

Wonderful! 293: Towels Drink the Wet from the Skin of the Back

Published September 14th, 2023

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay" by bo en and Augustus plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: This is a podcast where we talk about things we like, that is good and are good, and remains good, and we are into now and will forever be into.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: For the rest of our lives.

Rachel: Well I don't know that we— [dubious] Mmmm... [laughs]

Griffin: I think it's important that we plant our flag in this specific point. That if we ever talk about anything on this show, that we will love it forever and our feelings will never change.

Rachel: I can give you an 100% guarantee that we have talked about something that became quite problematic.

Griffin: Maybe. Yeah, probably.

Rachel: I think the whole foundation of *Rose Buddies* was kind of— [chuckles]

Griffin: Maybe.

Rachel: [simultaneously] Crumbled beneath us.

Griffin: [simultaneously] We were building our house on shifting sands there.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But for the—Okay then, for the most part, it's a show—

Rachel: For the most part.

Griffin: — where we talk about things that is and am good, and will remain forever good, forever. And ever, amen! This is a—This is a good—a good time to be—

Rachel: And also with you.

Griffin: With you. And... also with you.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Man.

Rachel: [laughs] Let's keep goin'! This is hot, this is hot fire.

Griffin: This isn't hot fire so far.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I—It turned into a sort of liturgy for a minute.

Rachel: Can I tell you what my small wonder is?

Griffin: I would love to hear about your small wonder.

Rachel: Okay. I thought about—I've actually thought about this before and thought "Oh, this is a good one," and then I forget.

Griffin: This is unprecedented.

Rachel: [laughs] Beep, beep, beep! It is... when a plant is kinda wilted, and then you add water, and it just pops up.

Griffin: It's crazy!

Rachel: I love that.

Griffin: It—It doesn't make any sense to me. I've seen plants before in our house, from like "Put that one in the ground."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Well...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: For a plant actually...

Rachel: Put that one below the ground.

Griffin: Take that one out of the ground.

Rachel: Take—[chuckles]

Griffin: It's done.

Rachel: Take that one out of the ground.

Griffin: But then you just dampen it a little bit, and then it's good to go. It's smart.

Rachel: I have specifically been investing in plants that do not require a lot of maintenance or care.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Because my whole approach to plants is water them once a week when I feel like it's been a week. [chuckles] So sometimes it's been more

than a week, and they start to look... pretty bad, and then I water them and they pop! Pop right back up.

Griffin: I'm gonna say, there is a new content expansion for the most recent Pokémon games that Henry has been shuddering with excitement.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: To play.

Rachel: You told me about it this morning, you guys hit it.

Griffin: We only played it for like 45 minutes or so this morning, before he had to go to school. But...

Rachel: Boooo! [laughs]

Griffin: Booo! School sucks! But... But it's fun to see him get this like fired up about a—a like a new video game thing. And get to share in that with him, it's been—it's been nice. It's funny, like the most recent Pokémon games I was so cool on when I played them for *Besties*.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And had to talk about them, and...

Rachel: But through a child's eyes.

Griffin: Through the magic of a child's eyes though I've been really—I've enjoyed it a lot. It's been a game we've like played together now and have shared and it is my—my experience with it has been much improved, so. You go first this week.

Rachel: I do.

Griffin: What do you have for us this week?

Rachel: I wanted to give a thank you. You know friend of the show, Anna Roache.

Griffin: I love friend of the show, Anna Roache.

Rachel: Uh-huh, that we invited on our special *Third Love* episode.

Griffin: Oh yes.

Rachel: She also has a podcast, *Stab in the Back*.

Griffin: So great.

Rachel: That she does with her friend Benton, and they talk about murderers and murders and all the things that people love.

Griffin: But in a fun way.

Rachel: But in a fun way. Anyway, she sent me a poem.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: Which is a perk of my role as poet enthusiast.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That people will occasionally send me poems. And most of the time I'm like "Oh, that's a good one." This one I was like "I'm think I'm gonna make a whole thing about it."

Griffin: Hell yeah.

Rachel: So we're goin' to the *Poetry Corner*.

Griffin: [improvises a jazz transition song, and chuckles part way through]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [continues improvising jazz]

Griffin: Just doing a little ragtime for yah.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh. It's beautiful, honey. Thank you.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: Gave me time to get out my laptop and open it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And now it's open, and I can tell you that the poet in the corner is—Well, I don't know if I should—

Griffin: That's weird. "Get in the corner!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Robert Frost. You're in trouble."

Rachel: Now that you're in the corner, I can introduce you to the poet, who is not necessarily in the corner, but we're going to talk about while in the corner.

Griffin: This poet is on the naughty step, and it is...

Rachel: Pat Schneider.

Griffin: Pat—Pat Schneider?

Rachel: Pat Schneider.

Griffin: I thought you said "Patch."

Rachel: I believe short for "Patricia."

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And this is a poet I was not familiar with, although the poem feels very familiar. I'm sure listeners of the show that are big poetry

enthusiasts will recognize—It feels to me like a poem I had read on the show before.

It is not, but it is... similar in content, and I would love it if you all could get on the Facebook group and tell me what poem you think I'm thinking of. Because I opened up our rolodex of poets, and I was like "Which one does this sound like?," and I was just overwhelmed by the sheer volume of poems that I have read on this show.

Anyway, Pat Schneider. Born in rural Missouri, in 1934, near the Ozark Mountains.

Griffin: Beautiful.

Rachel: I had never heard of Ava, and so I looked at it. There's only like 2000 people that live in that town.

Griffin: Ava? Is that—So that's the name of the rural Missouri area? That Pat hails from?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Yes. And I was like "2000 people, that's crazy. Let me see what the population was when she was born, maybe it's just gotten smaller." No, it was 1000 people. [chuckles] When she was born there.

Griffin: Alright. Goin' up.

Rachel: It is doubled in size.

Griffin: Good for you, Ava. Keep it up.

Rachel: Uh...

Griffin: City on the grow!

Rachel: [chuckles] She's written nine books of poetry. And she's got kind of like a complicated past that really motivated her work as a poet. When she was four, her parents divorced, and her mother moved her and her younger brother to St Louis, where she was looking for work. They lived in a tenement building, and later her mother put both children in an orphanage. I'm assuming for financial reasons, but I don't really know the story there.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: And then when—when they were released, her and her brother kind of diverged. He... became what she called a "drifter," and she was lucky enough to get a scholarship to Central College in Missouri.

She—She did continue to travel a lot. Her brother ended up in California, or the West Coast, rather. And she continued to kind of stay in touch with him, and he's very important to her. And I think she really became aware of the challenges of... What she called "traditionally silenced populations."

So she founded Amhurst Artists and Writers, which was a non-profit that focused on low-income women and children. Sponsoring writers' workshops and retreats. Because I think, and I read an interview with her where she talked about the fact that just even putting content on a page is a barrier in itself.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? And she realized through her own experiences—'Cause she did pursue an MFA. She did become a professor, she taught at University of Massachusetts, University of Connecticut, Smith College, and she lived in Amhurst, until her death.

But she... became really committed to connecting people to a community of artists, and trying to remove those barriers. Like people were invited to—to share writing that was hand-written, people were invited to just share information, and they would support them in getting it on the page. It—It's pretty exceptional considering how kind of exclusive the MFA community has become. That she was kinda making it available to everybody.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So the poem that our friend Anna sent me is called "The Patience of Ordinary Things." And it—

Griffin: Even the title sounds familiar.

Rachel: [laughs] I know. I know! I think—I mean this is just the kind of poem I like to bring, right. Like it is accessible and joyous, and—and helps us focus I think on... you know, the... the... splendor of the everyday.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Is what I will say. So this is from... a book "Another River: New and Selected Poems." Came out in 2005, or at least this version of the poem I'm reading. Just again, it is called "The Patience of Ordinary Things."

"It is a kind of love, is it not?
How the cup holds the tea,
How the chair stands sturdy and foursquare,
How the floor receives the bottoms of shoes
Or toes. How soles of feet know
Where they're supposed to be.
I've been thinking about the patience
Of ordinary things, how clothes
Wait respectfully in closets
And soap dries quietly in the dish,
And towels drink the wet
From the skin of the back.
And the lovely repetition of stairs.
And what is more generous than a window?"

Griffin: I almost wanna hear it again.

Rachel: [laughs] It's a short one.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's a short one and it's kinda hard to read, because there's so many questions in it.

Griffin: I know.

Rachel: Um...

Griffin: I was thinking about one of them, and then the poem was over.

Rachel: [laughs] Was it the towels drink the wet—

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: —from the skin of the back? Yeah?

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Rachel: That's a real showstopper. [chuckles]

Griffin: It really is.

Rachel: Particularly because she's using such plain language up until then.

Griffin: It really is, yeah.

Rachel: And then it's like "Whoa! Wait, I'm in a poem now!" [chuckles] When there was a review done of this book, the reviewer, Don Junkins, said "Pat Schneider's poems cut through to the real world. She not only knows how to write seemingly without effort, articulate and precise, lithe, she leans in language and abundant in content."

Griffin: Even that review.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Was kind of poetic.

Rachel: “Hers is a genuine voice expressed, an informed craft which, to be really effective, includes the management of tone, which itself depends entirely on the management of restraint.”

Griffin: I—This!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I want a review of the review!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Of this poem!

Rachel: I think a lot of poets review other poets, and so you get little—

Griffin: That’s a fair point.

Rachel: — little poems in the review, ‘cause everybody wants to be blurbed, I guess.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: Yeah. It’s—I—Her poems, I mean unsurprisingly given her focus, are very kind of unassuming. But then every once in a while she’ll—she’ll flaunt it?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You know? [laughs] I guess is the word I want—the phrase I’m looking for. Where she’s like “Yeah, hey. By the way, I am a poet.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I—I like that one. It—Again, reminds me of something I’ve read on the show, can’t identify what that is.

Griffin: Could be a while til you figure it out, yeah.

Rachel: But it does—it—there is something about it that feels like an AI generated poem for *Wonderful!* [chuckles] Because—

Griffin: Well.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That is reductive, I think, of both our show and the poem that you just read.

Rachel: I know. I know. I just—I read it and I felt like this is so precisely like the spirit of this show for me.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Rachel: So I was very grateful that Anna sent it to me, and I thought “You know what? I wanna talk about it.” So here I am. Pat Schneider.

Griffin: Everyone did a great job in getting this poem... into specifically my ears.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: You, Anna, Pat.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The reviewer. Everyone just did a great job today. Can I steal you... away, please?

Rachel: Yes.

[*Home Improvement* stinger plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: Um... I’ll be honest with you.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I struggled a lot to come up with a topic for this episode.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Partially because... I've—I've been feeling kinda sick this week.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's just hard to get the energy up when you're just kinda bummed out. I did start preparing a segment that was called "The Evolution of *American Ninja Warrior*."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Which would be different from when we talked about American Ninja Warrior on episode 100. I got like four bullet points into that prep work before I lost the courage of my convictions.

Rachel: We have—Just so anyone who listens to this, and also watches American Ninja Warrior, which I assume there's like seven of you. We have talked about doing some kind of bonus content that is associated with the show because we feel very passionately about it.

Griffin: It's a great fucking season. There's a lot people didn't like this season. They didn't like the race.

Rachel: Oh the race

Griffin: The races.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: That they did.

Rachel: I think—

Griffin: I thought that they added a real dynamic energy.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But instead I'm gonna talk about lunch.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: 'Cause I think that lunch is... by most people's estimations, the least important meal of the day.

Rachel: Yeah. No that's fair.

Griffin: And... But the older I get, like the more I appreciate the space that it occupies in my—in my every working day. 'Cause it's not flashy like dinner. And—or like necessary like breakfast is. But the structure that it provides, specifically for me, a person who has worked from home their entire adult life.

Rachel: Yeah, no kidding.

Griffin: Is—Is much appreciated. And I will also say up front that... I don't... go very hard on lunch. Like I don't spend a lot of time preparing my lunch.

Rachel: Yeah, you're not like putting sprouts and sliced avocado...

Griffin: Sprouts, never.

Rachel: On a—on a sandwich of... a particular—

Griffin: I do like sprouts on a sandwich though.

Rachel: Me too! Should I buy sprouts?

Griffin: You should get sprouts, babe.

Rachel: Okay. I'll get sprouts. [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't really ever go out for lunch. I don't work in an office, which I feel like is like the main reason why you go out for lunch.

Rachel: How cute would it be though if we put our lunch in little brown paper bags in our fridge.

Griffin: It'd be waste—It's be incredibly wasteful.

Rachel: [laughs] That's fair.

Griffin: Lunch for me is—it typically a... like a sandwich of some sort. Plus a crunch `em of some sort.

Rachel: Yeah, uh-huh, uh-huh.

Griffin: Some sort of crunch `em. I like usually it's whatever crunch `ems we have lying around for Henry, for his lunch. Whether it be something in the "ito" family.

Rachel: Mm-hmm. [chuckles]

Griffin: One of Judge Lance Ito's incredible chips.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Or a rice—a rice cracker, a flavored rice cracker, I enjoy that as well. And a sparkling beverage. That's usually my—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's usually lunch for me.

Rachel: Yeah. Of course.

Griffin: Very utilitarian hand food.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: You know?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: For the hands. However, that consistency is what makes the variations like all the more exciting. Like when we have leftovers, I genuinely do look forward to them, all morning long. In fact, if I am making dinner and start to realize like “Wait a minute, there’s more here than Rachel and I are gonna be able to eat tonight,” I start to get excited for lunch tomorrow.

Rachel: Oh, I know.

Griffin: Depending on what it is.

Rachel: I know, there—there should be a word for the experience of you’re getting close to lunch, you’re not sure what you’re gonna eat, and then you remember like...

Griffin: “I have leftovers.”

Griffin: “Oh wait! I have leftovers!” And like the little endorphin rush you get, like—[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I get this a lot for—We get food from a place called City Light of China, here in D.C.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And it’s, you know, pretty... It’s your usual takeout Chinese fare, but the portions are so outrageously large.

Rachel: Yeah, it’s like three meals almost.

Griffin: It’s like three meals, but like I will forget every time that I have it in the fridge until it’s like 11:50, when it’s like “What am I gonna have for lunch? I guess I could just have a sandwich. Oh, wait a minute! I got something special callin’ my name.” So... Lunch... It doesn’t just mean “eating” though. It also means like, rest.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Or time off from whatever it is that you'd rather kind of not be doing, whether it is school or work. Lunch just means you're not learning or working for a little bit, and... I like that. You're nourishing not just your body, but you're easing your mind, and that rules. I also like the structure of it. I like how lunch divides the day, for me, into two pretty clean blocks of pre-lunch, which is where I get a majority of my work done.

Rachel: Yeah, same.

Griffin: Most of our recordings that we do happen in the morning. And so by—by the time lunch rolls around, I have finished a bulk of my... necessary work for the day, and then that just leaves post-lunch for like clean up.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Of like the other little odd jobs and tasks that—that remain on my schedule.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Today, because I ski—I struggled for so long to come up with a topic, *Wonderful!* got bumped into the post-lunch block. Which is maybe why I'm dragging ass.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: A little bit, in this particular episode.

Rachel: I was gonna say, there's kind of an agreement, when you do work in an office. And let's say you go out to lunch with a co-worker? There's this kind of agreement of like "Well now we're useless the rest of the day." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: There have been so many times when I have gone out to lunch with a group of co-workers, come back to my desk, and everybody's like "Well. Ate too much. Got nothing left to give."

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah. I also like, if I have no post-lunch errands that need to do, I can take a post-lunch nap. Which is one of the danker naps that a human being can take, I think. 'Cause you just get so heavy in your midsection and it just—it just compels you to just be... supine.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And unconscious for a little bit.

Rachel: Yeah. I need to re-evaluate my approach to naps.

Griffin: Me too. I'm on a real unhealthy sort of everyday nap schedule again.

Rachel: See I almost never nap anymore, because I found it to be so unsatisfying.

Griffin: Oh wow.

Rachel: But I think part of that is because different quadrants of our house are like 10 degrees different in temperature.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I keep going into the hot room to nap. I should go downstairs to the cold room—

Griffin: [simultaneously] To the cold room—

Rachel: To nap. And I think I would be much more satisfied.

Griffin: I think you would too. I took a post-lunch nap today, and I did a mistake, in that I set my alarm for the exact time that my thery—therapy appointment started.

Rachel: [laughs] Griffin.

Griffin: And so I rolled up and was pretty like...

Rachel: Out of it.

Griffin: Out of it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: For the first, I would say, like 10 minutes.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: `Cause I was also like I had it on Do Not Disturb mode on my phone, and I turned that off like as I sat down to therapy.

Rachel: Oh, so everything blew up.

Griffin: [laughs] And so I have like 14 texts and a bunch of emails, so I was like "Oh fuck. Oh, hi. Hello. Yeha, I'm doin' bad."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh...

Rachel: You know what you should've done, you should've put your laptop right next to your bed. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And then you just roll over onto your side, and you're ready to go for therapy.

Griffin: Yeah. That would be—

Rachel: Very intimate.

Griffin: That would cross some pretty major boundaries, I think. So it's a hard thing to kinda track the origins of a common eating time. Around all the cultures, throughout global history.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: But modern lunch is more or less sort of, it was established as industrialization happened.

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: And that meant that workers were working longer shifts, further from home. 'Cause in like a, you know, more sort of rural society where it is not the thing.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You would just dip back home.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Grab a quick meal and then get back to work. That was not possible in the land of factories. And so folks started to eat more portable meals, and they started to, you know, have employer-dictated breaks, so that you get your energy back. For the afternoon shift of putting... fish inside of cans.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Or boxes, or whatever it is they do in factories. Making cars.

Rachel: Makew me wonder a lot about like the whole agriculture community. Because the wake up super early.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like, you know, 4am or whatever, to like go out and start the farmwork.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And then they're goin' to bed probably no long after sundown, so where is lunch for them? It's probably like... 10am.

Griffin: I would love... getting up at 4, working, crushing a gigantic breakfast at 8, workin', lunching, a huge lunch at noon!

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Napping! For like two and a half hours.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Goin' out, gym, tan, laundry, dinner. Bed. Until the next morning. That's the life for me, man.

Rachel: Alright, should we move again?

Griffin: [chuckles] Guess so.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The etymology of the word "lunch" is also hard to track, but the first recorded use of the word comes from 1591, where the word "lunch" was used to mean a thick slice of something, like "a lunch of bacon." Which sounds amazing!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Honestly.

Rachel: Oh, that's great!

Griffin: I would destroy a bacon lunch right now. I do also enjoy a lunch excursion, when it happens, going out to lunch.

Rachel: Yeah, we need to get back in the habit.

Griffin: We do need to get back in the habit.

Rachel: We used to try and do that every so often, it was a way to get to a restaurant that we were not getting to otherwise. [wheezes]

Griffin: Yeah, it's harder when—once we had kids, to like go out for dinner. And so lunch is [singing] “Myyy type of thing.”

Rachel: [giggles]

Griffin: Um... I also do love when I go out to a restaurant and the serve me lunch-sized portions, which is almost invariably the better sized portion for me. Griffin McElroy. What I like to eat at a restaurant.

Rachel: Do you mean smaller?

Griffin: Smaller.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: More petite.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like myself. I love finishing a plate of food and saying “Ah. Yes.”

Rachel: “That was the right amount of food.”

Griffin: “That was the correct amount of food for me, a petite man.”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I also do enjoy how undefined lunch is. Like breakfast foods is a pretty set category. And it's pretty broad.

Rachel: Well, in—in Western—in Western culture.

Griffin: In Western culture, okay fine.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It is a broad category, but it is pretty well defined. Like I could show you a food and you say whether it is a breakfast food or not.

Rachel: I've noticed that you feel strongly about this, because our—our sons will often ask for something like chicken nuggets at 9am. And I'm like "Alright, cool." [laughs] I don't really care. But you're like "That's a lunch food, what are you doing?!"

Griffin: Um... I don't think I say "What are you doing?."

Rachel: No, you don't.

Griffin: [aggressively] "What are you doing?!"

Rachel: [laughs] But I just think you're always like—like you know, you grab your throat a little bit, and your collar pops.

Griffin: I clutch my pearls.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I pop my collar?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: "What are you doing?" [imitates the sound a collar being aggressively popped up]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Get outta here."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I—I just like that lunch is just free—It's a freestyle. Literally anything goes for lunch.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Anything can be lunch.

Rachel: No, it's true.

Griffin: I haven't—I didn't talk about... lunch's... lazy twin, brunch.

Rachel: [sighs] Because we're not brunch people anymore, GRIFFIN.

Griffin: No, we're—

Rachel: This is a great sadness for both of us, I think.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Brunch was for people who got to wake up later.

Griffin: The only thing that beats a post-lunch nap is the post-brunch nap. The pot-brunch nap that hap—that starts at noon and ends at 4 is—that's the—that's the life for me. I take it back, I don't wanna be a farmer guy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I wannabe a mimosa-guzzling brunch fiend. A brunch master.

Rachel: I would like to think you can do both, but I don't think you can have it all. [chuckles]

Griffin: I wanna—I want to live every life possible, all at the same time. I wanna be... rural farmer.

Rachel: That's beautiful, honey.

Griffin: And then I wanna be... you know... gossiping over brunch. And then sleeping for four hours.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: 'Cause I'm worth it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I have some submissions from our friends at home.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: You wanna know what they're talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Helen says "As a kid, I hated spicy things and refused to add anything extra to my food. But as an adult, I have really come to appreciate how the right hot sauce can make boring foods taste different and better. Shout out Arizona Gunslinger Green Sauce."

Sounds good. It's been a while since I've had a green hot sauce in my home. I do like a... like a tomatillo salsa is actually probably my favorite kind of salsa now.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But like a smooth, green sauce, it's been a minute.

Rachel: I need like a sommelier for hot sauce, because I know what ones I like.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I'm literally scared to try anything else.

Griffin: The only stuff I put hot sauce on now is eggs and pizza. And it's Cholula basically every—all the time,

Rachel: And rice. Don't you—don't you do it on a rice dish occasionally?

Griffin: Um...

Rachel: I like Sriracha on like—

Griffin: Sriracha, yeah.

Rachel: On a rice or noodle dish.

Griffin: I like... We've started doing like chili crunch with... some of the dishes that—that—

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That I make, and I like that. I've fallen off Sriracha pretty hard.

Rachel: Hmm.

Griffin: I feel like Sriracha... like overwhelms the taste of whatever food I put it on.

Rachel: Mm.

Griffin: In a way that is distracting.

Rachel: Hmm.

Griffin: Anne says "My small wonder is when foods come in little glass jars that you can keep and reuse."

Rachel: Yeeeeees!

Griffin: "You enjoy your yoghurt or tiramisu, and you get a little glass souvenir that's yours forever."

Rachel: Yes! I—

Griffin: I will say that about jellies also.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Jellies and jams.

Rachel: I've been meaning to talk to you about this actually.

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Rachel: We—we get a jelly that comes in a little jar.

Griffin: We do.

Rachel: And occasionally Griffin will discard the jar, and I will fish it out of the receptacle.

Griffin: Oh!

Rachel: And clean it, because I really like—I like a jelly jar as a cup.

Griffin: I like a jelly jar as a cup too, I don't know why I do that.

Rachel: I mean, it—You know, most things when you finish the contents, you get rid of them. Just in that very specific example, I'm like "No no no! The jar!"

Griffin: I recycle it though, right? I don't just throw it in the garbage can, I would hope. [pause] Oh no, do I really?

Rachel: I—I mean, here's the thing. There's still a little bit of jelly in it.

Griffin: Oh, I see what you mean.

Rachel: Right? Sometimes it's like "Oh gosh, I don't wanna put this jelly in the recycling and have it sit there for... three days."

Griffin: I—But I don't rinse it out? Man, I really need to get it the fuck together.

Rachel: I don't—I don't want it to be like this.

Griffin: I don't want it to be like this either but apparently.

Rachel: I just wanted to talk about jars. [chuckles quietly]

Griffin: I do love jars though.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Especially Jars of Clay, my favorite... Christian rock—

Rachel: I can't.

Griffin: Ba—Come with—

Rachel: I can't follow you.

Griffin: Please come with me.

Rachel: I don't know anything about this, I can't follow you.

Griffin: One of these days, I'm gonna sit you down—One of these days, I'm gonna force you to guest on *Good Christian Fun*.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And you'll get a very quick education on contemporary Christian music.

Rachel: I know so little.

Griffin: I know, it's so exciting. You—You didn't know—You didn't know what Reliant K was.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: It was like a couple months ago we were talking about Christian bands, and I was talking about Switchfoot, and you were—you had heard of Switchfoot, but you didn't know their music.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Which is appalling.

Rachel: I'd never heard of Reliant K.

Griffin: But then—And then I was like “Well, or Reliant K,” and you were like “Reliant who?!”

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: And it—The though that you didn’t—

Rachel: Is DC Talk one?

Griffin: Yes!

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I’ve heard of that one.

Griffin: That was—DC Talk was great. They did “Jesus Freak,” I think.

Rachel: Ah, see again. Just—

Griffin: [singing] “What would people say if they found out I’m a Jesus freak?”

Rachel: [chuckles] I will say there are a lot of times when I am looking for a station on the radio, which is something I still do, and I’ll hit what sounds like an alternative rock station. And then I’ll start listening and I’ll be like “Wait.”

Griffin: Wait.

Rachel: “You caught me. You fooled me.” [chuckles]

Griffin: Um... Yeah, “Jesus Freak” was DC Talk. Man. What a bop. [snorts]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs quietly] Thank you so much to Ben 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 got there. You're gonna find something that you're—that you're gonna like and you're gonna vibe with.

We have a bunch of merch, over at mcelroymerch.com that you can go check out. We have a bunch—a new line of *Besties* stickers that I'm delighted be. It's like all four of us but done up in the styles of the video games we love.

Rachel: Awwwww!

Griffin: So I look like a *Animal Crossing* guy.

Rachel: That's adorable!

Griffin: Justin has a little *Sewer Shark* guy. It's very—it's very good. We have some shows coming up in New York and Philly that you can get tickets to, they're gonna be like the second week of October, I believe? Go to mcelroy.family and find links to those, where to get tickets now.

And... I think that's it. Thank you so much for listening. Sorry for the low-key vibe on this one. We're comin' in hot, but I'm—I—next week? Next week's one is gonna be... Is maybe we will give ourselves permission to talk about *American Ninja Warrior* for...

Rachel: Whoa. I don't know, dude.

Griffin: An hour.

Rachel: I don't know.

Griffin: I will say that as much as I do enjoy the show, and I do think it has evolved in a spectacular fashion.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: As soon as the season is done, I forget fuckin' everything about it.

Rachel: I know, I was gonna say, it feels a little bit like dumping out my underwear draw in front of our listeners. Like here—here is my—my hidden—my hidden things.

Griffin: Well what do you got in there? What do you go in your underwear draw?

Rachel: It's just a kind of vulnerability to talk in—in depth about *American Ninja Warrior*, which is a show I think almost no-one watches.

Griffin: What if you dumped out your underwear draw and you had a secret like... like pocketknife collection. That you would—

Rachel: [very excited] Oooooooo!

Griffin: Something like very out of character for you.

Rachel: I like that Rachel.

[theme music fades in]

Griffin: Okay, I'll be farm Griffin, you be knife Rachel by next week...

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: And we'll meet back up and see how it goes.

Rachel: Okay. Sounds good.

Griffin: Okay.

[outro music plays, then fades out]

[chord]

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