Wonderful! 27: BEAN DELIVERY!!!

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Rachel:

Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

This is Wonderful!

Griffin:

Oh, it's gonna be a wet one, folks.

Rachel:

It is raining here.

Griffin:

We should have explained first that it is raining because me just saying it's a wet one out of context is not... What if we did an episode in, like, a kiddie pool? Fun.

Rachel:

Now, that's fun.

Griffin:

Swimsuits, like, summer, summer and spring. It can be our first sun episode.

Rachel:

Yeah, some sloshing in the audio.

Griffin:

Little sloshing, little gloshing, and a little electrocution. Because we'll have electronic equipment and microphones but fun beach, pools, summer time.

Why don't you just do what you did on your TV show?

Griffin:

That was horrible. I would never do that again. That was the worst day of my entire life. I had to sit in a non-functioning, cool tub, essentially, with my two dirty, dirty, brothers, um, unable to move an inch or else the mic pack would fall in the water and our show would be shut down because we've gone over budget, because we destroyed a... Those things are, like, \$100,000.

Rachel:

What, the mic packs?

Griffin:

Yeah, we're doing some professional quality. The one I used, Christian Bale had actually used in the movie Pirates of the Caribbean 5. Was he in that one? Yeah. He was one of the skeletons.

Rachel:

There's a lot to tackle in what you just said.

Griffin:

So let's take it a piece by piece.

Rachel:

I don't know how many Pirates of the Caribbeans there have been.

Griffin:

Nine or ten.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

It depends on if you count Pirates of the Caribbean, uh, Captain Silly's Booty, um, Patrol.

Rachel: [laughs]
Griffin: And that one was sort of a sex romp but set in the Pirates of the Caribbean
Rachel: Is Johnny Depp in all of them?
Griffin: He is in that one twice. Yeah
Rachel: He has two different characters?
Griffin: Yeah, he's two different characters and they both aren't great. So, uh, this is Wonderful. This is a show where we talk about some of the stuff that we're feeling right now, some of the stuff you're feeling right now and baby, right now I'm feeling you on this wet day.
Rachel: Aww.
Griffin: Baby, I'm feeling you. Wasn't that a Joss Stone song?
Rachel: I don't know. Was it in Pirates of the Caribbean 9?
Griffin: It was in 3, 4, and it was the main theme of 7.

Okay.

Griffin: So, but do you want to get started with the thing that you're feeling right now?
Rachel: I would.
Griffin: And should we do some small wonders first?
Rachel: I don't actually have any small wonders this week.
Griffin: My small wonder this week is
Rachel: Are you making it up right now?
Griffin: No.
Rachel:
Ohh.
Ohh. Griffin: I've had it for a long time.
Griffin:
Griffin: I've had it for a long time. Rachel:
Griffin: I've had it for a long time. Rachel: Oh, okay. Griffin:

Griffin:

I bought it to help with Adventure Zone music and it's, like, a full one. And I did a lot of comparison shopping for the pianos. It's the Roland, I think, RD2000. It's the 2000th piano they put out, 2000th anniversary edition. Um, [laughs] they started in, uh, the year 18 AD, year of our Lord. And I was comparison shopping and I found a video about this piano that's from a dude who does, like, piano YouTube stuff.

And he was showing off some of the voices on the piano, like the different sounds it makes. And there's one called Jazz Scat. Uh, Jazz Scat 1 and 2 and depending on how hard you press the keys, it going to be like "do" or can be like "bah," or if you really slam it, it goes "daaw," like that.

Rachel:

I like that a lot.

Griffin:

It's very good. And this dude does uh, a song on the piano and this guy is the happiest I've ever seen in any human being as he plays this song. It's just like, [scats a quick song].

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

He's just like bouncing up and down on the piano playing this...

Rachel:

I wonder if he could do some Carmen Sandiego theme with that.

Griffin:

Ooh, maybe where the Doug theme. [hums the Doug theme.]

Rachel:

Yeah. So just...

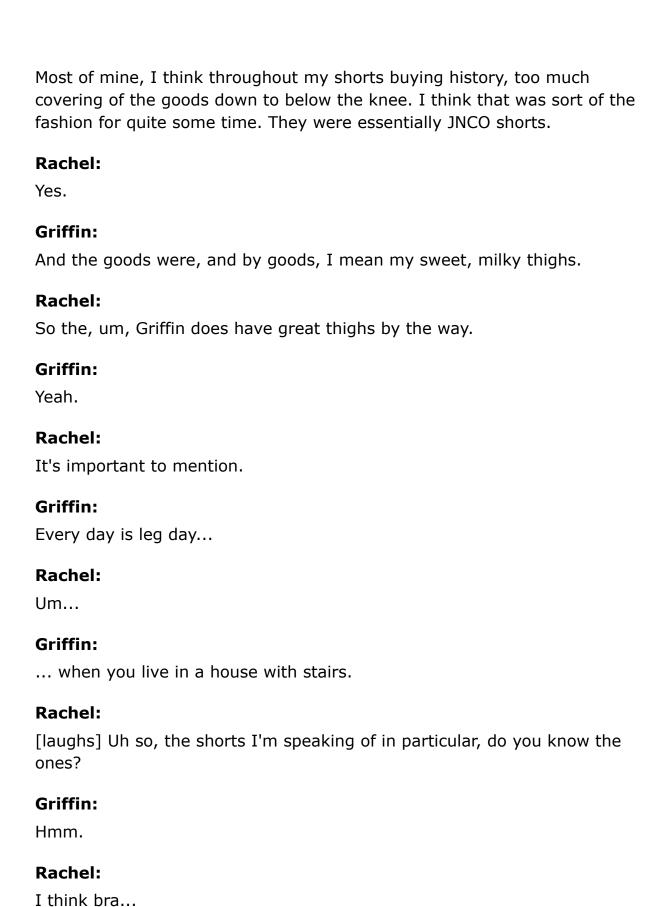
Griffin:

Daaw!
Rachel: [laughs] Just to clarify.
Griffin: Yes.
Rachel: Your Small Wonder is the video or the piano?
Griffin: Oh, the whole thing, the whole, the piano, the man, the happiness that this person's getting from the Jazz Scat that they're producing.
Rachel: Okay.
Griffin: Do you think when they invented scat, do you think when Scat Man was like I got a new song for y'all? Skippidipidip-dadapop.
Rachel: Yes.
Griffin: He knew sort of what it was going to mean later. Or perhaps at the same time, was he trying to reclaim the term scat? He's like, I'm not the doo-doo man. Do you want to do your first thing?
Rachel: [laughs] Well, no. I think I want to spend the next 30 minutes or so investigating
Griffin:

The doo-doo man?

what you just posed, yeah.
Griffin: Okay.
Rachel: Um, I imagine it started
Griffin: Oh.
Rachel: scat started as a word for excrement.
Griffin: But then he was like
Rachel: And he was like
Griffin: It can also describe this [scats] No, I think you have it backwards. Maybe, I don't know. What's your first thing? I'm dying on the vine here.
Rachel: My first thing, cutoff shorts.
Griffin: Hmm.
Rachel: I'm entering spring.
Griffin: Yes.
Rachel:

I'm ready.
Griffin:
These are
Rachel:
I love shorts.
Griffin:
Let's establish the terminology. Are you talking about shorts that somebody else cut off? Are you talking about more This Old House, DIY, Flip or Flop?
Rachel:
You know, I'd have to say DIY.
Griffin:
Yes.
Rachel:
I have bought pre-cut pants. But what I'm speaking of specifically is the pants that you cut yourself into shorts.
Griffin:
It's, shorts are tough, aren't they in general? Because it's hard to know how much of the goods.
Rachel:
Yeah.
Griffin:
That you want to
Rachel:
Oh, no. And I definitely had a lot of off level short bottoms.
Griffin:



Griffin:

So for Halloween... Am I on the right track here?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

A few years ago, I wanted to dress up as Artie, the strongest man in the world from Pete & Pete. Couldn't find a red and white striped shirt. And so I bought these red pants and I was like, "Well, I'm not going to use these." And Rachel look at them with her fucking genius, crafty mind and said, "I can find a use for those but not these parts of them." And she pulled out a samurai sword and she slashed through the legs. And now she has this pair of red, um, some Ronald McDonald ass shorts...

Rachel:

Yeah, they're sweatpants.

Griffin:

Yeah, and now you have them and you wear them a lot and they look good. And the goods are, uh, put up in the shop window.

Rachel:

My favorite thing to do is to ask Griffin as I'm wearing these very, obviously, uh...

Griffin:

Low-budge.

Rachel:

Low-budge, um, DIY, um, piece of short material. I go, turn to Griffin and say, "Hey, can you believe these used to be pants?"

Griffin:

It's a fun— It's a joke that Rachel likes to... Uh, because I was there when you slashed them with the samurai sword.

One leg at a time actually. That's what was amazing.
Griffin: Yeah.
Rachel: You threw it up in the air and I did the left leg.
Griffin: Right. And then you perfectly matched the right leg.
Rachel: Yes.
Griffin: Um, these shorts are comfortable and good.
Rachel: You could probably wear them actually. It's a very loose waistband.
Griffin: It's sort of like the Tardis and that they sort of shape itself to the wearer's will, um, and you do wear them, you do wear them a lot. And I'm not hating because I want you to be comfortable first and foremost.
Rachel: They come down to about my knees.
Griffin:

Um, you did it really cool. Like you asked me to throw it up in the air and

then you had the sword in the hilt, and you, like, did an upwards—

Rachel:

Griffin:

Rachel:

Yeah.

O	ka	у.
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Because I also went for the long short option.

Griffin:

It helps you when you're on the court.

Rachel:

They have pockets. Yeah. No, all true.

Griffin:

The pockets also help you when you're on the court because when you're...

Rachel:

I did actually try and do research on cut-offs and you know what was disappointing? It's that pretty much every piece of history I found...

Griffin:

Daisy Duke.

Rachel:

Yeah, exactly. It was like, I was hoping for this, like, kind of rich, lesser known history and everybody was like, "Oh, you know what..."

Griffin:

I think... Have you considered the possibility that you are perhaps sort of a shorts pioneer? Um, and that this is not something that, uh, normal people do and I'm saying that having cut off my own pair of shorts at some point. I may have gone to Ikea to buy a pair of fabric scissors to do my own sort of conversion, my own sort of batch conversion process.

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

But it's not something that I think is normal vis-à-vis fashion.

Rachel: The way I used to do it is I would take a pair of jeans.
Griffin: Yes.
Rachel: I'm gonna wear them until they were falling apart.
Griffin: Yeah.
Rachel: And it were
Griffin: God and gravity did most of the work for you.
Rachel: Mm-hmm. And then I would wait until they were almost unwearable. And then I turned them into shorts, add, uh, like a whole additional year.
Griffin: New life.
Rachel: Mm-hmm.
Griffin: Renew.
Rachel: So, um, yeah, I mentioned Daisy Dukes. Um
Griffin: Nothing wrong with Daisy Dukes.

Yeah, no, but apparently, the concept of trousers were the legs have been cut off midway, which is, I love that. That description right there. It's been around since the 1930s.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

When shorts became acceptable to wear outside the sports field.

Griffin:

Oh, God, disgusting. It disgusts me that we were so closed minded for so... You're telling me that in the summer time, living in fucking Texas, people just walk around with long pants in 1929. Just like, "This is good. This is exactly how I like it, a swimming pool of my own water."

Rachel:

Like wool trousers.

Griffin:

Oh, God!

Rachel:

Isn't it terrible? Uh, and then, yeah. And then, of course, everything I found cited the, uh, Daisy Duke shorts from The Dukes of Hazzard, which there isn't, uh, there's isn't enough. Somebody put together...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

...a thesis.

Griffin:

Well, there isn't much to go on. There's not much to pull from. We need things that peer-reviewed research can pull up. That is why I am pitching for

you today, right now, here on this showm reboot of Dukes of Hazzard, again, not with Johnny Knoxville and with Ashton Kutcher or...

Rachel:

Or Jessica Simpson, I think.

Griffin:

I know Jessica Simpson was in it. I forget, Seann William Scott, I think.

Rachel:

Yeah, yeah. That sounds right.

Griffin:

Um, but it's us two and you're wearing your red kneeling...

Rachel:

Sweatpant shorts.

Griffin:

... sweatpants shorts.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

And if I'm being fucking honest with you and the audience and myself, I'm probably wearing something very similar. And we just get in the car, our sensible automobiles that, um, don't have these sort of emblems of the confederacy on them.

Rachel:

That'd be good.

Griffin:

It's just good. That would be a cool sort of update. And then we're just sort of driving our son to daycare.

Griffin:
And we're not being pursued by the police. We are not breaking county laws.
Rachel:
Listening to the NPR.
Griffin:
Listening to the NPR. I do have moonshine, but it's unrelated.
Rachel:
[laughs] Just at home in a cupboard.
Griffin:
Yes. And not an open container in the car.
Rachel:
Mm-hmm.
Griffin:
These shorts are so good. I'm wearing pants right now. I hate it.
Rachel:
I know. I would encourage all of you to think beyond the denim cut-off.
Griffin:
Yes.

Griffin:

anything.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Just about anything. A, you know, a chair you got, tear off the upholstery and...

Go into the realm of other pant and make some cut-offs out of just about

Yeah, a piano.

Griffin:

A piano. You take some of the keys and then you wear that to the fucking Met Gala.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

I have my first thing. You want to know it?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Hidden identity games. Uh, there's no real good way to sort of...

Rachel:

Oh like...

Griffin:

... encapsulate what I'm talking about.

Rachel:

... like, the Werewolf game.

Griffin:

Like the Werewolf. If you've ever played Werewolf, or Mafia or any of those sort of party games, you kind of know what I'm talking about. I first, I didn't really get into... I've been playing games my whole life, but I didn't really get into these until, like, a couple years ago. I feel like you were, we were together when I started playing these.

And then I got, like, obsessed and we played them every time our friends would come over because it was so novel even though they've been around since, like, forever. And, like, here's the thing. I love board games and

games of any typem of all sorts, cooperative games, competitive games, board games, card games, tabletop games, whatever.

But what really intrigues me about games like Werewolf and other hidden identity games is that they test an entirely different skill than any other game really rewards, that I'm like, not luck, not strategy. Um, in hidden identity games, they test your ability to deceive people...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... and read when people are deceiving you.

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh, you're right.

Griffin:

Which is such a different... It's a thing that is not tested in games really at all, in any other sort of circumstance. And there's lots of different types of these games. But the basic roles are there's two teams. One is smaller and they are the bad guys or whatever the killers, the werewolves. And then there's a team of the, uh, a larger team of just, like, villagers who are working together to suss out who the bad guys are before they all get killed or kicked out of the game in some way.

And Werewolf is like the quintessential game. I think Mafia probably predates it, but Werewolf is the one that I think more people know about where there's a night phase where everybody closes their eyes and the werewolves knock somebody out of the game. And then during the day phase, everybody kind of gets together to talk about who they think did it. And then does a vote to, uh, try to get rid of the werewolves.

Um, and there's complications that get introduced in the form of, like, other roles, like, somebody who can, during the night phase, figure out exactly what team people are on or somebody who can, like, protect people during the night phase. Um, and that introduces, like, a lot of really cool complications and there's a ton of different games with a ton of those variants that you can sort of introduced at will. Uh...

I used to have a lot of trouble with these games because I am very uncomfortable lying and I'm not a particularly good liar. Btu then I realized there's a new strategy you can do where you just are totally, uh, flat.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You give very little emotion, uh, and people will suspect you but they won't be able to pin anything on you. And then I found some success in that.

Griffin:

So you're really good at these games and I feel like we are— We played this a lot with our group of friends and now we have friends who don't really, like, playing them as much for this very reason, like...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That was like, the next thing I have here is that, like, these games put an enormous amount of pressure on the people who are in these secret roles, who have to sort of protect their identities and deceive, uh, the, the other players.

And it's really hard to keep your, from giving yourself away. And what I found is there's no like baked in skill at this. Like, I think I'm pretty good at picking up most games and that could, that is, like, a skill in and of itself that you develop as you play games, this idea of like gamesmanship where you...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... can learn rules and how they work and try to like, figure it. But here, this is the great equalizer. I'm not actually that good at these games.

Actually, one thing that happens to you is that, um...

Griffin:

I go deep in the paint like I...

Rachel:

You start talking a lot.

Griffin:

Too much. I try to politic too much and that gives me...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It gives me away.

Rachel:

People get suspicious when you start taking more of a leadership role in the game because they assume that you're trying to cover yourself.

Griffin:

So as much as I love Risk, I love Catan, I love Betrayal at House on the Hill. I love these games that have all these rules and then you have to be very strategically minded and know how to work the rules to get ahead.

I still love those games but there's something so cool about a game like Werewolf where, your first game, you can sit down, become the Werewolf by luck of the draw. And you know how to do this. Like, you know how to deceive people or even if you don't, maybe you just don't go super hard and nobody expects you.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And then you win the game anyway.

Or the other tactic that we started doing is you kind of wait for somebody to compromise themselves in some way.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And then you just point...

Griffin:

You dump on them as hard as possible.

Rachel:

Yeah. Like, "Oh hey, you noticed what he said. Why did he say that to do you think? That he said that because it's him."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And then everybody will move like a pack in that direction.

Griffin:

And that, and that was so valuable to me because, like, um, I used to play these big games, these big deep, uh, six hour long Risk campaigns or you know, nights where all we did was play Last Night on Earth, but here in Austin, like, our friends aren't as into those sort of deep games.

But I love playing games with them and something like Werewolf is just, like, instantly, like, here's how you play. Let's do it right now and everybody's instantly on board. And that's so, like, cool and so valuable.

Um, there's a— Uh, we've focused mostly on Werewolf. There's a lot of really cool ones. One Night Ultimate Werewolf, we've played a few times which, like, boils down this idea into a single round, like the single frantic wild high-stakes round of Werewolf. There's a game called Coup that we used to play a whole lot...

Yeah.

Griffin:

... where you kind of have two identities that are dealt to you in cards face down. And each one has different sort of abilities that they can do, where they can, like, take money from the bank or they can steal money from other players or they can assassinate another player or they can protect themselves from those different moves.

But because your cards are face down, you're basically saying what you're doing and you could be lying because you might not actually have that ability.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And so you're trying to track what everybody else is doing and then calling them out when you think they're trying to do something they can't actually do with the cards they have. Um, it's a really fucking genius, like, take on this. And we've played that one probably more than Werewolf. We played that one...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... every time our friends came over. Um, what's neat is that this idea is also being incorporated in video games in some point. Last year, I think Ubisoft released a virtual reality Werewolf game, um, which is very novel and very cool.

It probably doesn't completely encapsulate, like, the social experience of playing these games of just, like, looking for beads of sweat on your friends' forehead and trying to call them out for... There's so many little, like, clues that come from people's, like, physical body language and stuff. But I still think it's a neat idea.

Oh, yeah, we played a game once where I crossed my arms and people cited that for like, 10 minutes.

Griffin:

[laughs]

Rachel:

They're like, "Well, Rachel did lean back and cross her arms." And that became like the going theory...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... in our group.

Griffin:

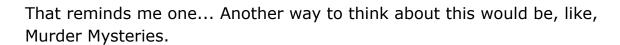
Another neat thing in games is that people are experimenting with the idea of hiding yourself among AI controlled characters.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Um, there's a guy named Chris Hecker who's been making this game called SpyParty for over a decade now where one player's a sniper looking into this room full of characters. And all but one of them are controlled by AI, while the one human control player in that room has to like, do different objectives around the room. Like touch a vase and plant a bug on somebody and, uh, poison somebody's drink or something like that. So the sniper's watching everyone and trying to look for the person they think is actually human, which then starts to get into some Turing test shit on top of everything else. And that is so delicious.





Yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

You know? Did you, do you ever...

Griffin:

Well, I mean, we only did the one for our friend's birthday—

Rachel:

But, like, pre-Austin?

Griffin:

No, never did one but you know me, like, that would absolutely be my shit.

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin:

I know, Justin, Travis, the fam back home...

Rachel:

[overlapping] Yeah, they've gotten real into it.

Griffin:

... they do a bunch. There's a place in West Virginia that, like, hosts them at a big castle, which is super cool. Yeah, I mean, that's that idea, sort of on a very large, large scale...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... uh, idea. But this is like, a small-scale thing that you can do with your friends. And it takes, like, five minutes to play a round. And you could, all you really need is a deck of playing cards.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, and you can sort of assign the roles out that way. Um, but yeah, it's really... I love these games. They're so unique in, like, the games space. I'm all about having, like, a diversity of different, like, games experiences and, like, what they offer and what they challenge you to do and how they reward you and what kind of feeling they give you and these occupy a very singular space that almost nothing else, kind of, can scratch. Hey, though.

Rachel:

Hey.

Griffin:

This isn't a lie, and I'm not hiding my identity here when I say I'm going to steal you away.

Rachel:

Here's what I'm going to do this time.

Griffin:

Oh, boy.

Rachel:

I'm going to try and whistle. [laughs]

Griffin:

[claps] Let's do it!

Rachel:

Uh.

Griffin:



Griffin: Okay. Now, it's too cold. You've made my tea too cold.
Rachel: I started out so strong.
Griffin: You did good.
Rachel: I had that embouchure of a flute player
Griffin: I think, yeah.
Rachel: And then I lost it.
Griffin: The problem is that it didn't get It was, it's a wet one, but then it got a little too dried out by the end.
Rachel: Yeah.
Griffin: You gotta
Rachel: You did say it was going to be a wet one this episode.

Griffin:

I told you and this is what I was talking about.

Rachel:

Over promise, under deliver. That's our role.

[ad break]

Griffin:

I just realized about three minutes before we started recording you were sitting right there and you said, "I feel like I'm about to sneeze." Did that take you 25 minutes?

Rachel:

[laughs] It is my only superpower.

Griffin:

That was wild.

Rachel:

So I can see the future, but specifically the future in which I'm sneezing. [laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, hey, you want to read some Jumbotrons?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Here are some Joombootrons.

Rachel:

Oh, this message is for Chris B. and it is from Chris G.

Griffin:

I got your message is Chris... I got your message Chris B. Where's my money, Denny? You know The Room?

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

So, that's nothing.

That's nothing. [laughs] "Happy 30th birthday to the best husband I could ask for. Your unfailing love and support continue to surprise me even after being together seven years. You're the best thing to happen to me, my best friend, and I love you. I hope Griffin or Rachel reading this brings you even a fraction of the happiness you give me."

Griffin:

You brought me a fraction of the happiness. Let me tell you, you must be a big happiness. This had, this is big happiness because I'm feeling a lot of it.

Rachel:

Yeah. A big happiness between Chrisses.

Griffin:

A big, big Chris happiness.

Rachel:

Chris happiness.

Griffin:

Happy Chris.

Rachel:

Is that something?

Griffin:

It's nothing.

Rachel:

Okay. This message is for Kaitlyn. It is from Shane. "Happy anniversary. Thank you for your beautiful words. Your seemingly infinite ability to care and for always letting me rewrite, my bad goofs. You're my whole entire jelly and I'd pick you over even the best of air horns. I'm so glad we met through this podcast. I love you. Also, we're dogs now. I can't stress that enough."

Griffin:

Oh, no.
Rachel: "Bow-wow for now."
Griffin: We got to get these dogs away from the jelly.
Rachel: They met through our podcast though.
Griffin: I mean, that's great. But this is an emergency. If the dogs eat the jelly, they'll get so sick. And also I need that jelly.
Rachel: That's true.
Griffin: To put on my
Rachel: Ooh, milky-white thighs.
Griffin: Gross.
Rachel: Didn't you say milky-white thighs earlier?
Griffin: I did, but I don't want them all jelly jammed!
Rachel: [laughs]
Susie:

Hi. My name is Susie and I love Judge John Hodgman.

Ryan:

My name is Ryan and I love Wonderful!

Susie:

Judge John Hodgman is a show that gives you the answers to those questions you didn't realize you needed answering.

Ryan:

It's about, you know, discovery and enjoyment of new music, new poetry.

Susie:

He is just a wonderful person. He speaks from the heart.

Ryan:

It's positive. It's funny. It's kind hearted and it's very forgiving.

Susie:

I just feel that Maximum Fun seems to attract the sorts of people that want to help, that want to do good with others.

Ryan:

I wanted to support the things that I was getting so much entertainment and joy from.

Speaker 1:

These are listeners, just like you and they support Judge John Hodgman and Wonderful with a Max Fun membership. The 2018 Max Fund Drive is April 2nd through 13th. And if you want to support your favorite shows too, it is the best time to sign up or upgrade your membership. Just tune in starting April 2nd and we'll give you all the details.

[ad break ends]

Griffin:

Hey, thank you to Ryan for saying all those nice things about our podcast and for promoting the Max Fun Drive. It's coming up-

Rachel:
Thanks Ryan.
Griffin: It's coming up next week. It's gonna run for two weeks. It's gonna be real fun and we'll talk about it more at the end of the show.
Rachel: Okay, my second thing
Griffin: Yeah. [gasps dramatically]
Rachel:I think will surprise you. Jelly beans.
Griffin: What?!
Rachel: Can you believe—
Griffin:
[groans]
[groans] Rachel: Oh no.
Rachel:
Rachel: Oh no. Griffin:

[laughs] I like jelly beans.

Griffin:

You don't fucking like jelly beans. Who ... You're doing your own hidden identity game.

Rachel:

Specifically, okay. Let me, let me draw here.

Griffin:

Oh, here we... and here comes the caveats.

Rachel:

Juicy pear jelly beans.

Griffin:

You— Then you like jelly bean. I like jelly... And today for you, I've brought jelly bean.

Rachel:

Well, I like a lot of the Jelly Belly variety, but specifically juicy pear jelly beans.

Griffin:

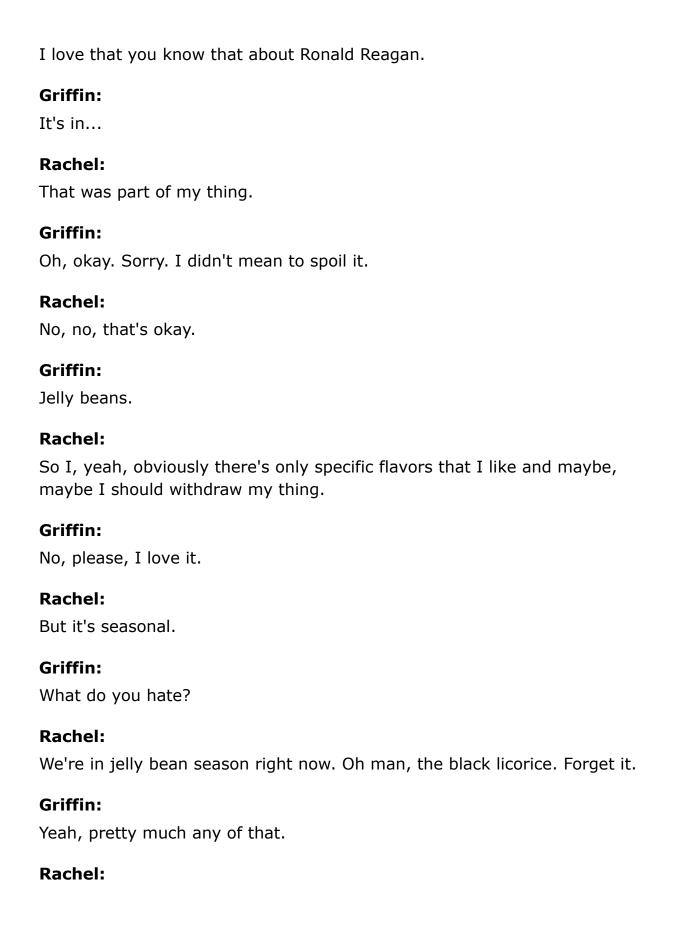
I'm just, this is the first time that you've brought something that I would definitely, definitely also bring in this... This is how you felt when I did French fries and I was like, "I only like one kind of French fry."

Rachel:

That's true. Yes.

Griffin:

Because I— I fuck up— I'm a regular Ronald Reagan over here, specifically in the context of jelly beans and in virtually no other...



Throw it out the window.

Griffin:

A lot of the dark beans don't do it for me.

Rachel:

The butter popcorn, I don't think so.

Griffin:

Yeah, they went a little too... And they think people love it, but nobody loves it. Don't at me.

Rachel:

[laughs] Okay. So the thing with Ronald Reagan, so Ronald Reagan took up Jelly Bean eating in the 1960s in an attempt to wean himself away from smoking.

Griffin:

Too bad he didn't stick around for vape. That dude would've blown mad clouds.

Rachel:

[laughs] Somehow, I don't know how, the website I found this knows this, but, um, they talked about the red, white, and blue, uh, jelly beans that he had in his office. Apparently, Jelly Belly, sent him two and a half tons of jelly beans.

Griffin:

What the— He doesn't... [breathes deep] He didn't need that. He didn't fucking need you to send him two and a half tons of jelly beans. He's the fucking, he was the fucking president of the United States of America.

Rachel:

This next sentence though, I think you'll love. Perversely, the president's favorite jelly bean was none of the three. It was black. Reagan liked licorice.

Griffin:

Reagan! You've done it again.

Like, One, how is that really perverse? And two...

Griffin:

Oh, it's perverse.

Rachel:

[laughs] Licorice?

Griffin:

No. It's perverse in my eyes. I mean...

Rachel:

I wonder if licorice is like cilantro where either, like, some people just don't have the taste bud for it and they don't like it because it hits them a different way than the rest of us.

Griffin:

I mean, I'm thinking specifically about black licorice.

Rachel:

Yeah, exactly.

Griffin:

It has that flavor that is like, not, uh the... the flavor of black licorice is black licorice.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

There's no other sort of way to talk about it. I'll eat a Twizzler and that's licorice. But whatever. He got two and a half tons of jelly beans that I would have eaten, except the white ones because I know, I can't think of a white jelly bean also that I may... I guess a piña colada one can kind of hang.

Hmm, yeah.

Griffin:

And he didn't eat those because he liked the bad jelly beans. It's that so when they dumped it, they fed it to the dog or something. Gosh.

Rachel:

Well, I'm sure he liked offered it to dignitaries.

Griffin:

Yeah, I bet that went over great.

Rachel:

[laughs] Uh, the earliest known appearance of a jelly bean is a 1861 advertisement for William Schrafft of Boston that promoted the sending of jelly beans to soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Griffin:

I mean that's— And that's why we won the day. That's why we crushed it. Got that jelly bean strength.

Rachel:

Now, here's another thing that I'm skeptical of.

Griffin:

Okay.

Rachel:

Because jelly beans have been around for a long time. Uh, and so it says, uh, "archives of the hundred-year-old product, uh, shows some of the candies offered by the first generation of Goelitz family candymakers. Candies were commonly made into the shapes of vegetables, such as chestnuts, carrots and turnips, as well as seasonal shapes."

Griffin:

Interesting.

Rachel:

"The diet of most Americans in the 1880s was dominated by beans and vegetables. Some clever candy maker figured out how to make a bean-shaped soft jelly."

Griffin:

For few things...

Rachel:

So this, the suggestion here is that...

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

... Americans were familiar with beans. They love beans. They knew beans.

Griffin:

Love them.

Rachel:

They trusted beans.

Griffin:

Need beans, have beans. [laughs] Gotta get beans.

Rachel:

The only way to get Americans to eat candy at that time was also to [laughs] make them bean shaped.

Griffin:

"What is that?"

"Well, it's a Mars bar. It's cool. I got four little pockets of it..."

"I hate it! Well, now that, that looks like my..."

Rachel:

"Is that bean shaped?"

"... that looks like my trusted friend, beans. I trust beans. I eat candy? No. I'm beans for me. But that looks like my friendly beans. Hah, interesting. I see what you've done there." That is wild.

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah, I found that a little hard to believe.

Griffin:

I am going to, as soon as we're done recording, smash through the window of this office to land in my automobile and drive to the nearest jelly bean vendor to us because I have the deepest hankering for jelly beans right now. More powerful than this...

Rachel:

I'm sorry that I've done this to you.

Griffin:

It's fucking wild. You're making me realize I have not eaten jelly beans in a very long time. And they were my favorite food.

Rachel:

Now's the time. They're everywhere.

Griffin:

They are everywhere. So your favorite is the...

Rachel:

Juicy pear.

Griffin:

... juicy pear.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

That's your favorite Jelly Belly? Because there's like...

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

.. we're being very, uh, Jelly Belly centric right now. There's lots of other ones—

Rachel:

Oh, that reminds me. I had one more thing I wanted to share.

Griffin:

Okay. Okay, I like the lemon lime Jelly Belly. That's my favorite one. Okay.

Rachel:

Okay, uh, "According to University of Oxford psychologist, Charles Spence, um, there is a reason that people tend to pick red and pink candies as their favorites."

Griffin:

Interesting.

Rachel:

Uh, he said, "It's most likely due to the way food color affects our sense of taste. Red jelly beans may have an edge because we tend to experience red foods as sweeter than they actually are, as opposed to green foods, which we tend to experience as sour."

Griffin:

Uh, fine. But no, sir, I'm sorry, but you're wrong.

Rachel:

I do remember that as a kid though, like, always if I had to choose like, uh, like a blow pop, for example.

Griffin:

Yeah.

	Rachel: Red seemed like a good bet.
	Griffin: Well, it's because, like cherry and strawberry candies and I'm gonna go
	Rachel: And watermelon.
	Griffin: right down the fucking way down the rabbit hole right here.
	Rachel: Okay.
	Griffin: But I feel like when I look at a fruit candy and they have multiple offerings
	Rachel: Yes.
	Griffin: Hypothetically, say it's a new fruit candy I've never eaten before.
	Rachel: Yes.
	Griffin:
,	And they have a yellow one and a green one, and a, you know, a white one and a blue one, and a red one. I want to eat the red one first because in my mind, like, cherry or strawberry candy is the fruit flavor of candy. And everything else sort of branches off from that. Am I, is this the wildest thing you've ever heard me, like, say out loud?

Rachel:

[laughs]

The other reason is like if I see a bag of jelly bellies and it's an assortment of colors, I'm gonna reach in and grab the red or pink one because I know the odds of me getting something very foul is very low. The only thing I think of is cinnamon, which is okay, but it's obviously not what I wanted. But the odds are much higher than I'm gonna get some sort of fruit punch or strawberry, I'm not sure...

Rachel:

See, I go green. I go green.

Griffin:

Green won't be wrong.

Rachel:

Green apple is good. Sometimes green is watermelon. Lime is always good too.

Griffin:

Yeah, yeah.

Rachel:

I tend to go green first because red tends, to me, to not taste like anything.

Griffin:

Interesting.

Rachel:

Red tends to taste like red.

Griffin:

God, I want to eat some fucking jelly beans right now. Jelly Belly sours are also very good though.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:
Soda-flavored Jelly Belly is fine. The Harry Potter every flavor beans.
Rachel:
Oh, god.
Griffin:
Let's get the fuck out of here with that. This isn't, this isn't
Rachel:
I'm an adult.
Griffin:
This isn't a fucking game to me.
Rachel:
I'm an adult now.
Griffin:
I need to eat jelly beans. This is, I'm not playing around. I think they're actually very fun. But, and then like the starburst jelly beans, I will— Those are— Can't go wrong.
I will 100% destroy a bag of those. And that's like the, that's some Easter shit right there. God, I need some jelly beans. [laughs] Uh, do you want to know my second thing?
Rachel:
Yes.
Griffin:
It's a music thing.
Rachel:
Okay.
Griffin:

I think it's one that you've, that you are familiar with though. It is Regina Spektor's major label debut album Soviet Kitsch.

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh.

Griffin:

Yes?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Yes. Uh, so this was her third album, uh, but it was her, her major label debut and sort of when she started her ascent. I hope you've heard of her at this point. She is a, uh, Russian born, uh, pianist who I think immigrated to America when she was, uh, young, like, 10 years older or so.

Um, and was sort of part of this, uh, anti-folk movement in New York. That, uh, was... I don't know how to define it because I don't even think maybe even they did. But, uh, she came out of that and has these incredible albums. She's gone on to make way bigger albums, I think.

She's— I remember there was a few years that were— You couldn't, like, see a movie or watch a TV show on primetime TV without hearing one of her songs. But this was...

Rachel:

Yeah, her sound is so unique.

Griffin:

It's very unique. Um, this album, though, came out in 2004. It was kind of before it, uh, I'm sure, her career popped off and I listened to it. Uh, I started college in 2005. I listened to it constantly.

Rachel:

Yeah.

My entire college career. Um, it is, in my opinion, like, one of the most, like, gorgeous albums of the aughts. It is, like, start to finish, just a really beautiful thing. Um, and her— The album is mostly just her singing over a piano with some like, stringed accompaniment on a few tracks. Uh, and, uh, again, like, she had follow-up albums, like Begin to Hope came out 2006. That one had Fidelity on it, that was like her...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

...hit single...

Rachel:

Oh, my gosh, that song.

Griffin:

... on everything. It's a very, very good song, um, but this is before that. I hope I'm not sounding like, "I liked her before, uh, she blew up," but like, I really think this album, Soviet Kitsch, is really unique because it was unlike anything I never heard when I first heard it.

Um, so if you've never heard Regina Spektor, I want to play the opening track off of Soviet Kitsch. It's called Ode to Divorce. And I think it really sets up what made me kind of fall instantly in love with this album and with, with Regina's music. So, this is Ode to Divorce.

[Ode to Divorce clip plays]

Griffin:

So like one of the things that I really like about her is her vocal control is banana cakes.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Um, in every song, she... Just her volume. And I know that's like a weird thing to talk about when you're talking about somebody's voice. But her ability to go from this, like, gentle almost whisper-like delicate voice to these huge operatic, like, soaring notes is so good and her lyrics are phenomenal.

Uh, there's a part of this song, which is about going through a divorce. Uh, they're so great. Uh, "so break me to small parts. Let go in small doses, but spare some for spare parts. There might be some good ones."

This idea of, like, bargaining your way back into a relationship that is not going to work is so like, profound and so sad. And I realize after doing the Weakerthans that I'm making it sound like I only liked very sad music in college. Um, and I did.

Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, but this song is like, a weird way to open up an album, but it does so really wonderfully because it was also the first song of hers I've ever heard. And it's just like, "oh, here's what I'm all about." And it's really weird and very cool.

Rachel:

And her style is so recognizable. Like, it's one of those things that you instantly know you're listening to a Regina Spektor song. Um, I feel that way kind of about Joanna Newsome too.

Griffin:

Oh yeah, for sure.

Rachel:

Has such a unique voice and such a very precise way of putting lyrics together, like, you hear it and you're just, like, charmed instantly.

Griffin:

Yeah. Uh, so this song, this album did have a big hit on it, but it didn't really become a big hit until I think around, like, 2006. They put it back out as a

single after she had started to, uh, increase in notoriety. They made a music video for it. It's Us. Um...

Rachel:

Oh, gosh, that song.

Griffin:

That song is really good. The music video is fucking rad.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It was stop motion...

Rachel:

Uh-huh.

Griffin:

... for the most part and, and really, really cool. Um, and so I'm gonna play a clip from it. This is Us. Not the show.

[Us clip plays]

Griffin:

I listened to this song, like, probably about 500 times.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And what I really like about it is I have no idea what it's about and sort of searching for, like, what the established meaning of what Us is. There isn't, like, any consensus, which is really cool because the song kind of invites you to try to figure out what it's about because it has all this powerful imagery in every line about like...

Is it a song about a love that is so great that people literally made a statue sort of enshrining it? Or is it a song that is sort of an allegory about the biblical apostles? Or is it a comparison between like American and European belief systems like...

Rachel:

Can I tell you something?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I've noticed this, this is a thing and maybe I don't know, maybe I'm not getting as much as somebody else, but I tend to treat music lyrics like I do poetry, where I just don't spend a lot of time thinking about what...

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

... writer is trying to accomplish.

Griffin:

Definitely, definitely same, which I only now looking back, I have like a huge 400 song playlist of all the music I listened to in college. I'm just now realizing that, like, most of this stuff I never really thought about—

These songs that I was very bad about in college when I was a freshman, I found like 50 bands, new bands, mostly that I really liked. And that's all I listened to for four years...

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

... without really expanding. So I listened to this music a ton without ever critically thinking about, like, what the songs were about but I think it's

really fascinating to do so now because it's like, oh, my god, I'm enjoying this thing that I've listened to a billion times...

Rachel:

Yeah. And that's true.

Griffin:

... in a whole new way. It is such a good song and the thrill that she sings on "living" is a fucking... It makes this song uncoverable by any other human being because you can try and do it. But they're like, [singing] "We're living in a..."

That sounds bad when anybody else does it. Um, so my favorite song of this album is maybe it's like simplest, like, quietest track. It's Ghost of Corporate Future, which comes in towards the end. And it's almost, like, this narrative song about a businessman who is visited by a ghost who warns him of, like, letting his career take over his family life.

And it's kind of a, it's kind of a cute song, like it has these lines that are overstuffed, um, that don't really fit the rhythm of the music at all. Like, "maybe you should drink less coffee and never ever watch seven o'clock news." Like, it really chose, like rushing it.

Um, and it has, like, sort of this appropriately kitschy way of delivering its message but it's also got some really interesting stuff in there to say, um, about some stuff that really resonated with me as a sort of self-involved college student. So, uh, here's a clip from it that kind of shows you what I'm talking about.

[Ghost of Corporate Future clip plays]

Griffin: So, like, as you can imagine, me hearing this in— I feel like in college... And this is totally cool. And this is, I feel like what you're supposed to do, but you get very into yourself, you know, in a manner of speaking.

Rachel:

Yeah, no. That's true.

That's kind of what you do because you're independent for the first time. You're, like, figuring your stuff out.

Rachel:

Well, yeah, and not just college, just your early 20s.

Griffin:

Yeah, I think, it's different for everyone, right? But I feel like there is a...

This is a phase that everybody goes through where it's just like, "I'm on my own now. What is that mean? I'm all about me. Who am I?"

Rachel:

"Who am I?" Yeah.

Griffin:

And that's important. And you have to do that. You absolutely have to do that, but it also kind of isolates you in a way and keeps you from sort of, like, thinking about how other people are going about that and thinking about themselves, and, um, all these different stuff.

So this refrain of people are just people like you. I found that so beautiful and I still do because it's really easy to get inside your own head and not be as thoughtful about what other folks are thinking about or going through, um, because you're just not, like, expressing much empathy here. You're, you're thinking about yourself.

This song is always such a good reminder to, like, keep that fact that there are so many similarities between people on, like, a basic human level of we all have needs and these human desires.

Like, in mind, not to like ignore the differences between yourself and them but to, you know, think of them as people like you, like, to try to put your own mind, like in the way that it works and the things you think about and things that stress you out and things that make you happy and the things that make you sad that... and just remembering that those people also have a set of those things.

I know it's such a basic thing but like, I don't know. It really, I feel like opened, opened my eyes up in a way.

Rachel:

Yeah, it's true. I mean, it just makes everything more meaningful. Like, that's one thing, um, my dad was a history major in college and he always talked about how for him, history was always a really exciting subject because he was able to think of these great historical figures as people just like him. And it really connected him...

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

... to these events and kind of what it must have been like to be in that position. And I think it continues to make him a more empathetic person today. And so I recognize, like, kind of the power in that as of...

Griffin:

Sure.

Rachel:

... not feeling like this unique individual that, you know, has never existed before, but somebody that's connected to, like, a much larger thing.

Griffin:

And you can do both, but you can't, you can't do one despite the other.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, yeah. It's also just like, a really nice song, on a really nice album. I love this album so much. I've been prepping for this. I've been listening to it non-stop and it's really taking me back and just reminding me, like, how, how genius and how special it is. And speaking of genius and special, our listeners have sent us some submissions.

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Yay!

Uh, Shannon says, "Something I find wonderful is I just bought my first, real, big ass couch. We previously had a futon. Life changing comfort is no joke y'all." Couch.

Rachel:

I love a good couch, man.

Griffin:

Man, it's maybe the most important purchasing decision you make. You gotta get real with it. And you gotta... You gotta put your butt on a lot of couches before you jump into it and special moment. Don't you think?

Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah, sure.

Griffin:

Uh, Isabelle says, "I work in a library and often work with kids. Seeing their little faces happy while reading and learning makes my day. It's great to see kids enjoy literature, science and more in this day and age. Anyway, hope you guys are doing great. And don't forget to share the magic of reading with your little baby." Oh, it's so good.

Rachel:

It's so good. There is nothing better. Henry's in this phase lately where he will pull books off of a surface and then hand them to us. And if we're lucky...

Griffin:

And say, like, usually, like, "Bah." Because that's about as far as he's gotten.

Rachel:

[laughs] And if we're lucky, he will actually sit and pay attention to us. And then he will ask us to read it again. And I actually don't tire of that. I enjoy that a lot.

Griffin:

It depends on the book. [laughs] It depends on the book.

······································	
Griffin does a great	
Griffin:	
Brown bear, brown bear. What do you see?	
Rachel:	
Brown bear, brown bear.	
Griffin:	
I will do that shit 10 times in a row. I am spitting fire when I'm reading brown bear. Some of those books though, Barnyard Dance. Listen	
Rachel:	
I like Barnyard Dance.	
Griffin:	
What's her name is Sandra Boynton?	
Rachel:	
Yeah, I love all of her work.	

Rachel:

You do great work. You do great work. Barnyard Dance is a rare sort of miss for me, but I know lots of people who appreciate it.

Uh, Rory says, "I recently started to get into hot sauce. And for me, it's a revelation. Not only does it taste great, but it's scientifically pretty rad that it triggers your body's pain response and floods your brain with endorphins. It's like a cheat code for happiness and food. They can take a mediocre meal and make it great or take a great meal and make it amazing."

Rachel:

Hah.

I use to put hot sauce on everything was a little boy. I used to go to Florida, visit my nonny and come back with, like, 30 bottles of hot sauce because that's, like, their main export down there.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Now, I mostly do Cholula, which I think is on the milder side of the spectrum.

Rachel:

And sriracha.

Griffin:

I do a little bit of sriracha. Um, boy, I love hot sauce though. Um, hey, next week.

Rachel:

Next week!

Griffin:

Let's get into it.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

The Max Fun Drive is going to be kicking off. It's gonna run for two weeks, April 2nd, uh, through April 13. How much is two week...? It's going to start on April 2nd and it runs for two weeks, and it's going to be super, super fun. Uh, if you're not familiar, if you're new to the show, we— The Maximum Fun Network is...

It is supported by a few people like you and we ask for your support during the Max Fun Drive. You can become a member of the network and, help donate and, uh, help us grow. And do more, do more stuff. And then, if you do that, we, during the Max Fun Drive, has special gifts that we can give out to you. Why am I talking like an infant? We has special gifts. We have special gifts that we give out to you. At just, like, \$5 a month, for instance, you get access to all of our bonus episodes.

Rachel:

God, the bonus episodes are good.

Griffin:

And all the bonus content that every show on the network has ever made.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

It is like a huge treasure trove.

Rachel:

Including, like, videos and live shows.

Griffin:

Yeah, a bunch of really, really cool stuff. And then we have other sort of gifts that we can give out, too. Uh, and we're going to talk about those actually during the Max Fun Drive, which again starts next week. But yeah, we, uh, we really appreciate your support. We appreciate all the support that we've gotten from, from the network since we started doing this and since we transitioned.

We, you know, we were doing Rose Buddies up until last fall and then it was kind of a scary thing to come off this sort of stable and fairly successful show because it wasn't making us as happy to do it anymore. And try to do a show that would make us happy even if it didn't make the best sort of business financial broadcast entertainment sense.

Rachel:

Yeah, and we, I'm, we have a really great community of listeners, uh, and this is kind of the one time of year that we ask, you know, if you have a little extra money and would like to contribute to what we're doing, we would appreciate it.

We appreciate it. So that'll be next week and, uh, thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to it in the album— Episode description. And is that it?

Rachel:

If you want to check out more McElroy products, you can go to mcelroyshows.com.

Griffin:

Mm-hmm. Is that it?

Rachel:

That's it.

Griffin:

Smash! [imitates a revving car]

Rachel:

He's on that Jelly Bean hunt.

Griffin:

[distantly] "Hello, I'd like to buy 10 bags of jelly beans, please." [normally] I don't know why my voice gets higher when I'm far away.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

[distantly] "That'll be \$30."

"That seems a pretty good price for 10 bags of jelly beans. All right, bye." [imitates car revving] Unsmash! Bean delivery!

Rachel:

[laughs]

[theme song plays]

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Speaker 2: In celeb news this week, the host of Lady To Lady took a break from hanging with today's hottest comedians actors and writers to sell a sex machine.

Speaker 3: What they do with all that cash? Rent a party bus to go to Magic Mike Live in Vegas, of course. All of this on the heels of a salacious sizzler session with Home Alone 4 star, French Stewart.

Speaker 2: Want to know what the fuck we're talking about? Tune in to Lady To Lady, whenever wherever you listen to podcasts. Can you keep a secret? Neither can we!