

Wonderful! 297: The Salty Baskets That Preachers Love

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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: You're so chill right now.

Rachel: I'm really—I'm tappin' in, man.

Griffin: Hold on, wait, wait, wait. This is a fun I like to play with myself sometimes. And I don't know how it'll go as a sort of two player cooperative experience, but it's a game I like to call "Chill, or just very tired?"

Rachel: [laughs] Um...

Griffin: 'Cause chill is a decision.

Rachel: Both. Both. Both and, right?

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, no.

Rachel: Why can't it be both and?

Griffin: I mean, I guess if you are—it's a Venn diagram situation where if you are tired, you're chill. But if you're chill you're not necessarily tired. You've decided to be chill.

Rachel: Yeah, I have decided to be chill.

Griffin: You can't decide to be tired. Except I guess by having—making the decision to have two kids... is a decision [laughs]—

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: —that you make that does make you very—does make you quite tired. This is a Wonderful, a show where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we are... into. Uh, we're about to hit the road around these parts. I think that's also part of the reason for the energy is we are both kind of coiled like snakes.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Ready to strike at our audience, who we're gonna see, I hope, at our shows. Please come see our shows. When you hear this today, we're performing in Philly today, on Wednesday, and then we're gonna be in New York doing TAZ on Thursday and MBMBaM on Friday. And by "we" I mean myself.

Rachel: Yeah, I was gonna say. When you say "we," does it make you feel better than saying "Please come see my show"?

Griffin: Yeah, I guess it does.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Come see... multiple people on a stage, of whom I will be one.

Rachel: [laughs] There you go.

Griffin: Uh, go to mcelroy.family. You can find links to all that stuff. Do you have any small wonders, babe?

Rachel: Um... I'm gonna say the quest for the perfect pumpkin beer.

Griffin: Go with god, my friend. Go on that journey. I wish I could be your partner in crime on that one. I just can't. I think it's so yucky.

Rachel: I am working my way through the Elysian sampler of pumpkin-related beverages. Um, which I have enjoyed. I just, you know what? For me, it's almost more about the quest than it is the product, because I find myself every fall just delighted to see if maybe there's a better one out there for me. I'm kind of that way with sparkling water, too. Like, one of these days I am going to find the perfect version of this beverage.

Griffin: I tried La Croix once and I've never had a bad La Croix. They're all... I mean, they're all kind of bad. Right? 'Cause they don't taste like much.

Rachel: That's the thing. Like, I want it to be good.

Griffin: Oh, okay. No, see, if I have a sparkling water and they put, like, juice in it to make it actually sweet, I feel like I'm committing a grave sin.

Rachel: Yeah, see, I like the Spindrift a lot.

Griffin: Yeah, it's too sweet for me.

Rachel: Um, but I know that you don't.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I'm trying a bunch of different—I always like the cherry lime.

Griffin: Oh god, yeah!

Rachel: But they put it in those skinny cans. Why? Why?

Griffin: The skinny cans are nothing. Stop using those! La Croix! Unless it's for an environmental reason. In which case, I love it.

Rachel: [laughs] What's your small wonder?

Griffin: Uh... oh, gosh. Oh my gosh. Oh my goodness. I'm so glad that you've asked. Well, I'll tell you...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I was hoping if I kept doing that long enough... um... I've been reading a lot of Brandon Sanderson lately. He's a fantasy sci-fi author. He's done a bunch of series, and he has one big series called the Stormlight Archives that my whole family has been recommending to me. And so I finished one of his other series and started right in on this one.

It's good. It's big! It's a big old book.

Rachel: They usually are, the sci-fi.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. This one's pure fantasy. Pure, uncut fantasy. And it's a—it's a long road.

Rachel: What does that mean when you say it's pure fantasy?

Griffin: I mean there's not spaceships in it, or guns. I guess is the—if it doesn't have spaceships or guns, but it does have dragons, that's a fantasy book, baby.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: This one doesn't have dragons in it though, so I don't know. I'm betraying my own definition, I suppose.

Rachel: I feel like it's gotta be really hard as a sci-fi author, because every time you sit down you're like, "Okay, I guess I have to worldbuild." and that's—

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Yeah, we—they hate that shit.

Rachel: That's, like, 200 pages right there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And then you can, like, finally get to the story, and then that's, what, like, 100 pages? [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Well, okay. What you've described is a pretty bad book.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Usually they'll... do both at the same time, kind of.

Rachel: They'll interweave?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Um... I guess—

Rachel: I don't read a lot of, uh—of that.

Griffin: No. I mean, that's kind of how Dune is, from what I understand. It's been—I read Dune when I was, like, in high school. But I do remember it being like, "Okay, so, here's these, like, eight planets. You've gotta remember! All these planets and their cool shit that they do." Anyway. You go first this week! Thank god.

Rachel: My first thing is the 18 and up dance club.

Griffin: [laughs quietly] Alright...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I guess—I guess, man.

Rachel: Here's the thing. Just because it hasn't been executed...

Griffin: Well.

Rachel: ... well. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Yeah, sure!

Rachel: Comma. [laughs]

Griffin: So the concept of the 18 plus dance club is—

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: Yeah, okay. Alright. Okay. Yeah. I mean, this was half my life ago. And... about the same for you.

Rachel: We can be nostalgic.

Griffin: I suppose so. I just—I worry that I'm going to look back at those with rose-tinted glasses, except they were all so gross, so I don't actually think that's possible.

Rachel: No, this is the problem. Like, can we dislike something... because there's—

Griffin: [simultaneously] While appreciating—

Rachel: —no way to execute it well?

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: [laughs] I feel like there maybe is. There are probably examples of this being done well. And I know as an 18-year-old this was quite a thrill.

Griffin: Oh, for sure.

Rachel: I think, um, particularly when you're college age and not yet 21, to be able to go somewhere, just with other adults having fun, was an exciting prospect.

Griffin: Drinking Hawaiian Punch and what-have-you.

Rachel: [laughs] I know. I know, that's what's really charming about the 18 and up club, particularly if it is that is all it is. You know? Like, every day of the week, that's what we do here. Because they do often have candy and snacks. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Now, there was... okay, in Huntington I feel like you could get into bars when you were younger than 21 but older than 18, but you had to wear a special wristband that meant you couldn't be served alcohol.

Rachel: Yeah, or you got the X's on your hands.

Griffin: Or the X's on the hands. Okay, I do remember doing a lot of that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: There was a [holding back laughter] Christian nightclub called Club of David.

Rachel: [laughs] The stories you tell are so unreal to me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You—how did it feel, saying that sentence? [laughs]

Griffin: There was a Christian nightclub called Club of David that was very close to the Marshall campus.

Rachel: [laughs] How did you... how did you know it was a Christian nightclub? Did it put it on the...

Griffin: Yeah, and you just knew...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: If someone was going to Club of David, they were gonna have— they were gonna have a wholesome time.

Rachel: Club of David.

Griffin: Club of David.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Not David's Club. The Club of David.

Rachel: Or Club David.

Griffin: Club David sounds— isn't that where they go to do the... Presidential peace t—

Rachel: Camp, Camp David.

Griffin: Okay. [holding back laughter] Some people call it Club David. If you go a lot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] If you're a frequent flier to those beautiful hills.

Rachel: So, I can think of two places in St. Louis.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And I reached out to my friends to try and get both of them. I only got one. One was typically a country-western bar that I think had 18 and up nights.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Where they played a mix of popular music, and not just country-western. And it was called In Cahoots. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: Uh...

Griffin: That's good.

Rachel: And again, country-western, so huge dance floor. Uh, a lot of western theming. But if you went, you know, the right night of the week, you could get some R&B.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And then there was another club, and I cannot remember the name of this.

Griffin: It's not gonna be better than In Cahoots, so...

Rachel: Of course—Of course neither of these clubs exist anymore. [laughs]

Griffin: No, sure.

Rachel: But the one I went to, it had two stories, and the first story—I'm saying this mainly so that our St. Louis listeners can maybe help me. Okay. So, the year was 2000.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: Which alienates a large portion of our listeners already. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But there was a first floor that has a stage in the middle and a bar that you couldn't go to. And then there was an upstairs that also had, like, a smaller dance floor.

Griffin: I've never seen you narrow cast to our audience as much as you're doing.

Rachel: I wanna know the name of this place!

Griffin: I can tell, yeah!

Rachel: But I can't remember it, and there's obviously no way to search it. So here I am.

Griffin: I was trying to think of—you mentioned neither of those clubs exist anymore. I had the thought of if you show me... an 18 plus club that survived the COVID pandemic.

Rachel: I know!

Griffin: I will show you a money laundering front for sure. How do you do that? Where's the money coming from, guys?

Rachel: Good point.

Griffin: I don't know.

Rachel: Uh—

Griffin: Griffin investigates.

Rachel: Maybe their great snacks. They started DoorDashing 'em.

Griffin: Maybe their ghost kitchens for Mr. Beast!

Rachel: Uh, I wanted to obviously very quickly just give a little story, here. Um, there's a few stories. One, I didn't know—Providence, Rhode Island apparently is the spot. There are 24 licensed clubs, 13 of which are 18 plus.

Griffin: Wow, okay.

Rachel: Isn't that crazy? Most places, like I mentioned, you know, you've got two or three. Uh, and part of the reason—obviously I mentioned they don't stay open very long. It's very difficult to regulate.

Griffin: Uh-huh!

Rachel: A lot of them lose their liquor license regularly. This happened in my college town all the time.

Griffin: Oh, for sure.

Rachel: Because it's just impossible to kind of keep track of all the information you're legally required to keep track of.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: Um, also a lot of teenage people, um, have nowhere else to go, and when you get a lot of them together they make poor decisions.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So a lot of these clubs, um, just—they were dangerous to keep open. [laughs quietly] Uh, but I wanted to talk about something. There's a whole Defunctland episode about this, because there were Disney teen nightclubs.

Griffin: Oh my—I was just thinking...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Every teen nightclub I ever went into was so grody, but if Disney could get a hand on the ball and create a real manicured experience, which I'm sure this was!

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: 'Cause it was on Defunctland.

Rachel: So this was Videopolis.

Griffin: Sounds cool.

Rachel: Uh, it opened in 1985.

Griffin: Little early. [laughs quietly]

Rachel: Uh, so there's the thing. So, new CEO at the time, Michael Eisner, wanted to build more thrill rides like Splash Mountain and Star Tours, but they took a while to complete, and he wanted to get those teens there as fast as possible.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Because Disney was seeing a real decrease in the teens. Because, you know—

Griffin: What the fuck did they have for them?

Rachel: Yeah, what are they gonna do? So he very quickly wanted to open a nightclub. Now, some people think that this was because Knott's Berry Farm at the time had Studio K.

Griffin: [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs quietly] This was a club inside their park, and they offered nightly tickets at a lower price so teens could come... dance.

Griffin: Party, sure, okay. At... Knott's Berry Farm. Okay!

Rachel: Uh, so Videopolis had a light-up dance floor.

Griffin: Cool.

Rachel: DJ's.

Griffin: Love it.

Rachel: And over 70 video screens, which could display music videos from MTV and live videos of dancers on the floor.

Griffin: Now, you don't want 70 of those. I'm gonna go ahead and tell you, if you're putting together...

Rachel: [laughs] That's almost too many.

Griffin: If you're putting together a sort of nightclub experience, there is a certain amount of... uh... sort of darkness, and anonymity that is in—in pursuit, there. I feel like having 70 big video screens and a light-up dance floor—

Rachel: Yeah, it's too much. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: It's a little too much sensory overload.

Rachel: Unless they were, like, clustered... in a way.

Griffin: Oh, cool!

Rachel: So, like, this side of the room is showing, you know, I don't know, Sledgehammer, and then the other side of the room is showing... .like, Video Killed the Radio Star.

Griffin: Yep, those are the two... music videos.

Rachel: Those are the two. [laughs] Okay, so this was Disneyland. They created a Videopolis East at Disney World on Pleasure Island, which is now Disney Springs. Do you remember Pleasure Island?

Griffin: Oh, okay. I don't remember Pleasure Island.

Rachel: Pleasure Island, before it was Disney Springs, uh, was just this idea of, like, this is where all the bars are.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So, I mean, it's basically what Disney Springs is now, but like—

Griffin: With less shopping. [crosstalk]

Rachel: Yeah, less focus on retail. Um...

Griffin: Guy Fieri doesn't own a restaurant there, I assume. At Videopolis.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, no. Videopolis also hosted a show for the Disney Channel that featured popular bands at the time. They were really trying to, like, jump on this MTV craze that the teens were wild for.

Uh, the other thing I will just say as we close, um—

Griffin: Wait, is Video—what happened to Videopolis?

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, 19—

Griffin: Is it still around?

Rachel: 1989, Videopolis in Disneyland closed.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Rachel: And the East one actually stayed open for a while, but it was changed to a theater, and then fantasy land theater, and then closed in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Griffin: Now, that's interesting, 'cause I... have heard from reputable sources that California knows how to party. And yet it seems like not so much, if Videopolis couldn't survive there. Do you know what I mean?

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, I mean, part of it, if you watch the whole thing and read the story, is that people couldn't afford to go. Disneyland, like, didn't really create a price break for people coming to the club. It was basically for, like, season ticket holders.

Griffin: Alright.

Rachel: So it was difficult to get the teens in there, because you could only really afford if you could already go.

Griffin: People don't go to the Super Bowl for the hot dogs.

Rachel: Well... probably not.

Griffin: You know what I mean?

Rachel: Probably not. But what are the hot dogs in this?

Griffin: It's Videopolis?

Rachel: Are hot dogs Vide—okay. [laughs quietly] Uh, the other thing I will just mention quickly is that the names of teen nightclubs are always really good.

Griffin: Oh, for sure.

Rachel: I found this great article from 1962.

Griffin: Jesus Christ!

Rachel: Uh, it's Time Magazine. [laughs] Uh, talking about some of the teen clubs of the time. There was one called The Peppermint Stick.

Griffin: 'Kay...

Rachel: Which people referred to as The Stick.

Griffin: Hate that.

Rachel: And also, here, here's another called The Surf.

Griffin: That's—

Rachel: Which was just outside of Boston.

Griffin: Well, hold on. That's not where that happens, historically.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: I apologize, Boston, if there is a hot surfin' scene there that I just do not know about.

Rachel: Chicago had one called Fickle Pickle.

Griffin: That's good! Now we're back!

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs] So, uh, yeah. So that's another good thing. Anyway, um... uh, again, I recognize, I do not know if there is a way to execute this correctly.

Griffin: Don't think so.

Rachel: But it is almost a little utopia for me, because turning 18 very quickly feels like not anything special.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Because you can vote, but most often you're not able to vote right away. You can buy cigarettes, but a lot of you have already been smoking. [laughs]

Griffin: [snorts] Okay, that's not what I would've... said, at that part.

Rachel: I—I—I... I am just saying that the teenagers I knew that were excited about buying cigarettes had already been smoking, and the hurdle was now removed.

Griffin: Yeah, that's a fair point. I think for Huntington, there were so many bars there. So many of them did 18 plus nights that dedicated teen nightclub experiences like Club of David could not hang in that heat. Why on Earth would you go to Club David [laughs quietly] if you could go over to Stumblers' 2: Still Stumblin'. Hmm? I ask you of this. You don't know the answer.

Rachel: Was that an 18 and up also?

Griffin: They had an 18 and up night. There, Hot Corner. Everyone was at the Hot Corner.

Rachel: This is the thing, right? And this is what Disney was all about. Like, there are teens out there. We can make money off those teens. They have nowhere to go.

Griffin: Yes. Yes.

Rachel: Let's create a place for them, charge them \$5 to get in, and then \$5 for a soda, and bam, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. Meanwhile, I'm with my buddies having a LAN party, gratis!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Economically minded.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. Hmm.

Griffin: That's me.

Rachel: That's you.

Griffin: That's why I made the decisions I made... in college. Economics.

Rachel: Economics. [laughs]

Griffin: Not because I was ill-suited to the nightclub lifestyle.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Nah. I was watching my wallet, 'cause I had big dreams, of starting a podcast empire. Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break]

[music plays]

Dan: I'm Dan McCoy.

Stuart: I'm Stuart Wellington.

Elliott: I'm Elliott Kalan.

Dan: And together we are The Flop House, a long-running podcast on the Maximum Fun Network where we watch a bad movie and then talk about it.

Stuart: And because we're so long-running, maybe you haven't given us a chance. I get it. But you don't actually have to know anything about previous episodes to enjoy us, and I promise you that if you find our voices irritating, we grow endearing over time.

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Dan: Find The Flop House on Maximumfun.org, or wherever you get podcasts.

[music and ad end]

Palmira: Co-Optober continues in celebration of National Co-Op Month. I'm Palmira Muniz, producer, and a worker-owner at Max Fun.

Jesus: I'm Jesus Ambrosio, producer, and I'm also a worker-owner at Max Fun. This week is all about community.

Palmira: Of course, we couldn't be a co-op without the Max Fun community, and we love it whenever members of our audience get together, so we're having another Max Fun meetup this Thursday, October 12th.

Jesus: And next week we'll be hosting a panel discussion with other worker-owners across the co-op community.

Palmira: And we are still selling our limited edition launch crew merch, available to all Max Fun members.

Jesus: But only through the end of the month.

Palmira: For more info on meetup date and everything Co-Optober, head to Maximumfun.org/cooptober.

Jesus: That's C-O-O-P-T-O-B-E-R. Have a great week!

[music and ad end]

Griffin: "[singing] Are you ready for some Triscuits?" That's the segment I'm gonna do, is Triscuits. But I sang it in the football way.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh? This is how he, uh, asks my any question now. He just sings it along to the football song.

Griffin: If it's two syllables, yes, of course.

Rachel: And I get so excited.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Triscuits—uh, funny you should mention this. I was the one that brought Triscuits into our house.

Griffin: That's true.

Rachel: Because my friend was having a book club night, and she asked people if they could bring some snacks. And I thought, "What is a fancy snack cracker for a group of ladies discussing a book with wine?" And I thought, "Well, of course the Triscuit. It is the fanciest cracker there is."

Griffin: Let me tell you, a lot of people when they are at this junction, at this intersection, they look at Triscuits, but then they look over at some cracker brand that is very thin and maybe has, like, a dove imprinted on each cracker—

Rachel: Oh, like the water crackers or whatever?

Griffin: Like the water crackers. It's a brand you've never heard of before, and they are awful, flavorless. But everybody's like, "Well, these must be the fancy ones."

Fuck that, I say. Triscuits are the way to go exclusively from now on.

Rachel: I have never had a communion wafer.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Or any kind of wafer in a religious environment.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I imagine that's what they taste like?

Griffin: Pretty much, yeah.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Um, yeah. I mean, the different—different places do it different. Some places to a big loaf of bread you tear off. Growing up in Highlawn Baptist Church—

Rachel: [simultaneously] That's unreal.

Griffin: —it was basically just an unsalted oyster cracker that you got that was not...

Rachel: And, you know, it's not the cracker's fault.

Griffin: Not the cracker's fault, no, no, no.

Rachel: It's the body of Christ.

Griffin: Well, yeah. Well, depending on—again, different places have different sort of—

Rachel: Oh, right. It's not always the—okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Sometimes it's... what?

Griffin: The p—the power of Christ. Uh, or his essence.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Triscuits are the undisputed king of crackers, though, above communion wafers even.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: If my church had given out Triscuits instead of communion wafers, I would probably still be a practicing Southern Baptist. [wheeze-laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's all it would take, guys! I know y'all are trying to get me back in! Pack some Triscuits in there!

Rachel: I like thinking that there are, like, parishioners or whatever listening right now that just, like, paused their podcast and they yelled over their shoulder, "Quick, go get Triscuits."

Griffin: There's no—I mean, I will say this. I think you can probably get communion wafers for pretty cheap. Probably get 'em in bulk at Costco. If you did go up to a Triscuit per member of the congregation, first of all, word's gonna get out. You're gonna pack the house. You're gonna be stoked. But then your Triscuit overage is gonna be out of control.

Rachel: Yeah, it's true. Triscuits are not a cheap cracker.

Griffin: No they are not. But they are worth it. You get—every time when you bite into one of these salty baskets... it is a fucking delight. They are a toothsome cracker that have some r—there's, like, multiple—it's almost like lamination. Where there's, like, multiple crunch—

Rachel: Layers. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: —uh, instances with each bite. Um, if you've never—

Rachel: So salty.

Griffin: So fucking salty.

Rachel: Which is exactly what I want.

Griffin: Well, they make reduced sodium ones, but—and they're good. They are—they taste like a normal cracker. But the full salt... [laughs] Triscuits are, uh—I don't know. I'm a big man. I need a big flavor. That's all I can say.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, Triscuits are—if you've never had one, first of all, that's... bad. That's sad.

Rachel: I love the part of the show where we feel the need to explain what something is to our listener, as if—

Griffin: They're these wonderful little squares.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, about two inches across, made of layered webs of toasted shredded wheat.

Rachel: Is that how they describe it?

Griffin: Uh, that is—I mean, basically—no, that is not how they would describe it. I don't think anyone wants to eat a web. Um, but that is sort of how they make 'em. They smush up a bunch of wheat and water, and then they press it into these little fine, like, gauzy strips, and then they layer those on top of each other. Put a little bit of oil on there, a little bit of salt, dry 'em the fuck out. You got yourself a Triscuit, baby!

Uh, the crunch is out of control on these. They are also quite thick, these crackers, and so they are stable enough to hold whatever kind of toppin's that you might dream to put on them.

Rachel: Yeah, that's what I like about 'em.

Griffin: Are you just looking at pictures of Triscuits right now?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's okay if the answer is yes, like...

Rachel: [laughs] Well, I wanted to see how they bill themselves. Like, how do they describe—

Griffin: They call themselves the salty baskets that preachers love.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, I did see that the company that makes Triscuits also makes shredded wheat, which like...

Griffin: Okay, you're really getting ahead of me, babe! I never do this to you when you're like, "Today I'm gonna talk about the TV show Gargoyles," and then I hop in like, "[annoying voice] Uh, did you know... "

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Let me get on my phone."

Rachel: Yeah, I can't find—I can't find what Triscuit says. I was just curious how they describe their own product, because it is an unusual...

Griffin: There's one description I have in here that is very good that I will—that I will get to.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I'm sorry if I'm going too slow for you. I'm really trying to savor this experience, like one would a Triscuit cracker. Uh, so people have made some pretty remarkable innovations in the field of Triscuit topping innovation. Uh, this is one thing that—I would say Google image search Triscuit recipes or Triscuit toppings, and then just have a feast for the senses. A lot of cream cheese.

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: A lot of chives, smoked salmon, sun-dried tomatoes.

Rachel: Ugh.

Griffin: A little bruschetta. A little guacamole, some flank steak. Anything you can imagine. You can put it on a Triscuit, and it can fuckin' handle it, 'cause it's got the sort of latticework structure that will not bend to even a hearty sauce that you might put on there.

Um, let's talk flavors. Rachel mentioned, this is the fancy cracker. I agree. The flavors on these bad boys are not... pedestrian.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: There's no...

Rachel: There's no cool ranch Triscuit.

Griffin: There's no cool ranch, there's no barbecue-blasted. I'm talking about balsamic vinegar and basil, dill, sea salt, and olive oil, cracked pepper and olive oil, which is probably my all-time favorite. That one knocks my fuckin' socks off every time I eat it. So much flavor. So much boldness. Uh, smoked gouda! Roasted garlic, four cheese and herb, Parmesan garlic, and tzatziki.

Rachel: Whoa!

Griffin: They're all over the map with these!

Rachel: La-di-da! [laughs]

Griffin: But they're all—they're all quite fancy. "[hoarse voice?] Smoked gouda. Pass me the smoked gouda Triscuit." I don't know what that voice is. It's like The Godfather.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Triscuits are the cracker Godfather would eat.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, these are upscale flavors for an upscale cracker experience, and most of them are just so good. We just tore through a box of these cracked pepper and olive oil baddies in, like, what, a couple days?

Rachel: So flavorful.

Griffin: The boldness of these are just gonna drive you hog wild.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Triscuits were invented at the turn of the—I guess the last century. 1900 was the year. Let me take you back there. [laughs quietly] Come with me.

Uh, it entered production from the Shredded Wheat Company in 1903.

Rachel: Sorry I spoiled that for you.

Griffin: This was before the Shredded Wheat Company was acquired by Nabisco in 1928. The creator of Triscuits was a man named Henry D. Perky! Which is cool. And he witnessed a man at a Nebraska diner eating a bowl of boiled whole wheat, and he was just like, "This shit is so healthy, bro."

Rachel: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: And Henry D. Perky started to make shredded wheat inspired by that, and he called it, quote, "The most perfect food that was ever devised for the nourishment of man."

Which...

Rachel: Whoa!

Griffin: I mean, it's—I will say this. Crazy high in fiber. So much fiber in a Triscuit, so you're gonna get what you need there.

Rachel: Wait, are we still talking about shredded wheat, or Triscuits?

Griffin: They're... [whispering] The same shit. One is salty. Put salt on a shredded wheat cereal.

Rachel: [laughs quietly] I was just wondering if there was an innovation where he recognized that people were turning shredded wheat into a savory snack and thought—

Griffin: And he was like, "Stop that."

Rachel: Yeah. "I'm gonna do it now."

Griffin: Um, yeah. I would imagine that did happen. Or maybe somebody accidentally made frosted shredded wheats with salt. I actually don't know when frosted shredded wheats were invented. I don't think we had frosting technology in 1900?

Rachel: Well, and we're not here today to talk about shredded wheat.

Griffin: We're not. I—yeah. Can I say something? I love shredded wheat too. We never get it.

Rachel: I know, I do too!

Griffin: Let's get shredded wheat, please.

Rachel: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: The etymology of Triscuit is hotly debated... by cracker scholars.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, for a long time people assumed Tri was in reference to the—it was like a prefix for the three ingredients of Triscuits, which is—

Rachel: The three 'scuits.

Griffin: The tri 'scuits.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Tri 'scuits!

Rachel: The three 'scuits that make—

Griffin: The three holy 'scuits. The Father, the Son...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Okay. Um... no. It's wheat and oil and salt. Um, but this was very recently officially debunked by the official Triscuit Twitter account. Someone found an old advertisement for Trisquits from 1903, and this ad is a plate of Triscuits. Beautiful, just sun-kissed Triscuits.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Uh, and they are hanging over a beautiful backdrop of Niagara Falls, which is where the Shredded Wheat Company was based. And the Triscuit logo in this ad is stylized to look like cool lightning bolts, and it has the subtitle, "The electric baked biscuit, baked by electricity."

So the Tris in Triscuit is for...

Rachel: Whoaaa.

Griffin: ... electricity. Now, what the fuck does that mean?

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I don't know. Do they just run a live wire through a vat of...

Rachel: I mean, they probably just put it in an oven, right? [laughs quietly]

Griffin: An electric oven. I don't know. But they advertised it as, like, "We are the only food in the world being made with this method."

Rachel: "Our electric cracker."

Griffin: "Our electric cracker." Which, like, I love Triscuits. I probably would actually even eat them more if they were called electricity biscuits, 'cause that sounds, like, fun and cool. Um, I would... [sighs] I would give away

everything in this office for a box of cracked pepper and olive oil Triscuits right now. There's a lot of stuff in here.

Rachel: I am just wondering—[laughs quietly] I'm picturing almost, uh, like a Whiplash situation. Where they wanted to call it Electricity Biscuit, and they realized that was hard to say, and there was just a guy going like, "Faster."
"E-lectric biscuit."
"Faster."

Griffin: "Electric 'scuit."

Rachel: "Tri-biscuit."
"Faster." [laughs]

Griffin: That's just like—babe? I have chills right now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I feel like J.K. Simmons is in the room with me right now. "Not like that. [clapping] Nope. Drum better."

Rachel: That's what it was, basically.

Griffin: "You missed. You missed the drum with the stick. Try again. It's okay."

Rachel: Triscuit. Triscuit. Triscuit.

Griffin: "Triscuit. [clapping to syllables] Triscuit."
"You're free."

That's Triscuit, the electricity biscuit. Thank you for your service, Nabisco, and Henry D. Perky.

Uh, got some submissions from our friends at home. Izzy says:

"My small wonder is my pocket-sized travel espresso machine. It's powered by pressure built up from the operator pumping it by hand. I can bring it camping with a little jar of espresso grounds, boil some water, and then I have an espresso shot in the forest! It's magical. It's called the Nanopress."

Rachel: Whoaaa!

Griffin: I like that.

Rachel: I'm into that!

Griffin: I don't even, like, really mess with espresso that much, but I love gizmos and gadgets.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Inexplicably I think I did a segment on camping gear. I don't camp, but it's very exciting to have special tech, and that's very cool, Izzy. Hemlock says:

"My small wonder is finding the album you want at the used record store. Every time I go to a record store I look for the album Songs From the Wood by Jethro Tull. The other day I was looking through a box of used records at the store and was just about to mention I was looking for it when lo and behold, the next record I saw was it. Very satisfying."

Rachel: Oooh.

Griffin: We have been out of this game for a while.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But that is a nice moment.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I remember I was looking for a Judee Sill record, uh, and it was like my white whale. And they did I think, like, a few years ago re-print all those, so I have 'em now. But I found one of 'em before that and it was—it was great. It was probably my best find.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Um, you got me a copy of the Superbowl Shuffle on vinyl as a present when I moved to Austin, which really cemented—

Rachel: You were moving from Chicago.

Griffin: Right, right, right, right.

Rachel: And I wanted you to be able to take it with you.

Griffin: You know, I was huge fan of those... Bears!

Rachel: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Griffin: 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 to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to Maximumfun.org, check out all the great shows there. You're gonna find one that you are gonna be super, super into.

I am going to be doing shows with my brothers at Philadelphia and New York Comic Con. You should come and see us. Philly, this Wednesday. New York, we're gonna be there Thursday doing Adventure Zone with Aabria Iyengar. Uh, just announced, very exciting, filling in for our dad who is sadly not going to be able to make it.

And then on Friday we're gonna be doing My Brother, My Brother, and Me, and Jonathon Coulton is gonna open for us. Uh, which is also very, very exciting. It's gonna be a hell of a time. Go to mcelroy.family and just... have fun, uh, there. There's a lot of fun links.

I'm so—I've done so much recording today.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I don't know if you can hear me running out of gas in the—in the—

Rachel: I can. You've slowed down considerably.

Griffin: Can you take us home? Take us to the bridge?

Rachel: Uh, thank you Maximum Fun for having us on the network.

Griffin: [quietly] I did that—I did do that one.

Rachel: Did you say that?

Griffin: [quietly] I did.

Rachel: Okay. So, what is taking home, then? Just [crosstalk]—

Griffin: Just say, like—you know how we leave people with, like, a-

Rachel: Like a thing, and...

Griffin: Like a joke?

Rachel: ... yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like a joke? [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Oh, god! Um... uhh...

Griffin: Why don't you come up with another, better name for Triscuits?

Rachel: Oh, okay. Uh, I mean, salty baskets.

Griffin: Yeah. We have to shorten it, though, in the style of electricity biscuit.

Rachel: Saltskets. Oh, that's the same thing, basically.

[pause]

Griffin: Yeah. Nah, that wasn't any—it.

Rachel: [laughs] Um...

Griffin: Basalt. Nope, that's, uh—

Rachel: No, that's a thing. That's a thing. Alright, if it's not a basket, it's a... kind of like a—like a doormat? Like a rug for the front door?

Griffin: That's good.

Rachel: So maybe like a, a... like a... like a matsnack.

Griffin: Matsnack! That's it. Bye!

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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