving. Also making it very scary is that claymation in old movies like this scare the fucking piss out of me.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Large Marge. Tell him Large Marge sent you in *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure* scares me to death every time. I'm 30 years old.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, so I was gonna ask you, do you remember when you first saw it?

Griffin:

Uh, let's see. I was in college.

Rachel:

Me too. I was gonna say, it felt like the perfect college movie.

Griffin:

Absolute-... It felt like a movie that I could... like, me and my dumb friends who are making movies in college could've absolutely made. Even though that's, like, hubris, but it was kind of almost the story of, of, at the very least, the first, uh, the first one. Um, they... Sam Raimi really wanted to do the Middle Ages stuff, which is, uh-

Rachel:

Army of Darkness?

Griffin:

Comprises, uh, *Evil Dead III*, *Army of Darkness*.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Which at that point, is just a straight-up action movie. I feel like there's not even a little bit of-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... horror in, in that one. Um, and the... He request-... It wa-...[inaudible 00:44:30]... I forget the numbers, but he requested like 6 million and they were like, "Sorry, we could only give you 5 million." He's like, "Well, I can't do the Middle Ages stuff," and so they saved it for *Army of Darkness*. Um-

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Army of Darkness is fine also. *Evil Dead II* is I... in my opinion just, just... It is, uh Sam Raimi's best movie. It is the most, like... And I feel like it's the movie he's been trying to make again a little bit, uh, which there's absolutely no problem with that. Um, I just think it's the most fucking fun, and I look forward to watching it every year. And it's-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... super gory, and the spe-... I'm really into, like, old special effects, practical effects shit, and that is like all that this is. And then there's just, like, so much humor all throughout that I did not catch the first 20 times I saw it.

Rachel:

No, it's, it's a great, great movie. Yeah, my friends and I would watch it, I think, year round in college, uh, because it... We, we got really into horror movies, uh, which can be kind of exhausting if you watch too many of them.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And this one is so refreshing.

Griffin:

It is.

Rachel:

Uh, it's a good, good pick.

Griffin:

Thank you. Although, I will say we usually watch it on Halloween night. We've done that a few years in a row now.

Rachel:

Oh, yeah. [laughs]

Griffin:

When the trick-or-treaters are coming by and it's like you ca-... There are very few frames of that movie that are okay for, like, a kid to see through your blinds.

Rachel:

Very true.

Griffin:

Um, do you wanna hear some submissions?

Rachel:

Yes, please.

Griffin:

Some spooky submissions from these ghouls and zombies and-

Rachel:

I just realized that I keep saying, "Yes, please," to you. It's a little embarrassing.

Griffin:

It's what you say to me when I ask if you want a coffee-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... in the morning. Um, uh, so this one is sent in by Carly who said, "I work in the food service industry and I've worked every Halloween. This isn't a bad thing though. My... though. My favorite Halloween thing is dressing up at work. Nothing compares to the image of a barber shop quartet introducing an a la carte menu and a silver-painted host dressed as the moon, me, uh, seating and busing tables at a fine dining establish."

Rachel:

Oh, that is fun.

Griffin:

I like it not, not just, like, at restaurants, but just anywhere if I go and everybody's dressed up in costumes. It's fantastic.

Rachel:

Yeah. I do actually... And, and something specifically about restaurants, too, makes it fun. I'll, I will say at a, at an office environment, there's something a little less fun about it 'cause you are still making copies and-

Griffin:

Makin' copies.

Rachel:

Yes. Gr-Griffin has never worked in an office.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

I was doin' an SNL character.

Rachel:

No, I know.

Griffin:

But when you work in the office, you all don't do that nonstop? I would. That's the only reason-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... to work in a office for me. Are you gonna make coffee? Makin' coffee. [laughs] I love you, Griffin.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, here's another one from Austin who says, "I love gettin' whiffs of that uniquely stanky smell from the Halloween decoration tub that's been in the garage all year. It is old vinyl, taffy residue or pumpkin stink?" Sorry, that

was a question. "Is it old vinyl, taffy residue or pumpkin stink? Only the ghosts know."

I will sa-... add on to that. Anytime you open up a old box, usually decorations 'cause what other thing do you have to get outta your garage ever-... on an annual basis, and you catch a breath of that old air that smells like the holiday from last year... Am I overromanticizing this too much?

Rachel:

No, that's good! I just never really thought about that as a tangible thing, but it's true.

Griffin:

When we open up our Christmas decoration box, there's gonna be a smell in there. And it's unique and indescribable, but it does exist. And you open it and you're like, "Ah, time to begin."

Rachel:

Should we start trapping smells regularly?

Griffin:

Yeah. I mean, I... You know.

Rachel:

Like when Henry takes his first step, should we, like, bottle up-

Griffin:

Capture this-

Rachel:

... that air?

Griffin:

His foot smell.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, Steven says, "One of my absolute favorite things about the Halloween season is the prevalence of theremin and harpsichord usage in the seasonal songs for the spooky feeling. I love these instruments, and this time of the

year always feels like their time to shine. Can't get enough of spooky music. Have a good one." Not a whole lotta opportunities for the theremin to really get out there and do its thing.

Rachel:

Yeah. You know, Halloween music does remind me, though, of *A Nightmare Before Christmas*, which I thought about bringing up for this week's episode because of the Halloween stuff.

Griffin:

Yes. A lot of harpsichord in that one. A great deal of harpsichord in that one. Not enough theremin, I feel like. That was my only criticism-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... of the film. There's a theremin at Guitar Center, the one down the street, and so I always, like, stop in just to see if, like, maybe I'm a secret virtuoso. No, it is an impossible instrument to play. Imagine trying to play, um, a violin, only it's fucking invisible.

Rachel:

Yeah. I've seen people play that before in concerts, and it's incredible to watch.

Griffin:

Uh, one last one. This one is from, uh, Allan who says, uh, "In my neighborhood and in many around the neigh-... area, we do something called booing, where after dark or sometimes earlier for families with small kids who go to bed early, we'll either run or drive over to the house in which we plan to boo." Are you ready for this? It's so good.

Rachel:

I don't know.

Griffin:

"And we stealth drop a bag of Halloween goodies, candy, Halloween magazines, little toys, glowy eyes for pumpkins, on their porch, ring the doorbell and book it. It's anon-... it's, uh, anonymous, unless someone spills the beans or you get caught, and it goes for all October. There's also the Halloween block party screaming contest, but that ranks second."

Rachel:

That's very sweet.

Griffin:

Hey Allen, it's extremely sweet. I think you live in, like, 1958.

Rachel:

Yeah, it feels like the... what happened in Bedford Falls in-

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Griffin:

Absolutely. They should make a *It's a Wonderful Life* Halloween movie. Can you imagine that Clarence is a little demon? ...

Rachel:

Uh, no, it sounds too spooky.

Griffin:

But it's fun. They'd have fun with it.

Rachel:

Oh, okay. [laughs]

Griffin:

Um, that's gonna do it, I think, for us.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, I hope you enjoyed it. I hope you have a very safe and spooky Halloween. Thank you to bo en and Augustus. Aghoulstus. [laughs]

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

For the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. It's a very good theme song, and you can find a link to it in the description of this episode. Anything else?

Rachel:

Uh, thank you. We got a bunch of great stuff in our PO box, but we do not have the list in front of us. We will be sure to thank you next week.

Griffin:

Yeah. Thank you to Maximum Fun for havin' us. Oh, that PO box is PO box 66639 Austin, Tex-... PO box 666, Halloween 666, 39 Austin, Texas 78766. When the, uh, people at the post office gave me that box, they were like, "Whoa." And I was like, "There's at least a thousand of these. Like, why are you so..."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs] There's a thousand of these. You have to... Anyway. Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun for havin' us. You can go to maximumfun.org/jumbotron. That's nothing. But if you do wanna get jumbotrons... I'm glad I accidentally said that-

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

... because they are going back on sale, uh, Wednesday, November 1st, uh, at 11:00 AM Pacific Time. They'll be selling spots, uh, available for the first six months of 2018. Go to maximumfun.org/jumbotron for more details.

Rachel:

Yeah, for those of you that were still hoping to get a jumbotron in for *Wonderful!* this year, we are sold out.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

So if you wanna get on top of next year, this is your chance.

Griffin:

Hop on it. Uh, I think that's maybe it.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

All right. Well thank you all for listening. Have a fun Halloween. Get lots of candies.

Rachel:

Sorry we were a day late. Thank you for your patience.

Griffin:

Thank you for your patience and your prayers.

[theme music plays out]

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Carrie:

Hello. I'm Carrie Poppy.

Ross:

And I'm Ross Blocher, hosts of maximumfun.org's *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!*

Carrie:

We wanted to tell you the good news, that our podcast is now weekly.

Ross:

Yeah, weekly. On *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!*, we don't make extraordinary claims. We investigate them.

Carrie:

We go undercover with fringe religious groups, investigate paranormal claims and participate in pseudoscientific medical treatments and report our findings to you.

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In a time where alternative facts reign supreme, we cut through the murky spin to give you the real deal on topics like UFOs, the anti-vaccination movement, Scientology and even apocalyptic churches.

Carrie:

We're even undercover for some very exciting investigations right now.

Ross:

Well, not right now right now.

Carrie:

Yeah, that would be unwise.

Ross:

That's *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!* at maximumfun.org.

Carrie:

We show up so you don't have to.