

Wonderful 290: Moisten the Stick

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: This is Wonderful, a show where we talk about things we like that is good that we are into. And what's up, sports fans? Hope everyone's excited for sports season to start back up again.

Rachel: Well, for some...

Griffin: All my friends talking about big games going on in the worlds of football.

Rachel: For some it's been going if you are a, let's say, a baseball enthusiast.

Griffin: Nuh—Really? I thought that all the sports—I thought sports were like school. Where in the summer, everyone kind of takes it off.

Rachel: That would be nice.

Griffin: That would be nice. I think—

Rachel: I mean, for them. For sure.

Griffin: For the baseball players? Yeah, for sure.

Rachel: Yeah, probably a lot less injuries, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. And also, they don't even get to go to the beach. And I'm sure there's some baseball—that's not true. I bet you baseball players hate the beach. Because it's like, "Where are we supposed to play baseball?"

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, uh-huh.

Griffin: It's such a narrow strip that we're supposed to—The baseball field is so crazy. It's the only, sort of, weird diamond shaped sporting arena. And that is a shape that doesn't occur in nature very often. And so—But football, you can play that on a beach. Volleyball, of course, designed for it.

Rachel: It's like when you go on vacation and you're like, "Where can I podcast? What even is this? I want to podcast somewhere and I can't figure out where to do it."

Griffin: Yeah, very few good podcast places to do it on the beach.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's why no one's ever done a beach podcast before. No one would even try. They'd get grains of sand—grains of sand? In their microphone?

Rachel: [laughing]

Griffin: Doesn't work anymore. All you hear is rattling around every time I talk. No one wants to hear that. No one wants to hear a bunch of birds. Angry sea...

Rachel: Waves.

Griffin: ... like, loud seabirds and waves.

Rachel: Who would choose to listen to waves ever?

Griffin: Who would want to listen to waves and boats? And parasailers and regular sailors. Not this guy. I'll stick to my land podcasts. Thank you very much.

Rachel: Do you think parasailers ever say like, "Oh, yeah, I'm a sailor!" And everyone's like... [gasp]

Griffin: "A parasailer."

Rachel: "A parasailer. Sorry. In the biz, we just say sailor."

Griffin: I would like to meet the person who, when they learned the fact that someone is a sailor, they go [gasp]. Like they've seen a mummy or something. "A sailor? [gasp] A sailor?"

Rachel: I don't think I've ever met a sailor. It would be exciting, I think.

Griffin: Have I? I mean, I don't know. I feel like.. Hmm...

Rachel: Outside of a musical theater setting.

Griffin: Okay, fine.

Rachel: There are a lot of sailors...

Griffin: You really swept the legs out from under me there.

Rachel: There are a lot of sailors in musicals for some reason.

Griffin: Do you have a small wonder? I feel like the thing you normally would do as a small wonder is going to be my big wonder.

Rachel: I know, right? I don't know if I've talked about smoothies. Have I talked about—I probably mentioned smoothies.

Griffin: Of course, they're—Yeah.

Rachel: I'll say, to get more specific, I'll say the smoothie as a vehicle to get nutrition into your child.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Our big son, uh, real, real slight boy.

Griffin: Slight of frame.

Rachel: We have been told to try and get him to gain weight and...

Griffin: Bulk up!

Rachel: Anyone that has had a six year old is likely to recognize that they are often quite picky, including Big Son.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But then it just hit me. I just make him a smoothie. I just put a bunch of you know, big time muscle protein powder.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. That's what they call 'em, big time protein muscle powder for kids.

Rachel: I'm gonna go to GNC later and be, like, "Where do you have the big time protein muscle for kids powder?"

Griffin: Don't get it for adults, he will get huge and crazy looking if you use the adult big time powder.

Rachel: Yeah. Exactly.

Griffin: You don't want them to get too big. You know, that's not something they—

Rachel: Well, I feel like you, specifically, don't want him to get too big. I don't think it would bother me.

Griffin: Well, I don't—Well, of course, as his father, I don't want to feel threatened by my own offspring.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Not at age six.

Griffin: Not at six, good lord.

Rachel: We got plenty of time.

Griffin: My small wonder is gonna be... Oh, it has to be... We're gonna—
Here we go, baby. Tilapia. Tilapia.

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: Tilapia.

Rachel: Yeah, okay.

Griffin: The tasty, unassuming white fish that is easy to cook, tastes great.
And I like it. It's—for whatever reason, the fish I have cooked the most and
prepared the most and feel like I can't mess it up really.

Rachel: Yeah, it's not as, like, beefy as a salmon, you know?

Griffin: I don't want to be beefy like a salmon.

Rachel: So it cooks through real quickly.

Griffin: Cooks through real crispy and get it nice—But first, I cooked it a few
days ago and did, like, a flour dredge on it. Get a little crust on it and it was
as good as hell.

Rachel: Nice. Yeah.

Griffin: Real good. Um, I go first this week.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I'm going to talk about a TV show. A non—struck project as per the
SAG—AFTRA rules. This is a reality television show from our friends in South
Korea, which this has been an absolutely baller year for reality television, I

feel like. I think that—I feel like we can say that confidently because we are...

Rachel: Experts?

Griffin: Very—Yeah, I guess as close as there is...

Rachel: I mean, 1000 hours, we probably put 1000 hours into reality television.

Griffin: I thought it was 10,000. But even that I think we're probably inching towards. Um, this year I feel like all the, like, classics have been hitting so right. I would say Survivor this year, easily a top three season ever. Top Chef this year...

Rachel: Top Chef was good.

Griffin: ...fucking excellent. We got a bunch of newcomers, a lot of which are new to North America and have been ported over from other regions. Like the Traders was very, very good. We talked about Love Village. Did we talk about Love After Divorce? I believe we did.

Rachel: We mentioned that we were watching it. Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Two, sort of, romance reality shows from Japan that are very, very good. South Korea has been crushing the game, though. Physical 100.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: So good. Can't stop thinking about it. Siren: Survive the Island. Like, we were so obsessed with that show and just absolutely tore through it. And right now, our new obsession these past few days...

Rachel: [imitates build up music]

Griffin: Beep-beep-beep-beep! Hot off the presses is called New World, which apparently arrived in many regions on Netflix back in 2021. But as far as I can tell is new to us. Um...

Rachel: Ooh, man, that makes me excited that maybe there'll be another season quicker? Because...

Griffin: Oh, I hope so. Um...

Rachel: It has been out for a while

Griffin: I had a hard time sort of preparing this segment. Because I feel like pitching this show and making it sound like a good television show is actually kind of hard. Because the, sort of, base components of it don't sound all that special or spectacular. A lot of what makes this show good is the tone and the execution and the cast of it and how deeply the cast buys into the premise...

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, there's a lot of unusual aspects of this show. And they work best because the contestants are just on board immediately.

Griffin: Immediately. And they are...

Rachel: There's never any, like, Survivor style, like, "I don't want to be here anymore."

Griffin: No, no, no, everybody is into it. So six Korean celebrities that—They are mostly comedians from, like the variety show, panel show circuit, right? So...

Rachel: Yeah, we get told they're celebrities, but they're not anybody we recognized.

Griffin: Right. So, like, think of, I mean, that the nearest sort of point of comparison for, like, what we are familiar with is, like, imagine if the, like, the Terrace House panel, like, the six people who just like make jokes, and are very, very funny and charming and talking about [inaudible]?

Like, imagine sort of—That sort of vibe, that sort of camaraderie between these six people. I feel like a lot of them know each other already and have worked together on variety shows and panel shows in South Korea in the past. So they get to live on a utopian island in homes fashioned to their exact specifications.

Rachel: Yeah, so we see interviews with each of them on the first episode, where they indicate the kind of house they would want.

Griffin: Yeah, so like, one person's like, "I want to live on like a seaside Grecian shack." And some person's like, "I want to live in a very minimalistic place with lots of cleaning supplies." And then these things are provided to them. After they arrive, they receive phones, and the phones have, like, a local messaging app they can use to stay in touch with each other, a banking app.

And that is very important because the goal of the game of New World is to earn a fictional virtual currency called Nyong. And they are told that after one week on the island, they can exchange that fake currency for real money back in the real world. That's basically the, like, overarching structure of the game.

Rachel: And it's like six days, right? Or something like that?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So the way they earn that currency is by taking part in games that are introduced and changed every day. Every day, there is a new activity, there is a new game to play. And the games are the thing that makes this show special are what make this show work because they are so outrageously intricately designed and hysterically funny, like designed for just hilarious madcap antics between all of the different cast members.

Rachel: You know, it's got kind of a Taskmaster vibe in that way.

Griffin: Yes! That's a really, really great comparison that I had not...

Rachel: I was thinking about the fact that, like, they're comedians, they're bought in, the tasks are kind of absurd...

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And all of that is similar.

Griffin: Yes. And in the same way that taskmaster rewards lateral thinking, a lot of these challenges do as well. Um, I don't want to talk about the first one because I think the first... I think if you make it through watching the first challenge of this show, you get hooked because there is a twist to that first challenge that I feel like just talking about it would spoil it. That, like, immediately tells you what kind of show it is that you're going to be watching.

I want to talk about, because I feel like we have to discuss one of these games in order to sort of like drive home, why are they so special. So the one of the episodes we just watched the game for the day is this Monopoly—style property investment game where all of the different locations on the island, there's, like, a café and, like, a restaurant and a garden and, like, all of these different locations, you can purchase them with this fake currency from the bank.

And then every half hour, the value of those locations changes. And so the idea is to buy low, sell high, you know, throughout the day so that you can cut a big profit. Those changes in price are telegraphed somewhat by rumors. And some of these rumors are, like, you can just be walking around an island and come across two, like, NPCs. Like just two of the, like, crew members on the island talking about, like, did you hear they're building an underground tunnel under Sunset Crossing? And so like, you could hear that and think like, "Okay, well I need to get my hands on that property because it's gonna go up."

But that's just one way in which the you can sort of figure out how the prices are going to change. Other ways include you can go to the New World store and buy cockroaches and then leave them at a location to drive the price down.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Or you can go to a place that is always open in New World called the Shadow Store. Where everything is, uh, you—There are, like, 30 cards laid out on a table...

Rachel: Yeah, they're, like, little tarot cards.

Griffin: Little tarot cards and one will say, like, real estate glasses, like, they are not in any way sort of, like... One is just called shield and the prices are exorbitantly high and you don't know what it is you're buying, exactly. And so, you know, you buy real estate glasses and they're a pair of glasses you put on and they tell you exactly how the price is going to change at the next sort of installment, right? But you don't know.

One player buys something called the shield. It's the first thing that someone buys on the show and is trying to like keep it secret that he has bought this item but he is handed this massive iron shield that he then has to carry around just, like, tell everybody, like, "Oh, yeah it's for the sun, the shade... It's just so hot out."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So that is something you could do. One person buys the New Mart store and in order to raise the value of it, like, changes all the prices of every item that is for sale for this Nyong currency or like, mops up the floor or takes over running the register and goes outside and start shouting, like, come on and we got these new prices, we got new promotions running. Which is, like, there's infinity little things like that in each game that is not outlined by any kind of rule, right?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Which I think could be very frustrating for a lot of people who are watching it, thinking like, they're just making the—It's very Calvin Ball, right? But they lean into that in a way that makes it seem so fucking fun to be a part of.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, well, because all the contestants, they're kind of, like, in for the love of the game a little bit. So like, if somebody does something to sabotage them they may kind of play at being upset or you may, you know, have a moment of being upset but there's a general, like, appreciation for how crazy this game.

Griffin: Right. Ultimately, everybody on it is trying to make a funny TV show. And it is. It is hysterically funny. Like, there is no you know, I think, uh... The—just in this year alone of, like, watching all of these, like, reality television shows, mostly from South Korea. Like, I... The language barrier has never once I feel like gotten in the way of understanding kind of, like, the point of the show or having the comedy absolutely land. Because we've had so many times just cackling out loud laughing at this television show.

Rachel: Well, they don't really reference their outside lives very much. That's what I think is kind of interesting is that, you know, we get told they're celebrities, but it's not like they're indicating what their real life is like. So we don't get distracted by that, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, that is true. I also, man, I can't stop thinking about this Taskmaster comparison because I feel like that that works for me. In this exact challenge, there's one player who doesn't buy any property the whole time, but instead follows the rumors. So there's one rumor of like, "Ooh, there's treasures that have been found buried in the secret garden." And people like okay, we're going to use that to inform our next investment.

This dude just goes and gets a shovel and starts digging around and finds treasures that he then sells for a profit, like, there is so much thought that has gone into the game. So that's just one of the games. This is one day. The next day, different game. The day before that, different game.

Rachel: And I will say... So you are earning money but you are also spending money because they are charging you for meals or they are charging you if you want drinks or, you know, there are opportunities to spend this money. So even if you are winning, you know a bunch of things, you can still kind of choose to lessen your pot just to make yourself more comfortable while you're there.

Griffin: There is a guy on the show who in the first day loses all of his money just goes completely bankrupt. But in one of the challenges he finds a key to a golf cart. And this is a big island that people are just walking around to, like, do these challenges and get from point A to point B and there are some people who are like, "This sucks I don't want to walk around anymore."

So then this man who is broke but has a golf cart becomes a part time chauffeur and they will text him on the message app like, "Hey, I'm heading down to the café. Will you come pick me up?" And he's like, "Yeah, 2 million nyong please." They'll transfer it over to him and he'll go and get him. The characters on the show are, like, perfect like, perfect casting. I feel like by the end of the first episode I knew who, like, everyone was in exactly what kind of vibe they brought to it. There's one woman on the show whose name I cannot remember but has, like, murdered me with jokes, like, so many times.

Rachel: Is she the one that like throws the biggest fits when she...

Griffin: Yes, she is she's very, uh, very dramatic about stuff like that but it's, um, I feel like it is, again, like, there's so many moving parts to this show and they are constantly adding in more moving parts and the players are exploiting and also adding in more moving parts. It is a very... They are they're sort of making up... They're building the plane as they are flying it, it feels like, at all times on the show. While there is also this vibe of like this is a utopian society where, like, the meals that they are buying are prepared by this, like, Michelin star chef.

It is unlike anything I've ever seen before. And there's a layer of meta reality on top of all of it that is, like, one of the challenges is a meteorite crashes into the island and...

Rachel: Yeah, I was gonna say, there's a lot of camera tricks that are added in after, uh, which kind of add to the, like...

Griffin: The supernatural gamey element of it.

Rachel: Yes, this, like, magical quality, like... They have the cast kind of react in a certain way so that later they can kind of add in more dramatic representations of what's happening.

Griffin: Um. It's great. It's very, very good. It is...

Rachel: So watchable too, like, we... Our queue of shows is just kind of piling up because all we want to watch is this right now.

Griffin: This is all I can think about because it is, from a, like, gaming perspective? I think it is hugely fascinating. Just because I never know what is going to happen in each episode, like, how the rules are going to change and how people are going to find, like, these clever workarounds for them.

And from just pure entertainment value perspective, like, it again, it is fucking dropped to the floor funny. And I cannot recommend it enough. There's also a new one on Netflix called Zombiverse that that woman that I talked about is also on that is another sort of, like, meta fictional reality show taking place in the middle of a zombie apocalypse that I am curious about, but I can't give the seal of approval that we haven't dipped into it yet. But New World? Boom. That was the sound of the seal.

Rachel: I hope they find a way to continue to do it. Griffin and I were talking right away about, like, okay, so it's an island and they have houses for everybody's specific interests. Like how can you do multiple seasons of this show?

Griffin: Yeah, the production value's, again, just like Physical 100 and Siren: Survive the Island through the roof. Like, this was not a cheap show to make by any stretch of the imagination. But it is masterfully made and I've for all those three shows I just mentioned, like, I want new seasons of them every month, but every year will suffice. Please, please, please more of them. Thank you so much. Thank you. Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yeah.

[Home Improvement stinger]

[ad break]

[ad break ends]

Rachel: Okay, my topic this week.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Came from a bit of nostalgia. We went to a pool not long ago that had a concession stand.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And I became really fixated on what items this concession stand would sell.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Because there are certain things that feel very much like pool summertime snacks to me.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So one of the things I wanted to talk about it kind of it branches off a little bit but I will say it started with Fun Dip.

Griffin: Fun Dip. Sure.

Rachel: Because this is a pool snack for me.

Griffin: I agree wholeheartedly. I was... When I looked at this pool's concession stand, I was agawk at how they're the same ones from the pool that I grew up going to in Huntington, West Virginia. You know, 30 years ago.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, it's, like, mostly candy and chips. Like there's a few like actual kind of entree...

Griffin: But the candy's this, like... Cow Tails. I don't see those anywhere else.

Rachel: They had Cow Tails there?

Griffin: They had Cow Tails there.

Rachel: Huh. Yeah, I think I was more fixated on what our children would actually eat.

Griffin: Oh, right, right, right. I'd fuck up a Cow Tail right now.

Rachel: So I looked into, uh, Fun Dip.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And it actually is a St. Louis originated snack.

Griffin: Wow. Is this Lik-m-aid? Is that the company that makes it or is that the name of the brand?

Rachel: That's what it was called initially.

Griffin: Oh, wow. Okay.

Rachel: Okay, so Lik-m-aid, it was originally envisioned to be a drink mix.

Griffin: Okay—[laughs] That feels wild I feel guilty for eating it then.

Rachel: The idea was they were making these, like, fruity powders that you would put into water...

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: ... for kids to drink. Kind of like Kool Aid,

Griffin: Right. But then someone at the lab accidentally got it on their tongue. They were like, "This is good too!"

Rachel: Well, I think when they were testing it with kids, and/or when they first started selling it, they realized very quickly that kids were just eating the sugar straight.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rachel: So they kind of moved from there. So it was Lik-m-aid and became Fun Dip. It was... It started in St. Louis, there was a company called the Sun Mark Corporation, which was founded in St. Louis in 1952. And that company was eventually bought out by Nestle and was called the Willy Wonka Candy Company.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So that's like, that's a bunch of stuff that fits in that category.

Griffin: I feel like, by the way, as the more we do this show and get into the history of like, different sort of corporate fields that it's always the same where it's, like, this cereal was made by one man who lived in Biloxi. And then he sold it to this guy who sold it to this guy. And now it's Monsanto." Like, it all sort of gets funneled into one or two big things.

Rachel: Yeah. The thing I didn't realize and this may not be true anymore, but I didn't realize the connection between a number of candies that are basically all the same thing.

Griffin: Which is powdered sugar snack?

Rachel: It's like the same kind of ingredients. So Fun Dip became Pixy Stix.

Griffin: That's the same—You're telling me that's the exact same thing? Okay, I believe that.

Rachel: Yes, what I saw. And then Pixy Stix, so the flavors of Pixy Stix are...

Griffin: Do they still make those because we may need to explain what Pixy Stix are.

Rachel: They do still make them.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Rachel: Um, I've heard that it's harder to find the giant ones.

Griffin: Go to a fucking Great Wolf Lodge, my man.

Rachel: I know, I saw it in an article, they're like you can giant Pixy Stix have been discontinued and I was like, "No, they haven't."

Griffin: No, they are not. They—Go to the fucking Great Wolf Lodge. You can get one bigger than you are.

Rachel: It's like a little, like, paper package the straw shaped and it's just filled with sugar.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And you can tear off the end and dump it directly in your mouth.

Griffin: Right in your gob. And then you get the energy you need to go roller skate.

Rachel: [laughs] So we're talking grape, orange, cherry. And then this was interesting. Maui punch.

Griffin: From, uh, Fun Dip?

Rachel: For Pixy Stix.

Griffin: Oh, okay. Um...

Rachel: And Fun Dip.

Griffin: I don't know that—Honestly, the idea that the flavors were, I'm imagining a sort of amorphous, like unprofilable sort of flavor when I think Pixy Stix. Like, it's all the same. It's extremely citric acidy, but I could not tell you what fruit it is based on to the fact that there is one...

Rachel: Maui Punch, for those curious, is blue.

Griffin: Okay, not what I would expect.

Rachel: That's what they call blue.

Griffin: Okay. All right, man. I want a Pixy Stix right now and I don't know why. I feel like it would hurt my teeth actively as a man of my age and stature.

Rachel: You know what's funny? I was curious about the nutrition information for Pixy Stix.

Griffin: Can't wait.

Rachel: Uh...

Griffin: 11 grams of protein. I do not know how or where it comes from.

Rachel: So, I looked it up 60 calories, serving size seven straws.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Can you imagine... Each, they're, like, nine calories each per straw? Can you imagine eating seven Pixy Stix just back to back?

Griffin: I mean, yes. Yeah.

Rachel: Really?

Griffin: I mean, yes. When I was... When I was a boy. And I needed roller skate energy to go faster on my roller skates and win the roller skate race,

but that's the only context in which I would eat seven... Nowadays. I think eating one Pixy stick is like...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: To me that's... To me that is tantamount to eating just a packet of ketchup. It's, like...

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: That's what I like about Fun Dip, is Fun Dip, you at least have like the texture of the stick in there...

Rachel: Yeah, uh-huh.

Griffin: ...that you are dipping. And the stick is gross and no one likes it, but as a vehicle, as a scooper for that sweet powder. It does its job well.

Rachel: Pixy Stix apparently used to come with a spoon. I think that's like the transition between Fun Dip and Pixy Stix.

Griffin: To me that starts to get into the layer of, like, drug paraphernalia.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If I see someone with a tiny little spoon that they use to... [smacks lips] Oh, that's good. That's a that's 100% uncut Maui punch right there.

Rachel: [laughs] Which also sounds like the name of a drug.

Griffin: Which also sounds like a type of drug.

Rachel: Yeah, so I found a 2019 article, um, that was created at the KSDK, an NBC affiliate in St. Louis. Um, that talks about the evolution of, you know, from Fun Dip to Pixy Stix and then onward.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Now, I don't know if the recipes are exactly the same across these candies, but the suggestion is that after Pixy Stix, they compressed that powder into a tablet and made Sweet Tarts.

Griffin: I believe it.

Rachel: Doesn't that seem right?

Griffin: That seems, that feels right in my mouth.

Rachel: Next, added a sugar shell on the outside. Sprees.

Griffin: Now that I can't rock with. Chewy Sprees, I'll rock with. Not regular old Sprees. I feel like just thinking about those hurts my teeth a lot.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Those are some... Those boys are fucking hard.

Rachel: I just, I was kind of fascinated because, one, I never really associated any of these candies with the others...

Griffin: I know!

Rachel: I mean, obviously, they're all just sugar.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: But I didn't think of them as, like, the same flavor profile? Pixy Stix, like, part of what appeals to me about them is their sugar, but they also have this, like, citric acid...

Griffin: Right, correct.

Rachel: ... tart quality to them? And so once I, like, realized that, I was, like, "Okay, Sweet Tarts, yeah, that does make sense." And then Sprees was a surprise.

Griffin: Yeah. But we can't do anything with Sprees. Sprees is the end of the line, they can't do anything more to Sprees.

Rachel: I don't know, are there gummy Sprees?

Griffin: There's chewy Sprees. The chewy Sprees are great.

Rachel: No, I do like a chewy.

Griffin: Sour Sprees, I think are a thing.

Rachel: I would believe that, yeah.

Griffin: I love candy so much.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, I was excited to bring this segment because I know that you're a real sugar enthusiast.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Part of what made me think of this, too, is that, uh, Little Son has gotten really into lollipops lately.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And what he does, and this is not crazy, and I'm kind of allowing it. Um, because we have so many of these Dum-dums...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, he will enjoy a Dum-dum for about 10 seconds and then he will demand a different flavor.

Griffin: Yeah. He'll just leave it lying wherever. Our living room is speckled with, uh, tiny little sticky dots all around the room where he will just lay a Dum-dum down.

Rachel: Every time I hand him one, I think about how with Big Son, we used to be, like, "Oh, you can't have a Dum-dum at eight AM, are you kidding?" And how now with Second Son, I'm just, like, "Alright."

Griffin: Yeah. Well, we're very tired now.

Rachel: [laughs] And also knowing that he will never finish one?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I feel like, oh. This isn't... It's not he's eating, like, a whole bowl of sugar.

Griffin: Now, as a result, I will not let him dip into daddy's secret stash of Chupa-chups. Because that's... that's...

Rachel: [laughing] Can I tell you?

Griffin: Dum-dums are so small, Dum-dums are so small, if you waste a Dum-dum, it's, like, not great, but whatever. If he took one lick of a Chupa-Chup and then left the other... the remaining 11 grams of Chupa-Chup lying around to be discarded? No way.

Rachel: Can I tell you, like, you told me where they were located...

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: And I saw them the other day when I was putting some things away?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I can't even reach that shelf.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: Like, they're very much yours. I can't get up there.

Griffin: Is that true? I didn't know that.

Rachel: [laughing] Yeah! I opened the door and I saw them on the shelf and I was, like, "I would need a step ladder."

Griffin: They're very high up [crosstalk]...

Rachel: They're very safe.

Griffin: I want you to be able to enjoy the Chupa—Chups with me because they're so good. I've been eating them nonstop since I did that segment on it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I've been living so good this past couple weeks.

Rachel: Uh, so yeah. So that's Pixy Stix/Fun Dip/Sweet Tarts/Sprees.

Griffin: Um...rank those.

Rachel: Ooh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Here's why I called it a pool snack. I, uh... I've never purchased these. I don't choose them in a bowl of Halloween candy.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: But I definitely have a fondness for it. I remember buying Pixy Stix at the little, like, penny candy store. Um...

Griffin: Number 1, best of the best, is...?

Rachel: I mean, probably Sprees.

Griffin: Sweet Tarts—Really?

Rachel: I don't really like... Wait, Sweet Tarts... I'm getting those confused with Smarties.

Griffin: No, no, no, no. Not Smarties.

Rachel: Sweet Tarts... Um, yeah. I mean my least favorite in the bunch is, um, probably Sweet Tarts, actually. I don't think I like them very much.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Um... Pixy Stix and Fun Dip, it's almost hard to really draw a distinction.

Griffin: It's like asking if you want to drink straight up or on the rocks.

Rachel: It's whether or not you like that little candy stick and I do, actually, like that candy stick in the Fun Dip.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I might have to put that above...

Griffin: Balances it out, it's a mellow flavor. It's gross, but it's mellow.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Well, I just liked the idea that you, like, moisten the Fun Dip... I don't want to say moisten the stick...

Griffin: That's what you just did.

Rachel: So I'm gonna say...

Griffin: You already said it, I mean you ripped the Band—aid off. You already said it.

Rachel: [laughs] And you use that dampness to get the powder? I'm, like, that's just clever.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure. I love that. Hey, do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Okay!

Griffin: Sarah says, "My small wonder is toddler report cards. My two year old gets learning stories every month from his daycare that celebrate wonderful things such as finding a worm or being brave enough to go down the big slide. The most recent one outlines a learning plan based on his interest in, quote, 'feeding the dinosaur leaves and sand.' It feels good to know he's spending his time with people who are encouraging him to explore the world on his own terms and when an email pops into my inbox with the subject line like, 'Master of the Bridge!' I know I'm in for some warm fuzzies."

Rachel: That's so great!

Griffin: That's really, really, really, super great.

Rachel: We were so excited just about photos.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Uh, I can't imagine getting, like, little discrete stories. That'd be great.

Griffin: Yeah, that would hit so right. Allison says, "My wonderful thing is free summer concerts. A couple weeks ago, Indigo DeSousa, who I discovered through this podcast, played a free show in Brooklyn and it was so nice to sit outside and listen to some great music with my friends." Oh, I bet that's great.

Rachel: That is nice! I always forget that that's, like, a perk of summertime, are these, like, outdoor concert free things.

Griffin: Yeah, we didn't really do that this summer here in DC. We didn't really look into that. Not that we did it a ton in Austin, but, like, I don't

know. I remember my first summer in Austin, we all went to a Los Lonely Boys concert.

Rachel: Uh-huh!

Griffin: Um, out on the... It was on the green.

Rachel: I mean, it's different when you have children, right?

Griffin: Yeah. They hate Los Lonely Boys, I don't know why!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: How Far is Heaven, like, is a bop. I don't know why they disagree with that. Um... Thank you so much to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. And thank you so much to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to MaximumFun.org, check out all the great shows that are on there. Um, you're gonna find one that you really do vibe with. I promise you. I promise you that.

Uh, we got some shows coming up in Seattle at the end of the month, if you're gonna be there for Pax West, come see MBMBaM and TAZ, uh, and then New York and Philly in October. We're coming up there around New York Comic Con time, so you can get tickets and all the info at mcelroy.family. We have merch over at mcelroymerch.com. Um, so go check that out as well. Uh, that's it for this episode. Thank you so much for listening and, um, and I'll see you later! Do you want to say bye?

Rachel: Uh... thanks for coming!

Griffin: Thanks for coming!

Rachel: Hope to see you again soon.

Griffin: We'll get the door for you, here you go. [imitates door creaking ominously]

Rachel: I knew you were gonna do that! [laughs]

[theme song plays]

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