

Wonderful! 352: Little Wondies

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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: [in a Smeagol-like voice] It's Wonderful! It's a tiny episode!

Rachel: Whoa?

Griffin: [in a Smeagol-like voice] Full of Lil' Wondies!

Rachel: [titters] You know, it's kind of on theme.

Griffin: What?

Rachel: You know, because this is like the time of year where everyone talks about what they're thankful for.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: And we could package this episode...

Griffin: As a special Thanksgiving treat.

Rachel: Thankfulness episode.

Griffin: I was thinking about doing it like Lil' Wondies. And it would sort of be the Muppet Babies version of Wonderful.

Rachel: Okay?

Griffin: You and me both be babies.

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Nanny come in. Nanny has big legs.

Rachel: Big legs.

Griffin: Big ol' legs.

Rachel: Big legs.

Griffin: Big old legs.

Rachel: Murder thighs, one might say.

Griffin: What?!

Rachel: I don't know.

Griffin: I've never heard that before?

Rachel: You haven't heard that before?

Griffin: Murder thighs?

Rachel: Yeah, our friend Grace used to say it. I assume that it's connected to some kind of property that I don't know about.

Griffin: I've never heard of a murder—like the thighs are so thick they can murder you with them?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Wow. Not exactly the right tone I think for Lil' Wondies.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: The Muppet Babies version of Wonderful. But I mean, if you want to sexualize nanny's huge legs... Obviously, I think there's probably precedent for it in the sort of like McElroy family of podcasting.

Rachel: Yeah, that's fair.

Griffin: We've been doing it for so long, of course we've probably talked about sexualizing nanny's legs. Or we could do—

Rachel: This feels wrong immediately.

Griffin: It feels wrong and bad!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So let's instead kick things off with our Lil' Wondies special. Here for this special, we asked—and by we, I mean Rachel—asked the Facebook group, the Wonderful Facebook group, which remains the only good thing still happening on Facebook—

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: What they are into, what their Small Wonders are. And we're gonna break some of those down and talk about 'em here on this episode.

Rachel: Yeah, we got, what, like over 200 responses? 250 responses.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: It was great.

Griffin: It was bonkers.

Rachel: We have not had much time to prepare.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Our youngest child was very sick.

Griffin: Very sick for a very long time.

Rachel: And he is much better now.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And here we are.

Griffin: Do you have any Small Wonders? Before—do you have your own Lil' Wondie before we—

Rachel: We're not going to start calling them Lil' Wondies, are we?

Griffin: I kind of like it. Don't you like it? You just said it, and it feels pretty good, huh?

Rachel: No...

Griffin: Oh, wow, really? Wow, okay.

Rachel: I do appreciate that you're saying—are you saying lil' or little?

Griffin: Of course I wouldn't say little. *Little* Wondies.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Lil' Wondies.

Rachel: Hm... I will say... I don't know, big son just had his eighth birthday.

Griffin: Yeah, I was gonna use that one too.

Rachel: We had a much more successful birthday party than the previous year.

Griffin: Yes, tightening up the guest list was crucial.

Rachel: Tightening up the guest list. The weather was a little bit better, so we could keep them outside.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: It was basically the same format as the previous year.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: It was just a smaller list and better weather, and that made all the difference.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess I'll get more specific from my Lil' Wondie and say, with like an hour left in the party, I went to the to the bathroom, and I took my dose of Adderall, which I've been rocking for the last, I don't know, month, month and a half or so. And I really just sort of, I tapped into the fucking Matrix. I got into my flow state. And Henry wanted to play Kirby with all of his friends, because it was a Kirby-themed birthday party, which kicks ass.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I just managed to corral all these children into taking turns playing Kirby together in Smash Bros for a little bit together. And it was—I just felt like I was fuckin' the Pied Piper. I felt like I was like in charge.

Rachel: You were like a ringmaster. It was amazing.

Griffin: To harness that chaos and to turn it into something, I don't know, order almost, was really, really gratifying for me.

Rachel: Can I tell you something funny? My friend Alex, who I've known for actually even longer than I've known Griffin—

Griffin: Why don't you marry Alex then?

Rachel: [laughs] She is married.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Rachel: Has two children. They don't do media properties, really, of any kind. So she walked in and I said—and I showed her the cupcakes. And she said, "Now, who is that?" [chuckles]

Griffin: That's very good.

Rachel: And I said Kirby. And she said, "And that is?" [chuckles]

Griffin: I love that so much. I recently gave—did a talk for the Pokémon Company International. I don't think I've talked about this publicly at all. But they have like a sort of sub-unit that is like parents and people who like work closely with parents within the company. It's a huge company. And so I gave this talk about being like a person who works online and has kids and tries to balance, you know, that life. And anyway, one of the questions that they were like going to ask is like who's your kid's favorite Pokémon? So Rachel asked the Gus the day of the talk like, "Who's your favorite Pokémon? So daddy can use it during the—" And he was like, "Kirby!"

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Which was really, really a great answer.

Rachel: I mean, basically.

Griffin: I mean, Jigglypuff, Clefairy, like there's a lot of Pokémon that kind of look like Kirby. He could be forgiven. Do you want to kick things off? Do you want me to start reading these?

Rachel: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: I've gone through the 250 and I've picked a whole bunch. And so, we're just gonna read them and talk about them a little bit. Let's start with Shariah, who says, "Kids discovering magic tricks. My daughter has started practicing illusions. Mostly this means she shows us stuff, shuffles her hands behind her back, throws the stuff, then claps her hands and says 'magic.'

She is six, and it brings back memories of doing similar things at her age."
We, I mean, before—

Rachel: I am trying desperately to get our children into magic.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I feel like I keep pushing magic sets and tricks at them in the hopes that they will dive in.

Griffin: Henry got one for his birthday, didn't he? He got like a big magic set.

Rachel: I actually told my parents to buy that for him. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, fantastic. Yeah, I could see him getting really into that. Gus got like a little guy one, as a freakin'—

Rachel: Party favor.

Griffin: Party favor from a party that had a magician at it. Which is like next—parents, chill. Chill, parents, a little bit. That's a present. That's not a party favor. That's a present you gave everyone.

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, he walked out with a full wrapped box.

Griffin: Crazy.

Rachel: It was like, is it your birthday too now?

Griffin: But it was, it's really fun watching him try to do these things.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Basically it's like cheat props, like the string one where you put the string through like a little box, and then it splits into two, and it looks like it's cut. But really, there's just little pieces of string inside.

Rachel: Or the scarf that changes colors and moves the thing up and down.

Griffin: Yeah, he doesn't know how to do them at all. But it's fun watching him think he's doing it. I always bust out that like I can make a card disappear in my hand trick.

Rachel: Yeah, that's yours.

Griffin: And he loves that shit. He always goes crazy for it.

Rachel: He also likes picking which hand the ball is in.

Griffin: He is very into that game.

Rachel: That's a big one. He does that one for us sometimes.

Griffin: Yes. He's delighted whenever you pick the wrong hand.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Which is pretty easy to do.

Rachel: And I think magicians today would feel the same way.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely. Gene says, "It's tin of popcorn season, and you bet this baby will not be far from me at any point from now on."

Rachel: This is good for us to talk about because—

Griffin: Tin of popcorn?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Because I was in Chicago, and you know Chicago makes a big deal out of Garrett's popcorn, I believe? It's like the caramel cheddar—

Griffin: No, I know what you're talking about. I don't know if Garrett's is the brand I'm familiar with, but maybe, I don't know.

Rachel: It's always in the airport. Anyway, I had this thought of I was like, I wonder if Griffin would enjoy if I brought this home.

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Rachel: And I didn't. But now I know.

Griffin: Fuck no. [sighs]

Rachel: But now I know that you are enthusiastic about it.

Griffin: That blend of cheddar caramel is like next level good. It's so, so, so good.

Rachel: Okay. This is good for us to talk about.

Griffin: I love flavored popcorn so much. We used to hit up, what was the place we got?

Rachel: Oh, man.

Griffin: We got it for our wedding! We had favors for our wedding.

Rachel: Cornucopia.

Griffin: Cornucopia. And we had three different types, and there was like a toffee one. The only one I remember is the dill pickle.

Rachel: Me too.

Griffin: The dill pickle—I don't like pickles. I'm not like a dill pickle flavor like aficionado. But this dill pickle popcorn is my favorite popcorn I've ever eaten in my entire life.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And we had so much left over afterwards, and we'd just crush 'em. These big tins with the three-way divider in them, are you familiar with these?

Rachel: Yeah, of course!

Griffin: So there'd be cheese on one side, caramel on one side, and just plain old popcorn on the other side.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: My dad, his radio station used to have—or maybe it was just all of like Clear Channel or iHeartRadio at a certain point, would have a big like holiday party every year. And the big like thing for the holiday party is they would have these big tins of popcorn. They would have like one for every employee, so there'd be like dozens of 'em. And taped on the bottom of each one would be an envelope, and inside the envelope would be like a random like prize.

Rachel: Oh, okay?

Griffin: And so you didn't know which one you're gonna get. And some of them were like a vacation to like somewhere.

Rachel: Wow!

Griffin: So, yeah, dad got one that was like a vacation. It was our family vacation that year he won in this thing.

Rachel: It was a vacation for five people?

Griffin: It was a vacation for five people, yeah.

Rachel: That's crazy!

Travis: One was like a like furniture or like a huge gift card for Big Sandy furniture.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: So like, they were pretty big gifts. But the prize for me always was that dad would come home with this big ass tin of popcorn. And you could really just go in any direction you want, flavor wise, with those, which is always exciting for me. I love a variety—

Rachel: I'm glad to know this about you now.

Griffin: What, that I love flavored popcorn?

Rachel: I knew that you love flavored popcorn, but the idea of putting them all in one tin. A lot of times, you don't like salty and sweet together.

Griffin: This is one occasion where I do.

Rachel: So I avoided it, but now I know.

Griffin: I do enjoy—I enjoy caramel corn of any stripe. A little Fiddle Faddle?!

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Amanda, our business manager says, "When you finish an audio book right as you pull into your driveway at the end of a trip." I've had this happen with songs before. The idea of this happening with an audiobook...

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: Seems impossible to me.

Rachel: It seems like you would have had to intentionally made a few wrong turns to like time that out.

Griffin: And I guess it is—I mean, it's obviously a miraculous, joyous thing when it does happen. I remember we were listening to Areas of My Expertise, by Hodgman. Me and like dad and Travis and Justin were driving,

I think, to the Smokey Mountains. And got there, but there was like another like 30 minutes left in it, which was so annoying.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: So then we get in the drive home and we finished the book in like 30 minutes. And it's like, now what do we do?

Rachel: That's very satisfying. We got a lot of Small Wonders that were like, when you have the exact right amount of something.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And I feel like this falls in that category.

Griffin: And that's a classic Wonderful thing. We also got a million different versions of when you are cold and have a warm thing.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Whether it is a warm bath or a warm drink. And that's not me saying—I'm not poo-pooing. It is incredibly good.

Rachel: No, this is you every night with your tea now.

Griffin: Guys... I've gotten so into tea.

Rachel: I have never seen such a transformation in you.

Griffin: It's huge. I don't usually pick up new, I don't know, affectations, I guess?

Rachel: I don't see this one going away.

Griffin: I don't think so either. It's been a real game changer for me. We were visiting some friends in Baltimore, and just sort of walking around. And dipped into the tea exchange company?

Rachel: Spice tea and spice?

Griffin: Tea and spice company, something like that? The Tea and Spice Exchange. Anyway, I went in there and I just started smelling stuff. I was like, this is good. And I bought a little steeper pot that you just like put on top of your glass after it steeps and it pours it in, and then you just drink it. And I found a few flavors. I got this, like ruby red cider one and a, what is it, fireside spice oolong tea.

Rachel: That one's my favorite.

Griffin: It's like cinnamony and clovey.

Rachel: Ah...

Griffin: I got an elderberry fortress herbal tea. It's fucking great!

Rachel: Very fragrant.

Griffin: So fragrant and like—

Rachel: We had really hemmed ourselves in with the kind of grocery store tea bag variety thinking like, why is this a thing for people? And now, now we know.

Griffin: I like having—it tells you the instructions. I got a little water heater where you can set the temperature that it brews to, so you can like do it to the exact—like 195 for four minutes. Like the exact specification. So like the alchemical process of that I find very... I like the ritual of it. And then when you're done with the ritual, you get a tasty, hot beverage every cold night. That shit rules! I'll never stop doing it. Let's see, let's see... Okay, Steven says, "Getting a new outfit that looks so good, it gives you a confidence boost."

Rachel: Oh, I love that.

Griffin: I do love this too.

Rachel: Particularly when you are ordering something off the internet and you're kind of guessing. And then you put it on and you're like, this was exactly right.

Griffin: I mean, we've talked about Stitch Fix so many times. It genuinely is a pretty big game changer for me in terms of like wearing clothes that look nicer than the clothes that I historically—

Rachel: Do you remember the last time you physically went into a store and bought a clothing item?

Griffin: No.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I used to buy like—I used to go buy my jeans at like J. Crew. Because that was one thing that like I felt like I could never get anywhere. But now like Stitch Fix kind of launched me into understanding what kind of clothes I like and what clothes look good on me, and like what kind of brands I also sort of enjoy. And so now I can also sort of shop around. So like I don't know, I buy stuff online and it fits pretty good now, because I've—

Rachel: You're really starting to experiment with color, which I like.

Griffin: I do a lot of pink now, and I love the way pink looks.

Rachel: It's a good—it's a good color for your season.

Griffin: Thank you. What else we got going on? Aaron says, "First sip of a fancy little drink."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah, we don't get out a lot. [chuckles]

Griffin: We don't go out that much.

Rachel: But when we do, we'll usually try and get like a little cocktail.

Griffin: Yeah. I almost always get the—I almost always get a Manhattan. Because I don't know, it's hard to mess up. But I do—like every time it shows up and you have that first drink, there is a lot of pressure. Because it's like, I'm probably spending \$10 to \$15 on this.

Rachel: Well, and also like 30 minutes maybe. I don't know, it takes me forever to finish a mixed drink.

Griffin: Yes, absolutely. And so like you want it to taste really good. And then when it does, holy shit.

Rachel: I like a savory drink, that's been my jam ever since we lived in Austin. Of like a—

Griffin: You like it spicy a little bit.

Rachel: Like a jalapeño or serrano kind of drink. Yeah.

Griffin: We're so different in our drinking like habits.

Rachel: We're different a lot of ways.

Griffin: We're different a lot of ways. But this one specifically, like the list of like liquors that I will drink in a drink is literally, there is nothing on that list that you would drink, and vice versa. Like I don't go for a gin drink.

Rachel: What about tequila?

Griffin: I like a—I like a margarita frozen or on the rocks, and that's basically end of list.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't go too deep down that rabbit hole.

Rachel: Huh, might say we're like a Dharma and Greg, kind of.

Griffin: Sort of. But wait, Greg would be the one who would drink like whiskey and bourbon.

Rachel: Would he? Hard to say.

Griffin: I feel like Dharma definitely drinks tequila and vodka.

Rachel: [titters] Yeah, that's fair.

Griffin: So that's about all there is to it. Okay, how about Jill? You want to hear what Jill says?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Jill says, "Smelling your child's freshly washed hair when you hug them."

Rachel: Aw.

Griffin: It's so good every time!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Henry did this the other day. I gave Gus a bath, and then Henry gave Gus a hug and was like, "Gus, you smell good." I think it's mostly novel because kids don't produce good smells basically ever.

Rachel: They also don't really smell each other?

Griffin: No...

Rachel: I don't know. Like, I don't remember smelling another person much as a kid. [titters]

Griffin: No, I don't—

Rachel: Do you remember smelling?

Griffin: No, I don't remember smelling my brothers.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I remember when Justin went through puberty and got body odor for the first time and thinking like what the fuck's happened? "What the fuck happened to you?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: That's a very powerful, potent memory for me.

Rachel: This is the thing about siblings that I forget, that you like have kind of a lack of awareness of what is going to happen to you. And that you have a test case in your home.

Griffin: Yeah. But yeah, man, I love this. Especially, I condition Henry's hair every once in a while, because it gets really tangly. And man, that is so, so, so, so choice.

Rachel: It's very good.

Griffin: Let's take a quick break.

Rachel: Okay!

Griffin: And then when we come back, we're gonna do even more Lil' Wondies with our friends.

[theme music plays]

Jo: Dr. Gameshow is a podcast where we play games submitted by listeners with callers from all around the world. And this is a game to get you to listen. Name three reasons to listen to Dr. Gameshow. Kyla and Lunar, rum freedom, Maine.

Lunar: Dishes, folding the laundry, doing cat grooming.

Jo: Okay. [chuckles] Thank you. Great.

Manolo: Oh, things you could do while listening. Yeah.

Jo: I love that the re—I'm like, why do you listen to the show? And Lunar's like, "Dishes." [titters] Fantastic. Manolo?

Manolo: Number one is that it will inspire you. You're gonna be like, "Oh, I could do that."

Jo: That's all we have time for. But you'll just have to find Dr. Gameshow on Maximum Fun to find out for yourself.

[break]

Ad Read: Do you like stuff, things, items? Because maxfunstore.com has tons of stuff, from a bunch of shows. Want a shirt? We got 'em. Bumper stickers? No need to honk, they're here. Drinkware, sweatshirts, tiny bandana for your dog. It can all be yours at maxfunstore.com. And if you're a Max Fun member, keep an eye on your inbox, because you get a discount. Now is the time to shop for the Max Fun fans in your life, including yourself. You deserve it. Maxfunstore.com, go get something special, or kind of dumb. We've got it all. [titters]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hannah's got a good one. Hannah says, "My hometown's It's a Wonderful Life festival. Director Frank Capra was from the area, and many local landmarks match up to the landmarks of Bedford Falls. So it's said that Seneca Falls, New York was the inspiration for George's hometown. We go all out with a lights contest, character actors walking around downtown and a very boozy 5K."

Rachel: Oh my gosh. I love this so much.

Griffin: "I used to work in a souvenir shop during the festival, and I never once had a rude customer during that week. And everyone is in high spirits and feeling good."

Rachel: Ah...

Griffin: Yeah, I put together our Candenights video, edited it together and used a couple of—

Rachel: Specifically our piece.

Griffin: Ours for Wonderful, yes.

Rachel: Me and Griffin, yeah.

Griffin: Our wonderful video, producer Tom, does the rest of it.

Rachel: [titters] Yeah.

Griffin: But I used a clip from It's a Wonderful Life, and it just really got me excited for the holidays. I fucking love that movie so much.

Rachel: I love that movie too!

Griffin: It's so good, it hits—I love it so much—

Rachel: Except for Uncle Billy.

Griffin: Fucking Uncle Billy...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: It hits so good every time because... I don't know, I love it so much because it hits the same way every time I watch it. That's not true for any other movie. Any other movie I don't think has the kind of consistency this movie watch gets me. Like, no matter what mood I'm in, there are certain points that like hit me every time so good.

Rachel: Yeah. I was thinking about the other day, when Jimmy Stewart—George Bailey inexplicably starts building houses. Like there's this whole area in the movie where they start building subdivisions.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And where they like welcome that family in and give 'em like a loaf of bread and salt. And I just—

Griffin: Love that. Love that. Christina says, "It's almost time for another 'Til Death Do Us Blart. It's like catching up with old friends."

Rachel: [chortles]

Griffin: Mentioning this partially is a cross promotion—

Rachel: Of course.

Griffin: Because the day this comes out—I believe we will have the new Blart out tomorrow on American Thanksgiving. It's our 10th anniversary. And I just want to say, I fuckin' love doing that podcast.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Fuckin' love doing a show with Tim and Guy. I genuinely... it is a tradition, a capital T tradition for me to watch that... movie. I almost said bad movie, but I don't even think I own that anymore.

Rachel: [chuckles] I love too now that you guys do video stuff. I get to actually see the delight on your faces when you get to do this show with each other.

Griffin: It's really great.

Rachel: Like you all really adore the other's company, and it's just very sweet.

Griffin: We don't have a lot of Thanksgiving traditions. This Thanksgiving for us is going to be... we're kind of taking a flyer on it a little bit.

Rachel: Yeah, it's the smallest.

Griffin: For lots of reasons. Rachel's parents are moving here to DC. Usually we spend it with them, but because they're about to move here, we're not. And so, it's very, very small. And so having like a Thanksgiving tradition, even though we record the show like a good three weeks before usually, it's always very nice. It's always very special. Trisha says, "The relationship with other quote 'regulars' on public transit who you don't know but still recognize and see all the time." Do you have—I'm asking—I put this one in here because do you feel like you have this?

Rachel: There was—well, I don't think they ever noticed me. This is my assumption. I always assume that people don't see me, that I am, in fact, the only one clocking this. But there was a young man who was in a relationship, at least I assumed. And I used to see the two of them together all the time. And they, for whatever reason, were always on my commute home.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: And then one of them would get off the train at the same time as me, and the other would stay on.

Griffin: There's a story there.

Rachel: They were super in love, at least that's what it seemed like. And then... and now I only see one of them.

Griffin: Dang.

Rachel: And I'm really invested in things turning out okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I don't imagine this person has ever seen me before. [chuckles]

Griffin: No. There was a time when I was in Chicago where I was riding the train a lot, and there was one dude who I saw a few times who also had a Zune. Because I had a Zune.

Rachel: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: And I always wanted to send him a song. That was the big thing with Zune, is you could like share—

Rachel: Oh, like AirDrop?

Griffin: Sort of, but it was like you could share a song with someone on Zune and they could listen to it like three times or something before it like expired. And so I was always like, maybe I'll have a Zune buddy.

Rachel: I love thinking about that interaction, where somebody receives a song, looks around, and you just give them like a little wink.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Here you go. Here's The Shins.

Griffin: I loved the Zune. I miss the Zune. Zune was ahead of the game because Zune, you could—there was like a subscription service on Zune where you could listen to any music that was like available on Zune. And then also, you could like keep like 10 songs a month, or something like that. It was like 10 bucks a month, you got infinite music.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: And then you could keep like 10 songs a month. Which is crazy. It was just weird. Like people usually do that album by album, not like, "I'm gonna pick these—this is a good one. I'll keep this song forever."

Rachel: Well, I mean, back in the days of like Napster and whatever, like you would have a full playlist of just like one song off an album.

Griffin: True. Yeah. Emily says, "Moving companies. My family and I are moving into our new home today, and I couldn't imagine doing it all ourselves with a dog and a toddler. I'm so grateful for professionals who can take a big stressor off my plate." We love this for ourselves. When we moved to DC, it was an insane undertaking. It was so, so, so, so much work to get things literally from one corner of the country to another corner of the country. And we worked with a really great moving company that made it, I mean, a million times less stressful than I was anticipating it being.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And now your parents are using that same moving company, which we are very grateful for.

Rachel: Anytime you live in a house with stairs, and the stairs lead to a bedroom where you have very large furniture, it's just like, it's almost impossible. It's so nice to have somebody help.

Griffin: Yeah, and to know that someone is helping your parents, because we are not able to like¹ get out there and do a lot of work for them. Maribeth says, "Adding enough lettuce to a burrito bowl that it becomes a salad." And then Maribeth adds in a comment after that, "The romaine threshold."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I like that. For me, if it has rice in it, it's still—you don't put rice on a salad traditionally. That's my sort of feeling on the matter; if it's got rice in it, it's still a bowl. If we're going by sort of like, I don't know, the Chipotle kind of model.

Rachel: Now, what is that?

Griffin: The Chipotle model?

Rachel: Chi—what?

Griffin: I'm not going to do this with another person in my life who I love.

Rachel: [chortles]

Griffin: Because I know it's a goof with you, I've watched you house some real Chipotle bowls.

Rachel: Yes, yes, yeah. I... hm... I never want to get a salad.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Like, I always want the rice.

Griffin: I gotta have it.

Rachel: But I have definitely put a lot of lettuce on top of that rice.

Griffin: Sure. Just to pretend.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Abby says, "Finally being able to pop my ears again after being sick and congested for two weeks."

Rachel: Ugh...

Griffin: God, it's so good...

Rachel: I wonder a lot about our children, because they never tell us when they can't hear out of one ear.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I remember that happening all the time as a kid in particular.

Griffin: Well, you had faulty ears.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, you did. I did too, I'm not like throwing any shade.

Rachel: Faulty ears. Yeah, like it used to happen when I get on a plane all the time.

Griffin: Yeah, for me too. I definitely—

Rachel: But our kids never talk about it.

Griffin: They don't. I mean, when Gus was a baby. And when Henry was a baby, especially. Because he also had—

Rachel: Henry had non-stop ear infections.

Griffin: Yeah. But he would also like cry on a plane, and then like you'd give him a bottle or something to chew on and it would like stop like that. Stiofan—sorry, S-T-I-O-F-A-N, it's an Irish name. I hope I'm pronouncing this correctly.

Rachel: Oh? Yeah, okay.

Griffin: Stiofan says, "The Late Late Toy Show. It's an annual tradition in Ireland that airs at 9PM on a Friday, usually in late November, that showcases children's toys and books for that year. It's a big spectacle, and children take part in it and get to stay up late and eat treats. Bonus Small Wonder, it has aired with in-picture Irish sign language for the last four or five years. Yay for accessibility and inclusion." This sounds lovely!

Rachel: This sounds amazing!

Griffin: It's like a Toys R Us like toy catalog, but a show and kids are on it, and you get to stay up late.

Rachel: I bet you can find that on YouTube, right?

Griffin: I bet you could.

Rachel: I would really love to see that. I just—having kids featured in a program for kids is not something you see a lot of these days I feel like.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Ad so that would be very charming.

Griffin: No. I mean, we are pretty disconnected from—our kids watch a lot of YouTube—

Rachel: We watch a lot of children's programming, though?

Griffin: That's true. That's true.

Rachel: It's, I just—I think like when we were kids and it was like, you know, Reading Rainbow, for example.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Like, I want to hear what other kids my age are into, and what they think about it.

Griffin: Yeah. Drew Davenport says, "When you're trying to watch a hard-to-find movie and some saint put it up on YouTube." Yeah, man, for sure. This happens so much when, you know, we reference some obscure like bit from fuckin' Meet the Deedles.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And it's like, you can't get that—that shits not on, you know, I don't think that shits on Disney Plus. I'm pretty sure they buried that one pretty deep in the vault. Even though it's some of Paul Walker's like best work, if you ask me. We watched that movie a few times because we rented it on vacation thinking it would be shit. And then we like kind of enjoyed it. And now whenever I reference Meet the Deedles, YouTube is like the only one I could go to to like try and get that.

Rachel: It really is such a like, I mean, probably not a selfless act, but it feels that way when you find it.

Griffin: That someone has uploaded it?

Rachel: That somebody took the time to like put it in a place where everybody could get it.

Griffin: Yeah, that's so kind. Thank you so much, YouTube. Elizabeth says, "Waking up from a nap and realizing you aren't late for anything." Rare.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: A rare treat, I would say.

Rachel: Yeah, I have the magical skill of being able to like stay in light consciousness, where I will feel rested, but I'm never fully out. And so it's like I'm tracking the time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So I can be pretty precise.

Griffin: I am on a hot streak right now of sleeping good at night. Mostly because like—

Rachel: Yeah, not taking naps really.

Griffin: Our kids have—mostly the little one who was so sick—

Rachel: Oh! You said it out loud now...

Griffin: Yeah, you're right.

Rachel: Although he did wake up last night, so maybe we're safe.

Griffin: Yeah. The superstition can rest.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: But I've been able to take—I actually took like a nice little tight little like 20 minute nap yesterday. And it was like just what I needed.

Rachel: I am not—one of my Lil' Wondies actually is that you have been getting up earlier with me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And it's really nice to have your company in the morning.

Griffin: Same, same. I cherish you. Dan says, "My small—" This is the last one. Dan says, "My Small Wonder is how lucky I am to live 20 minutes from Walt Disney World. I love to drop by Main Street after work and just people watch with some coffee or hot chocolate in this cooler weather."

Rachel: Ah, I think about that a lot.

Griffin: Must be nice!

Rachel: Our friends, Steffie and Chris—Steffie grew up in particular next to Disneyland, and now they both live very close. And there was a period of time when she was going just every week. Just bringing her son there on a Wednesday every week.

Griffin: So dope.

Rachel: And I just can't imagine what that would be like. It's such a big production when we go to Disney World.

Griffin: It is a huge, huge undertaking.

Rachel: Hugely anticipated, and a lot of scheduling, because you think I have this many days and I want to do this many things.

Griffin: And that's good, too. That's nice, too.

Rachel: It is nice.

Griffin: It is fun to like, I don't know, when we walk into the Wilderness Lodge and that music hits you and that smell hits you?

Rachel: Ah, the smell.

Griffin: It's like, oh yeah!

Rachel: Yeah, I—[chuckles] I just think about all the times as a young person that I—we just spent at the mall.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Just walking around the mall.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And being able to do that—

Griffin: At Disney World?

Rachel: At an incredible place where there is endless entertainment.

Griffin: Yeah. Well, not endless. I mean, eventually you would—

Rachel: I think with every store comes an opportunity for entertainment.

Griffin: Huh.

Rachel: Every restaurant presents you with an opportunity to meet a character and engage with an interesting, exciting—

Griffin: I have to imagine if you live near Walt Disney World, and you're going there as regularly as Dan is, you're not fuckin' making reservations at the Crystal Palace to like catch up with Piglet every... like every week or so. That seems like the bill would add up. It would be prohibitive cost-wise.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Anyway, thank you all so much for listening to our Lil' Wondies special. We hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, if you celebrate it. If not, we hope you enjoy a break off of work or school.

Rachel: Thank you to everybody that sent in your Small Wonders.

Griffin: Yes, we—now that it's over, we can go back to calling them what they are.

Rachel: [laughs] We were unable to get to all of them in the show, but I very much appreciated reading them.

Griffin: We can't change the name of it because I think we do sell stickers that say, "What's your Small Wonder?" Which you put on our luggage. And last tour we were on, someone in an elevator in a hotel recognized who I was because of that sticker.

Rachel: Whoa, really?

Griffin: Yeah! It was lovely. I had a nice little interaction. Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. And thank you to maximumfun.org for—well, it's not—the website, isn't the name. But Maximum Fun has us on the network, and it's great to be there. Maximumfun.org. is the link you go to to listen to all the great shows that they have over there, which you should go check out.

Rachel: Get a ticket for Candlenights!

Griffin: It's December 14th at nine PM. And it is our annual holiday special for all of our podcasts and shows and stuff. There's all kinds of great bits and goofs. Mine and Rachel's bit this year is completely unhinged, and it's the hardest I've ever worked on editing anything. And it's just wild, and I cannot wait for people to see it.

Rachel: Man, talk about holiday traditions, I love Candlenights, man.

Griffin: I do too! It always feels so special!

Rachel: It warms my heart so much. It is not unusual for me to get a little teary during Candenights.

Griffin: Oh, for sure. It hits me too. And I think it's gonna hit you as well. Blart, again, 10th anniversary comes out tomorrow. Please listen to it. You don't have to watch the movie, I promise, for it to be enjoyable. It's lovely. It's our once-a-year podcast we do every year, until we die, and then someone will replace us. So it's the world's first eternal podcast, and we're so excited to be a part of it right now.

Rachel: I saw the clip you all put up where... was it Tim or Guy that talked about how you'd been spending a quarter of your life—

Griffin: Guy. Yeah, Guy broke down the math of how long we'd spent doing the show. And then, yeah, Candenights, bit.ly/candenightstickets2024. We're gonna have a poster and an ornament available for sale. And all proceeds from the show and merch go to Harmony House, which works to end homelessness in the Huntington area, our hometown. It's a wonderful organization that we have worked with so many times, and I'm so genuinely proud and honored to be a part of supporting them.

And then we have some other merch at the shop as well. We have another Fungalore pin. If you want Fungalore merch, make sure you grab it before the end of the year, because that is—it is the year of Fungalore. So yeah, check out all that stuff. Thank you all for listening, and we'll be back next week with a more traditional episode, I imagine. So keep it locked in. We'll talk to you later. Bye!

Rachel: [titters] Bye.

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

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