

Wonderful! 287: Love is Smell

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay" by bo en and Augustus plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: Welcome to *Wonderful!*, it's a show where we talk about things that's good, that we like, that we're into. And Rachel and I are celebrating a little anniversary of your own. Not our 10-year wedding anniversary, that one's comin' up.

Rachel: That's comin' up!

Griffin: In a few months, which is bonkerrrs! A decade? For real?! For us it's our one-year anniversary here in Washington D.C.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And I just wanna say I feel—first of all, thank you. To them. Thank you D.C.

Rachel: Thank you D.C. for that lovely gift that you sent us.

Griffin: Thank you.

Rachel: Acknowledging our one year.

Griffin: It was a jam basket.

Rachel: A jam basket.

Griffin: A basket of jams, not in individual jars. Just a basket of loose jam.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Sort of seeping— And the bees, folks. There were so many of them.

Rachel: Jams chosen by our local representative.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And...

Griffin: Our alderman? I'm still—

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: We've been here for a year, I still don't understand how fuckin' the government works. 'Cause it's not... it's not real.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: [muffled, conspiratorially] We don't have a real government. [normal] 'Cause we haven't quite decided like which type of thing we are yet. Sort of it's—

Rachel: Well, I think we know we wanna be a state.

Griffin: Absolutely, we'd love to be a state.

Rachel: But we're not.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so we just kind of change things year to year.

Griffin: [sighs] Been learning a lot about my local tax liability. And it's fucking pretty wild that we don't get votes in the Senate, in the House for— Anyway, we could go on and on.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Rachel and I, obviously.

Rachel: Listen to us, we sound like locals.

Griffin: Listen, one year, we're already here.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And just thank— thank you all. We did just get back from Austin. And thank you to Austin for the basket that you sent us, which— just full of queso. That was awesome too, we liked both of those.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Jam and queso, do you think there's something there?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Okay. Do you have a small wonder?

Rachel: Oh man. Uh... I will say like the... When we went to Ausitn.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: We stayed at an Airbnb.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: That had like this little above ground pool that wasn't a pool, but was a pool.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: It was like the size of... a walk-in closet. And it was... smaller in depth than our six-year-old.

Griffin: There's a specific set of people who will understand this reference, 'cause it really is a perfect reference point. It is— It was a baptismal pool.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: It was the exact dimensions of a baptismal pool. Waist high, long enough to sorta dunk backwards in or be dunked backwards in. It was exactly that size, which is perfect for kids!

Rachel: Yeah, I mean that is what was great. Our six-year-old still is not a proficient swimmer, and so he was excited—

Griffin: Don't put him on blast like that.

Rachel: Well—

Griffin: Damn.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: No, he's not. Yeah, he doesn't like— Ju— He doesn't like the water very much.

Rachel: But he was able to just stand in there and feel pretty secure.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Which is nice as a parent.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's like oh, good. [chuckles]

Griffin: You never had the experience of going to church and they had a— At our church, the baptismal pool was like behind the stage, for lack of a better term. And it was like elevated. So like you could see when people went in there and got their dunk on.

Rachel: Wait, it was clear? You could see them go under?

Griffin: Yah, it was clear. It was like a clear, well— Okay. Well, I just. Okay, wow. Okay, sorry. I have to say that the robot that lives in my watch thought that I said "It inspired Michael Jordan and took the dunk to another level."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Anyway, it was always like you would see it and be like “They get to swim and I don’t.” You would only get to swim once. In that pool. And that’s so messed up. Anyways.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yes, it was a great little pool. I liked it a lot.

Rachel: What’s your small wonder?

Griffin: I don’t know if we’re ready to talk about *Love After Divorce* yet? The new Netflix South Korean—

Rachel: Wooooah. I don’t know if we are either, because I don’t think we’ve really decided if we like it.

Griffin: It is a weird one. It’s— Every episode is very long. It’s a new— Well, it’s not new. It’s been on in South Korea apparently for four seasons, but this is the first one that’s come to America on Netflix. And it’s just a bunch of divorcees that live in a house together and f— Stop me if you’ve heard this one before, folks. Well that divorcee angle is kind of new, although there were a few in *Love Village*.

Rachel: Well, and there’s all these like weird things. Like we just learned last night about the gimmick where you only learn certain facts.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: At certain points.

Griffin: You are forbidden from revealing a set of personal details, like your age, where you live, the reason for your divorce.

Rachel: Aaaaand...

Griffin: Number of kids.

Rachel: Number of kids, yes. And at any given point during the run of the show, they will give you an opportunity to reveal pieces of information.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And so the episode we watched last night was just people talking about the reasons for their divorce.

Griffin: Yeah. Fun stuff.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Fun icebreaker stuff. Yeah, I don't know if I— if we like it yet. The vibe's pretty good. The vibe's pretty good. They do make a meal out of every little fuckin' thing, which drives we wild.

Rachel: There is— The very first episode, there is a like... like a C-shaped couch situation.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And each person that comes in chooses a place to sit. And it is discussed, at length, by the panel, about where each person chooses to sit and what it means about their potential attraction to other people in the house.

Griffin: It's fucking wild.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Every ti— Any time anyone sits down at a— Any time anyone rests.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The location of their rest becomes a matter of like high drama.

Rachel: Any physical contact too. If a person's hand touches another person's arm.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Like the camera zooms in and then we talk about it with a panel.

Griffin: I understand that there are cultural differences that are, you know, we are— we navigate any time we watch a reality television show from a country that is not— we are not, you know, very familiar with. But this feels like the show— like a show level thing, of just like people on *Love After Divorce* really care about where they sit.

Rachel: [giggles] Well and it doesn't seem like anything's edited.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Like I feel like I am watching this in real time.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Yeah. I kinda like it. We'll see.

Rachel: Yeah, we'll definitely keep watching it.

Griffin: I mean, sure. Also *American Ninja Warrior* this season, kinda cool.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They're doing this thing where they do races aga— like one-on-one races.

Rachel: Yeeeeeeah.

Griffin: Where— Like at the second stage of the game. And it's genu— Rachel and I watch every episode of *American Ninja Warrior*.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We talk about it very rarely 'cause I think we— We haven't decided if we're ashamed about it yet.

Rachel: You say "rarely" but I'm pretty sure we talk about it every other episode. [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, well this season, like in order to make it to the semi-finals, you have to race against somebody, and it's fucking fun to watch two people race on these big, fun obstacle courses.

Rachel: Well and they very intentionally seem to match people up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Based on their like similar skills.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Or body type. So it's been fun to watch these people who seem relatively evenly matched.

Griffin: Yeah. Friends against friends, lovers against lovers. Dads against sons— No, I don't think there was a dad— They made a big deal out of who's going to be the first dad/son duo to make it through.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Anyway. Don't share our media consumption diet.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's for professionals only.

Rachel: It's for people with two hours a night, who don't want to deal with reality anymore.

Griffin: Except that they do.

Rachel: Unless it's reality television. [chuckles]

Griffin: They want it— yeah.

Rachel: Not their reality.

Griffin: Not their reality, somebody else's. Hey, you go first this week. What do you got?

Rachel: I do! So my thing this week.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Is Smell Dating.

Griffin: This is how you tell how old a dinosaur bones is.

Rachel: [chuckles] That's a good guess.

Griffin: Paleontologists smell the bones of the dinosaurs, they say "This fucking reeks!."

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: "65 million years."

Rachel: [laughs] So I uh... Mm. I've talked about your stink before.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: As a stink that I love and am partial to.

Griffin: Oh. Oh, good!

Rachel: Specifically on this podcast.

Griffin: Right, no yeah.

Rachel: I did—

Griffin: You don't talk about stuff like that to just, you know, the other parents in Henry's class, or—

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Yeah, no. Okay cool. Just checking.

Rachel: No, I've noticed that when I meet other parents, they don't talk about how much they love their partner. As much as I'm ready to do so.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It never comes up.

Griffin: That's so weird.

Rachel: It's never like "This is my husband, I love him so much."

Griffin: That's so weird.

Rachel: [chuckles] But should it come up, I would love to do that.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Rachel: No, what I found recently on the internet. And I say recently, but actually it's from 2016, is something called "Smell Dating."

Griffin: Okay. Please expound.

Rachel: [chuckles] So there were—

Griffin: Is this you wear— Can I guess you wear a blindfold to a date, and then you just— you don't talk.

Rachel: You just— [chuckles]

Griffin: You just smell— Just smell each other's smell. And then you walk away like "Yeah, that was alright." New on Netflix!

Rachel: I really think this could be a show.

Griffin: *Love at First Smell?*

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: *Love is Smell?*

Rachel: *Love is Smell.*

Griffin: *Love is Smell.*

Rachel: [chuckles] So it started in New York, which you know, of course.

Griffin: Aaaaaaall these hip things are, yeah.

Rachel: That's where everybody's super crazy.

Griffin: *Sex in the City*.

Rachel: For the— for the different new trends.

Griffin: Lot of exciting scents there too. The "city of a million smells" is what they call it.

Rachel: Oh, I love that.

Griffin: Yeah, it's real. Didn't make that up, that's real.

Rachel: It started out of NYU. It was this pair of researchers that gave folks an opportunity in the city to wear a T-shirt for three days, which is something a lot of us do anyway. [chuckles]

Griffin: Is it? Three days consecutively?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: That's a long time to wear one shirt, I think, for me.

Rachel: I mean two days. It's just one more day than two days. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, babe. It's 50% more days. That's a lot. That's a pretty significant increase of days to wear one shirt.

Rachel: So the instructions— Let me get a little more specific here. So—

Griffin: Please do.

Rachel: The instructions on the Smell Dating website said "We'll send you a T-shirt, you were the shirt for three days and three nights without deodorant."

Griffin: Yuck.

Rachel: "You return the shirt to us in a prepaid envelope. We send you swatches of T-shirts worn by a selection of other individuals. You smell the samples and tell us who you like. If someone whose smell you like

likes the smell of you too, we'll facilitate an exchange of contact information. The rest is up to you."

Griffin: Okay. Now this is fascinating.

Rachel: Yes, right?

Griffin: And hugely gross.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But mostly fascinate— I'm curious why they have to send you a shirt. Why you can't just wear one of your own shirts. I guess maybe people don't wanna cut up their shirts? Or—

Rachel: Well and it's like it's some way of like controlling the variables, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like what if somebody sends this like shirt blend the doesn't breathe.

Griffin: That's a good point.

Rachel: And the stink is more powerful.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Which would bias the results. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, you don't want a moisture wicking fabric, I don't think.

Rachel: You could also reveal a little bit about your fashion.

Griffin: That's true.

Rachel: Which is kind of cheating.

Griffin: Yeah, I only— We— No information except stink, please.

Rachel: [chuckles] The thing that is kinda cool about this— So you pay \$25, and what they send you, they don't pay any attention to age, gender, or sexual orientation. So it is just smell.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So it really kind of opens— opens the doors for, you know, what kind of person you might interact with.

Griffin: This may lead to some bold revelations of where one is positioned on the Kinsey scale.

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: Based entirely on "Eh, that T-shirt smells good."

Rachel: [chuckles] The people behind this are Tega Brain, an Australian-born artist—

Griffin: Tega Brain?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: That's a fucking good name for a scientist, huh. Don't you think?

Rachel: She is an assistant professor of digital media at NYU. And then Sam Lavigne, who is an artist and educator. He's taught all over the city and is actually an assistant professor in the Department of Design at UT Austin.

Griffin: Hey, alright.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And also I think is the director of *Euphoria*? Maybe I'm thinking of something else.

Rachel: Yeah, this is spelled L-A-V-I-G-N-E.

Griffin: Oh, that's different dude then, for sure.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles] These two got together to... kind of conduct this experiment and they are not tracking user data.

Griffin: How could they?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: How could they? "Aw man, you'll never believe this guy's smell. It's pungent and earthy, and that's Thomas. So now you all know this."

Rachel: I just think it's interesting that these academics are just kind of doing it for fun, it sounds like? Like they're not gonna have, you know, this great huge spreadsheet of data on each person. And you know, it's just more like a— like let's see what happens.

Griffin: Okay, yeah.

Rachel: It seems more artistic than scientific, I guess. So what... drew me to this is that so in 2016, this happened. And then every media outlet sent some reporter through this experiment. [chuckles] So I've found so many testimonials of people that went through this process and there is definitely some commonalities.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Everybody was concerned about their own smell.

Griffin: Of course.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Three days wearing a shirt! I don't want anyone— I don't want you to smell that. I don't want anyone— I don't wanna smell that!

Rachel: I read about people who on day one intentionally kind of broke the rules and like walked through perfume or used particularly fragrant body wash, because you are allowed to shower. [chuckles] There are people who mentioned going to bakeries.

Griffin: Just to get the good bread smell on 'em?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's great.

Rachel: And... and then the matches was also interesting. So— [chuckles] Then this kind of really suggested the smell, I guess, of the particular writer, because some people had a lot more matches than others.

Griffin: [intrigued] Okay.

Rachel: So Time.com, that reporter had two matches. The person at Racked had seven matches.

Griffin: Out of 10?!

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: That's a 1— That's huge!

Rachel: Right? How good is that smell? The person at Time mentioned that nobody followed up.

Griffin: Oh.

Rachel: But the person from Hello Giggles [chuckles].

Griffin: [snorts]

Rachel: Had three matches, and they met one for drinks.

Griffin: So wait, the Time reporter got zero matches?

Rachel: No. They got two matches—

Griffin: Oh, but no-one followed up.

Rachel: — but nobody— nobody followed up.

Griffin: Oh, okay. I was gonna say, that's a sad thing to have to reveal about yourself on a—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Like I did this whole investigative report, and well..."

Rachel: My smell is bad.

Griffin: "I know everyone else got some, but um... Well, eh..."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [nervously] "Eh, gosh."

Rachel: And it is possible, because of the cheating. So the Time magazine person did not mention any kind of cheating, whereas the person at Racked very specifically said like "I really tried to improve my smell. In any way that I could."

Griffin: Yeah, that's— You can't do that. Yeah.

Rachel: So Hello Giggles. So the person met... one of their matches for a date. And... they uh... did not have the best like personality match, really.

Griffin: But their stink alignment was out of sight.

Rachel: So they met at a bar for drinks, at which point the writer found out that the person she had met had allergies and couldn't drink beer. So that— that was kind of a bust. And then— [chuckles] She called the person "James," and she said quote "James then spent a good five minutes trying to get me to eat an olive, despite the fact I do not want to eat olives." [giggles]

Griffin: That's no good.

Rachel: [chuckles] They— they talked for a little while and then she left, and then she got a text saying "I had a great time tonight and you're charming and fun, but I don't think we are a good match. Sorry. I wish you the best of luck on other smell dates." [giggles]

Griffin: [snorts] How kind of James.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: James sounds a little pushy, but you know. His heart and his stink is in the right place.

Rachel: There was a— a story on Business Insider which I liked, because it did seem kind of like an interesting result. So she talked about the whole process which she said took about a month. Because first she had to wait two weeks to get the T-shirt, then she sent it back, and then a week later she received emails from Smell Dating indicating she had matched with two people.

She said she was pleasantly surprised that even though she had no idea whose shirts she had sniffed, the two people she matched with were woman, which would've been her gender preference anyway.

Griffin: Huh.

Rachel: So that's just kind of like a fun little result.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: But— but yeah. This is not happening anymore. So when it was published in 2016, it was kind of like an open call. You go to the website now, it does still exist but they are not taking new applications.

Griffin: I mean it may still be happening in like the un— the underworld of New York City.

Rachel: [chuckles] The underworld. Um... I mean, I guess there's lots of ways you could do this on your own.

Griffin: Sure. Pretty much all of them ethically dubious.

Rachel: [giggles] Well if you're open, if you're up front. Like "Hey, I want you to wear this, so I can smell it later." [laughs]

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Alright, you're right. I don't—

Griffin: Most pe— Most people would be like “Hell yeah, man. Sign me up. What’s your name? Ah, don’t tell me actually. This is more than words.”

Rachel: So this was open to the first 100 New Yorkers to apply, when it first came out. [chuckles] I don’t know if this is actually what it was called, but in the Vice article, they called it the quote “first mail odor dating service.”

Griffin: Mail—

Rachel: Instead of “mail order.”

Griffin: Oh.

Rachel: A “mail odor.”

Griffin: Like M-A-I-L.

Rachel: No. [chuckles] Yeah. Yes, yes. Sorry.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Ah, yes. So—

Griffin: “This is the first boy stink service of its kind.”

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: [quietly] No. It was a mail like postage.

Rachel: So anyways, I think this could be a reality show.

Griffin: I think so too.

Rachel: I think just the idea that people would get set up. I mean, Netflix, always lookin’ for new ways to pair singles together.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I think this is an opportunity. Everybody smells.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know, and then they smell each other.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And then they pair up, and then you know, and then they have to get married. [chuckles]

Griffin: You've struck gold.

Rachel: And then they have to get married immediately. [laughs]

Griffin: Is there a famous sommelier that we could get to host it? Who could be like "Tiffany possessed notes of chestnut, and—"

Rachel: You know... I mean, she's not a sommelier, but I heard Padma is leaving Top Chef.

Griffin: Oka-aaay.

Rachel: Maybe she'd be into Smell Dating.

Griffin: Maybeeee. She's gotta do something, right? What's she gonna do?

Rachel: I mean probably nothing, you know Padma. [laughs]

Griffin: If I was Padma, I'd just fuckin' kick it, man. I would just kick it and... yeah, that's a good life. She's all set, man.

Rachel: I think so. Yeah, so Smell Dating.

Griffin: Thank you. Can I smell you away?

Rachel: [chuckles] Yes.

Griffin: [sniffs strongly]

[Home Improvement stinger plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: My thing. This week. Is an Austin staple. Obviously seeing all of our friends, gettin' to hang out with them, go swimmin', watch our kids play together. Highlight of the trip. For me.

Rachel: Yeah, it'd been a year since we'd both been back with the boys.

Griffin: That's right. Just below that, and I mean just below that, was all the food that we got to eat.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: All the food that we got to eat again. D.C. has like so many great restaurants, and we've eaten at like not a ton of places, just because we don't have a lot of opportunities for date nights. But we've gone out and had some incredible food here. Chef Jose Andre's, crushing it. Crushing the game. Every— everything he does.

Rachel: We— yeah.

Griffin: He owns essentially one city block of D.C., where he has like 19 franchises.

Rachel: We've made it a personal goal to try and get to all of those restaurants.

Griffin: To try and get all of them. By the way, if you work at Mini Bar or have a hook up, you know, get at me.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But, for me, there's a lot of stuff in Austin that I miss a lot as well. And there's like upscale stuff. There's like La Condesa I miss.

Rachel: Yeeeeeah.

Griffin: Just like really great Mexican food. There's the whole sort of Tatsuya family, the Ramen Tatsuya, Teek Tatsuya.

Rachel: I will also say we had like 10 years of opportunity to really explore—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: — the food space there.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true.

Rachel: Which made it easier, I think, to winnow down the list.

Griffin: Right. As it turns out, the one that has left the biggest hole in my heart, and the itch that got scratched and was the most satisfying during this visit was Torchie's Tacos. Torchie's Tacos is the subject of my discussion today.

Rachel: Yeeees.

Griffin: Thank you for joining me at my Torchie's Tacos TED Talk.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Torchie's Tacos is a fast casual taco chain that started in Austin but has since spread. It's got 80 franchises in seven states. Which is impressive, considering it was just, you know, a humble food truck on South First Street in Austin in 2006. Owner Michael Ritka sort of just lured in customers with free chips and salsa, and then they would eat the tacos there and they were very, very, very good tacos. They were "damn good tacos!" according to the sort of company masthead, which then became sort of the tagline for Torchie's Tacos. They have a whole sort of like devil thing, Torchie's like devil. Damn— damn good. I don't know. It's— It— I mean it's Satan, he's always getting' his fingers in something.

Rachel: [laughs] I wanna like just put a disclaimer up front. We are not saying that these are the most authentic, uh [chuckles]

Griffin: No no no no. In fact, if you will let— if you will wait just a minute.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I will make the case that they are deeply inauthentic.

Rachel: There are real taco wars in Texas.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: About who has the best taco. And any time Torchie's gets acknowledgement, there's a whole large group of people that are like—

Griffin: People fuckin' hate Torchie's.

Rachel: That are like "No! That's not real. That's not a thing." [chuckles]

Griffin: But there's room for both of these things, right?

Rachel: I agree with you, completely.

Griffin: It's like I was looking at a tweet that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was like "Where's the best tacos in Austin?," and it was literally like alternating just "Gotta get Torchie's." "Don't fucking eat Torchie's!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Which like I get, there's like very authentic, very, very good tacos in Austin. And then there's also Torchie's, which is fuckin' also very, very good.

Rachel: Also very delicious.

Griffin: When we lived in Austin, we were eating Torchie's like once a week? Which was a completely viable food ordering strategy, because they have so many good things on their menu.

Rachel: They have a really good salad that I'm partial to.

Griffin: They do, I have that right here. The Air Stream Salad; romaine, arugula and picked mint, avocado, pico de gallo, grilled corn, cotija cheese, peppadew peppers and pistachios, with a drizzle of chipotle sauce and a side of champagne vinegarett.

Rachel: [sighs]

Griffin: Sort of an ongoing theme with this sort of menu is their approach is pretty non-traditional. The ingredients of nearly everything on the menu adheres to like a fairly maximalist philosophy. There's very little editing that goes on in these tacos, and as a result, there are some super sloppy boys on here. I wanna read just a handful of my favorites.

Green Chili Pork Taco; that's pork carnitas, green chillis, cotija cheese, cilantro, onions, and a lime wedge, with tomatillo sauce on a corn tortilla. Great. Great.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Probably one of the least sloppy ones actually that there is, but so good. So salty. So very, very salty. All of it's salty. Everything on the menu is just deeply salty.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Fried Avocado Taco; it's got fried avocados, refried pinto beans, pico de gallo, lettuce, and cheddar jack cheese, with poblano sauce on a corn tortilla. So good. So goopy.

Rachel: This is sort of cruel what you're doing right now. You recognize that, right?

Griffin: I gotta talk about my favorite.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: My all-ti— This is probably my favorite taco. That I've ever eaten.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And I've eaten so many of them. It's the Baja Shrimp Taco; fried shrimp, cooked cabbage slaw, pickled onions and jalapenos, cotija cheese, cilantro and a lime wedge, with chipotle sauce on a corn tortilla. I— It— It's so good. It's spicy. And salty. And good.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And it just is— I— My mouth is literally watering so much right now. It's BeReal time, I won't do that to you again now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Then they have— They have, you know, the usual chips and dips. Their chips, great. So thin and crispy.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And crunchy. And again so salty. So, so salty.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Guacamole, really really good. Kinda spicy. Their Green Chili Queso is like one of the things that they're known for. It's queso, topped with a dollop of guacamole. Fun! Cotija cheese, cilantro, and a little ribbon of diablo sauce, which is just like a little spicy sauce you can mix in.

Rachel: Que— Queso is a real weakness for me and Griffin.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Because we will always eat too much.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: There's no way to stop eating it. At a point that is reasonable. We tend to go until we physically can't lift a chip into our mouth anymore.

Griffin: Yes. So like not high-class fare here. They have one I didn't write down all the ingredients for called the "Trailer Park Taco."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That has like you can get it with queso, [chuckles] and it also has like fried chicken and shit in it. It's— It's so wild. I've never eaten that one, 'cause it seems like it would hurt me more than the others already kinda do. Like this is the first thing we ate when we visited Austin, we came in like dinner the night we arrived, we got Torchie's. And I just

slammed a Baja Shrimp Taco and a Fried Avocado and had a bunch of Green Chili Queso. And some churros, which I think are a new item on their menu. They're good as fuck.

Rachel: Yeah, we weren't familiar with that.

Griffin: We went ham, and I did not feel good in the down— like the middle part of my body.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: But the upper part of my body was loving it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And so yeah. There's lots of people who despise Torchie's because of its sort of inauthenticity. Which just kinda seems goofy, 'cause there's plenty of incredible places to get very authentic tacos in Austin.

Rachel: That's— yeah.

Griffin: And I love those too.

Rachel: That's the thing. I think there is a concern that people will eat these and think these are the best tacos. And it's almost like you wanna call them something different? Because they are the best, and they may not be a traditional taco. But I'm okay with that.

Griffin: La Condesa offered a Cochinita Pibil Taco for a while that was pri— And that's up there. It might actually be tied.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Might actually be tied with the Baja Shrimp Taco. But a much more traditional thing, right? And then it's— yeah. Anyway, make room for both, folks. There's so much good here. Torchie's just scratches— Torchie's scratches a specific itch, right? And there is no other restaurant like it that scratches it in that same way, and that's if I want just like a sloppy, zesty, salty little guy that's gonna make my tummy hurt, but my mouth feel amazing. It's Torchie's. It's Torchie's for me.

Rachel: Yeah, it's— It's kind of whimsical, you know? There's something about eating the tacos there where you're like "Oh, I'm just having a good time."

Griffin: And it's— Obviously there's a nostalgia thing too, right? Like when I moved to Austin, I was sort of very nascent in my food appreciation journey.

Rachel: Yeah. You had moved to Chicago, and suddenly you were like—

Griffin: Right, I moved to Chicago and start—

Rachel: You were opened to a new world.

Griffin: Right, I started to eat really great food in Chicago, 'cause I lived with people who were like thought that spending money on that was important, which was a different sort of take from mine, which was I need to fill my body up.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: As ch— as cheaply as I possibly can, so that I have, you know, more money for more important things or whatever. And I ate Torchie's and it was one of the first things I had, and I just never really eaten anything like it. And then of course like the first time I went to a La Condesa or... What was the place, I think it was on Burnett, that had like all the tile work fountains? And it was like a— they had like a queso fundido?

Rachel: Oh, um you are thinking of... uh...

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: Fonda San Miguel.

Griffin: Fonda San Miguel. Fuckin' great. Like amazing.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But Torchie's was like one of the first things I ate, so I think I do have a bit of nostalgia there for it as well. But they are spreading out,

there's one in I think Williamsburg, Virginia. So like three hours from us, if we wanted to get down there.

Rachel: One of our friends from Austin that lives here now— Well, no. It was Alamo Drafthouse. I was trying to think like—

Griffin: Yeah, we got a Drafthouse here.

Rachel: But I thought there was a promise of a Torchie's. I don't know. There's been a lot of discussion among my friends that have moved here from Austin specifically about what we will get here soon.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: And I thought maybe Torchie's was on that list, I'm not sure.

Griffin: I mean, Torchie's is climbin'! Torchie's is climbin' up the East Coast.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It seems like. So it seems like a matter of time. I'll— I will help them be in business. I will eat— Torchie's, you tell me how many tacos I have to eat from you a year to make it make sense for you to have a D.C. franchise.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And we'll— we'll, you know. We'll help figure that out. But... I— I understand what Torchie's is, which is just real... just sloppy boys. But damn it if it does not hit the spot every single time that we eat it. So thank you, Torchie's. Thank you, Torchie's. Do you wanna know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay. Daniel says "My small wonder this week—" Man, this is a— This is hungry work. "My small wonder this week is when you're making yourself or a loved one a little grilled cheese or a quesadilla, and I little bit of the cheese spills out onto the frying pan, granting you a surprise crunchy cheese treat. It's the best." Yeah. I agree with that.

Rachel: I'm always surprised when you... make grilled cheese for Henry.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And you cut the crusts off. And then you— you don't automatically eat the crusts. I feel like that— I would do that every single time.

Griffin: I don't eat the crusts. I usually— Okay, so if we're doin' this.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If you're trying to shame me for my food waste. Henry— [chuckles quietly] Henry doesn't eat grilled cheese sandwich in the way that people usually do it, which is that you make a grilled cheese sandwich and maybe cut it in half, sometimes cut the crusts off, and then you give it to whoever you're—

Rachel: Although to be honest, he might. We have just gotten in a routine of preparing it.

Griffin: I have had him refuse! Refuse a grilled cheese sandwich I have made him before because it was not in this specific format for him.

Rachel: Really?

Griffin: Which is a gingerbread man cookie cutter.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That I can get about four of on a— on a regular sized grilled cheese sandwich. And it does not waste very much. Usually there's like a little sort of star in the center that I will eat.

Rachel: Mm.

Griffin: 'Cause that's like the heart of the grilled cheese sandwich. But the crust, [quietly] yeah I don't— I don't usually...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Opt for that. But yes, I do love the crunchy bit of cheese that comes out, that's the best.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: That is absolutely the best. Tara says "My small wonder is cutting the sleeves off of T-shirts that don't fit so well anymore, and getting more use out of old clothes as dope new muscle shirts."

Rachel: Oh! Have you ever done this? I don't think you have.

Griffin: I— I— Not for a very long time. Probably not since college, when I— You now, my arms were fuckin' huge.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So... big and muscly.

Rachel: From liftin' all those Mountain Dews.

Griffin: From liftin—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: What a hateful...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thing.

Rachel: I'm sorry. Sometimes—

Griffin: College is when I got— College is when I got really bad kidney stones and stopped drinking soda. So now there's egg on your face.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But then again, my doctor told be to just stop drinking brown soda.

Rachel: Dark soda, huh.

Griffin: So I probably did— I'm not— Mountain Dew is one of those things that I did sure used to drink a lot of in my youth. And then I don't anymore. But then like maybe once a year, I'll have a Mountain Dew, and it's so good.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's so good. On a hot day, a cold Dew is so good. You're looking at me right now with zero recognition in your eyes.

Rachel: [chuckles] I didn't grow up drinking it.

Griffin: No. Well you were— you were denied a lot of life's great pleasures.

Rachel: Well, for a long time there was... a hypothesis that I was allergic to caffeine.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And so I'm not gonna have Mountain Dew. And then I kind of aged out, I feel like. [chuckles]

Griffin: Of your non-existent caffeine allergy.

Rachel: Well, no. I aged out of the period in which I probably would've consumed the most Mountain Dew.

Griffin: You've never had... a Baja Blast. You've never been Baja Blasted once in your— Rachel.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You gotta get Baja Blasted.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You got to. It's so good. It's really good. It's very spicy on the tongue. The carbonation. And the caffeine will make you go absolutely apeshit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: In fact, I'm thinking about it right now, maybe you shouldn't do Mountain Dew. 'Cause I do feel like my body, even though I don't drink it that much anymore, has a deep sort of inoculation in my bones to Mountain Dew.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I feel like if you drank it, you would go absolutely haywire.

Rachel: Probably.

Griffin: You would go bananas.

Rachel: [chuckles] Speaking of cutting the sleeves off of shirts, I like cutting out the little neck on a shirt.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: 'Cause a lot of times, like a standard T-shirt is a little too tight around the neck.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it doesn't feel particularly fashionable. You cut that neck out and all of a sudden, you got a look, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Absolutely. I've never done that before, but.

Rachel: I just wanted to make sure that it was known that that was an option.

Griffin: You always be cuttin' things up, sure.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You could cut a little hole out of just the middle of it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Just a little belly button window.

Rachel: Uh-huh. [chuckles]

Griffin: Hello.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thanks to bo en and Augustus for the use of our song "Money Won't Pay." It's our theme song. It's not just our song.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's our song, it's our first dance at our wedding was "Money Won't Pay" by bo en and Augustus.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to MaximumFun.org, check out all the great shows there. We got new merch over at mcelroymerch.com, including a Clint the Planeswalking Janitor sticker that I adore so much.

Rachel: Yeah, I saw that!

Griffin: And there's some other stuff there too. And we got some shows coming up. Seattle, we're comin' at yah during PAX. I think we're doing some New York ComiCon stuff. You can check all that out at mcelroy.family. And you know, get there, and thank you all so much for listening. Thank you for being here. I want to eat Torchie's tacos and Mountain Dew.

Rachel: See? This is the cruelty behind what you did.

Griffin: It is so bad.

Rachel: Not just to us, but to our listeners, who may not have access to a Torchie's.

Griffin: No. But those who do, ple— Just think of— think of us.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [singing] Think of us fondly, when you eat tacos.

Rachel: That was beautiful.

[theme music plays]

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