Wonderful! 351: SpaghettiO's Sandcastle

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[theme music, "Money Won't Pay (feat. Augustus)" by Bo En plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hello! This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful.

Griffin: Thank you for listening to Wonderful! It's a podcast where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we are into. And it's a show about art and movie and culture.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Sometimes about—

Rachel: Food.

Griffin: Food. Sometimes about observation of the human experience.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And sometimes about candy. Those are, I would say, the big buckets that we like to fill.

Rachel: Now, art—does art... does—

Griffin: Art is paintings.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: And that's basically it. And you could maybe get statues in there.

Rachel: Did you say like music and literature?

Griffin: No, we haven't done any of—we've done some music, that's right. So music is a bucket—

Rachel: A fair amount of music, I would say.

Griffin: I don't think we've done any books, because—

Rachel: A fair amount of literature.

Griffin: Well, we've done poetry, but that's not literature though, is it?

Really?

Rachel: I'm pretty sure it is.

Griffin: Hm... literature is stories like... Aragon and...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like cool books with dragons and fighting and stuff like that.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: That's literature in my—like, that's what I think of. Poetry is poetry. It's another bucket, you're right. God damn, we are lousy with buckets around here.

Rachel: We've got a lot of buckets.

Griffin: Looks like we got a really rainy, thatched roof cottage situation.

Rachel: It's like a double dare over here. [chuckles]

Griffin: It's like a double dare, what with the buckets. Do you have any small wonders, any little things that you're feeling particularly grateful for today specifically?

Rachel: Hm... I just had my 200th class at the establishment where I go to, to do the sweating.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: They make a big deal out of these things at that establishment.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And it felt nice. I felt like... there was a period of time where I felt like I had really just kind of plateaued. And it was just like I just was sitting in the same place for a long time. And then just in the past few weeks, I felt really like... I'm doing this.

Griffin: You're doing it!

Rachel: So it was nice to have like a day today where it was like, this is a milestone and you're doing it.

Griffin: I think going from not really ever going to the gym, to going 200 times in the span of about two years is pretty fuckin' good, man!

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: By anyone's measurement, that's pretty good, dude!

Rachel: Yeah! Yeah... I mean, I definitely, I've never been a huge gym goer, but I have been relatively active, I would say, until we had children. And then I, you know, just stopped.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: And seven years later, here we are. [titters]

Griffin: Yes, it truly—I'm very happy for you.

Rachel: Thank you!

Griffin: It is a real—

Rachel: You are also, you know, getting swole?

Griffin: Yes, I have stopped doing that particular gym so much because I have like an in-home setup. And it is nice. It is nice. Last time I went on tour, people were very complimentary of my huge, huge guns.

Rachel: It looks like you could lift something heavy.

Griffin: It looks like I could lift something, maybe not heavy, but like I could help move a—I could help you move and you wouldn't feel bad about asking me.

Rachel: Wow, that's a good way to describe it.

Griffin: Yeah, I'm going to say, I just played a really fun little mystery detective game. It's called Rise of the Golden Idol. It's a sequel to Curse of the Golden Idol, or Case of the Golden Idol, I think. Which is on... you can play that shit anywhere. It's like on your iPad, if you have a Netflix subscription, it's free. And it's just a neat little game where you look at all these crazy murders, and you find clues in the form of like words. And then you have to like fill in like a paragraph with all these words of like what exactly happened in each scene.

Rachel: What platform is this on?

Griffin: I played it on Steam, on my computer, on PC. But the first one's on phones and tablets and everything. And I love these games. I love like detective games like this.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: They are not so common. But games like this, and there's one called Return of the Obra Dinn, that's one of my favorites ever. I just like deduction. I love to deduce.

Rachel: [chuckles] This is true, I would say, for all of you and your family members.

Griffin: An odd penchant for deductions, specifically.

Rachel: I would say that your brothers and dad get more into the murder mystery than you do.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I feel like you all love a good clue.

Griffin: I love a good clue. I love a magical realism, sort of surrealist sort of story, which is what these games tell. Real into the vibe. And yeah, it's good. It just came out. I'm like hot off the presses on this shit.

Rachel: Whoa?

Griffin: I haven't even talked about this shit on Besties yet.

Rachel: Whoa.

Griffin: So, yeah, you're getting the fresh—

Rachel: Exclusive!

Griffin: Fresh pre-Besties shit here. You go first this week. What would you like to talk about today? You know what my thing is, because last night we were talking about it. It was like, oh, that's a Wonderful topic!

Rachel: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: So I don't really keep that shit secret so much anymore.

Rachel: Okay, my thing is maybe more well-known than I realize. Because I'm not on TikTok, as I've mentioned.

Griffin: It's so fun when this happens.

Rachel: But I am on Instagram. And a lot of time on the Instagram, you get the TikTok.

Griffin: You get the runoff.

Rachel: Yeah. For me, it feels like enough.

Griffin: TikTok puts its moldy bread in the dumpster of Instagram reels.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's at least my take on it.

Rachel: Anyway, that is how I found, a while ago, maybe like eight months ago, Siegfried and Joy.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Which I didn't realize—did you know they were on America's Got Talent?

Griffin: Yes. It's so cool that you've seen a part of my algo. Like, I've seen these dudes. And so when you sent me this I was like, oh, hell yeah. Like yeah, Siegfried and Joy. And it's so—this never happens where you're like, "Hey, I peeped this thing from the algo."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It makes me feel special.

Rachel: Because I don't get the fishing lures.

Griffin: You don't, you don't.

Rachel: Very often, you will get things that I do not get.

Griffin: I lay out some of the lures to catch the content that I crave. And Siegfried and Joy, maybe you should talk about what it is.

Rachel: [chuckles] Okay. So, these are two gentlemen from Berlin that present themselves as kind of magicians, in the very like classic—

Griffin: Siegfried and—maybe you're familiar with Siegfried and Roy. This is sort of a send up of that.

Rachel: Kind of like the White Tiger guys who don't really hold up in today's world, but were very popular in Vegas for a very long time.

Griffin: A lot of shimmering fabrics.

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: And like large, almost zubaz style sort of pants.

Rachel: [chuckles] So, Siegfried and Joy, also shimmery fabrics, present themselves as magicians. But there's a little funny bend to it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I started getting their Instagram videos, as I mentioned, a few months back. And they're typically out in the world, kind of David Blaine style. [laughs]

Griffin: Well, yeah. That is, I would say, the only thing they have in common. Is the venue in which their magic is practiced is outdoors.

Rachel: And they do it very spontaneously. Like you can tell that they are around people that aren't really sure what is about to happen.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Also, like David Blaine. [titters]

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Unlike David Blaine, they very intentionally set up these tricks that are very easy to figure out. And they do that intentionally.

Griffin: Toddler level peekaboo object [permanence??] shit.

Rachel: [chuckles] Yes, exactly. So more often than not, what they will do is they will raise a like gold piece of fabric and kind of shake it. And whatever is behind it will disappear. But it's done in a way that you always see the item either like going behind a car or hiding behind a tree, or like just literally dropping down to the ground.

Griffin: Literally that trick that you can play on like pets, where you hold up a blanket and then you drop the blanket, but you sort of get under it too. And the dog's like, "What the fuck?" That's what they do to other people on the street.

Rachel: One of my favorites, and like kind of their most famous one, is when they stand in front of an area where a person is just inevitably going to come out of. So they will raise the curtain in front of like stairs up from the subway and shake it until somebody comes up the stairs, and then they'll remove the—

Griffin: It's really good! Here's what I love about that; the act itself is not particularly funny. It is the improvisational, almost confrontational nature of the act. Of seeing people like, "What the fuck is—oh..."

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah! Yeah, I mean, they really sell it. There is no like real winkiness to it. Like they are very much like, "I have just performed a trick." And you always get to see the kind of genuine reaction to the person who has become part of this trick.

Griffin: It's very good.

Rachel: And now they've been doing it long enough that people will send in their own videos. Have you seen this? Like a lot of kids and like couples and older people sending them videos of themselves doing tricks that are similar.

Griffin: Amazing. I love it.

Rachel: There's a famous one with an elephant, where these two people are like standing on a preserve, and they hold it up in front of an elephant. And then the elephant slowly walks away—

Griffin: [chuckles] That's really good.

Rachel: So it is—because these guys are from Berlin, it's difficult to find a lot of information about them.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: As I mentioned, they were on America's Got Talent in 2022.

Griffin: In the UK version of America's Got Talent?

Rachel: No, like full-on—

Griffin: Well, I guess it's called America's Got Talent, huh? They call it something else there, huh? They probably call it somewhere else—something else that it's not America, I bet. Britain's America's Got Talent, I think is what they were on.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Germany's Britain's America's Got Talent.

Rachel: [chuckles] No, this is like Howie Mandel, Sofía Vergara, Simon Cowell. And then Heidi Klum, who was particularly excited because they were German.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: But they actually made it past the first round because everybody was just so delighted. But then like—

Griffin: Simon's not gonna let that kind of tomfoolery—

Rachel: No, he was actually the only one that voted against them. But they got on stage, they did some like kind of like real kind of tricks. I mean, a lot of it was really silly, but there were some like actual magic tricks in there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: When I was doing research—so wait, first, let me tell you about the guys. So, the guys are Nico Donner, who goes by Siegfried d'Amour.

Griffin: [titters]

Rachel: D, apostrophe, amour.

Griffin: Great.

Rachel: And Joy Leslie, which is like the actual name of the person.

Griffin: That's great!

Rachel: So that is the Joy. [titters] But I couldn't find a lot. I did find one thing that said Siegfried was awarded the Order of Magic in the Berlin Magic community at the age of six.

Griffin: That's interesting.

Rachel: I don't know what the Order of Magic is. But it sounds—

Griffin: It sounds good.

Rachel: It sounds like right out of a fantasy book.

Griffin: And thinking about it, I feel like a German magician organization is probably pretty legit. Like, I bet they take this shit like pretty serious, and make sure that someone is well-trained in the mystical arts before they get the seal of approval.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, I don't know. I probably should have done a little research on that. But the fact that they emphasize that he received it at the age of six makes me think—

Griffin: That's pretty young.

Rachel: That was pretty remarkable.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And not just like something they give out to somebody who like performs X number of hours.

Griffin: Unless he's been doing this very thing since he was six years old. And the Order of Magic is just like, that shit busts me up so hard.

Rachel: [chuckles] So funny. Go ahead. And then the partner, Joy, grew up in theater. So they both have kind of like a performance background. But they, especially in 2024, have been touring around the world. They've done shows in the UK, Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria, Spain. They were at the Fringe Festival in Scotland. And they have actually also done shows in Las Vegas. Their whole gimmick is they always introduce themselves—is Las Vegas in whatever city they're in. So like Las Vegas in London.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: So they're very intentionally like meeting that Las Vegas vibe.

Griffin: It is so weird doing this bit after we just recorded Til Death Do Us Blart.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And Tim and Guy are in Vegas.

Rachel: Are actually in Vegas, yeah.

Griffin: I talked a lot about Las Vegas today, which is weird, because I pretty much never talk about Las Vegas.

Rachel: Yeah, well, you've never been, right?

Griffin: No, no.

Rachel: Do you think you'll ever go?

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: There's good shows there.

Griffin: Sure, man. I want to go inside that big fuckin' ball. That big ball looks crazy, dude.

Rachel: Yeah, the ball! I don't know how one gets in the ball. Do you think you guys will ever play the ball?

Griffin: You just have to run at it really fast, and you pass through the membrane.

Rachel: [chuckles] No, I meant like get in the ball as like a Carnegie Hall kind of thing. Like, how do you get to perform in the ball?

Griffin: I mean, no matter whether you're performing or taking the show, you have to run at the membrane really, really fast.

Rachel: [chuckles] I could only find one interview with them. This is To Do List - London, which I think is kind of like a Timeout, kind of local culture thing.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: This is from 2023, it was an interview with them. Now, German is their first language, so their English is limited, so the interview was a little difficult to kind of pull standout quotes from. But one of the questions was, "You're hit on Instagram and TikTok with your hilarious disappearing acts.

How did this idea come about, and what drives you to keep making videos?" And the response was, "During the pandemic, when the theater was closed, we searched for a way to express our art. So we went out in the streets and learned how to turn every public space into a stage. We love to make people smile in moments they don't expect, and we believe that this is pure magic. Combining with the real magic is our gift to the world."

Griffin: That's beautiful, that's lovely.

Rachel: Yeah, I just—honestly, there's not—I mean, I wish there was more information about them maybe and it just wasn't translatable. But every time I watch a video, like you know the bit.

Griffin: Yeah, right.

Rachel: Like, they do—but it's just the delight on people's faces. Sometimes they will perform a trick, and the person will be so game that they will like become part of the act and like flourish themselves. Like, "I understand what I did!"

Griffin: Yeah, that's always amazing, when you can—

Rachel: Yeah! I just, I always love it. Again, it's Siegfried and Joy, you can easily find them on Instagram. And I guess, from what I understand, TikTok as well.

[group chuckle]

Griffin: Your aversion to it is beyond strange to me. Is it—because I understand a feeling of like, I'm not gonna learn this new fuckin' app. But it's been around for a while, and there's some pretty good stuff on there.

Rachel: I know, I know. I recognize now it's not going to be like a Vine thing, where like you invest in it and it disappears.

Griffin: Oh, no, that'll definitely still happen.

Rachel: [chuckles] It'll definitely happen.

Griffin: That's the nature of tech and stuff. But it's fun for now.

Rachel: It's more like the format of it. The fact that you can just get bounced from video to video. And that over time, these videos get more and more tailored to you. It seems like a kind of drug that I am not ready for.

Griffin: Yeah, man!

Rachel: I feel like I already spend too much time on my phone.

Griffin: Hm, yeah, you would have to cut some words with friends out of your schedule.

Rachel: Yeah, right? Like I'm scared that I can't add one more thing.

Griffin: Yeah, no, it's dangerous. I'll continue to keep you briefed on what's happening.

Rachel: But this is—I mean, this is how the teens know how to wash their skin and do their makeup. Like I—

Griffin: It's true, I've started washing my skin so much better because of the teens on TikTok.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[break]

Narrator: Somewhere in an alternate universe, where Hollywood is smarter...

Presenter 1: And the Emmy nominees for Outstanding Comedy Series are...

Presenter 2: Jetpackula.

Presenter 1: Airport Marriott.

Presenter 2: Thrapple.

Presenter 1: Dear America, We've Seen You Naked.

Presenter 2: And Allah in the Family.

Narrator: In our stupid universe, you can't see any of these shows. But you can listen to them on Dead Pilots Society. The podcast that brings you hilarious comedy pilots that the networks and streamers bought, but never made. Journey to the ultimate television universe of Dead Pilots Society on maximumfun.org.

[break]

Mallory: Oh darling, why don't you accept my love?

Brea: My dear, even though you are a Duke, I could never love you. You... You... borrowed a book for me and never returned it!

Mallory: [gasps] Hah! Save yourself from this terrible fate by listening to Reading Glasses.

Brea: We'll help you get those borrowed books back and solve all your other reader problems.

Mallory: Reading Glasses, every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[break]

Griffin: The reason I got so excited last night when I was like, "This has to be a Wonderful topic," is because we've been doing this show for a long time, and I feel like I am running out of things that I have like forgotten I love—

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: From my past. And so this one was such a fuckin' huge one.

Rachel: Do you remember how we even started talking about—oh, oh!

Griffin: So we were talking—last night, we were talking about—

Rachel: A Fish Called Wanda.

Griffin: A Fish Called Wanda, because you saw someone with a mustache and you were like, "It looks like a guy from A Fish Called Wanda."

Rachel: Kevin Kline, yeah.

Griffin: Kevin Kline from A Fish Called Wanda. And you were like, "I've never seen that movie." And I was trying to think, have I seen that movie? But then I was like, I don't actually think I've ever seen that movie all the way through. What I have seen is lots of clips from that movie and many other movies from the board game, Scene It.

Rachel: [chuckles] I have never played this, I don't think.

Griffin: I am fully—I have no idea what the impact of Scene It was. Scene It is a movie trivia-based board game that came out first in 2002. November, 2002. Just the standard Scene It movies edition dropped. And—

Rachel: It was always like DVDs, right?

Griffin: Yes. So, like, I don't know, it probably—if you've listened to our shows before and the other shows we do, it probably won't surprise you to hear that like we've always sort of talked a lot about pop culture and movies and TV shows and stuff. And so this board game, which asked you a lot of trivia about those things, and also would show you clips of those things on a DVD that came bundled with every board game, was a fucking smash hit. We played this thing so, so, so, so much. Every time you would play it, the DVD would itself randomized. So like you weren't getting the same clips every time.

Rachel: Oh! So, but then it became more of a like, do you remember?

Griffin: Then it would become something of a memory challenge. Because we definitely played it to a degree where we've seen—we've seen it. We've seen it. We've seen it. We've seen everything. You got—so, basic idea, it's like a Trivial Pursuit style thing. You have a board that you're trying to move all the way through, you roll dice to see how far you move. But then you also roll a dice to see what topic or category of trivia you're going to answer. Most of them come on cards. But then sometimes you will roll the dice and it will be a—like refer to the DVD and do this one.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So sometimes it'll show you a clip from a movie, and then it'll ask you something about that movie. Either like a detail that you would only know if you were like familiar with the creation of the movie. Like, who was the director of XYZ? A lot of the time it would be like, how many ducks were in the background of this scene?

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: What color was the toy car that the boy was playing with?

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: Sol like, it kind of threw in like attention-based stuff in there too. But then there would also be sort of like mini games where it would show you like a screenshot from a movie that's like super distorted. But it'll like undistort it slowly to see who could be the first person to like yell out, oh, that's what it is. Or like a wheel of fortune, fill in the blanks. Like letters will appear and it's whoever can yell out first gets the point, or whatever.

Rachel: That's a good game.

Griffin: It's a fuckin' good game, man!

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And there's so many movies that still to this day I have not seen, that like I have seen a lot of because of Scene It. A Fish Called Wanda is a big one. 12 Angry Men, you gotta have that fuckin' knife stabbing into the table scene, and then the other knife comes out. Like, you gotta have that. You know that's up on the Scene It DVD. Rear Window, there's a few Hitchcock things. I'm not like super well versed in Hitchcock's body of work. Except for the few that are on Scene It, that I've seen a lot of.

And I don't know, that was such a novel idea. You have to understand that this company that made these games was called Screen Life Games, made this first in 2002. And they just so happened to be releasing these games at the same time that DVD players were like really proliferating throughout, you know, America. And so those two things really dovetailed quite well, because they did very, very well with Scene It. And they would go on to make like a million different versions of the game.

Rachel: Yeah, this is what I was gonna say, is that the one time I may have played it was in Austin. I feel like one of our friends maybe had it.

Griffin: Yes, but they may have had one of the 33 different editions of the game.

Rachel: And it was like, I want to say it was like The OC or something.

Griffin: So there was an OC expansion pack. They made these like little expansion packs that you could just like include in the regular Scene It game. But then there were like 33 full editions. Like there was one that was just Pirates of the Caribbean, and there was one that was Simpsons, and there's one that was the Twilight Saga. Like, a ton of these different things came out.

What was really like—the game is really well designed, I think. Like it's very fun. It mimics Trivial Pursuit a lot. There's like a sort of final match that you have to like land on perfectly to like try and finish the game. And then if you don't get it that time, you move into this like holding zone where you have to—there's like some other stuff you can do. Another cool thing is that the board was just one long, vertical board, and you could fold it in half if you wanted to play a shorter game.

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: It was really, really good.

Rachel: Thats clever.

Griffin: But the reason that it really took off was not just because it was well designed. It was because they had secured all these different licensing agreements from all of these different film studios and all of these different actors who appeared in Scene It.

Rachel: Wow.

Griffin: This is from Wikipedia. To this day, Scene It stands as the only product boasting involvement from all the major studios, including Universal Pictures, 20th Century Studios, Warner Brothers Entertainment, Sony Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Walt Disney Pictures and DreamWorks Pictures.

Rachel: Wowzers!

Griffin: All in the same sort of like universe, in the same game. Which is insane!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That is a crazy amount of collaboration. I think one of the reasons that this thing eventually fell apart—they shuttered the studio in 2012 after Paramount bought it in 2008 and just couldn't, I guess, keep it going—is maybe as streaming became a thing, like people were less psyched about, you know, licensing out things to a—

Rachel: It seems like it could still be really popular, though?

Griffin: It certainly does. So, they've made a few video games of it.

Rachel: Okay?

Griffin: One was on the Xbox 360, it came out in... I want to say 2008. And it was called Scene It? Lights, Camera, Action. And it came with buzzers. It came with four Xbox 360 controllers that were just like trivia buzzers with—

Rachel: Oh! Okay.

Griffin: Like little buttons so you can choose the answer. It was pretty fun. I owned it, and it was all right. They made a couple more. But then, you know, the team shut down in 2012. They did—Paramount revived the brand back in 2022, and released an app store game called Movie Scene It? Which currently has a 1.8 star rating on the shop.

Rachel: Wow?

Griffin: And every comment is like, "It fuckin' doesn't work." Like it just, it straight up doesn't work. So it feels like maybe this effort did not get the attention and time—

Rachel: It seems like—if they could figure it out on DVD, it seems like—

Griffin: It seems like that would be good. I don't know how they would go about securing these licensing agreements in this modern era. I don't know fuck all about that whole like universe, but—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And I'm not even sure if it's something that can be done now, 22 years after the original Scene It came out.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But that's just so interesting to me, that they had this thing, this—

Rachel: Did you look on YouTube? I bet they have like—

Griffin: Oh, dude, the DVD like animated intro scenes and all the backgrounds, which was always like weird neon like hoops floating in this

geometric space. And all the font looks like a serial killer wrote it for some reason.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like it's all very like intense DVD menu shit.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know, this game truly ruled a lot, and we played it so, so, so much. And there really isn't anything like it now.

Rachel: No, I mean, this is like an actual game show. Like, this is like, if you wanted to do something like this, you would have to be on a television game show.

Griffin: Yeah. Or I mean, there is maybe like... I don't know, Netflix could snap it up and just do their own Netflix Scene It. Since they own all the shit and they're like putting out interactive stuff all the time anyway.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But like there's no shortage of people who like to talk about all the movie stuff they know. And wouldn't it be fun to sort of stick those people in a game where they could compete against each other, and the rest of us can go hang out and talk about cool guy stuff like football and sports?

Rachel: [chuckles] Well, I just think about all the people that have like their comfort shows that they watch over and over again, like this is so perfect for them.

Griffin: Yeah. Anyway, that's Scene It. It's a thing I genuinely have not thought about in well over a decade. It had been completely pushed from the recesses of my mind. And then as soon as we mentioned it last night, it was like a light bulb went on and I just remembered like all the times I played that with my family and my friends, and we would bring it to sleep overs. And just played that thing so, so much, and I always had a really, really good time with it.

Rachel: Like cool guys.

Griffin: Like cool guys do.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Chase says, "My small wonder is the 2024 Matlock show. Cathy Bates plays a septuagenarian lawyer who happens to be named after that other lawyer show. Every week, she's constantly emotionally manipulating and lying to people in an effort to win a pro bono lawsuit. Sometimes the things she pulls off feels like a heist movie, and it's always a delight to see." Hell yeah, Kathy Bates Matlock!

Rachel: I bet I would really like that.

Griffin: I bet you would too.

Rachel: I mean, not only do I love Kathy Bates, but I do love those like stories where there's like a case, and everything wraps up at the end of the episode, and it's like a nice little bow.

Griffin: Did you watch Law and Order?

Rachel: A little bit, yeah.

Griffin: I never really did. I don't think I've ever seen an episode.

Rachel: It was like one of those things that was hard not to watch. I'm surprised that you didn't. [titters]

Griffin: Nicholas says, "My small wonder is when you can take food out of a container it was in, like a can or Tupperware container, and it falls onto the plate in the perfect shape of the container. Just something about it is always

fun to admire before you inevitably squish it back down. Kind of like a nice SpaghettiO's Sandcastle.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, that's challenging. That's a challenging way to describe it, Nicholas. But I'm like fully there with you.

Rachel: I get the satisfaction. You do kind of have to disconnect the part of your brain that wants food to look pleasing.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Like whenever I see that happen I'm like, that is objectively satisfying.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: It is hard to think about that as a food that I am choosing to eat, but...

Griffin: I like to make my own, if we have the time and interest in doing so, cranberry sauce for the holidays.

Rachel: Mm-hm, yeah.

Griffin: Because I feel like it's not too hard to make something really, really good in that category. But also, squishing out that sweet ruby blob onto like a cutting board and having it be perfectly cylindrical with the ridges still in the sides, is truly extravagant pleasure.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And you don't really get it any—there's not many other times a year—

Rachel: That's true.

Griffin: Where you get to plop a cranberry loaf out of—

Rachel: That is very true. In my day-to-day life, it's very rare that I open something and I expel the whole thing.

Griffin: I'm not opening a ton of cans, in general.

Rachel: Yeah, I don't remember the last time I saw you open a can.

Griffin: A can of whoop ass, when those guys were trying to take—trying to talk shit about us.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: That's it for the show. Thank you so much 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 maximumfun.org for having us on the network. Go to maximumfun.org, check out all the great shows that they have over there. You're going to find something that you love, I guarantee it. We've got a bunch of merch over at mcelroymerch.com. What I really want to tell you about, Candlenights is coming! December 14th, at 9PM. If you go to bit.ly/candlenightstickets2024, you can find out all the details. It's our—we pre-record it, but we stream it live and—

Rachel: And then you can watch it after too.

Griffin: You can watch it after too, yeah, but you get to be in this big room where everybody's talking about it. And it's like, I don't know, we do a bunch of different bits, each of the shows usually does something. We do a bunch of like questions from MBMBaM, and we do—special guests come on and make stuff for us.

Rachel: It's so freakin' heartwarming.

Griffin: it's a lovely, lovely thing that I'm so glad we still get to do. And I'm always so proud to be a part of it. All proceeds from tickets and all the Candlenights merch goes to Harmony House, which is an amazing organization working to end homelessness in our hometown of Huntington,

West Virginia. And so, yeah, bit.ly/candlenightstickets2024. And come and join us for the stream, it's going to be a bunch of fun. I think that's it. What if we just—what if we had the courage—

Rachel: [chortles]

Griffin: Of our convictions to end it there? Like we were... like what if we dismiss our listeners? Like it's the end of a meeting.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like, "All right, gang, keep focusing on those big reports."

Rachel: Or if we had like a big, loud school bell we could play.

Griffin: Yeah. But then like you hear like a bunch of like laughter from the halls. And you're like, "Now, don't forget, I need that paper back on Napoleon Bonaparte. And Maurice, you better not write Boner Part on your next test, or I'm telling your parents." This seems like actually a much longer road to walk than just like saying bye—

Rachel: Yeah, just say thank you for listening.

Griffin: Okay, thank you for listening. Goodbye!

Rachel: Goodbye.

[theme music, "Money Won't Pay (feat. Augustus)" by Bo En plays]

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