

Wonderful! 331: Our Favorite Listener Submissions!

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

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hey, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: I'm so sorry. I start this recording by taking off my socks 'cause I just got back from the gymnasium.

Rachel: Every 10 minutes, Griffin will take off another—

Griffin: No.

Rachel: — article of clothing.

Griffin: I'm only wearing two more articles, so.

Rachel: Well, unless you count your band on your arm.

Griffin: I don't.

Rachel: That's not what they call it, but.

Griffin: No, no.

Rachel: They should.

Griffin: If I walk into a grocery store only wearing my heartrate monitor, I will be removed from the premises with much haste. Thanks for listening to *Wonderful!* it's the show where we talk about the things that we like, that's good, that we're into.

Oh, did I say "we're into?" I meant "you're into," 'cause this week, we're doing an all-listener submissions episode.

Rachel: [imitates an air horn]

Griffin: Oh god, it's so—

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It's so right every time. It's been a while, babe. I think one of our kids asked what an airhorn was, probably the one who speaks in coherent sentences.

Rachel: Yeah, would even know to ask that question.

Griffin: And you busted that out for him.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And he doesn't know any better, but I do.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's like that's fun for me.

Rachel: I mean as parents, sometimes it's just for you and me, you know?

Griffin: That's— I find that that's true a lot of the time.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you, before we get into what our friends at home have been talking about— Which, by the way, thank you all so much. Our inbox has been stuffed to the brim lately. It's almost—

The ratio of actual emails from people who have listened to our show to complete spam garbage that somehow continues to weave its way through the Gmail filters, it is— it's starting to reach equilibrium.

Rachel: Oh good.

Griffin: And I do appreciate that. It's wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com. If you send in a very brief sort of message about your own sort of mini

wonder, then we'll talk about it, usually at the end of the show, but sometimes through the whole ding dang thing. But do you have any small wonders while we get goin' in it?

Rachel: I do. I wanted to say getting to perform in front of your hometown.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I don't— This is probably not something that hits you as hard because you grew up performing in front of people in your hometown.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But for me, this is the second time now that I have gotten to get onstage in front of the audience in beautiful St Louis, Missouri.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Slash Chesterfield.

Griffin: Slash Chesterfield. Gorgeous Chesterfield. Chesterfield don't get enough credit.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Gorgeous Chesterfield.

Rachel: Highway.

Griffin: Highway, strip mall, like pretty dope situation if you are a touring act, I will say.

Rachel: Yeah. It was convenient.

Griffin: Everything you need right at your fingertips.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Love that.

Rachel: But yeah, I had some friends come out. It was an almost sold-out crowd. And it was a really cool experience. It just feels like, I don't know, it feels welcoming in a way that it wouldn't elsewhere.

Griffin: Yeah sure, I get it.

Rachel: 'Cause it's felt like these are my people.

Griffin: I still feel that— It's been a while since we've done a live Candenights in Huntington, but that was always—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That was always like really, really, really special to experience.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm going to say Korean fried chicken.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Y'all, we were on tour, we got to Kansas City, the first night we were like, "Let's order some dinner." We were lookin' around and I just— I've never done that particular sub-genre of Korean food before, but I just saw it on the app, and I was like, "That looks fuckin' good." And so we ordered a bunch of it, [chuckles] and it was the best shit I've ever eaten in my life!

Rachel: It was such a surreal experience, 'cause we have gotten to the hotel and we were like sitting around this little coffee table, and our children were just kind of waiting for us to finish eating. And we both were like, "This is really—"

Griffin: "Sorry kids, this is the best thing I've ever—"

Rachel: "This is really good, and we had—"

Griffin: "Our fingers are so mess— Like we can't do anything for you right now. Our fingers are so sticky and messy."

Rachel: And we had to eat so fast.

Griffin: We did, I felt so bad afterwards. But then we found a place here in DC, got some last night, it also kicks ass.

Rachel: It was as yummy.

Griffin: I suspect that Korean fried chicken, just as a concept, just beats ass in general.

Rachel: I mean, if you like both those things, if you like fried chicken and you like Korean food.

Griffin: Absolutely I do.

Rachel: Then there's no way to fail.

Griffin: It's true, too big to fail. Let's get into it. Our first submission comes from Lupita who says, "My small wonder is any and all seasonal treats. Now as a fall and winter girlie, I'm partial to a hot apple cider, warm bowl of ramen, or even a Starbucks pumpkin spiced latte.

However, because of the summer heat, my husband and I have instead been enjoying ice pops, our fave summer fruits (hell yeah cherries), and homemade Arnold Pormer."

Rachel: [laughs] Poor listener that they couldn't get that right.

Griffin: I know, it's sad.

Rachel: In the email.

Griffin: I don't know why Lupita defi— No, Lupita did it right.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Arnold Palmers." That's a— That name is phonetically pretty shitty, I think we can all agree. Arnold Palmer.

Rachel: Arnold Palmer.

Griffin: [garbled] Arnold Palmers. [normal] "He brews his own unsweet tea." I'm assuming the husband does, not Arnold Palmer.

Rachel: [chuckles] Not Arnold.

Griffin: Arnold. God dang it.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "He brews his own unsweet tea, it's Lipton so it's not that fancy, but we purchase a locally sourced lemonade from our neighborhood market."

Rachel: Ohhhh.

Griffin: Lot to love. Lot to love in that message.

Rachel: I used to make sun tea. In the little glass jar, and you put it out and it brews itself.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It's a nice feeling.

Griffin: I've never— You know something? I don't like iced tea. Just simply don't get it or like it.

Rachel: You don't?

Griffin: I don't, wicked don't like it, never have liked it.

Rachel: Oh, I love iced tea.

Griffin: I think maybe it stems from, like so many of my traumas, at my church they used to serve it if you like got food in the like cafeteria, they would do like dinner Wednesday nights. And I assume Sunday nights.

And you could get dinner there, and they would serve up like Hi-C fruit punch and iced tea, that had been cut so viciously that it was just a faint hint of—

Rachel: [laughs] Oh yeah, that's terrible.

Griffin: And so I feel like maybe that just sort of left a scar in my mind. But you know what? I also sometimes think lemonade is too much. So maybe an Arnold Palmer...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Is exactly—

Rachel: If only you could order it.

Griffin: Yeah, right?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It sucks that they don't— it's illegal to mix those two drinks in a restaurant.

Rachel: I like— Speaking of seasonal treats, I like for summer they put strawberries in a lot of things.

Griffin: Oh yeah, got to.

Rachel: So you can get like a strawberry salad.

Griffin: Oh shit.

Rachel: Which is a treat. I like watermelon in the summer.

Griffin: Watermelon in the summer is— I mean, I feel like this is the third episode in a row where—

Rachel: We've talked about watermelon. [giggles]

Griffin: — we've been like, "Actually, watermelon is pretty fuckin' good."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But it is. Yeah, summertime, it sneaks up—

Rachel: Are peaches a summer thing?

Griffin: Beaches? Yeah, absolutely.

Rachel: Peaches.

Griffin: Peaches I think are a su— I'm trying to remember when they grow in *Stardew*, I think it's summer.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: A lot of this stuff that I know about sort of produce schedules comes from *Stardew Valley*.

Rachel: A lot of the stuff that you know comes from video games.

Griffin: That's true, but hey, it works.

Rachel: It works.

Griffin: I know a lot of stuff.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: About Master Chief. Can I tell you about what Rebecca said?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: "In articles about his Tony win, I found out Daniel Radcliffe is apparently a huge *Bachelor* fan, and a huge hockey fan, which as we all know are definitely wonderful things."

Rachel: Oh maaaaan.

Griffin: No fuckin' idea. No clue. How de— What a delight.

Rachel: That is a real treat, and surprising.

Griffin: Yeah. Man I really feel bummed I didn't get to go out and see *Merrily We Roll Along*. I think they filmed it, I think they're making like a—

Rachel: Oh, good.

Griffin: Like a theatre movie of it, but I really wanted to see it, 'cause it's— I have heard some of the songs from that musical and it's really great, and all of the people in it are fantastic.

Rachel: Well, and I watched so many clips of them doing interviews, and they all love each other so much.

Griffin: They're so in love with each other, I—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's so perfect and good. It's always nice to find out that celebs like the same stuff that you like. I don't know that I would say I'm a huge *Bachelor* fan...

Rachel: Well.

Griffin: Although that last season was pretty good.

Rachel: Here's the thing, right. Obviously we aren't watching it with the consistency that we used to.

Griffin: Is it on now? Is *The Bachelorette*? Has that new season started?

Rachel: I don't think so.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: I don't think so, they switched it up. They used to put *Bachelor in Paradise* in between the two seasons.

Griffin: That's a summer— Speaking of sum—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Seasonal treats.

Rachel: And now they put *Bachelor in Paradise* in the fall.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Which like I don't know.

Griffin: We already probably weren't gonna watch that one, just because like we've watched one of the last seven seasons.

Rachel: I bet there'll be a lot of women though from Joey's season.

Griffin: Yeah, but then there's gonna be a bunch of dirtbag dudes.

Rachel: Yeah, well yeah.

Griffin: That I don't fuckin' know from Adam. And then one— Oh, they're gonna bring back Nick Viall or something, and—

Rachel: No, he's married now.

Griffin: Oh really? Oh, good for him!

Rachel: Yeah, his wife I think had a baby.

Griffin: His wife had a baby, it's a boy.

Rachel: Oh, of course.

Griffin: That's another one of my small wonders. Can we—

Rachel: Well, all that to say.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: While we can't claim that we are big *Bachelor* fans today, we probably have more *Bachelor* knowledge than like 80% of the country.

Griffin: Sure, and we do watch a lot of shows like *Bachelor* that—

Rachel: True.

Griffin: We extolled the virtue— our excitement for *Perfect Match*, which ended up being—

Rachel: Really petered out.

Griffin: — real garbage TV in a garbage bag by the end. It was one of those things where, by the end of it, we watched it— we finished the finale last night.

It was one of those like, “Eww, wish I hadn’t talked about how excited I was for this one. I know that my seal of approval carries a tremendous amount of weight for our audience.”

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: “And sometimes they watch the stuff we say we like, and it might be yikes.”

Rachel: When we finished it last night, Griffin turned to me with this like kind of weary tone and said, “Well, we’ve gotta finish it.” [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. We had watched the first hour of the two hour finale.

Rachel: Why?

Griffin: Netflix, how dare you?!

Rachel: Why?

Griffin: And I was like, “We gotta— We— There’s such good— The— We got new *The Bear*, we got all kinds of stuff to be watching right now, but I can’t not finish... *Perfect Match*.” It’s outrageous enough that we finished all of *Dawson’s Creek* except the last like six episodes.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: And we’ll never, ever, ever go back.

Rachel: And we’ll never finish that.

Griffin: But it— on my deathbed, I will be thinking about like, “But what’d Spacey get up to?” Anyway.

William says, “My small wonder is the idea of the LAN party. Last weekend two of my friends brought their PCs to my house so we could all do the *Elden Ring* DLC for the first time as a group. I had been to a few LAN parties in my youth, and repeating this activity as an adult brought me so much nostalgia and joy. There’s nothing better than eating pizza, crushing Mountain Dew’s, and dungeon driving with your buddies.”

If I could... flick a switch and have like a gathering. No— Well then I guess I would be cloned, so I wouldn’t be leaving you in the lurch with our children, ‘cause there’s no way I could enjoy a LAN party. But just if I lived a com— [chuckles] completely fundamentally different life.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: And I could like for like my— do just a LAN party reunion. I don’t even know who that would be with, but man that would be such a joy and such a treat and such a delight.

Rachel: Can I talk logistics?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: For a second?

Griffin: Yeah, go ahead.

Rachel: The listener talked about people bringing their computers over?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: As I understand it, these like super high-powered games you need like a desktop.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean you’re sitting next to my considerably sized rig. That would be—

Rachel: So you’d like throw that in a box and take it over to somebody’s house?

Griffin: [sighs] So— Okay, there's— We can get into this. I used to attend, every year, Quake Con, when I was still covering the games industry regularly, 'cause they would announce some stuff there. Like Bethesda would show off the new games, and Id Tech and all them.

And it was in Dallas, it was— I think... Yeah, it was in Dallas, right in the like big convention center. People bring... like big suitcases, basically? With their laptop, PCs, and monitors in them.

But like when people roll up, they like tag all their shit, there's like a very special way that they like tag everything so they make sure nobody steals anything, and they just bring their, I mean, whole shit with them.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it is a huge ordeal.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But that's why they kind of like— Then they would post up there for like four days, and play video games in a giant convention center, for all weekend long.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it was so fucking lit. I only went to a few LAN parties, I think all for *Halo* and *Halo II* comin' up, and it really is genuinely very fun to have like 16 folks in a house... playing *Halo* and just screaming at each other from like different room of that house, as the game goes sideways. And it used to be that like that was the only way you could do that, because there wasn't like online multiplayer for everything.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean yeah yeah.

Griffin: So I have a lot of fond memories for that too. Wouldn't even think about doing it for a game like *Elden Ring*, but that's also very exciting.

Isabelle says, "Treasures on bookshelves other than books. I love arranging my treasures to help categorize and decorate my shelves, and I

love looking at other people's bookshelf treasures to learn more about the things they like and are into." I don't know if this is a thing for you. I am sitting immediately in front of evidence—

Rachel: Yeah, your treasures.

Griffin: — this is a huge thing for me. I don't know that I would consider them treasures, but...

Rachel: I have always had more books than treasures.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And so bookcases for me were always purely functional. It was very rare that I could display stuff.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And as somebody without, you know, trophies or medals or recognition.

Griffin: Aw.

Rachel: Uh... I don't really know what I would put on there.

Griffin: I mean, just tchotchkes. This is the difference— One sizeable difference, I would say, between me and you is that like especially if I'm at a con and I see some tchotchke, I'm like, "That'll go up on the book— I'll get that, and it'll go on the bookshelf, and I'll look at it and I'll think about it, and maybe I'll— "

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "Maybe I'll touch it every now and then."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I got a little— I went to the Square Enix booth at the last con I went to, and they had little music boxes with songs from different like Japanese roleplaying games in it.

And I was like, "Yeah, I'll get one of those." Got one, put it on my bookshelf. Sometimes I look at it, sometimes I don't. I got a little trophy for being in *Mitchells Versus the Machines*, of the ugly dog from that movie.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It lives up on my top shelf, I look at him sometimes, I brings me joy.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I like having treasures.

Rachel: I would say like 80% of my do-dads in my office right now are like—

Griffin: From your youth, right?

Rachel: Or provided by my father.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: I have like some hockey bobbleheads.

Griffin: You have some little *Simpsons* guys.

Rachel: Little *Simpsons* guys, that was also from my dad.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, most— [chuckles] Most of my things.

Griffin: You gotta get you some do-dads, babe. You are extraordinary—extraordinarily practical, and I love that about you, I would consider myself that—

Rachel: Buuut.

Griffin: — way in so many regards.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Except in the I do accrue garbage. But we were also talking about yesterday that I am the best at not accruing too much garbage in my immediate family.

Rachel: As compared to your family members.

Griffin: As compared to my family, yes.

Rachel: Yes. Yes, and I appreciate that about you, and I think that that is important to me that you are that way. [chuckles]

Griffin: And I don't think anyone would walk into my office and say "This is a man with a minimalist aesthetic."

Rachel: No.

Griffin: But then if they walked into the three offices of my brothers and dad respectively—

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: — they would say, "Wow, that first guy really knew what he was doing."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Tanner says, "My small wonder is when your dish sponge is at the end of its life, and you replace it with a crisp new one. We try to use our dish sponges until they are totally weird colored and flaking off gross bits, so replacing it with a new sponge feels like a treat for my hands and my dishes."

Rachel: I really appreciate this.

Griffin: Sure. Sure.

Rachel: I don't know that you've ever done this.

Griffin: Replaced— I don't know that I buy sponges.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know that I buy sponges.

Rachel: Next time I switch 'em out, I'll yell out to you. I'll say "Hey babe!"

Griffin: I appreciate a—

Rachel: "Hey babe, I'm switchin' out the sponge!"

Griffin: You know where I— this is hitting me is when I was working at the Country's Best Yogurt, I would always really celebrate getting a new sponge.

They would never— They wouldn't let them get so ratty ass nasty that it's— you shouldn't eat at the Country's Best Yogurt, 'cause I stand by the fact that it's still— Yogurt Land, no. Like it's still the Country's Best Yogurt for a reason.

But when I got a nice crisp sponge to wipe out that old dairy [chuckles] from a bowl that had been sitting out for a little while? Ooo boy, that goes down smooth.

Rachel: Yeah, I think it's one of those things. Obviously sponges don't cost very much.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: And there will be a point where your sponge starts to smell.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And so you'll be cleaning things and you'll be like, "Oh man, this sponge really smells." And then each time that it occurs to me that I could just change sponges—

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: — I feel like this like illuminating light of just like, “Whoa! Why am I doing this?”

Griffin: And there’s a psychic load that comes along with touching a sponge that maybe not everybody thinks about, but it’s like so much old food has touched this. Like so much old food has touched this. How much old food am I touching right now? And when you have a newish sponge, it’s like, “Okay, not that much. It’s okay.”

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: “This hasn’t touched that much old food, and that’s great.” Nora says, “My small wonder is the Jewel Osco app. I can make my lists in it, and it’ll organize it by department, and tell me exactly what aisle everything is in at my local store, which makes for a super easy grocery shopping experience.”

Rachel: Ohhhh, I used to go to Jewel Osco when I was in Chicago.

Griffin: I love a Jewel Osco.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, I love a Jewel Osco. I love most regional grocery— Like most regional grocery stores, I am realizing as I reach tender old age, are all pretty good, for the most part.

I love a Piggly Wiggly, I love a Jewel Osco, I love a Wegmans, I love an HEB. I could run down a list. I’ve lived in a lot of places, and experienced a lot of wonderful grocery stores out there.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: How about Eli says, “My small wonder is when you can get a direct route from the airport to your hotel on the train or light rail, instead of getting an Uber. There’s something about paying just \$2 to get to where you need to go that’s so satisfying, plus you get to ride that train.”

Rachel: Yes, I used to do that in Chicago all the time, speaking of Chicago.

Griffin: Yeah, I would— Yeah, I used to— [chuckles] My jam used to be— I didn't live— I didn't have like a great route, but I could take like the blue line to like a stop that was roughly close to my neighborhood, and then I would just call a cab from that stop.

Rachel: Oh. [chuckles]

Griffin: And it would be like 10 bucks, as opposed to 75—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: — or \$80.

Rachel: I really would at some point like to ride the metro home. From the Dulles airport.

Griffin: It's doable.

Rachel: It's longer, it's considerably longer.

Griffin: Not with the kids.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's a lot of transfers.

Rachel: But it's just like one transfer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: For us, and I think it would be rad.

Griffin: I think it would be rad too, I love it. Chris Grant, my friend, mentor, boss, former boss, colleague at Joystick and Polygon, was huge on not taking [chuckles] a cab. This was like before ride share for the most part, so like no— Not taking a cab if there was a bus or train option, because we ran a pretty tight ship. AOL wasn't dishin' out cab money for us.

So if we spent \$60 on a cab ride from LAX to the Figeroa, then that was usually gonna be hard to reimburse. So I do appreciate that I do

appreciate that. Hey, can we take a quick break? Can I steal you away for a sec?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Thank you.

[*Home Improvement* transition music plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: Let's get into it. Hannah says, "My small wonder is keeping cities I've visited archived in my weather app. Swiping around to see how hot or cold it is compared to my home that day makes me feel connected to those places in the tiniest little way."

Rachel: Oooh.

Griffin: Let's do this right now. I'm opening up my weather app. We'll see, I have— let me see.

Rachel: I am pretty judicious in pruning this.

Griffin: I am... not. I am not. I ain't. [chuckles] I simply ain't. I've got New York, which is close enough to Washington.

Rachel: Yeah, it's pretty regularly close to Washington.

Griffin: I was gonna say that the weather's usually the same, but it's quite a bite warmer here in Washington than New York right now. I got Columbus in there. Been a while since we were in Columbus. I think it was earlier this year, when we were on tour.

Rachel: You know how many—? What are we gettin' into here?

Griffin: What do you mean?

Rachel: I mean, how long are you gonna go?

Griffin: I mean I got like eight.

Rachel: Oh okay, that's not bad.

Griffin: Austin, I still—

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: That's mostly from a— Like if I need to feel good about the decision—

Rachel: Yeeees.

Griffin: The huge life decision we made to move here, I will look at that, and like if I'm like missing our friends and the city, and you know, this doesn't overcome that, but if I look and I see like, "Oh, it's 152 degrees in Austin right now—"

Rachel: Yah, yah yah.

Griffin: — I can feel like, "Okay, that's pretty good." What are you workin' with?

Rachel: I got DC, Huntington. Which I keep in my list.

Griffin: You know, I don't have Huntington on here, which is weird.

Rachel: Oh. I keep Huntington and St Louis in there.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: Austin, I also have New York in here.

Griffin: Yeah, I got Denver.

Rachel: Oh yeah, see I've never been to Denver.

Griffin: [surprised] You've never been to Denver?

Rachel: We talk about this all the time, I've never been.

Griffin: We gotta get to Denver, baby.

Rachel: I know, I know.

Griffin: It kicks ass there. I also have Walt Disney World. That never leaves, I feel like.

Rachel: Is that how it's listed?

Griffin: It's listed as Walt Disney— I mean, Bay Lake sometimes.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But it just says, "Walt Disney World."

Rachel: Oh wow, I usually have Bay Lake, I think.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean that is— We— I think that is from the one year that we went— We were on tour going to Atlanta and Orlando when Hurricane... I can't remember. I think it started with an "I" was supposed to hit, but we got tickets to go to Disney World like that week, with like the whole family.

Rachel: Oh yeah.

Griffin: And we just rolled the fuckin' dice, like we became amateur hurricane trackers as we— And then it curved off at the last second, and we were like [chuckles] the only people at Disney World.

I think that's probably why it remains in my app, but I do like that. It is fun to look back through that and be like, "Oh yeah, I was— I did go to these cities fairly recently."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Ellen and Christian from the podcast on the MaxFun network *Just The Zoo Of Us* sent in this one.

"We just finished watching *Scavengers Reign*, and it's probably my favorite piece of science fiction I've ever seen. It's an exploration of human experience, as well as a love letter to nature, ecology, and imagination. I'll be thinking about it for a long time."

I know that you have not watched this one, I've talked about it quite a bit. I did wanna say, it's got booted from HBO Max, which is very sad 'cause it probably means there's not gonna be a second season. But then Netflix picked it up, so it's on Netflix now.

Rachel: Ohhh, cool.

Griffin: So if you've not watched *Scavengers Reign*, I also can't recommend it enough. I'm not surprised that Ellen and Christian [chuckles] are fans of it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I feel like given the subject matter of their show, it seems incredibly up their alley, but it's a truly great, harrowing animated program.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That I think everyone should watch.

Geoffrey says, "My wonderful thing is the BLT! It is, in my humble opinion, the perfect sandwich. You get your savory, salty, sweet, and greens for texture. What else could you possibly ask for? It also holds a special place for me personally. My family has a tradition where we have BLTs every night on Christmas Eve. No-one knows why, I asked."

You're making a face at me like this is the craziest thing you've ever heard.

Rachel: No-one knows why, I ask.

Griffin: No-one knows why they have BLTs every night on Christmas Eve.

Rachel: Oh okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Okay. I love the BLT. I will get it a lot at a restaurant.

Griffin: You will.

Rachel: Which doesn't make a huge sense, 'cause I know I could do it at home.

Griffin: Sure. It's one of few foodstuffs where all the clues you need to solve the puzzle.

Rachel: True.

Griffin: Are right there in the— I guess you do need to know what "B" and "L" and "T" stand for.

Rachel: True.

Griffin: Bread.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Legumes.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Tomato.

Rachel: Tomato. Get the tomato, sure.

Griffin: I tell you, the only guy on there. I used to hate tomatoes.

Rachel: You're iffy about tomatoes.

Griffin: I used to hate tomatoes. I used to like not— Travis used to get big tomatoes, and he would just cut 'em up in slices and put a little bit of salt on, and just eat 'em. Just straight up fuckin' tomato slices—

Rachel: Woooow.

Griffin: — with a little bit of salt on, and I always thought that was the gnarliest thing ever. But then I got a little bit older, and I was like, "I kinda like a tomato on like a burger or a sandwich." But then sometimes it makes the things way too juicy! Way too juicy! And I'm like, "I kinda— Now I'm back off tomatoes."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: There needs to be a sandwich for me that's lettuce, you can stay, I love you. Crunch, subtle. Bacon? Sure. But I need another element in there that can be— Egg, maybe?

Rachel: No.

Griffin: You can't have it anyway.

Rachel: That's a breakfast sandwich. Now you're talkin' a breakfast sandwich.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: You got bacon and egg in there.

Griffin: What can I swap in there that I like for tomato?

Rachel: That serves a similar purpose to a tomato?

Griffin: You know, maybe just an incredibly thin tomato. Just in a hu—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: An absolutely hugely thin tomato.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I was gonna say onion, but I'm off raw onion too. I can't with that guy, he takes over the flavor profile of the sandwich.

Rachel: I would love it if next time we went to the restaurant if you asked the waiter if the chef could slice the tomato extra thin.

Griffin: Like I wanna see through it.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I need transparent tomatoes.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: On my BLT please.

“My small wonder is bedsheets with a clear facing pattern. I already struggle to change my sheets, and it’s always frustrating when you get that ding dang bottom fitted sheet on the wrong way. But with my new floral pattern sheets, I always know which way they go on, and it’s one less struggle to a happy, clean bed.”

I can’t believe... fitted bedsheet technology has not evolved.

Rachel: You know what they sell?

Griffin: What?

Rachel: I was thinkin’ about this. I don’t know if people actually use `em, but they sell little clips that you can put under your fitted sheet, to like hold it on the corners.

Griffin: Maybe that’s what we— We have to fix our shit literally every night. I don’t know what we’re doing— I know I sleep hard. I know I sleep hard.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I—

Rachel: I think it’s your big heavy body pillow that I gave you.

Griffin: [chuckles] I do have a hu— Guys, this fucking body pillow.

Rachel: It’s like we have three people in the bed.

Griffin: The— Our mattress is like a crazy temperpedic mattress that is unlike any other mattress I’ve ever slept on in my life. It’s so hard.

Rachel: It is a dense, dense mattress.

Griffin: But then like 90 seconds after getting in it, it has wrapped you in a cocoon that is custom made. A bespoke divet just for you and your body, and I love that. The body pillow you got me is basically the same material.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it weighs about, hmm, 65 pounds.

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: It's so, so, so, so big.

Rachel: I think it is that and you and me are like combining our forces in the evening to pull that fitted sheet off the mattress.

Griffin: I think that's probably true.

Rachel: Because this didn't used to ha— We didn't used to have this problem.

Griffin: We didn't.

Rachel: I don't remember the first 10 years of our relationship being bogged down with a fitted sheet that wouldn't stay on.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, maybe it's the temperpedic. Maybe it's like the unyielding nature of it.

Rachel: Ohhhhh.

Griffin: The fitted sheet doesn't know what the fuck to do.

Rachel: Yeah, I tried to order like extra deep pocket sheets, but I don't—I mean, I don't know.

Griffin: If it's too big, that can also be a problem, 'cause it's not gripping, you know?

Rachel: Yeah, I don't know, man.

Griffin: Maybe we just need a fitted sheet where the elastic band is like a bungee cord, like it's no fucking nonsense. It takes an hour to get it on, but then it never comes off. That would be bad though, wouldn't it? 'Cause you do have to clean those things.

Rachel: You do have to clean those sheets, yeah.

Griffin: Shoot.

Rachel: Probably more often than you change your sponge.

Griffin: Shoot.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Anyway. I do appreciate anything to streamline the sheets process.

Rachel: Yeah, we normally don't ask people to write in, but if you know how to fix a fitted sheet so it won't come off the mattress, please tell me.

Griffin: Yes. And real shit only, like real, real, real shit. Really think about it before you send that in, because we can't have our inbox flooded with a bunch of people like, "You gotta tuck it under."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Amy says, "My small wonder is getting my clothes out of— the night before a special event. Getting to take my time choosing an outfit that makes me feel good and beautiful adds to the excitement of the event itself, and overall just helps me look forward to socializing the next day."

Rachel: Yes. This is a— something I did when I started my new job and I knew that I was going to have to be in the office three days a week.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I was like, "I should really get my clothes out the night before." And I did it for maybe the first two weeks, and now every morning it really is like it knocks like 10 minutes off of my get ready time.

Because I'm like, "Well should I— No, that wouldn't— What about— And— Oh no, but that wouldn't—" And it takes a lot of time, it's so much better if you do it the night before.

Griffin: You also hang them on the like the little closet doors in our—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So I get a little preview.

Rachel: A little preview.

Griffin: I can Tim Gunn it and be like, "Hmm."

Rachel: Sometimes I'll put like the necklace on there too.

Griffin: Yeah, you will. God, I love that.

Rachel: Just the little.

Griffin: And it's sometimes I'll wake up and I'll be like, "Rachel's a ghost."

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: 'Cause it's so close to my side of the bed, but it's not Rachel's a ghost. It's just clothes and a necklace.

Rachel: This morning you woke up apologizing to me that you made the air temperature lower, and I didn't understand why you were apologizing to me about it.

Griffin: It got hot in the middle— We have a— We— Our bedroom is in a suboptimal spot in the sort of vent route.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And so like our room doesn't get a lot of the benefits of the H-Vac system in our home, so we have a like a portable AC unit in there, but it turns off when it reaches the desired temperature, which is good. But not

when it happens in the middle of the night, 'cause it's as loud as a fucking jet engine.

Rachel: Yeah, and it wakes.

Griffin: And so when it turns off, it is— you wake up instantly, 'cause it's like you feel like, "Did I just die?"

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: "Is this the sweet silence of death?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And so I turned it on just sort of like fan mode, but—

Rachel: And why were you apologizing to me about it?

Griffin: 'Cause it woke us up at like 3:30 in the morning. That's unfortunate, that's no good.

Rachel: Yeah. It was just the first thing you said to me this morning, and I was like, "Wow."

Griffin: I really did wake up, kneejerk, "Sorry."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Sarah says, "My small wonder is personalized number plates/license plates." I've never heard "number plates" before. Have you?

Rachel: Oh no, I haven't.

Griffin: Wonder if that's a—

Rachel: I mean, I can deduce what it would mean. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's a regional dialect. "They delight me every time I see them. After haranguing my friends into the habit of looking for them, we now

have a group chat to share the very best ones we see. Some cars feel like local celebrities now purely because of the number plates alone.”

Rachel: Oh, that’s nice.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean... I can’t— There’s one I saw that was just “Shrek,” which is good. I feel like I could go through my phone and probably find a few pictures of these.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: All time one was when we were in Cincinnati for Travis and Teresa’s wedding, and while driving to the liquor store to get booze for Travis’s bachelor party, we were behind a car with the license plate “Hot Boy,” and it’s really good.

Rachel: Yeah, wasn’t it B-O-I too?

Griffin: I think it was just—

Rachel: Boy was—

Griffin: — right over the plate. I did a Vine of it, I could probably find that Vine.

Rachel: I’m always so surprised that people still do that. I’m delighted. It’s just—

Griffin: It’s a different kind of person than you or I.

Rachel: Yeah, true.

Griffin: And it’s fun to think about like what their day is like.

Rachel: It’s just when you think about the trends in automobiles over the last, I don’t know, 60 years? Very few things have stayed the same, but the vanity license plate is still...

Griffin: Keeps on going strong.

Rachel: A treat.

Griffin: I limit my... the onus of my responsibility to the DMV so much so that the idea that I would spend more time and money doing a completely unnecessary thing is so alien to me. So unthinkable, but I'm so glad there are people out there doing it for the rest of our benefit.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: One more. Mark says, "My small wonder is noise cancelling headphones. To be able to make unwanted noise, be it the clothes drier, airplane engines, or just humanity in general, disappear at the push of a button is simply magical."

I think this is great too. I think maybe not all the time. We got Henry a pair of headphones for when we are travelling, and we are pretty strict limits on like, "Dude, you can't just like put those on when we're hangin'."

But I do think it's cool that that technology just kinda popped up real quick, and now all of a sudden, you can make noise that you don't wanna hear go away.

Rachel: Can I tell you, I always, when I am taking the train or like walking home, I will leave one like earbud out.

Griffin: What are you afraid you're gonna miss?

Rachel: I don't know, there's something about being like totally cut off from outside noise makes me a little nervous.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That I'm gonna miss some kind of signal that—

Griffin: A bee. Could be a loud bee.

Rachel: A loud bee that I would otherwise know to get out of the way from.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But now I'm cancelled out.

Griffin: A flashmob.

Rachel: Uh-huh. Or like, "Hey, Rachel."

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Rachel: You know?

Griffin: Well then they can get in your face. You know what I mean?

Rachel: Well. [chuckles]

Griffin: Like, "Hey!" you know? Obviously yes, there's different— [chuckles] there's different— I— concerns that you and I both have when walking down a city street. I just— I— Man, especially on an airplane.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I like to be able to go in my [sings] own little corner in my own little chair.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: [normal] And just put on those headphones and just vibe.

Rachel: I would like some for plane travel specifically.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. That's it. How 'bout some submissions from our friends at home? Just kidding. We just—

Rachel: We just did it.

Griffin: — did a million of those. Thanks 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. Once again, wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com if you want to send in your own stuff. Keep it short, keep it tight, and we will maybe read them on the show.

We have some shows coming up. We are gonna be doing *MBMBaM* and *TAZ* in Detroit here in July, and then we are going to be going to

Cleveland to do *MBMBaM*. And then we've got other stuff comin' up at cities all over this beautiful nation of ours. You can go to bit.ly/mcelroytours for more info.

We got merch over at melroymerch.com that you can go check out. There's a find Fungalore poster on there that I adore, and will be adding to my office wall as quickly as is possible.

And go check out the other shows on the MaxFun network, like *Just The Zoo Of Us*, over at maximumfun.org. If you like our program, I guarantee you will like that one, and many others on the— on the network. So thanks everybody, thanks for sending all these in, this is fun.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's fun to not look within so much sometimes.

Rachel: Yeah, I have been a little bit ill since we got home from tour.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I was so happy to know that we had enough listener submissions that I could rest a little bit longer—

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: — before coming to record the show, so thank you for sending those in.

Griffin: You really left it all on the court today. When we played basketball, before we started recording.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: Every episode, before we record, Rachel and I play a game of Chicago 21 out on blacktop.

Rachel: I don't even know what that means.

Griffin: Oh. [scoffs] [sarcastically] Yeah, right.

Rachel: Why is it called "Chicago 21?"

Griffin: You have to get to 21 points, and... you can only play it in Chicago.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Legally, or basketball plays come and take you.

Rachel: Can we play a game of like DC 4?

Griffin: That would be pretty fast.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It would also be an issue if you scored one three pointer. 'Cause then you would be fucked, 'cause you couldn't get one point.

Rachel: Are we gonna get a basketball hoop? Probably not.

Griffin: What a wild question for you to just float.

Rachel: [giggles] I mean you had one.

Griffin: Sure, yeah. Yeah.

Rachel: Maybe?

Griffin: You think we should pave our yard and put a b-ball hoop up in there?

Rachel: No, I'm saying we could put it in our driveway.

Griffin: That is a thing that people do.

Rachel: That's a thing people do. You don't always—

Griffin: But now we can't, because then now peo— our fans would be driving around, looking for b-ball hoops—

Rachel: We'll be the only one.

Griffin: — to like figure out which house, and we'll be the only ones.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Dang it! The life of a celebrity is so hard!

[theme music plays]

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