

Wonderful! 305: Corn Coat's Poppin' Off

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: I forgot how we start the show. Do I just introduce myself?

Griffin: Hi— Yeah, wow. Did we do it last week?

Rachel: We did.

Griffin: We did do it last week. It's not even like we missed it.

Rachel: We did, we were late, I think, too, so it was more recent than typical.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You usually start off with, like, an energy that's pretty aggressive, like, ""Hey skanks, it's me, Rachel." So go ahead and just try that.

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: [whispering] Say, "Hi, skanks, it's me, Rachel." Hi, it's Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: This is a show where we talk about things that we like, that we're into, and is good. Um... The show is—

Rachel: You see, we're both having a little trouble.

Griffin: The show is good, yeah, no, for sure. Um... We are so excited to join you all today and to have you all join us in the studio.

Rachel: I feel like we're opening a sermon right now.

Griffin: If you turn your hymnals to 420.

Rachel: Say hi to your neighbor.

Griffin: Say hi to your neighbor and shake their hand and...

Rachel: I haven't been to a lot of services, but I know that that's part of it.

Griffin: It is part of it is that there is a sort of... It was always my least favorite part of attending church.

Rachel: Touching somebody else's sweaty hand?

Griffin: Yeah, there was a sort of prescribed touch moment in the program. Whereas like, you know, we're gonna show up, do a few prayers, sing a song, now touch your neighbor in every direction, in all eight cardinal directions. Anyway, we're so happy to have you here and let's just get— Can we just cut out the BS?

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: Can we be serious now? To quote my favorite movie I've never seen, Sully, and do a small wonder, please?

Rachel: Okay. Peppermint Bark?

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I think that's what I'm gonna go with.

Griffin: I mean, enough said. It is chocolate with peppermint in it.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: You brought home a big old bag of Ghirardelli beauties and you were like, ""Do you like peppermint bark?" And I was like, ""Not really." And then I ate some and I was like, ""Wait a minute, yes."

Rachel: For me, it's not just the flavor, it's like the textural piece. Like there are like hunks of candy cane in it.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So you're, like, enjoying this kind of fun, like soft, crunchy experience, um...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it just looks very festive.

Griffin: It does. You know, I prefer it to a straight up and down candy cane.

Rachel: Me too.

Griffin: I don't love, that's a lot of peppermint that you are sort of consigning yourself to.

Rachel: It feels like from a different era, right?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Like it's, like, this is before we knew how to make a lollipop that tasted like watermelon.

Griffin: Yeah, it's like how you go to a lot of sort of like roadside stops, like gas stations in West Virginia and they'll just be selling like little sticks of honey. And it's like, it's not 1941 anymore.

Rachel: [laughing] I know.

Griffin: We have such better snacks now.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Um... I'm gonna say Coach Craig Berube, formerly of the St. Louis Blues, released from his contract today.

Rachel: Why is that a wonder?

Griffin: It's not good that he got fired, but I will miss this man a whole lot.

Rachel: Yeah, me too.

Griffin: Bummer, I would say a bummer time to be a St. Louis Blues fan at the moment. We— Over the off season, we lost a lot of our faves, including our announcer, Panger, got traded off to the Chicago Blackhawks.

Rachel: East Chicago. Yeah, Chicago got a lot of good things out of their terrible season.

Griffin: A lot of great things, including our favorite announcer, Panger, and then we lost Craig Berubi and... No one's quite sure what old GM Doug Armstrong's doing up there in the booth, making some questionable decisions.

Rachel: Yeah. They do, as of last night, officially have a losing season and they had lost the last four games in a row.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But nobody really felt like it was the coach's fault because he is the one that got us a Stanley Cup.

Griffin: Yeah, not four years ago, in the grand scheme of things in pretty much any sport, that's not a long enough time, I think, to go without, I don't know. They didn't make the playoffs last year.

The reasoning for it makes no sense to me, but it is a strange occurrence to see something like this happen where it's just, like, in the dead of night at

11 o'clock they just cut his contract. And every single reaction I've read to it has been, ""What the fuck are they doing? Like what are they doing?"

Rachel: I know. I know, it's got to be an incredibly unpopular choice. I don't know how they're gonna recover from it.

Griffin: Yeah, me neither. So. It's a bummer day, but I did just wanna give a shout out.

Rachel: Shout out to Berube.

Griffin: Just a big fucking tough son of a gun.

Rachel: Yeah, one of those coaches that, like, his only emotion is like, uh, stoicism.

Griffin: Stoicism or disappointment. Like, stoicism is good. Like if you're getting stoic, he's proud of you.

Rachel: Yeah. But the time he spends, like, that's why I think we love him so much, is you hear about all these conversations he's having individually with the players.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And the things that he says about them are so like, you know, ""We're working on this, and I really believe in that, and I think if he keeps doing this," like he just seems like a real players guy.

Griffin: A real— Yeah. I will say I started watching Blues hockey in like 2016, 2017, which was, you know, they were doing pretty good then and then they won the Stanley Cup in 2019, I always felt like a feeling of bandwagoniness a bit.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Because they had a long, long time where they did not win the Stanley Cup.

Rachel: Yeah, which was their entire run.

Griffin: Their entire legacy. I know you and, like, your dad were just sort of riding out through that, and I always felt a little bit of imposter syndrome being like, ""Did I just come on because this is a good hockey team?" But now that things are starting to fall apart, I feel like, ""Okay, this is when I can really prove my loyalty to these beautiful Blues."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You go first this week, what have you got?

Rachel: I do. This week I wanted to talk about fur that is fake, and that is faux fur.

Griffin: Faux fur? Okay.

Rachel: Faux fur. I wanted to say it, what I was talking about, so that you didn't think I was talking about some kind of weird app that was called fofer.

Griffin: Or it sounds like a person. If you would say like, welcome to the poetry corner, my poet this week is...

Rachel: Is Fofer.

Griffin: ... Jim Fofer.

Rachel: Yeah, uh-huh.

Griffin: Then I would have been like, okay, cool. Tell me more about Jim Fofer.

Rachel: I was thinking about this because we have a gray blanket in our house that is a hot commodity.

Griffin: Yes. Would you call that faux fur?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: 100%.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: If you go to this company's website, which I'm not going to name because they're not paying us to talk about them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Uh... That's—

Griffin: Blankets.gov.

Rachel: That's. Have you heard about the new minister of blankets, by the way. Oh, my God.

Griffin: Yeah, scandalous.

Rachel: These clowns. [laughs]

Griffin: Scandalous choice.

Rachel: Yeah, it's very soft. It's very cozy.

Griffin: I love you took this instantly in a direction away from fashion and instead just talk about how a blanket made of fake fur is good.

Rachel: It's comfy.

Griffin: It feels good. Yeah. Sure.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, I actually, I'm not, see— I could say that I don't wear any kind of fur for some specific reason, but I'm just not generally a flashy dresser.

Griffin: It's wild, yeah. It's not something I understand. The fur movement of just wearing it for fashion, I understand people's dislike of that from moral grounds. Mine, if I'm being 100% transparent, is mostly from aesthetic grounds. I think it's fucking wild to walk around in a big furry coat.

Rachel: I know. I know.

Griffin: But you know, you do you, but don't, like, do it fake, cause it's the same.

Rachel: Much like the candy cane, this is a different era.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah.

Rachel: Um... I did, I bought the boys little faux fur winter hats recently too.

Griffin: Oh yeah, you did, yeah.

Rachel: I know that it's hard to think of that stuff as faux fur, because it doesn't really, like, you know, it doesn't look like a rabbit or whatever.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: But that, I mean, that is what it is trying to model with its, like, softness and in appearance.

Griffin: Yeah, I get that, I get that.

Rachel: Um... Yeah, it just, especially in the wintertime, it just feels like a little nice cozy choice.

Griffin: It does, yeah.

Rachel: Faux fur has come a long way. I was researching what it is, because like, if I had to ask you like, what is it made out of? Like, what would you?

Griffin: Wool? And that's... they sort of make super soft and hair, hairy.

Rachel: [laughs] Hairy. Uh, a lot of it is like acrylic and polyester fibers.

Griffin: Polyester fibers, yeah. That was my next thing. If it wasn't wool, it was probably acrylic and polyester fibers.

Rachel: Which of course is like an oil-based kind of thing. Like, I really learned a lot about kind of where we have come. So in the '60s and '70s, there was kind of a move away from wearing animal fur.

And this is where you really kind of saw the rise of faux fur. So faux fur, like anything else that is made from, like, polyester or acrylics is not exactly environmentally friendly.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: So there has been some focus recently that I found pretty fascinating. Before I get to that, I wanna talk about specifically the blanket we have downstairs because I looked it up and it is made from 100% faux chinchilla polyester.

Griffin: Faux chinchilla polyester.

Rachel: Yes, mm-hmm. This company also has other garments, one made from faux sherpa polyester.

Griffin: Okay, that's wild that we can specify the type of polyester animal simulation to that degree of granularity.

Rachel: Yeah, it's all about kind of, like, the stitching process, the way the fibers are sewn into the backing, what chemicals are applied...

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: ... to kind of give different textures and then like, whether it's made smoother or shinier with the chemicals like silicones or resins, like there's a lot that's involved in creating different types of faux fur.

Griffin: Okay, I understand now.

Rachel: Yeah. So what I wanted to talk about is this new movement I found about plant-based fur.

Griffin: Sure. I've touched a furry plant.

Rachel: Yeah, well, the little lambs' ear.

Griffin: Lambs' ear, yeah.

Rachel: That's a furry plant.

Griffin: That's what I was thinking of. I couldn't name a second one. I couldn't name that one.

Rachel: [laughs] I mean, moss is kind of furry.

Griffin: Moss, normalize wearing moss like some sort of hedge wizard. I like that shit a lot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's the future. That's the next Met Gala is people just coming out dressed up like fucking Tom Bombadil.

Rachel: [laughs] So there is a Paris-based faux fur institute and they are leading these like competitions, one called Open Fur, which is a contest that challenges designers to develop sustainable fur using vegetable base and synthetic fibers. This kind of became... really big in 2020, Stella McCartney, who is, you know, like, this huge designer that most people have heard of...

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: ... launched a new material called Koba, which—

Griffin: Koba!

Rachel: [laughing] Which features 37% plant-based materials, including a polyester blended with corn.

Griffin: With corn?

Rachel: With corn, like, a corn byproduct.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: A lot of what I've seen in this, what is also called bio-fur space, uh, it relates to corn. There's corn involved in some way.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: It's difficult, I think, just for wearability and long-term use to do a fully bio-focused fur, but that effort does exist. So a lot of what people are focusing now are recycled materials.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: How do you reuse plastics and polyesters so that it at least is doing less damage, less impact.

Griffin: I get it, you wear your corn coat out on a hot day...

Rachel: [laughs] It just starts popping.

Griffin: It starts popping.

Rachel: It just starts popping off.

Griffin: That's actually— I've just imagined, like, fashion week, a runway show, you know, some America's Next Top Model walks down the runway...

Rachel: Yes!

Griffin: ... reaches the end, and then just, what's that? [imitates popping popcorn]

Rachel: So dramatic.

Griffin: So dramatic, the clothes turn into popcorn.

Rachel: And then everybody just, like, scoops a little bit off the runway and eats it?

Griffin: And eats it! That's huge.

Rachel: That's huge. That's something Griffin.

Griffin: There is something there. That is at the very least like a RuPaul's Drag Race finals transformation moment.

Rachel: Yes, and more dependable than, say, releasing butterflies.

Griffin: Oh, come on.

Rachel: So that's faux fur. It's really interesting to kind of follow. I mean, a lot of it just started with like yarn, you know, like back in the '60s and before it was just, like, how do you— How do you make a yarn in a weave that looks more like fur and now we've— Now we're wearing corn.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That's remarkable.

Griffin: That is amazing.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I just love how you're approaching this not from a here's a cool way for me to get my fur fix...

Rachel: No—

Griffin: ... as much as it is just like, I love this soft stuff in the winter time.

Rachel: I love a soft blanket. I mean, what I could have done as a topic is just soft blankets, but I don't know what I say about that.

Griffin: Yeah, no, I know.

Rachel: So it seems, faux fur seemed to be the best way to go. But I guess ultimately what I am saying is I like a soft blanket.

Griffin: Okay, all right. You really got down to the heart of the matter.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break]

Sequoia: If you're Black, you probably love you some Paramore, huh? Or what about the TV show Golden Girls? Ginger ale? Daytime television? Don't lie, I know you love at least one of them. I'm Sequoia Holmes, pop-culturist and host of Black People Love Paramore.

Contrary to the title, it is not a podcast about the band Paramore. Each episode, I, along with the special guest co-host, dissect one pop culture topic that mainstream media doesn't necessarily associate with Black people, but we know we like.

Tune in every other Thursday to the podcast that's dedicated to helping Black people feel more seen. Black People Love Paramore is now on the Maximum Fun Network. Check out the most recent episode featuring Char Giselle today!

Griffin: Throughout history, sirens have captured men's attention, enticed men with their feminine wiles, and fulfilled men's primal needs. The sirens allure persists—

Travis: They have not. Unless the primal need is I need to be smashed on the rocks.

Griffin: [laughing] Yeah, smash me.

Travis: Smash me, mommy.

Griffin: Smash me, mama.

Justin: Smash me, mommy! [everybody laughs]

Griffin: The siren's allure—

Travis: Why do we do this to ourselves?

Justin: Strand me baby, strand me, mom!

Travis: Strand me, baby!

Justin: So yeah, listen to My Brother, My Brother and Me from Maximum Fun on Mondays. It's just like... that. Just like that but more— Just like that but more of it. There's just more of that.

[ad break ends]

Griffin: You ready?

Rachel: I think so.

Griffin: The Mothman.

Rachel: Oh, have you not talked about—

Griffin: Never.

Rachel: This is something, and I don't know if you're aware of this, but I would say most people in the country are not familiar with the Mothman.

Griffin: I would say that a lot of people in the country have heard of the Mothman, but do not know about the Mothman mythos.

Rachel: I was not at all familiar.

Griffin: You hadn't even heard of the Mothman?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Oh wow, okay, maybe this is not as big of a thing. Well, I will also say you don't... Maybe you're not super well-versed in the cryptid space in general.

Rachel: No, I don't spend a lot of time in that area. Like, you know, I've heard of the big ones. I've heard of, for example, Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, like...

Griffin: Chupacabra, Jersey Devil.

Rachel: I don't know Jersey Devil.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: Other than it's a hockey team.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, that's basically what— Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, the Mothman, I love the Mothman. It is a point of pride for literally everyone I grew up with in West Virginia that we have our own cryptid of some notoriety in the Mothman.

And personally speaking, I think the Mothman is one of the cooler, like,

cryptids. Sightings have pegged the Mothman as a roughly seven foot tall humanoid creature with great white wings...

Rachel: Oh, okay..

Griffin: ... and big shining red eyes.

Rachel: Okay, I actually, like, I don't know a lot about what specifically is pegged as Mothman traits.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So that's helpful.

Griffin: It gets a little bit confusing. I'm gonna try and, like, provide as cogent of a sort of, like, background on the Mothman mythos. Because that is a fucking rad aesthetic, if you ask me. What is surprising is just how sort of, like, insubstantial the origins of the Mothman are.

So the Mothman mythos hails from Point Pleasant, West Virginia, which is just up the river from Huntington. Uh, and Point Pleasant really revels in its Mothman history. Starting in 2002, they started to host an annual Mothman festival...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... that lots of people come to. In 2003, they erected a 12-foot tall metal sculpture of the Mothman, like, in the middle of town.

Rachel: Wild.

Griffin: That is pretty fucking sick, if I'm being honest.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: So this is the history of the Mothman. November 1966, there were a pair of young couples from Point Pleasant just kind of cruising around. And they were driving past an old World War II munitions plant when they

spotted a giant winged red-eyed creature. And they got scared, and it chased them off and screeched at them as they drove off. And apparently, they drove off and went right to the press...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... because the very next day, the Point Pleasant Register ran the headline, Couples See Man-Sized Bird, dot, dot, dot, creature, dot, dot, dot something. That's a good headline if you ask me.

Rachel: [laughs] This is a real stop the presses moment. Like, I picture them bursting into the newsroom and being like, ""Whatever you were gonna run tomorrow, throw it away."

Griffin: It's like the newsroom, you get, like, the red AP news alert, like, "Guys..."

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: "Big news coming in from Point Pleasant.

Rachel: Breaking— Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It did sort of make national headlines a little bit. Not a whole ton. Around this time, the Batman TV show with Adam West was very popular, so that is, as far as people can tell, kind of where "Mothman" comes from...

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: ... and not just Big Moth. I'm gonna read here from the Wikipedia article that sort of explains the most likely situation that happened here.

"Wildlife biologist Robert L. Smith at West Virginia University told reporters that descriptions and sightings all fit the Sandhill Crane, a large American crane almost as tall as a man with a seven foot wingspan featuring circles of reddish coloring around the eyes."

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: "The bird may have wandered out of its migration route and therefore was unrecognized at first because it was not native to this region."

Rachel: Wow, you don't hear that a lot. Like... I mean, maybe you do. I don't, obviously I'm not an expert, but, like, Bigfoot, everyone's like, "Yeah, I don't know. Like, I don't know how that happened."

Griffin: Well, Bigfoot, you could probably just say— There's a lot of— I mean, bear or just a big guy.

Rachel: Big furry guys.

Griffin: A big furry guy, right?

Rachel: Yeah, okay. But that description of that bird is like, ""Yeah, no, that's exactly what they said they saw."

Griffin: I don't like that... I don't like that this bird exists. I'll say that right now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't love the fact that— I don't love ostrich or a tall flamingo. I don't like— Or emu, I don't like when a bird is bigger than me. Um...

Rachel: Okay, that seems fair.

Griffin: That's scary. I think that is sort of a deep, you know, deep in my bones, genetic kind of dinosaur survival because you know, humans and dinosaurs walked the earth at the same time and that they...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... the humans were so scared of dinosaurs, had to find them off with a big club...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ...eat them like a big steak...

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... at a movie theater.

Rachel: And the side of their car falls over.

Griffin: A side of their car falls over from how heavy the steak is, yes. So I think that that's still in my bones.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And when I see a big bird, I'm like, my great, great, great, great grandpa saw a velociraptor, you know, and Bob's your uncle.

Rachel: [laughs] It's a great history lesson we just gave there.

Griffin: Yes, so where things in the Mothman myth— There's some more sightings that come out after that because, you know, it's in the newspaper and now more people are seeing the Mothman, uh, where things kind of take a turn for the bizarre is in the following year, the Silver Bridge, which was this big suspension bridge that connected Point Pleasant and Gallipolis, Ohio, just across the river, collapsed, killing 46 people. It was a huge tragedy.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: And it resulted in the establishment of the nation's first, like, national bridge inspection program...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... uh, because it is one of, sort of, the most fatal accidents like this... [crosstalk]

Rachel: And thank God that exists.

Griffin: Yeah, fuck yeah.

Rachel: There's not a time where I drive over a bridge and I'm not like, ""This doesn't seem safe." So, it makes me feel good to at least think somebody is in charge of that.

Griffin: Right, and that person is the Mothman. So given the proximity of these two events, big sort of national stories that happened in an otherwise pretty small town of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, they started to kind of be connected, right?

Rachel: Oh, my god.

Griffin: The most notable connector of these two events was an author named John Keel who in 1975 wrote *The Mothman Prophecies*, which is a pseudo investigative look into the Mothman and also aliens and also psychic alien telepathy powers and also prophecies.

It is a profoundly wild ride that in 2002 they made a movie out of starring Richard Gere called *The Mothman Prophecies*. And let me tell you, when this flick came out in West Virginia, it was a big fucking deal.

Rachel: This is like *We Are Marshall* all over again.

Griffin: *We Are Marshall* was a bigger deal by several magnitudes.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But when this came out in 2002, this was, like, everybody in Huntington was talking about it.

Rachel: So you remember this, like...?

Griffin: I remember seeing it in theaters. I was— I was, uh... I guess...

Rachel: You would have been a young—

Griffin: 15, 16 years old?

Rachel: Yeah, I guess, yeah, okay.

Griffin: And it was pretty scary stuff, man. I mean, it features a bridge collapse killing many people at the end of the film. It was scary stuff.

Rachel: So, what is the hypothesis here, that the Mothman broke the bridge?

Griffin: The basic— No. So, this is important. This is important to say.

Rachel: [laughing] Okay, okay.

Griffin: The Mothman is basically— The mythos, as summarized. The Mothman is a herald of tragedy. That Mothman, much like the Silver Surfer approaches planets pre-Galactus like, "Hey, straight up, it's about to get bad..."

Rachel: So it wasn't, like, him with big bolt cutters, they thought, like, he had sabotaged.

Griffin: No, he's not fucking Dennis the Menace...

Rachel: [laughs] Okay, okay.

Griffin: ... causing national bridge accidents.

Rachel: You understand though how, like, that would make more sense to me than the idea that he is a prophecy.

Griffin: This is what's cooler to me about— And this is what I like about the Mothman mythos is that he is not some monster going around fucking killing people indiscriminately.

Rachel: He's foretelling upcoming events.

Griffin: He is foretelling upcoming events.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: So the basic premise of Keel's book is that the Mothman is an alien with psychic powers who arrived in Point Pleasant, has appeared all over the Earth and done these sorts of foretellings in the past, but granted many people living in Point Pleasant visions of the future.

Rachel: Early Edition.

Griffin: Early Edition style. There is a similar bit of mythology that gets folded in here of a UFO sighting that happened, like, two weeks before the Mothman hit the scene in a town called Mineral Wells, West Virginia, where this guy just driving his truck down the road encountered a flying saucer and a humanlike entity calling itself Indrid Cold approached this guy and just kind of shot the shit for, like, ten minutes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And how these two are associated is somewhat undetermined, right?

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: But given, again, the proximity of these two events, there's people who are like, well, Indrid Cold is the physical manifestation of the Mothman.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: They're both aliens, et cetera, et cetera. But that is the big distinction I think between this and a lot of other, like, uh, a lot of other cryptids...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... is that the Mothman will hit you up and say like, "Hey, stay frosty out there, maybe avoid this bridge on this specific date in 1967, and I will catch you on the flip side." That is very cool to me.

Rachel: That really appeals to me as, like, a Quantum Leap enthusiast that the Mothman is just going around trying to put right what would potentially eventually go wrong. [laughs]

Griffin: Right. And he is also, worth noting, a flying red-eyed giant. Like, there's so much about the aesthetic of the Mothman...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... that I think kicks complete ass. And I just, I love how much Point Pleasant has invested into this story and how much ownership sort of West Virginians feel about this, about this cryptid who, yeah, not Bigfoot, not one of the big heavy hitters.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: But I think if you give the Mothman a chance then you'll fall deeply in love just as much as I have. And feature him in your actual play podcast one day. And yeah, uh, yeah.

Rachel: Is this an actual play podcast?

Griffin: No, I mean, the Indrid Cold was a character in Amnesty. The Mothman was a character in Amnesty.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: So I tried sort of to tie those two together.

Rachel: I see.

Griffin: I just like the Mothman.

Rachel: Yeah, no, good guy.

Griffin: Do you wanna know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Colette says, "My small wonder is when on rare evenings, the moon comes up just looking enormous. I'm talking vast, like, several times larger than it usually does. I've never understood why that happens sometimes. What splendor!"

Rachel: Mm... I wish I could answer that. I'm sure there's a very clear—

Griffin: I can answer it.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: This is an illusion. The moon is the same size.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: When the moon is full and it does hit your eye like a big pizza pie...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... that is amore. It is also an illusion because if the moon is big, If the moon, sorry, if the moon is full and near the horizon, it seems huge. But if it's higher in the sky, your eye doesn't have as many things to compare it to. And then it looks small. That's all it is.

Rachel: Wow, thank you.

Griffin: You're welcome. I just, I ruined things for Colette, I worry.

Rachel: But it's still pretty.

Griffin: It's still cool. Yeah, it's still cool. I do like that too. I feel like it is something I note 100% of the time. If there's a full moon and we are outside and see the full moon, 100% of the time I'll be like, ""Look at that big, beautiful moon.""

Rachel: I feel like that would really warm the hearts of people in the past who can't fathom the amount of technology we have. But to know that

people still talk about the moon?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That would be nice to know.

Griffin: We love moon. I mean, a lot of people—

Rachel: Like, look at that sunset. We still talk about the sunset all the time.

Griffin: We still talk about the sunset. The moon doesn't get as much credit as the sun does. This is my TED Talk.

Rachel: You're just opening a whole new... [laughing] A whole new topic.

Griffin: Things I'm into, Mothman, the moon. Crystals, baby, who knows?

Rachel: Who knows?

Griffin: We'll talk about it next time. Thank you so much for listening to the show. Please send us your small wonders at wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. We— Things have been slowing down there and that's our own damn fault for not plugging that email address.

Rachel: Just a few sentences.

Griffin: Just a couple sentences, one to two sentences please, of something that you're into.

Rachel: Just, "Moon is good, I like it."

Griffin: Moon is good. Big moon, good, why? I don't know, I like it though.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you 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. Um...

Rachel: Thank you, Maximum Fun.

Griffin: Oh yeah, I mean, yeah, of course. Thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to MaximumFun.org, check out all the great shows there. And while you have your internet browser open, go to bit.ly/Candlenights2023 and secure a ticket for our streaming spectacular. We have a pre-taped Candlenights Holiday Special for you that has so much stuff in it.

Rachel: You're gonna witness a real performance on my part.

Griffin: You're gonna witness some interpretive dance on my wife, Rachel McElroy's part...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... that must be seen to be believed. It is amazing. I fell in love all over again.

Rachel: Aw, thanks.

Griffin: You can get a ticket. It's, uh, just ten bucks and all proceeds go to an organization in Huntington called Harmony House, which goes to help people experiencing homelessness.

It's an incredible organization that we've been working with for a very long time now. And this special is very, I mean, special to us and we work really hard on it and it is genuinely touching every year to see how many people come out.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So again, bit.ly/Candlenights2023. It's this Saturday. September—September? Jesus Christ.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: This Saturday, December the 16th at 9 PM Eastern Time. Come watch it, gather around.

Rachel: Who's to say Candenights can't happen multiple times a year? You know, you guys made the rules. I think it's possible.

Griffin: It does take a long time to make this.

Rachel: True. That's fair.

Griffin: So I think we say that it can't, but it will be available for video on demand for a couple weeks afterwards too, if you're not able to make it that Saturday night.

Rachel: If you're somebody that does things on Saturday night.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Like a person— Like a cool guy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, that's it. Thank you so much for listening. We'll be back next— Will we be back? We will be back next week. Probably the week after that we will take off.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Because our kids will be home and we're just gonna be wilding out, playing with all our new toys and stuff. But next week we'll be back and we'll talk to you then. And thank you and have a good week and weekend.

Rachel: Go look at the moon.

Griffin: Go look at the moon right now. Well, actually, I don't know. It may be waning.

Rachel: Later, when you have a chance, look at the moon.

Griffin: Yeah, when you hear people talking about how big and nice the

moon is, take a moment for the moon. Consider the moon, please.

Rachel: That should be our signature sign off now.

Griffin: Consider the moon.

Rachel: Consider the moon.

Griffin: I'm not sure what that means.

Rachel: It doesn't have to mean anything. [laughs]

Griffin: It does sometimes, kind of, yeah.

[theme music plays]

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