

Wonderful! 266: A Return to Cheese

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: And we're taking it to the streets on this one.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: Yeah. This one's gonna be a voice of the people.

Rachel: It's a "Oops! No Research." [laughs]

Griffin: I think about it like a democratic sort of experiment in sort of mass... uh, enthusiasm.

Rachel: Yeah, we've done this before. This is maybe the second time that we've done this?

Griffin: Yeah. We are gonna turn it over to listener submissions, and we're gonna discuss these topics. Rachel had an unorthodox way of polling the crowd for this, which is just a Facebook poll, and so the subjects that we will be discussing will be, at times... brief?

Rachel: Well, here's what I liked about the Facebook poll option is that we could see, like, what other people were like, "Yeah, I like that!"

Griffin: Wisdom of the masses. That's what I'm talking about. The end goal for Wonderful is to create a sort of hive mind-like—I don't like the term artificial intelligence, 'cause it's real people put into a computer brain.

Rachel: Okay? [laughs]

Griffin: Is it unethical? Sure, yeah, no, definitely. But, uh—

Rachel: Well, these people get to keep their ideas. We don't own them now.

Griffin: For now.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Until the cyberization... cyberi—we'll probably—we're workshopping a different name, 'cause cyberization doesn't roll off the tongue, and it sounds, like, sexual in a way, which is not the goal. Um, we are doing this because we want to start including listener submissions back on the show. We have not said this email address in a long time. In fact, I had to look it up. But wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. Send in what your small wonder is, just a sentence or two, and we may read it on the show. We've been missing doing that and, you know, it's time.

Rachel: Yeah. At the end of each episode we used to, like, have a little listener shout out, and it was nice.

Griffin: Yeah, it was nice.

Rachel: We'd like to do that again.

Griffin: So we are wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. Please keep it brief. I promise you it will not go on the show if it is too long. That's not to be a stickler about it, but, you know, we have to keep the runtime... there's only so much—my computer's memory is only so big.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh?

Griffin: And these audio files are so much of 'em.

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: And I don't know how to delete 'em.

Rachel: No, nobody does. [laughs]

Griffin: No one knows how to.

Rachel: You just take a computer when it's full—

Griffin: And throw it in the river.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh. We haven't done small wonders yet, though.

Griffin: Oh yeah, sure. Uh, small wonders. Man, hmm. There's a show on Netflix called Perfect Match. Did we discuss this on the show yet?

Rachel: I—I don't think we have, no.

Griffin: It's a—it's—oh boy.

Rachel: It's like Bachelor Pad but for Netflix.

Griffin: It's like Bachelor Pad but for Netflix. It's like, uh... I mean, every network that does a lot of reality TVs does this—a lot of reality TVs. [laughs quietly] You know how you have to watch reality TV on your reality TV?

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: And not your virtual TV.

Rachel: Just like you have to fill up a computer and throw it away.

Griffin: They have cast members of many shows that Netflix has produced at this point.

Rachel: Mostly Love is Blind and—

Griffin: And The Circle.

Rachel: —and Too Hot to Handle.

Griffin: And Too Hot to Handle. There's some The Circle in there too, though. Notably there's a couple dudes from The Mole on there.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs quietly] Those poor guys. [laughs]

Griffin: Those poor guys, bringing The Mole awareness.

Rachel: Everyone else kind of knows each other because I think Netflix arranges little mixers. But the Mole guys, either because the show is too new or because nobody watched it, uh...

Griffin: Some people watched it!

Rachel: I mean, we did.

Griffin: We watched it. We hate-watched it, I think, which was unorthodox for us.

Rachel: But when Will and Dom showed up, everybody was just going off of, like, "Whoa, he looks like he has hair."

Griffin: Yeah. No recognition there.

Rachel: Nobody knew anything about them. [laughs]

Griffin: It's a dating show... except that, like, it's all—it's a competitive dating show.

Rachel: It is, like, strategy-first.

Griffin: Yeah. So basic premise, the show starts out. There's, uh, five guys and five ladies, and they match up, and then they bring in two people every week who can, like, sort of break in to the other matches and at the end of each episode two people go home.

Rachel: But the idea is, like, you get to be the person who picks who comes in next if you can—

Griffin: [simultaneously] If you win the challenge.

Rachel: Yeah, if you can win a challenge with your partner. So that is really the only incentive to pick a partner that you're compatible with.

Griffin: Well, and love.

Rachel: Well, but there's...

Griffin: There's not much of that on that show.

Rachel: They do dates, like you can win a date, but the people that win dates are the people that already won the challenge. [laughs] So it's not really feeding any additional love.

Griffin: Yeah. It's entertaining, man. It's trashy as all hell.

Rachel: I'm really curious what's—I don't know how it's gonna end.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Like—well, I mean, who wins? How do they win? I have lost track.

Griffin: Is it money? I don't know that—is there money?

Rachel: But, like, how do they decide which couple wins? Is it a vote, like it is on—

Griffin: Whoever kiss the longest.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Whoever does the longest, biggest kiss. It's gonna be gross.

Rachel: I mean, it's a gross show.

Griffin: It's a pretty gross show. But I don't know, man. Guilty pleasure territory. It's... it's hittin' all the right notes for me. Do you have a small wonder... to do?

Rachel: Um, this is gonna be a complicated thing to say. I got to see some friends in Palm Springs, California. And one of our friends was driving, and so she had a little more flexibility on what she could bring, and she brought a bunch of ingredients to make, like, face masks and scrubs.

Griffin: Fun.

Rachel: And it was just, like, stuff from around the house, like literal avocados, and salt, and honey, and I was like, "Wait. But these are things I can eat! *And* put 'em on my face?" So that's my small wonder is things you can eat and—

Griffin: But also put 'em on your face. Yeah.

Rachel: —and put on your face. [laughs]

Griffin: Was there any rejuvenative powers to the things you put on your face? Or was it just the novelty of like, "I'm gonna make myself very messy."

Rachel: Oh my gosh, no. Although we did use—in the kitchen there was a basting brush, [through laughter] and so we used that to apply.

Griffin: That's amazing.

Rachel: But yeah, no, definitely the scrub, like, scrubbed, and the masks made my face so soft and shiny. I was very impressed.

Griffin: Excellent.

Rachel: A plus.

Griffin: Best—I don't know that I want food on my face. But I'm glad it worked for you.

Rachel: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Should we begin?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Do we want to start with the number one, the hottest shit?

Rachel: Or do we want to work our way up to that?

Griffin: Hmm... I don't know. Let's not make 'em wait, man.

Rachel: I will also say, like, the—I don't know if this looks better on a desktop. I'm not actually seeing numbers. I'm just seeing little colored bars.

Griffin: Oh, that's fine. We can—[crosstalk]

Rachel: So I can kind of guess from the colored bars.

Griffin: Yeah. Tens of thousands of votes, I'm guessing, on this one. Hundreds, even, maybe.

Rachel: So, um, there were... okay, there were 637 votes.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Facebook is telling me it was a 2000 post reach.

Griffin: Oh hell yeah!

Rachel: I don't know what that means.

Griffin: That's huge, man!

Rachel: That seems like a lot.

Griffin: I don't know. I have no idea what reach means. [sneezes distantly]

Rachel: So there's a few top... posts. But it looks like number one was submitted by Ian. It is free food in the break room.

Griffin: Yeah. Um...

Rachel: Do you know this? Does this mean anything to you?

Griffin: No, I've literally—gang? Never. Never.

Rachel: [laughs] You've worked in establishments. They had—

Griffin: I've worked in establishments.

Rachel: Didn't they have break rooms?

Griffin: Sure. Didn't have fuckin' free communal snacks.

Rachel: Ohh.

Griffin: I worked in a movie theater where you got, like... really huge discounts on concessions, and so I think they thought, like, that's... that is the... that's the benefit for you. Food was never provided. Nor at Gamestop, ever. Never ever. Never. We didn't really have much of a break—the break room was also like a storeroom, and...

Rachel: Yeah, exactly. It was, like, a chair. [laughs]

Griffin: It was pretty small. I'm trying to think, man.

Rachel: Can I speak to you about my experiences?

Griffin: I would love to, 'cause I'm sure you have all kinds.

Rachel: So, I have worked—I mean, I'm just gonna go back to let's say 2009. I worked at an organization that often had, like, offsite agencies come and use our meeting space, and a lot of times when they would leave they would leave their extra food.

Griffin: Hell yes!

Rachel: So we would get emails, and it would be like a dash, like a literal sprint. We would get an email that said "Free breakfast tacos in the kitchen!"

Griffin: Oh, that's good.

Rachel: And you would just hear people just, like, sprint down the hallway.

Griffin: Like good shit? Like Taco Deli shit? Like, good stuff?

Rachel: Yeah, uh-huh.

Griffin: Aww, man.

Rachel: And the thing was, they never told you how much was there.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: At the community college I worked at, every year around Christmas time, HEB would bring in a huge coconut cake, and it would end up in the big chancellor's office conference room.

Griffin: The big chancellor.

Rachel: The big chancellor. [laughs] A little chancellor.

Griffin: "[deep voice] Come to me, students!"

Rachel: Little chancellor got no coconut cake. But yeah, it was like an email that would go out every year, and when I started I remember people being like, "You know, when you see that coconut cake email you gotta go, 'cause it's not gonna last." And it's true.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But yeah, it was a thrill. I used to love it. Especially at my first job, I mentioned with the breakfast tacos, a lot of times they would have, like,

lunch meetings, and so you'd get, like, a full box lunch! It's incredible. That makes your whole day.

Griffin: The only experience I had that is similar to this, I think, is at the church I grew up going to. Every first Sunday of the month they had what they call Donut Sunday, where somebody would just buy a bunch of Jolly Pirate donuts and bring it in to all the different Sunday school classes. And... let me just say. My donut Sunday attendance record at church was... immaculate.

Rachel: [laughs] Just like, "Oh, man. I'm not feeling well. Wait, is it... donut Sunday?"

Griffin: "Is it the third of—oh yeah! Let's go, let's go!"

Rachel: [laughs] Um, the other thing I will say that I've always been jealous of is those, like, tech companies that always have free food.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like they'll have, like, a cereal bar, and it's just, like, always full of cereal.

Griffin: So, I worked out of the box office a few times, specifically the New York one. And I always felt like there was—there was a lot of food, like, on—not food. Not like, you know, *foie gras*. But like, there were snack—snack bars and a coffee machine and all this stuff. But there was also definitely food there that people had brought. And it felt like... it felt like it was meant to dissuade outsiders from getting too comfortable in the kitchen, 'cause you could make a wrong pickup, a wrong chew, and someone would be like, "Where did my egg rolls go?" You know?

Rachel: So you thought you would see a container of two egg rolls and you'd be like, "Oh, this must be free."

Griffin: "Oh, this must be for everyone."

Rachel: [laughs] Uh, do you want to keep going along the top ones?

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Rachel: Okay. Cats that burrow under a blanket with you to cuddle.

Griffin: That's good.

Rachel: That's from Sierra.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, that's a classic. You really can't go wrong with that.

Rachel: You know what I miss about having a cat is when you would make the bed, and the cat would get in, and it'd just be this perfect little mound. So you'd be like, "Where's my cat?" And then you'd walk into the bedroom and see this little hill under the sheets.

Griffin: Yeah. I like when our old cat Cecil used to sit, like, on his butt and his back up, and so it was just his paun—his fuckin' paunch would just kind of, like, slump down. That was the good stuff.

Rachel: That was really good. But, you know, you really can't get in there for the belly.

Griffin: Oh, I did every—my—I paid for it. But... it was worth it, man. That was good paunch.

Rachel: Another one—I like this one a lot. Um, little rainbow makers that hang in the window.

Griffin: We have one of these. Do we still have one of these? Did they commute from Austin?

Rachel: It is somewhere. I don't know where it is. So, I mentioned this at some point, I think, to my friend Ariel, that I always used to see those little prisms in the windows and think, like, "Those must be a thousand dollars." [laughs] 'Cause it looked like a gemstone to me.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: And so she ended up buying some at our last house. I don't know what happened to 'em. But what we do have now is a little disco ball.

Griffin: Yes. Rachel has hung a disco ball in—

Rachel: In our kitchen.

Griffin: —one of our kitchen windows.

Rachel: Yeah. We went to—I'm just gonna—you know what? I'm gonna buzz market, because I feel like this is something people want to know. We went to Five Below and got this little five dollar gift little disco ball, and I hung it up, and now my kitchen is all...

Griffin: Twice a day for about 25 minutes a day, we get a little disco going on in there. It's really nice.

Rachel: It's not really a rainbow, but it is like a—like a fun light.

Griffin: My—my Nonnee had a bunch of these glass prism things. I remember being, like, very, very... entranced by them.

Rachel: I love it!

Griffin: There weren't a lot of toys—there weren't toys there whenever we would, like, visit her in Florida. But there were glass prisms that I could just sort of...

Rachel: Why should I be forced to wait for it to rain to get a rainbow, you know?

Griffin: Right? And sometimes you don't even get one then.

Rachel: Bring the rainbow to me. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Bring the rainbow to Rachel right now!

Rachel: [laughs] Um, and here's—now, from here on out it's kind of—I mean, it's a hodgepodge.

Griffin: Ooh, I love a hodgepodge.

Rachel: I will say, this one was sent in my Claire. "When the first sip of tea is the perfect temperature to warm me up and I haven't forgotten it until it's fully lukewarm."

Griffin: That's... I mean, I'll extend this to our friend, coffee.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: We're not—we like—we acknowledge tea. You know? Like, I accept tea.

Rachel: Yeah, no, tea is welcome.

Griffin: Except—well, that's putting it—

Rachel: Is that too much? [laughs]

Griffin: Tea is welcome when sickness is ha—I think maybe I've just equated tea with illness too much, and now I can't enjoy it healthy. That's why. That's definitely why. Not because it tastes bad most of the time.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, but man, yeah. That sweet spot for coffee.

Rachel: We do a lot, especially in the afternoon, of making coffee with the intention of just making it across the finish line. And then it will sit, and it will sit, and it's too late.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And then it's cold coffee. But if you can get in there in that perfect window...

Griffin: [crosstalk] get in there,, baby, that's the good stuff.

Rachel: It's beautiful. This one's from Christine. "When an old favorite song/album still gets you hyped."

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: I mean, this still works for you with, like, uh... oh, gosh. What am I thinking of? The band right now. LCD Soundsystem.

Griffin: Oh yeah, for sure.

Rachel: Definitely gets you hype.

Griffin: LCD Soundsystem, Justice, uh, honestly most Daft Punk. There's—I could think of a lot of sort of pump—pumper jams.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That get me going. Lotta soundtracks, you know?

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: You ever get pumped up to soundtracks.

Rachel: Oh. Uh, yes! That movie... Dope? Do you remember this?

Griffin: Yes! Yeah.

Rachel: That had a lot of jams on it. I used to like that one.

Griffin: Well, hold on. Is that a—I'm talking about, like, a score. Less a, like, collection of—

Rachel: What, you mean like a Jurassic... Park?

Griffin: Yeah, I get pumped up to the Jurassic Park theme.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's exactly right, honey.

Rachel: I don't know! Um... uh, here's another one, from James. "Unexpectedly large icicles." [pause] You were really excited about this one yesterday.

Griffin: Uhh... [sighs]

Rachel: Right? Am I wrong about that?

Griffin: I do like an unexpectedly large icicle.

Rachel: Yeah! It's always remarkable to me. Like, if I see one of these, I gotta point it out to somebody.

Griffin: Yeah. Or grab it and use it like a little telescope.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Oh!

Griffin: I remember seeing somebody do that on a cartoon once. Probably Ice Age or something like that.

Rachel: [laughs] That sounds right.

Griffin: And I thought, like, "That's cool—that's cool."

Rachel: You ever eat an icicle?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's the best.

Griffin: Grossest probably thing you could—I mean, it's drippin's.

Rachel: Depending on what it's dripped off of, right? Like, obviously not a wheel well on a car. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. I remember there was a Grey's Anatomy episode where somebody got a pretty bad boo boo from an icicle fall down.

Rachel: Yeah. That's the only thing you know about that show.

Griffin: That's not true. I watched the first, like, four seasons of that television program.

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Uh, and then it made me think of—again, to come back to our church, the exit that went out to, like, the parking lot where everybody parked, it was like behind this alley, our church. It was just a, like... straight up wall. Just like a three story tall wall that just, like, went right across. And there was no—I don't know if there were no gutters or, like, how one prevents this. But it was a—it was a death trap. Like, if you went out there in the winter and waited long enough, you would just see an icicle come crashing down to the ground. Or when you came out after the sun had come out, the ground would just be littered with shattered icicles.

Rachel: Yeahhh. Ooh, that's another small wonder.

Griffin: I guess so, yeah.

Rachel: Can I read—

Griffin: Lot of super happy church memories, guys. [stammering] I got—I got—I got 'em in droves, y'all!

Rachel: [laughs] Can I read one that has currently on votes?

Griffin: I would love to hear an unpopular opinion.

Rachel: Here's the thing. I think it's only unpopular because I think a lot of people don't know what this is.

Griffin: Or that the voting took place on, like, the first day this poll went up, and maybe it hasn't...

Rachel: And people stopped. This is from Brittany. It says, "Candle that smells like Oreos?" [laughs]

Griffin: That's cool!

Rachel: I don't know if she's trying to will this into existence, or if this is a thing!

Griffin: I almost like it better if that is the case, that it doesn't exist.

Rachel: Yeah, and she's just like, "Wouldn't this be wonderful?"

Griffin: That would be a fun also new segment on the show of a prospective... a prospective wonder.

Rachel: Ooh, yeah, we get some, uh—

Griffin: Some future sight.

Rachel: Or some, like, a startup that just makes the things that we want.

Griffin: Oh, gross. You ruined it!

Rachel: [through laughter] Did I make it gross?

Griffin: You ruined it, just then!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Should we take a break? Let's take a break. We're having a lot of fun. Too much fun, here. Let's cool our jets a moment and steal us away.

[ad break]

Griffin: There's probably some stuff on there that we don't know anything about, right?

Rachel: Uh, I don't know that we don't know anything about, but we've never really considered, or we've never really noticed I think is a better—

Griffin: Well, that's why we do this.

Rachel: Yeah. So this one was sent in by Liz. "When I replace the paper towel tube and the new one makes a beautiful chromatic scale in response to being forced down over the dowel."

[pause]

Griffin: What kind of...

Rachel: [laughs] I don't know what kind of paper towel holder would do that.

Griffin: Would make sound, would make music.

Rachel: I do like putting a new roll of paper towels, especially if it's one of those, like, springy ones. Like, that's fun. But I don't know about a... a...

Griffin: A chromatic scale!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This is another prospective small wonder. The musical paper towel holder.

Rachel: [laughs] I think—I imagine maybe if we looked it up on YouTube we could find one. Another one—

Griffin: Is chromatic scale just the full scale? Is that what that is?

Rachel: I don't know.

Griffin: The full, like, octave of major notes?

Rachel: I don't know. It's been, like, 20 years since I've been involved in music in any way.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Here's another that doesn't have votes. Again, very specific. It says "Getting to be a bridesmaid at my sister's wedding in a few days."
[laughs]

Griffin: I love that.

Rachel: So, I mean, a lot of people are like, "Well, I have maybe been a bridesmaid, but I don't have a wedding in a few days."

Griffin: [sighs] I miss weddings.

Rachel: I know. Me too. Especially now that we have kids that would dance on the dance floor.

Griffin: It'd be really cute.

Rachel: It would be.

Griffin: Dang.

Rachel: We should say, though, we don't have a PO box anymore, so we can't accept...

Griffin: I always did enjoy getting wedding invites. It was nice.

Rachel: Wedding invitations.

Griffin: But yes, we don't have one of those here.

Rachel: I've got a little pair here, one sent by Catherine, one sent by Jay.

Griffin: Oh, I thought you were saying a little pear. Oh. [laughs quietly] I thought you were saying one of the submissions was "A little pear. A juicy, green, delicious, tiny, sweet little pear."

Rachel: No, Catherine said "warm bath," Jay said "warm bed."

Griffin: Not at the same time.

Rachel: [laughs] Do you like a warm bed?

Griffin: Do I like a warm bed? No.

Rachel: I don't like to get in and have it be warm. I do like the resulting warmth.

Griffin: I like to get warm in a bed. I don't like to stay warm.

Rachel: What does that mean?

Griffin: It means I'll—so if it's cold in our room, my tech is I'll get in the bed with sheet and a comforter, and then once I've elevated the temperature under the sheet, I remove the comforter. And then it's just me and sheet and the heat that I've generated there.

Rachel: It's interesting, because you used to be a no sheet guy, I feel like, when we met.

Griffin: I did. But that was just because I was... dirty. Young.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It was just more stuff to not wash, you know?

Rachel: I saw somebody post on Twitter—and it seemed a little bit like everybody was maybe playing along—but the guy was like, "Oh, I only wash my sheets every two to three days. You think that's okay?"

And everyone's like, "Yeah, I don't go more than two days."

And I was like, "Really?!"

Griffin: That's goofs.

Rachel: "No way." [laughs]

Griffin: That's goof city. What is your life like—what kind of stuff does your body make that every two days you're like, "I've befouled this entire sheet!"

Rachel: I mean, clean sheets are fantastic.

Griffin: They're great. But who's got the time to do sheet laundry two—two—every—every two d—every 48 hours?! That's—

Rachel: Somebody that has more than one set of sheets. Here's the problem with us.

Griffin: Ohh, okay.

Rachel: We really only at any given time have one set of sheets.

Griffin: We only have one bed.

Rachel: [laughs] So to take them off, it's a real race against the clock.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Here is another one that I didn't know existed. Uh, sent in by Caitlin. "Twix flavored coffee creamer."

Griffin: I have to be honest with you. I don't love... zany coffee creamers. I need to have this conversation with my family, 'cause sometimes I come in town and they have zany coffee creamers. I don't know if it's for me. I love a straight over the plate hazelnut Coffee Mate.

Rachel: We should talk about this, because whenever I do groceries I always get you hazelnut. There's gotta be something else out there for you though, right?

Griffin: No. No. 'Cause I've tried—French Vanilla in a pinch, like if they're out of hazelnut, I can—

Rachel: What about like a caramel?

Griffin: No.

Rachel: No!

Griffin: I don't want it to be... I find a lot of coffee creamers to be pretty cloying. Right?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And hazelnut is just like, it gives it a little nutty—I feel like it enhances the coffee flavor. It doesn't override it. You know what I mean?

Rachel: Yeah. No, I see what you're saying. I mean—

Griffin: I'm sort of a coffee purist.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Sort of a coffee snob over here.

Rachel: Hazelnut does have kind of an inherent coffee-ness to it, which I feel like—I see what you're saying.

Griffin: In my brain, that's what coffee tastes like. And so when I put in a Thin Mint flavored one, that's too out there, man. That's too zany, too nutty.

Rachel: Although...

Griffin: Although hazelnut is, yes...

Rachel: Uh, here is one that it surprised me how many votes it got, because I personally can't relate to it. It is from Casey. "Watching the neighborhood squirrels eat the corn we throw out for them."

Griffin: [distantly] Yeah.

Rachel: Multiple people voted on that.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Is this a thing? Is this a common practice?

Griffin: Yeah, it's called corn toss.

Rachel: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: We did it at West Virginia growing up all the time. The squirrels would come along—

Rachel: Uh-huh? Like "Save some corn for the squirrels!"

Griffin: —and we would do corn toss. Um, and then they'd get in the yard, and then—

Rachel: I would like to see a little squirrel holding a piece of corn, though, and just nibbling.

Griffin: Sure, good. Or half a cob. Just, like... [squirrel noises]

Rachel: Oh, that's good, too.

Griffin: That's really good, yeah. They get really wound up about it.

Rachel: Uh, one of these is particularly poignant for me. It's sent in by Emily. It's just "Cheese!"

Griffin: Yeah. Why is that poignant, do you think?

Rachel: Well, 'cause I just made a return to cheese.

Griffin: A return... to yourself.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Hmm. You were always right there, weren't you? You and cheese.

Rachel: I, uh—I had a—well, so, those of you know both of our sons had the same cow's milk protein allergy, which meant while I was breastfeeding, I wasn't able to consume anything with cow's milk. And so I didn't have dairy at all. And then I've just started to dip my toe back in.

Griffin: "Dip your toe" is a fun way of putting it.

Rachel: In a big way. [laughs]

Griffin: I would say you've jumped splash right dang-dong right into it.

Rachel: I've made some real mistakes. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, man!

Rachel: It's kind of like, you know, I really lost my tolerance over the many, many months. And you can't go back to the way you were.

Griffin: We both—and I'm along with you.

Rachel: Yeah, true!

Griffin: And I don't need to be on this fuckin' journey at all. It is ill-advised. We have eaten lasagna for the past two meals! We had dinner lasagna and then we had leftover lunchtime lasagna. I feel bad right now.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: My body feels bad.

Rachel: I'm sorry that I brought you along for this.

Griffin: It's fun. It's fun.

Rachel: I appreciated your partnership in the no-cheese times.

Griffin: Of course, yeah. Although you did—Rachel makes pizza every couple weeks or so, I would say, and we were using this—or you were using this—was it—I don't—maybe we shouldn't say the name of the brand of cheese.

Rachel: Yeah, it was—

Griffin: But it was good! It was good. We would eat it and I would be like, "Yum, yum, pizza." And then you were like, "Hey, I'm gonna make it with real cheese this time." and I tried it. It reminded me of the Parks and Rec episode where Ron Swanson and Chris Trager have a burger cook off. And Chris Trager puts all of this, like, fancy sort of stuff on it and Ron Swanson just gives them a plain beef burger, ketchup optional, and they like his better.

Rachel: [laughs] How many more do you think we have time for?

Griffin: Uhh, maybe a couple more.

Rachel: Okay. This one was sent in by Amy. "Animals doing a biiiiig—" lot of Is— "stretch."

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: That's very good.

Griffin: This is sort of again, cats are the best at this, I think.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, dogs stretch.

Griffin: Yeah, but not enough, and I've been talking to them about that. They are gonna hurt themselves.

Rachel: [laughs] Um, here is one, again, that I was surprised had so many votes. Maybe people just liked the enthusiasm. This one was "Feeding the crows, who now recognize me!"

Griffin: Crows are like that, huh? I feel like I know—

Rachel: Do they know?

Griffin: Yeah, I feel like I know a lot about crow just because, like, people—they're very—

Rachel: They're smart, aren't they?

Griffin: They're very receptive to human beings.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: And they know how to sort of, like, collab with us. And that excited me. Pigeons, too. Man, pigeons are so smart. Did you know about that? They can, like, fly—I was reading an animals—

Rachel: [simultaneously] I don't know about that.

Griffin: Animals fact book to Henry, and it was like "Pigeons can find their way home from, like, a thousand miles away." That's crazy, man. I feel like you—you don't care about [crosstalk].

Rachel: Well, I mean, yeah. Well, there's the carrier pigeon, actually, now that you mention it. Like, I've heard of that as a thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: This one I was actually interested. So, there were some comments on this poll, and one of 'em really elaborated on one of the wonders that somebody mentioned, which was Squishmallows.

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: You familiar with these guys?

Griffin: I think Henry has a couple of them.

Rachel: Yeah, we got some for Henry. I think they're adorable, and I was kind of hoping Henry would be more into them, but he's not.

Griffin: Nope!

Rachel: Um, but somebody commented and said that they seem to work better than a lot of orthopedic pillows, just 'cause they're the right consistency. You know?

Griffin: That's interesting. That's interesting. I'll have to experiment with—

Rachel: You want to try one of those?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Between your knees?

Griffin: Yeah, I would love that. That would be great. As long as Henry doesn't ever ask for it back.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Get just—get this corgi that's just bent at a 90 degree angle now.

Rachel: [laughs] Or with a little, like, well where the stomach was.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: Uh, this one—I mean, with got a lot about animals, maybe unsurprisingly.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Um, I can just go through some of them quickly. Um, Emily sent in "Little cat noses."

Griffin: Yeah. Love those.

Rachel: Laura sent in "Dog/cat snoring."

Griffin: Mmkay.

Rachel: That's another good thing. The snoring actually is really...

Griffin: Snoring's pretty great.

Rachel: It's pretty great.

Griffin: You know what else is good? Little kid snoring. That's fun, too. 'Cause that means they're asleep.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I like that. Sometimes we'll hear one of our kids snoring over the monitor and it's like, "Yesss. He's not waking up any time soon."

Rachel: Yeah, that's true. Although, I don't know. We've had so many nasal issues.

Griffin: That is fair.

Rachel: It always makes me nervous. Like, "Oh, they're gonna be up, like, 100 times now."

Griffin: Why don't we close out with one last showstopper? [pause] One that's gonna really knock my socks off?

Rachel: Okay, this one was sent in by Jennifer. "Saw my first dandelion!"

[pause]

Rachel: What do you think that means?

Griffin: Wow. Maybe Jennifer lives in an area where dandelions are not... native to?

Rachel: Is that possible?

Griffin: Like... Antarctica?

Rachel: I wondered if maybe it was like a "Saw my first dandelion of the season."

Griffin: Oh, that's interesting.

Rachel: We had a lot of posts that were like, you know, signs—

Griffin: Bluebonnets are out, yeah, sure.

Rachel: Signs that things are growing now that it's almost spring.

Griffin: Nature is healing. I saw a dandelion. I love a dandelion.

Rachel: Me too!

Griffin: You ever had dandelion greens?

Rachel: Uh, yeah. I think so. I mean, not by themselves.

Griffin: They're not very good.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: But they look cool.

Rachel: Well, and they're, like, a fun little thing in a meal, you know. If you go to a restaurant and they, like, put a little... put a few of 'em in there.

Griffin: We used to do a thing when we were kids where we would take the heads of dandelions and we would rub 'em against people's arms and skin and it just leaves, like, a yellow streak on 'em, and we would laugh that it looked like pee.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But that doesn't make any—pee doesn't... leave, like, a... colorful...

Rachel: No.

Griffin: ... trace on your skin when you touch it. I don't go around touching a lot of pee, I mean, but it's not—like, physically it doesn't have the same sort of, like, properties... as a dandelion does.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. You want to talk some more about pee? [pause] Is that—or was that—

Griffin: I don't think so.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Can I—can I reserve the right to circle back on that?

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah, please.

Griffin: Okay. This has been Wonderful. Wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. Send in your listener submissions. We're gonna do one or two of 'em at the end of the episodes now. And I'm looking forward to getting back to it.

Rachel: Unless we forget.

Griffin: Unless we forget, which is entirely possible.

Rachel: But mostly we won't.

Griffin: Most of the time we won't. Sometimes we won't.

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. And thank you 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—you're gonna like the way you hear them. And feel.

Rachel: Uh, oh! You guys announced a live virtual show.

Griffin: March 17th.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: We are going to be doing a live MBMBaM virtually with Sawbones opening. You can get tickets—if you go to mcelroy.family you can find a link to get tickets. It's gonna be fun.

Rachel: It's gonna be the kickoff for your new—your theme, right?

Griffin: The kickoff for our vibe surfing, yes, for sure.

Rachel: Uh-huh. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Very excited about that. It is on the same night as the Blues game that we had tickets to here, which is a real heartbreaker.

Rachel: Yeah. Yeah, there was—there was some real disappointment.

Griffin: A scheduling snafu is what we'll call it, but, um, I don't know that that would be the most fun game to watch at this point anyways.

Rachel: Fair. Fair. Total free fall with the St. Louis Blues organization right now.

Griffin: Total, total dive right now.

Rachel: I didn't know—like, there's a looooot of trading happening this year.

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: I don't really understand why. Do you?

Griffin: It has to do with salary cap. It has to do—

Rachel: Is that different this year than previous years?

Griffin: They have—they didn't have very much wiggle room, and a lot of the dudes that had the biggest salaries were dramatically underperforming.

Rachel: Yeah. Well, I know that's true with St. Louis, but it's happening throughout the whole league.

Griffin: Uh, yeah. I don't know. I haven't—I don't know that I'm that well versed in hockey to have, like—

Rachel: Okay. Sometimes you read things.

Griffin: —a sort of [crosstalk]—

Rachel: I thought maybe you read something.

Griffin: I read things about the Blues. I don't have this panopticon open to all of hockey. That's way too—I don't understand that.

Rachel: I'm sure my dad will email me after this episode airs.

Griffin: I'm sure he will too.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that's it, though. Thank you so much for listening. We'll be back next week with another great episode of Wonderful.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, and—see ya—catch ya... [stutters]—and until next time, thank you for watching—thank you for listening... to Wonderful. Do you wanna say something?

Rachel: This—this has been a production by lovers, for lovers.

Griffin: Filmed in front of a live studio audience at Universal... Studios, Orlando, Hollywood. [snorts]

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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