

Wonderful! 250: Where's the Anxiety Here?

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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: Ooh, I came in hot, didn't I? I can't help it. I'm excited to record this show with you.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I love you!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I love doing this show with you.

Rachel: I love you, too.

Griffin: I think the energy in the studio, if I may be so bold, has really been opened up. And so, like, there's a channel of energy that I'm just getting from that side of the studio that's just hitting me so right right now. Are you feeling this?

Rachel: Can I be honest?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Not entirely.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Rachel: I'm still feeling a little queasy.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: You know, week two.

Griffin: Yeah. You're going—you've been riding that train for a while now.

Rachel: Uh, so yeah, hesitant to say that I've got great vibes right now.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But I appreciate...

Griffin: Hop on my back, baby.

Rachel: ... your vibes.

Griffin: Hop on my back. My vibes are big enough for the both of us.

Rachel: Will you carry me through the sand?

Griffin: I will. Give me some of your nausea. What if I could do that? Like *The Green Mile*.

Rachel: Ew.

Griffin: Like, no, it wouldn't be like—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I wouldn't, like, do anything gross. But it would be like Green Mile where I'm like, "Gimme—can I have some of your nausea, please?" Bwoop! And I take it away from you. Don't you wish that was real?

Rachel: I guess so, but I don't want you to have that.

Griffin: But this is the sacrifice that I love to make. I gotta make it. I gotta—I gotta keep you from being sick, honey.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: And I gotta use my magic powers to do so. Do you have any small wonders?

Rachel: [laughs] Did you say what the show's about?

Griffin: This is a show where we talk about the things we like, things that are good, things that we're into. The title of the program is *Wonderful!* This is our 250th episode.

Rachel: Yeah! Like, maybe there are people out there that only listen to the 250th episode of a podcast, uh, and so we want to make sure that they're clear on what they're listening to.

Griffin: Is there a name for... what 250—I guess—

Rachel: Oh, jeez.

Griffin: It's not Bicentennial... Man. We should do a segment on that, though.

Rachel: I never saw it.

Griffin: Oh, so funny.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Probably not. Uh, yeah, I don't know that that would hold up particularly well to 2022 scrutiny. Uh, anyway, small wonders? You got any of 'em?

Rachel: Do you wanna go first?

Griffin: Yes. I just—I finally decorated my studio.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And I'm really, really excited about it. I keep saying studio. It's really an office.

Rachel: It is an office. The art, though, in here, like the placement of it I really appreciate.

Griffin: Yeah. I spent a long time kind of sketching it out in my mind's eye. I did, like, put a bunch of screws into the wall and then was like, "Well, I would've maybe done it differently were there not—" There's actually a screw head hidden by the head of the guitar. So, you know, I've got my little secret passages, hidey holes in here.

Rachel: Well, we're gonna live here forever, so it doesn't matter.

Griffin: I'm never leaving this fucking house. Never ever.

Rachel: My goal is to not move again. At least let's make it more than a few years in this house.

Griffin: Yeah. If we could do maybe four years in this house.

Rachel: Yeah, that would be a new record for us.

Griffin: Then we're [singing] on the road again. [speaking] You got any small wonders?

Rachel: Oh, I'll say the new season of *Love is Blind*.

Griffin: Phew. Y'all...

Rachel: This one is wild.

Griffin: Y'all, this one—this one? Is wild.

Rachel: I... I have never seen so many unrelatable people in one season.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: People who make choices and say things that I would never do or say.

Griffin: Can we slip off—this may be controversial. Can we slip off our *Wonderful!* Slippers, and then put those to the side, and then slip on our *Rosebuddies* slippers for, like, a few minutes?

Rachel: Oh, man. The crowd's going nuts right now.

Griffin: The crowd is losing it right now.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause we've just been watching *Love is Blind*. We've also been watching *The Mole* and it's like, I don't have anywhere to put this energy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, you. [laughs] You get all of this energy.

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

Griffin: And our friend JD, who I text about reality shows, uh, nonstop.

Rachel: Are we talking about *The Mole* too, or just *Love is Blind*?

Griffin: I guess—they're so similar, shockingly similar.

Rachel: Yeah. I would say the contestant pool seems to be the same.

Griffin: The same contestant pool as, like, that and *Love is Blind*, and *The Circle*, and *Fuck Island*, and...

Rachel: Do you think Netflix has, like, a farm where they keep people—

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: —that they pull from for these variety of shows?

Griffin: And it's so interesting, 'cause it works really, really well for *Love is Blind*, and does not work very well for *The Mole*. 'Cause it's like, I wanna watch real people solve a mystery!

Rachel: I'm convinced that the longer we watch *The Mole* the more we will enjoy it, because the people that are insufferable will hopefully be eliminated.

Griffin: There was a guy named Dom on it who kept shouting "Dom Cruise... " at every—at every mission and in every, like, confessional, and it was really—that's a challenge for me.

Rachel: My theory was that there was always at least one person in the room that hadn't heard it yet, and so he thought like, "Oh, man. She's gotta hear this."

Griffin: "They're gonna love this shit." Okay, maybe.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. They are far from the worst member of that cast. We—

Rachel: We as audience members got to hear it at least six times. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Yeah. Back to back to back to back. Yeah, it's not hitting for me, sadly. Because we talked about *The Mole* in this show before. We talked about—we did a whole segment on it, and I don't know that they quite nailed it. The production's great. Alex—who's the host? Alex Warner?

Rachel: I don't know. I've never encountered this host before.

Griffin: She's a CNN correspondent, or... something. Uh, she's doing great.

Rachel: Yeah, the challenges are interesting.

Griffin: Challenges are super fun. [mumbling] Just not the best guests.

Rachel: There are a lot of people who very intentionally are trying to draw suspicion in a way that is not clever or, like, particularly savvy.

Griffin: No, and it's really showing everyone's ass. They're also competing now for... \$250.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: They have so clearly, like, destroyed their pot. It is—that part, that part's great. I do like that part of it.

Rachel: But *Love is Blind*.

Griffin: *Love is Blind*. The things people say on this show.

Rachel: It—I mean, it moves at a clip, which I really kind of appreciate.

Griffin: It sure does.

Rachel: Like, you are on episode two, and people are in love and they're proposing, and you're like "This surely seems fast." Although I imagine there are hours and hours and hours of footage we do not get to see.

Griffin: Yeah. Of course.

Rachel: Um, but yeah, some memorable moments. [laughs] Some great quotes.

Griffin: Some horrifying moments. But some very memorable ones, too. There's a dude whose name I'm not going to... Shaun? Jean? I don't know.

Rachel: I immediately forget their names when I stop watching.

Griffin: Uh, he found his match, Zanab, and was quite smitten when they parted those beautiful curtains and came sprinting at each other down 200 meters of walkway.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And he was just so... he was indescribable in his elation. And he stepped back as they, like, parted, after they had met and made out and stuff. And as the doors closed he just went, "Mmm. [high pitched singing] Put her in a magazine!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And so we've been quoting that to each other a lot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [high pitched singing] "Put her in a magazine."

Rachel: [laughs] You made that a little Dave Matthews there at the end.

Griffin: [wavery singing] "Put her in a magazine."

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah. It is... it has been highly watchable. I mean, the thing that Netflix does that is a little annoying is they do these deliberate clumsy cliffhangers.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So you have to kind of watch the next episode if you want to see, like, an issue resolved. But then you tell yourself "I'm only gonna watch two minutes just so I can see the resolution," and then all of a sudden...

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: There you are.

Griffin: There's a guy who does a pretty, I will say, extended, thorough sales pitch on himself as a sexual partner, a sexual teacher...

Rachel: Yeah. He talks a lot about his prowess in a way that...

Griffin: Which was taught to him by an older woman, I believe in Italy or something like that, who taught him how to have, uh... [through laughter] An—an orgasm without ejaculating.

And I'm sorry if this is upsetting for you to hear, but we had to hear it, too. And then he talks about how he could force himself into having several mini orgasms.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And a person behind the wall is like, "Uh-huh? Uh-huh? Cool! Cool-cool-cool, cool."

Rachel: I—I at first thought, like, this is a test, right? Like, he's trying to see how down this other person behind the screen is gonna be. And this is like his way of weeding out people who, you know, aren't as candid, maybe, as he is. But he really—he kept going. Yeah, I don't wanna say too much. Um, but there are definitely moments, uh, that make this season unique.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Now that they have met, I will say that all of these dudes are real... kind of scumbags, a little bit?

Rachel: Yeah. I have high hopes for... no, never mind. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, right?

Rachel: I was gonna say somebody that initially I had high hopes for, but then once they met...

Griffin: It just fell off the face of the Earth.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah. It needs—the problem with these shows is that they—it's great in the pods, and then usually once you leave the pods, that's where my interest starts to wane.

Rachel: Well, and they talk about the very real thing of connecting what was said to the face, you know? Like, to them this is like a new person. But no, you are the person that I talked to, and you said these things.

Griffin: Yeah. Okay. We need to take these slippers off, 'cause they're really comfortable.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But we need to put on our *Wonderful!* Slippers again.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: And talk about things we like, things that are good, things that we're into.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Can I tell you about my thing?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: My thing... my thing? Is a little track called "The Loneliest Time" by Carly Rae Jepsen, featuring Rufus... McGarrigle Wainwright!

Rachel: [laughs] You know what I was thinking is last time you brought CRJ, you only gave her a few notes, and this time you're giving a few song.

Griffin: Uh...

Rachel: Or a—a full song, rather.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, so it's also—the whole album is also called *The Loneliest Time*. Just dropped last week. We are eatin' good in this household. Uh, it's—well, I say that. I don't know if you've listened to the whole thing.

Rachel: No, I listened to the whole thing this morning, actually.

Griffin: It's fucking great.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's so, so, so good!

Rachel: There's one, "Beach House," that I really [crosstalk].

Griffin: "Beach House" is great. So, there were a few singles, if you've been following Carly Rae Jepsen since the release of *Dedication* in 2019. A few, like, big singles, like "Beach House" and... oh my god, what's the really—oh, "Western Wind," which has that, like, kind of breathy, Stevie Nicks vibe. She's definitely on some—she's on a sort of astrological journey, I would say, on this one. Which we enjoy, a lot of talking about "I'm a Scorpio. The moon is... there, also."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Um... and I like that. But what I really like is the, like, little disco sound that was kind of happening, that was budding in *Dedication*, has blossomed into a beautiful tree.

Rachel: It does feel very—like a very specific time in music.

Griffin: Like '80s disco pop is what it's going for. And it is, like, not subtle about that shit at all. Uh, the last song on the album is this track that I want to talk about, "The Loneliest Time" with Carly Rae Jepsen and Rufus McGarrigle Wainwright. Uh, it is so over the top disco. Like, you will hear sounds in the song—like, there's a certain type of, like, sweeping tom drum that sounds like disco to me. That's like... [high pitched noise] The, like, little

drum—this one goes nuts with it. Like, it sounds, uh, very, very much of its time—or I guess the time it's supposed to be sounding like.

And I was like, "Man! This is, like, wild disco music! This is not what I expected!" But when you listen to the whole album, I feel like it builds to it in a way, where it's just this disco explosion at the end. Let's play a little bit of it, and I'm gonna try really hard not to say the word "disco" 55 times.

["The Loneliest Time" by Carly Rae Jepsen plays]

Griffin: These two sound so good together, and I would not have in a million years, like, imagined that as a duet. But I want them to release a full Captain and Tennille, like, duet album together. I think that that would be very strong.

Rachel: Yeah. I was a big fan of Rufus Wainwright back when I think *Poses* dropped. I think that was the album that I got to know him through.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I don't know what he's been up to, honestly, this past, you know, decade or so. Um, but it was—it was a pleasure to have him on this song.

Griffin: It was a joy to have him on this song, and in the music video, where he—he looks amazing. He has a nonchalance about him in all things, and seeing it in this music video next to the queen of blades, Carly Rae Jepsen, uh, it's a lot.

Rachel: I will say, I found the choreography a little uncomfortable to watch, because it is clearly not his forte. But, um—but, I mean, I—

Griffin: I kinda like that?

Rachel: I enjoy the vibe.

Griffin: It's kind of charming. The harmonies that they get up to in this song are, like, bonkers. Like, the very first one where he picks up in the first verse sounds so amazingly good. It gave me chills the first time I heard it.

Uh, and yeah, it just has, like, iconic pop duet territory. It's got big "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" sort of "Islands in the Stream" and I'm all about that. It's just fun. That's what kind of surprised me about this album is that, like, it still talks about heartbreak and all the usual CRJ stuff. But it's just, like—there were so many decisions that were made along the creation process that were just the most fun decision that could be made. And this song is just [crosstalk].

Rachel: Yeah, I will say one of her core competencies is fun. You know? Like, "Call Me Maybe"? Super fun.

Griffin: For sure, for sure. I would say *Dedicated* slipped on that a little bit. I love *Dedicated*—or Dedi—*Dedication*? No, *Dedicated*. We saw her on that tour, it was great. But it didn't hit that, like, emotion level for me, because there were just so many just wall-to-wall bangers on that album, and I feel *The Loneliest Time* is right back there, man. I only listened to it front to back for the first time today, also this morning, and was like, "Well, I'm gonna do this again now." And I've had this song on rotation forever. There's a spoken word breakdown at the end!

Rachel: Yeah, I noticed that!

Griffin: It's so good! And it's about going to outer space and coming—it went viral on TikTok, apparently.

Rachel: Oh, okay. [laughs]

Griffin: When she's like, "I'm coming back for you, baby! I'm coming back!" That clip is viral on TikTok. Sadly the TikTok audio cuts out right before the song then does this, like, insane bass arpeggio for, like, a long time. That's just like [imitates bass arpeggio]. Anyway, I'm excited. I'm excited about music. I feel like... I was feeling the same illness that you were feeling, and then... the music got in me.

Rachel: Okay!

Griffin: It got in my stomach, got in my...

Rachel: See, you had me convinced macrobiotics was the way to go, but...

Griffin: Probiotics...

Rachel: And music.

Griffin: ... and Carly Rae Jepsen. They're in there, both.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Osmosis Jones style.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: They're battling whatever horrible...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... ailment has taken over this household. Um, and I think—you just started taking the probiotics too, so I think you've got—now that you also listened to the Carly album—

Rachel: [simultaneously] Okay, okay, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: —talk to me this time tomorrow. I guarantee you, right as rain.

Rachel: Whoa. If not I'll call the doctor and I'll say, "Listen. I'm doing everything you can possibly do." [laughs]

Griffin: "I'm doing everything I can. Everything." They're like, "[deep voice] You know you'll have to do the probiotics with the Carly Rae Jepsen, right?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "She needs them. They're her weapons." Like, "Oh, okay. Probiotics is Carly Rae Jepsen's weapons. Okay... "

Rachel: What a strange sentence you just said. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. I think probiotics is Jamie Lee Curtis's weapons, now that I...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[ad break]

Griffin: Got a Billy Bob here, and I would love to read it, if I may be so bold as to do that.

Rachel: Please!

Griffin: So this one is for Sarah. It's from Ben, who says:

"Sarah, thanks for the *Wonderful!* Jumbotron you got me for my birthday on the 3/10/22 episode." That's March 10th, 2022. I know if you live in the British... isle, then they do the dates backwards. But I'm assuming... 'cause 10/3/2022, I mean, that just came out. You know what I mean?

Rachel: Yeah, it would've been hard to get that one in.

Griffin: So this was March.

"I love Griffin gently dunking on me because my favorite Pokémon is a giant ghost. It was one of my favorite birthday presents so far. If science finally gets its act together and makes Pokémon real, I will for sure hook you up with a Vulpix. I lava you."

Yeah. I would say science kinda got sidetracked these past couple years.

Rachel: Oh, you think something was going and then it just got busy?

Griffin: I think that science was pretty close to cracking real Pokémon, and then COVID. And then they all had to—and I'm glad that they did, clearly. But some other projects got sort of sidelined. And... I think we're all suffering for that. [pause] You don't have anything to add to this Pokémon—

Rachel: No. I was thinking about how a gibbon kind of looks like a Pokémon.

Griffin: Wow. Yeah!

Rachel: Like a little—I was trying to think of, like, in our world today, what animals are like Pokémon? And I think a gibbon would be like a Pokémon.

Griffin: Yeah. Well, you do know the animals came first, right?

Rachel: [sighing] Yes. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: The gibbon—they made the Pokémon—they made Mankey after a gibbon.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah. I just—if I wanted to step into your reality where science does create Pokémon...

Griffin: Real Pokémon, yeah.

Rachel: ... what would that even look like?

Griffin: Also can they, like, pick me up with their mind? 'Cause, like, now we're dabbling in the supernatural. Like, there's ghosts in the Pokémon world. You know?

Rachel: Yeah. Well, some might say there's ghosts in the real world too.

Griffin: Some might say that, sure.

Rachel: Not me.

Griffin: Not me!

Rachel: But someone—[laughs]

Griffin: Some might!

[Halloween music plays]

Jesse: I'm Jesse Thorn. On the next *Bullseye*, our annual Halloween spectacular, we'll interview Ana Fabrega from *Los Espookys*, Monét X Change from *Drag Race*, and the great RL Stine, creator of *Goosebumps*.

Speaker 2: You know, I don't really get too deep into the real fears. It's a lot safer to do a dummy coming to life.

Jesse: That's on the next *Bullseye*, from Maximumfun.org and NPR.

[music and ad end]

[cheerful music plays]

Jesse: Hi. I'm Jesse Thorn, the founder of Maximum Fun, and I have a special announcement. I'm no longer embarrassed by *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*. You know, for years each new episode of this supposed advice show was a fresh insult. A depraved jumble of erection jokes, ghost humor, and – frankly, this is for the best – very little actionable advice.

But now as they enter their twilight years, I'm as surprised as anyone to admit that... it's gotten kinda good. Justin, Travis, and Griffin's witticisms are more refined, like a humor column in a fancy magazine. And they hardly ever say bazinga anymore.

So, after you've completely finished to listening to every single one of all of our other shows, why not join the McElroy brothers every week for *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*?

[music and ad end]

Griffin: What... have you prepared... for me... your husband... your cohost, your partner, to... feast... my senses upon?

Rachel: So, the week before last, I took us down the poetry hallway. And I imagine there are some people out there that were like, "Uhh, you really—you got me excited. I thought I was going to a Poetry Corner. I didn't."

Griffin: They've been walking for two weeks.

Rachel: This week... we're going to the corner. And you haven't been bad!

Griffin: Oh?

Rachel: You've been so good.

[both laugh]

Griffin: Baby, did you workshop that in advance? 'Cause that's good!

Rachel: You know, I'm just feeling spicy all of a sudden.

Griffin: You got the energy!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: You got the probiotics, you got the Carly, you got the studio energy, babe!

Rachel: Yeah, you really—

Griffin: It's happening for you!

Rachel: I absorbed it from you. [laughs]

Griffin: Yes! I told you.

Rachel: Uh, yeah, so I've got a poet, and his name is Miller Williams.

Griffin: Miller Williams. That's a fun name to say. I just sounded like Elf, didn't mean to, but it's a fun name to say.

Rachel: His first name is actually Stanley.

Griffin: Stanley Miller Williams?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh, when it's a middle name it's actually kinda hard.

Rachel: Yeah. So, here's the thing about Miller Williams. You may not know him, but you do know his daughter, who is songwriter Lucinda Williams.

Griffin: I do know Lucinda Will—not personally.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, no, me neither. So he was a, uh—a poetry writer as well as a translator and an editor, and he wrote over 25 books. Um...

Griffin: I think that's all the poetry jobs.

Rachel: And including a dozen poetry collections. So there were, you know, translations and other stuff in there. And he, uh, is incredible. I'm gonna, like, talk more about him, because the poem I'm going to read by him, as a warning, is kind of devastating.

Griffin: Yeah!

Rachel: And not in a, like, depressing way. In a, like, emotionally challenging way. You remember the, like, umbrella, the mom poem with the umbrella?

Griffin: Oh, yes.

Rachel: It's a lot like that.

Griffin: Okay!

Rachel: In that we may need to do some editing to get me through it. Um, and I thought—

Griffin: Okay. No, people love hearing you sort of breathlessly...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... just sit there and stew in your...

Rachel: I had a moment where I was like, "I don't wanna read this poem because it's so difficult to read out loud." And then I was like, "No, that's why I have to!"

Griffin: That's why you have to. That's why you must.

Rachel: Go towards the fear.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We can't get to the corner without you, babe.

Rachel: Uh, so the interesting thing—so he is maybe best known for reading a poem at the second inauguration of Bill Clinton. But he—before that, he was actually pursuing science. He had a Bachelor's degree in biology and a Master's in zoology.

Griffin: Whoa.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Whoa!

Rachel: And he just kind of happened to become friends with Flannery O'Connor? Are you familiar?

Griffin: I know the name.

Rachel: Famous—famous writer. Um, and Flannery O'Connor wrote him a recommendation. Uh, in 1961 LSU advertised for a poet to teach in their writing program. And at that point he had only had three hours of freshman English, formally.

Griffin: Yowza!

Rachel: But without mentioning to him, she wrote them and said "The person you want teaches biology at Westland College."

Griffin: That's great.

Rachel: [laughs] And so he submitted, like, a packet of work, and they hired him. And that kind of—his career went from there.

Griffin: That's great.

Rachel: Uh—

Griffin: It must be dope to be at a party with him, and it's like, "Man. I bet he knows a bunch about poetry stuff." But then somebody says something about, like, a rhinoceros, and he's like, "Let me tell you 80 things about a rhinoceros." And it's like, "Whoa! He does animal stuff, too?"

Rachel: Uh, more than sciency poems, he's... this is a quote from a critic named Lee Oser called Williams a poet of, quote, "Eloquent sanity and distinguished formal competence, a fine observer of the emotional and imaginative lives of his fellow citizens."

Griffin: It was hard for me to get through that sentence.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Just being honest. That was a challenge for me.

Rachel: I mean, basically he writes about people, you know, more than he writes about zoo animals, I guess is what I was trying to accomplish with that quote.

Uh, so the other thing to know, and this becomes valuable, I think, in the poem, is that in addition to having the daughter of Lucinda Williams, they have a son and another daughter, and they have three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Griffin: Alright, get it!

Rachel: Uh, so the poem I am reading is called "A Poem for Emily," who based on the context clues of the poem I'm assuming is a granddaughter of Miller Williams.

Griffin: Okay. I see you, like, stretching.

Rachel: [laughs] It sneaks up on me.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But I think I'll be okay. I've read it a few times now.

Griffin: Okay, good.

Rachel: "Small fact and fingers and farthest one from me,
a hand's width and two generations away,
in this still present I am fifty-three.
You are not yet a full day.
When I am sixty-three, when you are ten,
and you are neither closer nor as far,
your arms will fill with what you know by then,
the arithmetic and love we do and are.
When I by blood and luck am eighty-six
and you are someplace else and thirty-three
believing in sex and god and politics
with children who look not at all like me,

sometime I know you will have read them this
so they will know I love them and say so
and love their mother. Child, whatever is
is always or never was. Long ago,
a day I watched awhile beside your bed,
I wrote this down, a thing that might be kept
awhile, to tell you what I would have said
when you were who knows what and I was dead
which is I stood and loved you while you slept."
[sniffs] [laughs]

Phew!

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah! [laughs]

Griffin: I think devastating is—you have a way with words—you have a way
with reading poetry, first of all. That was gorgeous.

Rachel: Thank you. [laughs]

Griffin: Um, but also you're very good at describing what kind of emotional
reaction [crosstalk].

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: It's fun for me, 'cause I don't know much about poetry, and I don't
know when one is gonna...

Rachel: [breathing heavily]

Griffin: ... tickle my sad bone, I guess.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But you're able to kind of, like, get out there in front of it and warn
me, which I appreciated.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, that's the thing. The content isn't depressing. If anything, it's incredibly beautiful. Uh, but it... it's such a, like, relatable, beautifully described experience of, like... you know. Having what I imagine having a grandchild is like, or having a great-grandchild, or just being a family member to someone who is in a totally different phase of life, and you know that you will not get to be there for the whole part.

Griffin: Yeah, pretty much no matter where you're at in this crazy ol' thing called life, you're somewhere in that. You're somewhere in that—that binary. Uh, and so that's... yeah, I imagine that's everyone.

Rachel: And I just appreciated, like, how restrained it was too, you know? Like, that is, I think, where you're getting to see Miller Williams is that, you know, like... it's not flowery. Not trying to, like, create these incredible comparisons to, you know, things that are outside of your daily life. But man, it's just like—I don't know. It just feels—it just feels perfect for what it is.

Griffin: Yeah. That was amazing.

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: Thank you for sharing that.

Rachel: You are welcome.

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 one in the episode description. This episode description. And thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to Maximumfun.org, check out all the great shows that they have there. You're gonna find something on there that you're just gonna, uh, gobble up, and absolutely love it.

Hey! We got some shows coming up very soon. In Cincinnati, and Detroit, and here in Cap—Cap City, as they say.

Rachel: [laughs] Do they?

Griffin: I don't think anyone says that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Washing—Washington, DC. Uh, and you should come see us. Go to mcelroy.family. You can find links to the shows and where you can get tickets and stuff. Um...

Rachel: I had a dream last night that we did the *Wonderful!* Show.

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: But except my dream picked up when the show was over.

Griffin: Oh, how'd we do?

Rachel: Well, I was asking you. I was like, "I can't remember what I talked about."

Griffin: Oh my god.

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah. Uh...

Griffin: That's—you almost had the actor's worst nightmare, but you, like—it sounds like you missed it.

Rachel: [simultaneously] But it was already done! [laughs]

Griffin: That's dope. I wish I could skip... that.

Rachel: And then I was panicking because I hadn't worked out childcare, and I was like, "Where are our children right now?"

Griffin: Oh, there it is. Okay. I was like, "Where's the anxiety, here?" There it is.

Rachel: [laughs] There it is.

Griffin: "Where's the anxiety here" could be a catchphrase for all of our shows. So maybe that's what we say at the end—no, that's not really on brand.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: Thanks for listening. Thanks for—thanks for listening to our many—

Rachel: Our 250th episode!

Griffin: Our 250th episode of *Wonderful!* The first... miniaturized-length episode of *Rosebuddies* that we've done in forever.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Even that felt like touching a—

Rachel: I know!

Griffin: —a power that we can't—

Rachel: 'Cause here's the thing: we don't know how either of those seasons end. [laughs]

Griffin: That is a fair point! We are, like, three episodes in each of 'em. So...

Rachel: This is a risk, right?

Griffin: Yeah. We—we won't be keeping up with them. But, okay, that's it! Bye-ee!

[theme music plays]

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