

Wonderful! 205: The Power of Bruce

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Rachel:

Hello, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin:

Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel:

And this is Wonderful.

Griffin:

It is. And you know what's the most wonderful thing about it?

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Is we didn't have to come up with things that we like for this episode of Wonderful.

Rachel:

We could stop liking things

Griffin:

We could stop liking ex—

Rachel:

For one day.

Griffin:

For a single week. Oh, to just luxuriate in the things we already know we like.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Oh, the comfort of it, because this week, uh, we are doing an 'oops, all listeners submissions' episode.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Which, if you're a new listener to the show, by which I mean you've listened only for the last maybe year and a half, we used to do, uh, listener submissions. We used to talk about what the people at home were talking about. What they liked. But then um, we had eight kids.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And so we lost the email login for a considerable amount of time.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, and we encouraged you to send some in last week, and guess what, you did. So we're gonna talk about them. We're gonna talk about—

Rachel:

Should we still have a small wonder though? I feel like it's only fair.

Griffin:

We should. We should. Yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I mean, I'm gonna take what is probably the most likely one and say, uh, Tick Tick Boom coming out on Netflix.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

This Friday, I believe. Couple days after this episode comes out, Rachel and I had a [laughs] very exclusive opportunity to uh, see the film early.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

And uh, it fucking rules.

Rachel:

Yeah. It, if you are somebody that loves musicals, I mean, it isn't just like, "Oh, I love Jonathon Larson." It's like, I you love musicals.

Griffin:

If you even kind of like musicals.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You will really enjoy it.

Rachel:

If you've maybe dated somebody at one point that was in a musical.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Like, you are gonna watch this and you're gonna be like, "Oh, my gosh what a, what a tribute.

Griffin:

And my man Spiders-Man gets rave reviews from me.

Rachel:

Andrew Garfield.

Griffin:

The funniest name for a person.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Um, yeah, he's exquisite. I don't know, Vanessa Hudgens you know, she's always got like, locking it down. Like, she's always got it. But Andrew Garfield surprised me.

Rachel:

I thought of a, I thought of a, a like, a review I could give.

Griffin:

Oh yeah, let's hear it.

Rachel:

This man may hate Mondays, but you know what he doesn't hate?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

A good performance.

Griffin:

Oh, that's so good. That's really good, honey.

Rachel:

[laughs] Thank you.

Griffin:

Yeah, I wonder if people ever tell him that his last name is like a, the cat—

Rachel:

Yeah, probably.

Griffin:

Everybody thinks it's so fucking funny. All right, what's your small?

Rachel:

I am gonna say, oh gosh, we've probably said this. This is embarrassing. The moving walkway in the airport?

Griffin:

Yeah, I think we've talked about it. It's fun. Folks, it's just fun.

Rachel:

There's, there's the satisfaction because when you're running late for a flight and you know this will give me one extra second.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

You are so grateful for that.

Griffin:

Well, and it also feels like you turn into Sonic the hedgehog for a second.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's like, turbo mode.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Look at, look at these people not using the moving walkway. Why not go turbo mode?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, all right. You ready to kick it off?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

You have the list also.

Rachel:

I do.

Griffin:

But we can bounce back and forth.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Uh, Jen says, "My small wonder is the satisfaction after you do a home improvement project. My husband and I just bought a house, and I've painted, spackled, removed carpet, changed electrical outlets, and so much more already. It's so satisfying to be able to fix something in your own home and actually get it right." Yeah. Yeah. I don't know that I've done anything as ambitious as ... Well, I've painted. I've never spackled. Removed carpet, I would be afraid to do.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

'Cause what if there's mold under there? I'm always ... If I'm changing a light bulb I'm like, on my guard for like, is there mold in this?

Rachel:

There's just like a nest of insects will come out.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That might just be our little fun [laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Surprise bag of a house that we live in.

Rachel:

You've put up a good shelf, though.

Griffin:

I've hung many shelves. That doesn't even-

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

I feel like screwing something into a wall doesn't necessarily count. I did soundproof my old office at the house we used to live at. Like, I got all that foam core stuff.

Rachel:

Oh yeah.

Griffin:

And got it in like, very neat squares, and then you know, pasted it all onto a big sheet of cardboard that I could just move around the room wherever I needed it. I was very proud.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

That's more of an invention.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Wouldn't you say?

Rachel:

Uh-huh. You have removed a bathroom faucet fixture.

Griffin:

Yeah, that I couldn't replac—

Rachel:

Yeah, it wasn't really—

Griffin:

I feel like you lose—

Rachel:

Fixing, but—

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

It, you know, there was household work involved.

Griffin:

True. True.

Rachel:

Oh you, you've added shelves.

Griffin:

It doesn't count.

Rachel:

Not just ... [laughs] Not just hung a shelf on the wall, but put a shelf in a closet area.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

To make it more of a pantry.

Griffin:

That's true, I did do that.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, I installed a bidet once. That's, that's one I can really hang my hat on.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

It's no longer functional, but ...

Rachel:

[laughs] Wow, we are not, we are not really good at this, huh?

Griffin:

No, I yeah, I mean, neither of us is particularly a Tim the tool man. But uh...

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

You know, we do our, we do our best.

Rachel:

Well, I think for, for me, I just operate on a low level of fear every day. And house proj—

Griffin:

End of, end of thought.

Rachel:

End of sentence. [laughs] And a house project, I feel like you have to enter with a fair amount of confidence.

Griffin:

Right.

Rachel:

Of a like, "I watched a video, I can do this."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, and, and I just think, yeah, but what is the video not showing you?

Griffin:

Oh yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs] You know?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

We need to get handier. Why didn't we do, I don't know, handy, handy class?

Rachel:

I need, you know what, like a video doesn't work for me because I need somebody to be like, "And then these are my credentials. And here are my references."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

"And here's an example of some of the projects I've done. Okay, now unscrew..." And I'm like, onboard. I'm like, okay I will unscrew.

Griffin:

Yeah. We have a friend's dad whose name is Bruce. And you hear that name and you're like, "This person knows shit."

Rachel:

This guy knows, yeah.

Griffin:

About building stuff.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

And like, I went to a friend's house, and Bruce was there. And he was like, "Let's go install a deck." And I was like, "Look at me."

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Look at me. But then we did it. Like, we built a deck.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

And I was like, what the ... How the fuck did I do that? It was the power of Bruce.

Rachel:

Yeah. [laughs] Yeah, I... I don't know. It's a skill that I envy. Um, like, for example those people that like buy— go out and buy a ceiling fan and they're like, "I'm gonna hang this ceiling fan."

Griffin:

Electricity scares the crap out of me.

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin:

That's what— that's what it is. I guess you can just turn the electricity off to your home. But that seems like a big hassle. [laughs]

Rachel:

Yeah, but and what if you turn it on again, and whoops you, you did a mistake.

Griffin:

You wired it backwards. Yeah.

Rachel:

And now your kitchen's on fire.

Griffin:

Yeah. Wow, that would be quite the, quite the oopsie if you change a ceiling fan in one room and your kitchen catches on fire in a different one. Yeah.

Rachel:

Mm-hmm.

Griffin:

Hey, do you want to read one now?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

You gotta have your phone at the ready. You gotta be like, quick draw McGraw over there.

Rachel:

I'm sorry. Okay, this is from Mal, it says, "My small wonder is harmonizing while singing. Sometimes when I come home after work my partner will be singing in the kitchen while they do dishes."

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

"And getting to jump in and sing along with them makes my day better every time." Is this a message to me?

Griffin:

It's the one thing that we're missing in our marriage. Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs] I don't know how, I don't know how people do it.

Griffin:

We've talked about harmony on the show before.

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

It's a subject I brought.

Rachel:

I always just sing, uh, in like a, a different octave, basically. Like—

Griffin:

Oh.

Rachel:

Like, if you are singing a note, I will sing either the higher or lower version of that note and think I am harmonizing.

Griffin:

I mean, it can aid a harmony.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

If there was another part that actually harmoni— it can provide a, you know, depth to it.

Rachel:

Yeah, I don't—

Griffin:

We need a third per— we need our, our sons to learn harmony and then we can deploy that method. How cute would that be?

Rachel:

Do you remember— it would be very cute. [laughs]

Griffin:

Little barbershop quartet, little—

Rachel:

Do you remember learning it? Like, do you remember like—

Griffin:

Harmony? It was...

Rachel:

In choir were they like, "All right, today we're gonna learn how to do this"?

Griffin:

Surprisingly, I don't think I really learned that in choir. It was through, uh, musical theater, right?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

'Cause in musical theater, like, most songs have harmony in them. And I'm trying to remember, there was a specific musical that we did that had, oh, I think it was, uh, School House Rock Live. Uh, there were a lot of songs that required, like, surprisingly like, pretty, pretty uh, deep harmonies. And so, I kinda had to, I kinda had to learn how that works. And I feel like if you do something like that enough, you kinda learn how to try at least and harmonize with, you know, other people without having to read sheet music or anything like that.

I was gonna make you like, sing a note and show you how good I could harmonize to it, but that seems like a recipe for disaster. But do you want to? You seem curious now. You seem excited about the idea.

Rachel:

I am curious. Yeah.

Griffin:

All right, give me a, give me a note. I'm gonna fall on my face now.

Rachel:

Okay. [sings "Ahh"]

Griffin:

[sings "Ahh" a third above]

Rachel:

That was good.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Do you want me to keep going? You looked at me like ...

Griffin:

Well, we can only do two part— I was a little pitchy is all it was.

Rachel:

[laughs] You want me to do a different one?

Griffin:

Yeah, let's do a— do, go lower and I'll see.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Maybe I'll do a minor key.

Rachel:

[sings "Ooh"]

Griffin:

[sings "Ooh" and abruptly cuts off on a few different notes] That's sort of discordant.

Rachel:

You were so cocky. Look at you, you're struggling a little bit.

Griffin:

It is, it's hard. Here, one more.

Rachel:

[laughs] I ... There's only so—

Griffin:

I'll try and do a seventh.

Rachel:

There's only so many notes that I know.

Griffin:

Yeah. Which note was that by the way?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

[laughs] All right, I'm gonna read the next one. I don't want to do this anymore.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

Uh, Kathleen says, "The salt brine lines from pretreated roads in the winter, especially before that first real snow of the season. I find it so clever in general that we can pretreat roads even days in advance to make them safer. But also seeing those lines as you're out running those last-minute milk and bread type errands before a winter storm adds to the whole community buzz and anticipation. That is not a thing that they do here in Austin.

Rachel:

Now... I, I'm not familiar, I think with pre—

Griffin:

Really? In Chicago? In Chicago, baby?

Rachel:

I always thought that the lines were from car tires.

Griffin:

Well, uh, you seem, first of all you seem really upset about this.

Rachel:

[laughs] Well, okay so here's how I thought it worked.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I didn't think there was any kind of pretreating.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

I thought people knew it was gonna snow, and then they would wait til the snow started.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And then they would get out there, and they'd put their salt down. And or, a car would drive through them, and another car would be like, "I want to follow that car's tracks."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And then the, the tracks just deepened until like, I, I guess I don't know what pretreatment is.

Griffin:

Yeah, I mean they just dump, uh, they just dump salt in streaks on the road. You really— in Chicago this is, this was very common.

Rachel:

I never drove in Chicago, so I didn't pay attention to it.

Griffin:

Yeah, it's just like, uh, in anticipation of a major storm the salt trucks would go out and make streaks, basically, in the street that you would you know, people would drive on, and then it would sort of make the roads a little bit cleaner to begin with.

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

I think they did this in Huntington too, 'cause I remember seeing just like, salt on the road before it had even started snowing and thinking like, "What's going on?" And then when I was older I realized like, "Oh, it's smart to be proactive about this."

Rachel:

Yeah. This, this may be something that at one point I noticed, but at this— I mean, it's been 15 years really, since I have...

Griffin:

Lived in Chicago?

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Has it really been that long? I guess so.

Rachel:

I mean, uh, 2007, 2008 was when I left.

Griffin:

Okay, little bit less than 15 years.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Um, yeah. I, I like that too. I don't know, man. This is ... Getting serious a little bit, I used to love snow and get really, really excited about the snow—

Rachel:

[sadly] I know.

Griffin:

And playing in it, and just sort of the look and the feel of it. I don't know that I will ever feel that way again as long as we live in Texas.

Rachel:

Well, if we lived in a very flat subdivision that has close proximity to a grocery store, I could see getting excited about it.

Griffin:

Or just anywhere that's not like, made of hills like the street we live on.

Rachel:

But for us it's just like, we ca— we know we can't get anywhere.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, and, and the city is not going to help us with that.

Griffin:

No.

Rachel:

And so it is, it's kind of like a small dread in a way.

Griffin:

It's, it is. It's, it is, uh, that was one of the more traumatic, I think—

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Experiences that I have had maybe in my life, not knowing—

Rachel:

Which is so sad because—

Griffin:

I know.

Rachel:

I mean, when you look at it from far away, it's like, oh my gosh, you know, Henry got the opportunity to see like, real snow in Texas. Like, that's so unique.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And he could have gotten this opportunity to like, play. But talking about it later with other people, it's like, well I didn't want my kid to go outside and get wet and cold, and then come inside and it is also very cold. You know? [laughs]

Griffin:

Right. And also, you were eight months pregnant, and the roads were un navigable.

Rachel:

If I had done a snow angel, I don't know how I would have gotten up.

Griffin:

Yeah, I don't know either.

Rachel:

Is basically what it comes down to.

Griffin:

Yeah. This is a bumner segment on Wonderful.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

It's just like, I used to, I used to really look forward to it. But I think, uh, that's going to be difficult.

Rachel:

I think if, if we hadn't gotten so much. If it had been like a light dusting.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And it was like a nice, like, 35, 40 degrees.

Griffin:

Yeah, ugh.

Rachel:

That would have been nice.

Griffin:

Delightful. Uh, here's one from Kelly who says, "The ritual of waking up early on Saturday mornings to watch the new Ted Lasso episode while drinking coffee with the love of my life. If only there were always new episodes of Ted Lasso." Yeah, that would be, that would be nice.

Rachel:

Have you talked to anyone that doesn't like Ted Lasso?

Griffin:

I don't think so.

Rachel:

Can I tell you something?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

We know two people that don't like Ted Lasso.

Griffin:

Oh my god.

Rachel:

Should I put them on blast?

Griffin:

I mean...

Rachel:

They are listeners of the show.

Griffin:

Oh, they are?

Rachel:

Lea and Tommy.

Griffin:

Oh, wow.

Rachel:

Don't like Ted Lasso.

Griffin:

Oh, wow.

Rachel:

It was a real moment. Like, my heart stopped when she shared that with me.

Griffin:

There were some things about the second season I didn't like.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

What does that mean? Where does that put me?

Rachel:

I suggested to Lea that you had filled my, my life with optimism and love in a way—

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

That had made me soft and ready to receive Ted Lasso.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And that maybe she hadn't experienced that softening that I had.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You know?

Griffin:

That's a, that's kind of a fucked-up thing to say about your friend.

Rachel:

[laughs] Well, I think we all know that you provide like, a spirit of, of you know, enthusiasm.

Griffin:

Right. But I— that—

Rachel:

But-

Griffin:

By the transit of property that means I'm the softest boy man.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

That there is in the world. I don't, uh, obviously Ted Lasso's done for the season. But I feel this way very much about, um, you know, about Bake Off is a nice Friday one that you can just—

Rachel:

Yeah. Survivor we get excited about.

Griffin:

Yeah, sometimes.

Rachel:

I think what usually happens around four or five o'clock Griffin and I both start doing the math of like, what are we gonna do after our children are asleep? And usually one of us will turn to the other and be like, "We have a show to watch."

Griffin:

We do, which is great because we really only have about an hour and a half of conscious time together.

Rachel:

[laughs] I can't imagine doing it in the morning, although I, I figure that would be really nice.

Griffin:

Well, that's because our weekend mornings are just like, automatically a sprint.

Rachel:

Yeah. I used to, I used to feel that way about Lost of like—

Griffin:

Oh, sure.

Rachel:

What is the soonest I can watch the episode?

Griffin:

Yeah, 'cause you didn't want it to get spoiled.

Rachel:

And there were certain shows where I felt like, should I just stay up until midnight?

Griffin:

Ooh, what a delicious luxury.

Rachel:

I know. I know.

Griffin:

Hey, do you want to kind of, do you want me to steal you away?

Rachel:

Please do.

Griffin:

Okay. Hold my hand.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

I'm gonna Naruto run and—

Rachel:

Ooh, it's kinda sticky.

Griffin:

Yeah, that's from all the can— that's from all the bubble gum.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But I'm gonna Naruto run and I need you to do that with me as I hold your hand.

Rachel:

I don't know what that means.

Griffin:

Oh, uh, do you want me to show you?

Rachel:

Um...

Griffin:

[distantly] You like, you like stand up like this and run like this.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Yeah, that's called Naruto running.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

Now you show me. Just so I know that you got it, that you understand it.

Rachel:

No, 'cause you'll look down my shirt.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs]

[musical stinger plays]

[ad break]

Griffin:

Got a couple ramboblogs here, and I would love to read this first one to you, because it is for Drew and it is from Bryce and it says,

"Hey, Drew, bet you weren't expecting a birthday wish from a jumbotron.

Well, surprise and happy birthday. You are my best friend, but don't tell

Kyle. And one of the coolest dudes I know. So, I've called upon Time God—

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

To submit this birthday wish in time forever and use it when I forget to give you a present. Also, let this be the signal to start our podcast."

I think they ran out of characters right at the midnight hour there—

Rachel:

They ran out of characters. Unless podcas is a new thing.

Griffin:

"Hm, oh you're still listening to podcasts?" [laughs]

Rachel:

[laughs] "This one's faster 'cause the T is gone."

Griffin:

Also, bad news, Kyle is a dedicated listener to this show. Kyle is one of our most diehard fans.

Rachel:

Yeah, Kyle definitely heard this.

Griffin:

So, you got a lot of explaining to do.

Rachel:

[laughs] Can I read the next one?

Griffin:

Oh, yes.

Rachel:

It is for David Bear, it is from Ian.

"To my sweet husbear, as I am writing this we have been married a little more than a week and it has been everything I ever wanted. You are so worthy of all my love and more and I am so excited to share a life with you and our cat sons. Thank you for putting up with the weird voices I come up with and encouraging me to be an idiot. Love you lots."

Griffin:

Gotta tell you man, that first week. If you can make it through the first week of marriage you can make it through anything. It's so challenging.

Rachel:

[laughs] Griffin and I talk a lot about how people that talk about how hard that first year of marriage is, uh, should just, should just wait maybe.

Griffin:

Wait just a little bit.

Rachel:

'Cause turns out, it does, I think, get harder.

Griffin:

Oh, no babe.

Rachel:

Well, once— if you bring in, if you bring in spawn, you know.

Griffin:

Spawn changes it a bit.

Rachel:

Or pets, I mean anytime you are sharing the responsibility of the life of another being.

Griffin:

Yeah. Yeah.

Rachel:

You are adding a serious complication to your relationship.

Griffin:

Plants. Who's gonna mow the lawn?

Rachel:

Right.

Griffin:

Yeah. Ugh.

Rachel:

Huh.

Griffin:

Hey, if you want to get a jumbotron on the show for the first half of 2022, you need to do that immediately because the, the drawing that we are doing to uh, sort of assign, you know, jumbotron availability to people, it ends this Friday, November 19th. So, if you want to enter a drawing for a chance to purchase a jumbotron on our show, head to MaximumFun.org/jumbotrongrawing. And if your name is drawn you'll have

the option to purchase a personal jumbotron message for \$100. Yes, it is weird. It's a strange way of doing business, but our demand is much higher than our supply here on Wonderful, and so—

Rachel:

There's a lot of love in the world.

Griffin:

So much.

Rachel:

And a lot of people want to express that through jumbotrons.

Griffin:

Exactly. Once again, we're only accepting personal messages at this time, and the air date is estimated, not guaranteed. And if you want more details, visit MaximumFun.org/jumbotrongrawing. Or email Daniel at MaximumFun.org if you have any further questions.

[guitar music plays]

John:

Look, it's a rough world out there, especially lately. I get it. So, let's take care of our minds as best we can. I'm John Moe, host of Depresh Mode with John Moe. Every week I talk with comedians, actors, writers, musicians, doctors, therapists, and everyday folks about the obstacles that our world and our brains throw in front of us. Depression, anxiety, traumatic stress, all of those mental health challenges that are way more common, and more treatable than you might think.

Speaker:

The first time I went to therapy I was so ashamed, and I was like, I can't believe I gotta go into thera— like, I thought I could be a man and Humphry Bogart was never in therapy. And then my dad said, "Yeah, but he smoked a carton of cigarettes a day."

John:

Give your mind a break, give yourself a break, and join me for Depresh Mode with John Moe.

[guitar music ends]

Rachel:

Can I read you another small wonder?

Griffin:

Oh yeah.

Rachel:

This is from Amanda. Says, "Toll highways and express lanes. I will happily pay the fees to not be stuck in traffic. Fellow Austinite forever giving the stinkeye to I35."

Griffin:

That is, that is a good one. That is a good one.

Rachel:

I never get on I35 anymore by the way.

Griffin:

I ... Yeah. No, no reason to.

Rachel:

I feel like we, or at least I, have built my whole life around not having to get on I35.

Griffin:

Yeah. I schedule every facet of my, of my being avoiding that, that terrible highway.

Rachel:

I do, I do love the express, the express lane and the toll road, 100%. Also, because it's like a bill that you get in a mail like a month later. And then you're like, oh yeah.

Griffin:

And you forget about it, and then it's like \$65 the next month.

Rachel:

Well, that only happens to you.

Griffin:

That only does happen to me, I guess. Um, yeah. I feel, I don't feel good feelings about the, uh, you know, the collections system for the, the toll road 'cause I also used to get bills here in Austin for toll roads that I definitely did not drive on, which was cool.

Rachel:

Yeah, that is strange.

Griffin:

Yeah. It's not a good, good way of doing business. But anytime I see an opportunity to get on a toll road, and it's not exorbitantly expensive, I'm like, "Hell yeah, turbo mode. Let's go."

Rachel:

I know.

Griffin:

One time I was, uh, driving basically through the east coast looking for a city to live in, uh, when I was looking to move out of Cincinnati. And you know, I drove up to Boston, I think to go to PAX up there. And it was a really fun trip, but the highlight of it was when I took the Pennsylvania turnpike. You ever been on that bad boy?

Rachel:

No.

Griffin:

It goes from like, the coast all the way to Pittsburgh and past it, I think, a little bit. And you can go like, 90 miles an hour. And you, it's like, 20 bucks or something like that. I forget what the, the fee was back then. But it's like, "Hey, do you want to cross all of Pennsylvania, a long-ass state in like, an hour and a half? Get on this, get on this turnpike and like, hold on for the ride of your life."

Rachel:

Wow.

Griffin:

Yeah, it was a hoot.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, I'm one of those people where I like to keep moving.

Griffin:

Hm.

Rachel:

Even if it isn't necessarily getting me there any faster. Like, I will look over at the highway, and if the highway seems busy I will take this roundabout way.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

That probably is, is not any faster.

Griffin:

But you're like a shark when you're in your—

Rachel:

I do. [laughs]

Griffin:

When you're in your beautiful machine.

Rachel:

I do.

Griffin:

Can't slow down for a second.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Fall asleep.

Rachel:

By beautiful machine do you mean my, my small to midsize SUV?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

It's not particularly, uh—

Griffin:

It's older, an older model.

Rachel:

It's not really built for speed one would say.

Griffin:

No, uh, it's built for, I mean, excitement, and it's got a big backseat.

Rachel:

You know what I don't have?

Griffin:

What?

Rachel:

You know when that like, the, the trunk thing? The hand, like, the hands free or whatever the trunk thing?

Griffin:

Oh, sure.

Rachel:

And I saw that and I was like, "Oh God, people are just getting lazy."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And there have been so many times where I wish my car had that.

Griffin:

Where the thing would open up 'cause you have a baby in one hand and some Costco shit in the other?

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

Yes. I've always liked the one where you kick the fucking back bumper. Like, yeah.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

And then the thing opens, 'cause the robot's like, "Ouch, here you go. Ow, but I liked it."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

"Here are your groceries." Mother fucking, gah, lines are so long at Costco.

Rachel:

"One more time, Griffin, it seems like you've had a hard day."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

"I will receive your kick."

Griffin:

You go to sell it and they're like, "Looks like the bumper is dented in this one extremely specific place." And it's like, yeah, I get mad at Costco. "Oh, right, right, right. We've all been there."

Rachel:

Uh, is it your turn or my turn to read one?

Griffin:

I want a, one I can just headbutt the back of my car and just, all the doors open.

Rachel:

Oh. Your beautiful face, though.

Griffin:

Oh, it's tough. It's tough. You know that about me. Uh, is it, whose turn is it? My turn.

Rachel:

Yes.

Griffin:

This is from Abby, "My small wonder is little crunchy pieces you put in soup. Soup crunchems if you will." And I will.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, they can be oyster crackers, tortilla chips, bacon bits, sometimes even seeds depending on the soup. The cold weather calls for soup. But sometimes the meal just feels incomplete without some bite to it. The soup crunchems pull the whole meal together in the best way." Yeah. This is the only, this is the only context in which I, as an adult man, will eat Frito's.

Rachel:

Did we say that's from Abby?

Griffin:

I did, yeah.

Rachel:

Okay. Uh, yes, Frito's for sure.

Griffin:

In any soup. I have—

Rachel:

I love an oyster cracker also.

Griffin:

I— you know what's weird? I eat oyster crackers raw.

Rachel:

By themselves? Raw. [laughs]

Griffin:

Raw. I eat raw oyster crackers.

Rachel:

Instead of marinated, the way typically they are in a soup.

Griffin:

Are they called oyster crackers 'cause you're supposed to eat them with an oyster?

Rachel:

I assumed it was their shape. Like, they're shaped like little shells.

Griffin:

I guess so. I don't know, but yeah. A Frito in a, you know, in a chili or a stew.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Or any kind of soup.

Rachel:

Oh my gosh, I want to make chili. I'm gonna have to do that this week.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

Uh, yeah I ... You know what's hard for me is that, like, for Frito's for example.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You like, sprinkle your little crunchems on top, and you'll go and you'll sit down. And then you'll be like, "Oh, I want more crunchems."

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

So I've just started like, bringing the whole bag with me, which is—

Griffin:

And I like that about you.

Rachel:

Is a slippery slope.

Griffin:

I like that about ... Yeah, at that point you're eating more Frito— you're eating Frito's with a side of soup.

Rachel:

I will like, finish my soup or chili and then I will still be eating Frito's.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

So, that's—

Griffin:

They go down smooth. I do not know why I don't eat Frito's except when I'm eating soup.

Rachel:

Oh see, I'll eat Frito's by myself.

Griffin:

Oh, really?

Rachel:

And alone, in a room. [laughs]

Griffin:

Oh. Uh, one time though, we didn't have any Frito's, but we did have a very small bag of chili con carne Frito's.

Rachel:

Oh.

Griffin:

And I put that in my chili and it was, that was ... Don't do that.

Rachel:

Was it too much?

Griffin:

That's too much chili flavor, folks.

Rachel:

Okay, can I read this next one?

Griffin:

Yes.

Rachel:

This is a really good one, Chelsea.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

"When you're in the grocery store produce section and they play a little thunder sound right before they turn on the sprinklers that spray the lettuce, I grin every time." Yes, Chelsea.

Griffin:

It's, it's beautiful. You feel— like, you're shopping for parsley one second, and then the next second you're transported to the, to the fucking Rainforest Café.

Rachel:

[laughs] Oh my gosh, it's so charming.

Griffin:

It is.

Rachel:

I can't think of anything else that is, that is built like that. Of like a, I'm gonna charm you a little bit before I do a necessary function.

Griffin:

It's perfect. It is like the pinnacle of functional design, too right? 'Cause if you've got your head in there looking for the best cucumber.

Rachel:

[laughs] Yeah, they know.

Griffin:

You need, you need some sort of... If just some klaxon blared like, "Alert, it's about to start sprinkling."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

You'd like, never go back to that grocery store again, you'd be traumatized. If it played like an air raid siren.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

So they just give you a little... [makes soft thunder sound]

Rachel:

You know what would be great, also, like if you have a refrigerator that has an ice machine.

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

You know how sometimes, like, you'll press the ice button and then you'll forget to set it back to the water button?

Griffin:

Yeah.

Rachel:

And then you're like, "Oh, no I got ice, I wanted water." If the ice button did a little like, "Brr!"

Griffin:

Oh, yeah.

Rachel:

And so like, you knew oh wait, this is gonna be ice. I need to change it back to water. [laughs]

Griffin:

Yeah. Ooh, it's cold.

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

Who's ready to get chilly cold?

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

But then what if you try to get ice, and it's set on the water setting? It'd be like, "Ooh, I'm warm. I'm warm— I'm hot ice that turned into water."

Rachel:

I mean, you could do the thunder storm again. You know?

Griffin:

Yeah, I guess, I guess so. I wish there was a cool grocery store hat when it's about to start sprinkling you just hear [sings guitar riff] Uh, that was Thunderstruck.

Rachel:

I figured that's what it was. But I just thought you would say, Thunderstruck.

Griffin:

I had, I saw an opportunity to sing Thunderstruck, and I went for it.

Rachel:

Okay. Okay.

Griffin:

Uh, one last one, this one's from Mike. Uh, "I don't know if they do it everywhere, or if this is a Philly Flyers thing, but they have ..." it is Philadelphia, right? I just filled that in. Okay.

Rachel:

Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, "But they have mites on ice." M-I-T-E-S. "Mites on ice at intermission, which is peewee hockey players play on the arena ice at intermission. The crowd gets into it, they cheer. They boo the refs. It's great."

Rachel:

They do not do that everywhere.

Griffin:

No, no, no, no. And I encourage everyone to look up a YouTube video of mites on ice. I watched one for like, 15 minutes today.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

'Cause it's exceptional. They do interviews post game with the, with like, the five-year-olds.

Rachel:

Oh, gosh.

Griffin:

And they're like, "So, you were down by one, uh, at the end of the game, and what— what were you thinking at that point?" And the kids will just be like, "Nothing."

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Uh, it's awesome.

Rachel:

Yeah, because that space in between periods is like, 20, 30 minutes.

Griffin:

Yeah, sure.

Rachel:

That's more than enough time.

Griffin:

Plenty of time for some kids to get out there and—

Rachel:

Yeah. No, usually in Saint Louis they would do some kind of like, goofy game where people would push each other and they'd have to like, throw their body into the goal or something.

Griffin:

That sounds bad. I just want—

Rachel:

I mean, it was still entertaining, but it's not nearly adorable enough.

Griffin:

It's so good. So good watching these kids play hockey. And falling down constantly. Constantly falling down. And just looking like they just go completely limp.

Rachel:

Aw.

Griffin:

The way a child goes limp when they fall to the ice, it's probably the safest that's ... They're probably taught to do that, to be like, safe.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

But my god, it's incredible.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

So good. Um, okay. We're gonna, we're gonna stop there. But please keep sending in your submissions, it's WonderfulPodcast@gmail.com.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Uh, thank you to bo en and Augustus for our theme song, Money Won't Pay, you can find a link to that in the episode description. Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the, on the network. It's a, it's a great place to be, to live, for our shows to live.

Rachel:

Yeah, and they're always putting out new shows. There's, there's always gonna be something new for your eyes, and so if you're like, "Oh, I've listened to all the Wonderful episodes." One, thank you. But two, maybe try something new.

Griffin:

Yeah, um, we got new merch over at McElroyMerch.com including some just gorgeous custom dice. Pink and sparkly beauties.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

They come in a little Bureau of Balance bag. Uh, I just got mine in the mail yesterday, and uh, I just can't, I can't stop touching them. You know? Just rolling around in my hand like some sort of like, dice king.

Rachel:

[laughs]

Griffin:

Anyway, um, we're gonna stop now. But here's one more host submission.

Rachel:

Okay.

Griffin:

I'm, I think what is wonderful is all our fans telling us what they like, 'cause it feel— you know, you feel that soul connection. You know what I mean? I'm talking about Derek, and Natasha.

Rachel:

The way you said I think, kind of suggested—

Griffin:

No, Rachel doesn't like, like Rachel hates that stuff. Like, she's like, "I don't want to hear what you like." No, that's not true.

Rachel:

This is a show about me and my likes.

Griffin:

Right, exactly.

Rachel:

Yeah. No, no I love them too.

Griffin:

People are like, I love getting on my motorcycle and riding," and Rachel will be like, "That has nothing to do with super or poetry. Get out of here. Soup, or poetry, or super poetry."

Rachel:

Ooh.

Griffin:

That's poetry that you yell.

Rachel:

That's my café that I'm gonna open up.

Griffin:

Really loud. Yeah. I'd, I'd go to it.

Rachel:

Oh, I thought you were saying soup or poetry.

Griffin:

Yeah, but it also sounds like super poetry.

Rachel:

Yeah.

Griffin:

Which is like, powerful poetry. The last minute of this show has been absolutely nothing.

Rachel:

[laughs]

[theme music plays]

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Jordan Crucchiola:

You're in the theater. The lights go down. You're about to get swept up by the characters and all their little details and interpersonal dramas. You look at them and think, "That person is so obviously in love with their best friend. Wait, am I in love with my best friend? That character's mom is so overbearing, why doesn't she stand up to her? Oh, good god do I need to stand up to my own mother?" We never know when we'll see ourselves in a movie. But that search for recognition is exactly what we're gonna talk about on the podcast Feeling Seen with me, Jordan Crucchiola. Each episode we'll bring in a guest to talk about the films that they see themselves in, and also the ways that movies have fallen short. So, join me every Thursday for the Feeling Seen podcast here on Maximum Fun, or wherever you find your podcasts.