

## Wonderful! 354: Big Weird Tongue

Published December 11, 2024

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

**Rachel:** Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hello, Rachel McElroy! This is Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful!

**Griffin:** Thanks for listening to wonderful. It's a show where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we're into. It's the reason for the season. And I'm not gonna be able to do this.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I can't do this. I bit my tongue so bad the other day.

**Rachel:** You weren't even like eating anything.

**Griffin:** I wasn't. I was on the phone with an insurance company being angry with them, and I guess maybe just like in my rage, sort of subconsciously, my teeth were like, "Let's go for it."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** My teeth got confused, they were like, "What's in the mouth? It must be a sandwich or a ham."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And it chomped right down. And now it makes me sound a little bit strange, I feel like. I'm used to my instrument, which I use, you know, several times a week to create my art. I'm used to it functioning a certain way. And it isn't this episode. So if you want to skip this one, listener, because of—

**Rachel:** Well, don't say that?

**Griffin:** No! I just want to be honest—

**Rachel:** We haven't even started?

**Griffin:** Maybe if my big, weird tongue in my mouth sounds too weird to you this week—

**Rachel:** Can I tell you—

**Griffin:** I do not blame you.

**Rachel:** I don't hear it.

**Griffin:** Well, you don't have a pair of monitor headphones on at the moment.

**Rachel:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Okay, okay, well—

**Griffin:** So...

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Do you have any small wonders though, I guess, before we get started with things?

**Rachel:** I made apple crumble!

**Griffin:** Rachel made an apple crumble.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Period.

**Griffin:** Now, that is a dish. You didn't take an apple and like freeze dry it and then crush it in your mighty hand.

**Rachel:** No. We went to Thanksgiving at a friend's house, and we had to leave early because the boys wouldn't eat anything, unsurprisingly. And she sent us home with desserts. And she sent us home with a pecan pie, that was amazing.

**Griffin:** Very good.

**Rachel:** And an apple crumble that was incredible.

**Griffin:** We didn't make anything this Thanksgiving. We ordered all the stuff from Whole Foods, and we didn't get a pecan pie, which I usually make. And then our friend sent us home with a piece, and we ate it. And then the next day, I made two pecan pies.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Because it was outrageous to have Thanksgiving without it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I made an apple crumble yesterday, and I will say that the crumble part, it wasn't perfect.

**Griffin:** Hard to nail the crumble, isn't it?

**Rachel:** But the ingredients were really simple, and it was delicious, and continues to be, because we still have more.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I'm gonna say Blues head coach, Jim Montgomery.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** The new guy.

**Rachel:** Monty, as they call him.

**Griffin:** Monty, as they call him. He was the Bruins coach, I guess, for a little while, and then they got rid of him. And we snatched him on up, snatched that Monty up.

**Rachel:** Yeah, like five days later. Like he was not even unemployed for a week before we jumped in there.

**Griffin:** If you don't follow the whole saga, Blues had a coach, Berube for a long time. He won Stanley Cup with them, and then he got fired last year, last season?

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah, it was last season.

**Griffin:** And then was replaced by a sort of interim guy, and now this—Jim Montgomery is back, he was a, I guess, offensive coach for a while, on the team, for like three years.

**Rachel:** Yeah, he worked with Berube, apparently. I didn't remember him at all.

**Griffin:** I did not either, but he's back. In the last, I guess, four games they've played with him as the coach, they've been shit hot! Real good!

**Rachel:** Yeah. All the players have been speaking very highly of him and his like, positive attitude and his communication style.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And they've all been playing really hard, I think, to kind of... I don't know, make him happy. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Make a good first—make him a happy man. He did an interview yesterday, so at the end of the last game they played, it was an overtime game goal from I think Holloway, against the Calgary Flames. They had to go to review, because it looked like—

**Rachel:** It was Parayko, actually.

**Griffin:** Was it Colton Parayko? Holy shit.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And Jim Montgomery did an interview afterwards, because they had to review the goal. Because Calgary was saying there was goaltender interference, and there wasn't. And they were like, "What did you think—like, what was your—what was going through your mind during the coach—during the review?" And he was like, "I was not out there." He was like, "I was back in the room, having a pizza, having a water."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Like laughing it up. It was a totally different vibe from any coach I've ever seen on—in any NHL team, but it's a good vibe.

**Rachel:** Yeah, unsurprisingly, the guy that came after Berube, Bannister, this was like his first—Drew Bannister, it was his first like real NHL coaching job, like—

**Griffin:** He did pretty good.

**Rachel:** He did good, but I have to imagine it was very stressful for him to like get called up—

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** And be like in the big leagues, in a situation where the team was not doing well.

**Griffin:** But now we got Monty!

**Rachel:** And so I imagine he was very intense and serious. And Jim Montgomery, he is a seasoned pro.

**Griffin:** Having fun.

**Rachel:** And he just seems to be enjoying himself.

**Griffin:** Yup. You go first this week.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** What have you got?

**Rachel:** Okay. So, I wanted to do something light.

**Griffin:** Oh, good.

**Rachel:** We kind of had a stressful morning, and I was trying to think like what is something that makes me consistently laugh and/or happy?

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** And it is two bits that were regularly featured on The Late Night with Conan O'Brien show.

**Griffin:** Oh, shit.

**Rachel:** And I wanted to highlight them.

**Griffin:** You got two bits?

**Rachel:** Two bits. Because one bit felt like it wasn't enough for a full topic.

**Griffin:** Sure, sure.

**Rachel:** Because, I mean, if you think about like a sketch, it's only a few minutes long. Usually there's an origin story, and then they just try a bunch of different stuff with it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So, I found two.

**Griffin:** All right, what have you got?

**Rachel:** That were recurring, that I loved.

**Griffin:** I'm so excited.

**Rachel:** The first I wanted to talk about was the Walker, Texas Ranger lever.

**Griffin:** Holy shit, yeah.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So Conan O'Brien, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, he— obviously, it's like a late-night talk show host, you know, celebrities, musical guests. But Conan O'Brien's background was in like improvisation and sketch.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** You know, he worked at Saturday Night Live, he worked for The Simpsons. He actually took improv classes. And so one of the sketches he did was this actual physical lever at his desk that he could pull at any time during the show, and a Walker Texas Ranger clip would be played.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** The whole thing started in 2004, NBC merged with Universal. And so Conan informed the viewers that now because Chuck Norris was owned by NBC—

**Griffin:** Well, Not Chuck Norris.

**Rachel:** Yeah, sorry. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Chuck Norris isn't owned by—

**Rachel:** He can't be owned by anyone. [laughs] Anyway, now they had access to all of these clips. And so he would... he would show, periodically, clips from the show.

**Griffin:** It's so good, and it's so ahead of its time. There was such a long period where like internet shorthand humor was just like referencing the existence of Chuck Norris. Or like, "The boogeyman is afraid of Chuck Norris." Like, that was the height of internet humor, was just talking about how powerful Chuck Norris was.

**Rachel:** That is true, yeah? But I feel like, yeah, you're right, that didn't really happen until the late '90s.

**Griffin:** This was well before that.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And hit so good.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So the whole kind of premise was that it would either exist like after the monolog and before the guests came out, or if the show was like dragging.

**Griffin:** Yeah, man.

**Rachel:** And/or if... he would always say like, "Oh, we have a packed show. We don't really have any time. You know, my producers are really urging me to move it along." And then he'd get this look of glee on his face, and he would like pull the lever. And it would always be a very serious, dramatic clip.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like somebody getting seriously injured, somebody speaking to some sort of serious illness they had, like some kind of crazy act of violence. And then it would cut back to Conan reacting to—

**Griffin:** Really, really, really good stuff.

**Rachel:** I was curious—

**Griffin:** Truly inspiration—genuinely, very inspirational.



**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I feel like, for the type of, I don't know, humor we shoot for.

**Rachel:** I think, yeah, a possible motivation for the energy dragon—

**Griffin:** Absolutely! A huge inspiration—

**Rachel:** On Griffin's streaming show every week, they have—

**Griffin:** Oh, it's my streaming show?

**Rachel:** [laughs] Griffin's family streaming show.

**Griffin:** Your family also, yes.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** They do like lots of like the segments that are kind of absurdist. And that's the thing about Conan O'Brien that people loved and continue to love so much, is that he really likes to be unpredictable.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** He really likes to figure out what is like the most inappropriate or like, "Strangest thing I could do right now."

**Griffin:** And like, I don't know, the late-night landscape is obviously so different now, and Conan's not really a part of it. [chuckles]

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It used to be so hemmed up. It used to be so straight-laced.

**Rachel:** Yeah, that—

**Griffin:** Letterman did like great and Leno was also there. But like Conan—the stuff Conan was doing was so wildly different from the usual, you know, Carson like, "All right, let's get this guy out here!"

**Rachel:** Yeah, the whole format of like coming out in a suit, on like a big, well-lit stage with a band, like it felt very old timey.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I think, you know, Conan O'Brien was never going to do a show like that.

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** So, I was curious, kind of what happened? And—

**Griffin:** With the Walker lever?

**Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So... so I found some information about it. There was an interview with Mike Sweeney, who was a writer.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm?

**Rachel:** And he said, "All anyone's saying to me everywhere I go is, 'You've got to keep doing more. We need more Walker clips.' It was an endless supply. They went down and found more great clips, and we ended up doing it again for another two months. Then we stopped. The same thing happened again nine months later. Fans on the street were like, 'Come on, show more clips.'"

But Conan eventually had to stop, and he said publicly, "I love that bit. It was one of my favorite things to do. And we had to stop doing it." He said this on his podcast. "The actors who were in the clips, they started to recognize that we were showing these clips of them, and they started to demand the money that you need to pay them in residuals."

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:** His producer told him like, "We can't keep doing this anymore. It's going to become very expensive for us." And Conan, on his podcast, said that he protested that—he said he wanted to go to trial.

**Griffin:** [titters]

**Rachel:** He said he wanted to show the clips to the jury and say, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is not acting."

[group chuckle]

**Rachel:** Apparently, I don't remember this, but there were also two other short-lived segments. There was a Knight Rider pull chain.

**Griffin:** [guffaws] I don't remember that at all.

**Rachel:** And a Beverly Hills Cop theme button.

**Griffin:** That's good.

**Rachel:** That would play the Beverly Hills Cop theme. [chuckles] So the other one I wanted to talk about is, of course, the masturbating bear.

**Griffin:** [laughs] I thought—I was thinking like, is it gonna be in the year 2000? Is it gonna be the triumph? Is it gonna be—but, yeah, no, I mean... yeah.

**Rachel:** It's so off brand for me. I recognize that.

**Griffin:** It's outrageous that it was allowed, because it is... it is graphic in a way that is tough to deal with, tough to stomach.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Certainly on other—on The Tonight Show, they weren't having bears masturbate.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You have to describe what the masturbating bear is.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So actually, there's this great interview. [chuckles] From Cracked, in 2022, from Michael Gordon. And the title is, I Was the Masturbating Bear on 'Late Night with Conan O'Brien.'

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Rachel:** So, writer Brian Reich came up with the bear. He worked on Late Night from 1994 to 1999. They used to do a bit called Pleasing the Affiliates, where they would make believe that NBC affiliates had all these problems with the show, and they would do different things to pander to them. "Back in 1997, Brian made up a bit where one of our affiliates in Alabama was complaining about how so many of our characters were naked. And so we brought out this parade of characters, like an ant, a skunk, they were all gonna wear codpieces now." And at the end of the parade, there was a bear.

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Sorry, I had the look of a clip of the masturbating bear, just to remember. It's the teasing that is so hysterically funny. Sorry, go on.

**Rachel:** And so Conan announced, "And finally, our popular character, the masturbating bear, will not only wear a diaper, but he will be shackled." And then at that point, the bear broke free of the shackles.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** And started masturbating. Which, for those of you that haven't seen it, was just kind of him hitting the diaper and shaking the diaper over and over again.

**Griffin:** Yes, the diaper was stuffed full, giving it a sort of pendulous effect on the front.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it seemed like there was like sand in it, literally. Like it would hang.

**Griffin:** And then he just kind of reaches down with one paw and just kind of like hits the diaper over and over again very, very quickly. Oh, man...

**Rachel:** The writer says, "The fun part of this was that we didn't have a character named 'the masturbating bear.' Brian just made that up. He created this universe where it was already a character, which it wasn't." And then the writer goes on to talk about a bunch of different skits that he did. But each time he would come out on stage, he'd be in shackles. He'd have two handlers that would have prods kind of prepared to zap him, should he start again. There's a great description of all the clips, but we don't really have time to go into it. I will say, when Conan moved to the Tonight Show, they stopped doing it entirely.

**Griffin:** Yes, yes.

**Rachel:** Because it was earlier in the evening. The network was never a big fan of this bit. But I guess when he went to TBS, they did a few callbacks to it. And then in 2014, Stephen Colbert showed actual zoo footage of a real bear masturbating.

**Griffin:** Not as funny, I bet.

**Rachel:** But he tweeted, "Tune in tonight when I become the first Late Night host to show a clip of a masturbating bear."

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Rachel:** The next day, Conan brought it up and said, "What Stephen Colbert didn't know was that the masturbating bear was dying."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Rachel:** It then cut to the bear in a hospital bed where he was in a coma. It seemed as though he was going to die at any second, but there was a TV monitor with Colbert's footage on it, which they kept cutting back and forth to. The bear then came out of the coma and started masturbating.

**Griffin:** Amazing.

**Rachel:** I would really—if you need some time to enjoy yourself, and if you are not at work, let's say. [laughs]

**Griffin:** There is nothing erotic about it.

**Rachel:** That's what I think. And also, Conan's response was always like appropriately like shocked and bewildered. Like, I am not somebody that typically likes like gross or lewd comedy all that much. But there was something about this that just felt so ridiculous.

**Griffin:** The bear's face, the mask is like pretty anatomically like, it looks—it's not cartoonish. It's not like—it's like a... it looks like a real sort of stuffed bear's face.

**Rachel:** Well, and the writer of this article who played the bear said that he had in fact been bears in other sketches.

**Griffin:** Perfect.

**Rachel:** There was this ongoing bit where people would get attacked by this bear, like there would be this like quote 'loser' character that would eventually get attacked by a bear. And so he had played a bear so many times that when they came up with this idea, he was, of course, the bear again.

**Griffin:** Right. I love it. God, I had forgotten entirely about the masturbating bear. Completely and totally forgotten about it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, definitely... like totally, if you gave me 100 years to come up with a character on a talk show, I would never have come up with the masturbating bear.

**Griffin:** No. Can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Thank you.

[theme music plays]

[ad read]

**Griffin:** Are y'all ready for this? [sings tune] da-bum-bum. What if I did that song? It's not that song, but it is tea!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** It's not jock jams, it's tea!

**Rachel:** You know what is amazing about you, Griffin?

**Griffin:** What?

**Rachel:** Each week, I struggle so hard, because I think like day to day, I am not always coming into things that delight me.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** A lot of times it's a real struggle. I feel like you are always seeking out new hobbies and interests.

**Griffin:** Maybe, yeah.

**Rachel:** Lately it has been tea. And the fact that you're doing a tea segment is so exactly right.

**Griffin:** It's right, but it's also wild. Like I feel like towards the back half of this year, I've been trying some new stuff. Like daily exercise and like giving a shit about what my hair looks like.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [titters]

**Griffin:** And ADHD medication. [titters]

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But like the most surprising thing for me is that I have become a real tea guy.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Which I never really would have expected. I have dabbled in the past.

**Rachel:** You tried to be a tea guy a few times.

**Griffin:** I tried to be a tea guy, but it was coming from a very like, I don't know, like it was an affectation, and I didn't really enjoy the tea.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it was okay.

**Griffin:** It was okay. I wasn't drinking that good shit. And now I'm drinking that *good* shit.

**Rachel:** That was the thing, we were just, we weren't buying loose leaf tea. We weren't like spending a lot of time like smelling and tasting various like options.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Because there's a lot of good flavors out there, if you go out looking for 'em. We were visiting some friends in Baltimore, just walking around like the harbor area, I guess. And stopped in a... The Spice and Tea Exchange. I don't mind plugging 'em. This isn't a paid advertisement—

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** But they do good shit. And we just were like kind of walking around, warming up. And I was smelling like tea and I was like, man, this... this smells really, really good. So I bought a few bags. I bought a little steeping pitcher thing. Where you put the loose leaf in there, and you pour the water in, and then set it on top of the mug that you want to pour it into. And it just drains out the bottom, which is very satisfying every time. And then I've been drinking about a cup of night ever since.



**Rachel:** My parents are in town right now, and Griffin has delighted them with his tea selection.

**Griffin:** It's nice. It's fun!

**Rachel:** And now they are tea enthusiasts too.

**Griffin:** That that gets me excited as well. It's just, the tea we get is super, super good. I usually go for like a cinnamony herbal tea, or like a fruity cider-like sort of tea.

**Rachel:** It feels very festive right now.

**Griffin:** It does! I think like finding these flavors is what sort of unlocked this for me, because I've never—like, I don't rock with like an Earl Gray or chamomile or other sort of boring plant flavors.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** I also—

**Rachel:** Oh! I just got excited that if we talk about this, people are gonna post in the Facebook group about all their favorite kinds of tea!

**Griffin:** Uh-huh!

**Rachel:** And we're gonna get all these new recommendations!

**Griffin:** Hell yeah! I also really, really like the—I'm not going to talk about the history of tea, so if you're expecting that, I apologize. It's probably, there's a lot.

**Rachel:** I'm in I'm, in fact, delighted that you are not going to talk about it. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's great. I like the ritual of tea. I like the ritual of making tea. Obviously, there's a lot of like cultures where like tea ceremonies are like a big deal.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And I get that because I like setting the like—we have a little water heater that you can set the exact temperature you want it to get to. So I do that based on like the specifications, the instructions on each bag of tea. And then you pour in the exact amount, eight ounces, and then you let it steep for the set amount of time that the bag tells you to do. And then that drain it into a mug with a little bit of honey in it. Like, it's—

**Rachel:** That explains a lot to me, the fact that you know that there is a right way to do it, and you can do it the right way, has to be incredibly satisfying. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** It's very satisfying! And it makes me feel like I'm getting the right—the correct tea experience.

**Rachel:** Especially at night, like after we have just been with our very unpredictable and often wild children.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** To like have this calming like, this is the right way to do it, and I am doing everything correctly. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And it is much better than the tea I have tried to make in the past. When I like got into tea, it really dovetailed with when we all started to get sick all the time.

**Rachel:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I remember I was sick for like two weeks after—like right after this trip to Baltimore, and I had all this wonderful tea to help me on my path to health.

**Rachel:** Don't say wonderful tea, people are gonna think we make our own tea. And we do not.

**Griffin:** We don't—

**Rachel:** Yet.

**Griffin:** Yet. We could make a kick ass tea, I bet. But like now—you know, we're still, you know, we still get sick a bunch this time of year. It's also very, very cold. And having just like a nice little—just having a warm mug in my hands at night, on a cold night, like that just feels nice and it smells incredible. I've been a coffee guy for a long time, but there's a part—like coffee feels almost perfunctory to me at this point. Like it is a thing I do every morning and once in the afternoon. And I don't like... I obviously like need it to get going, but I don't like finish it before it gets cold usually.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But—

**Rachel:** Well, yeah, and you're always kind of doing something else.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** Like it's not an active thing, it's like an accessory.

**Griffin:** But like tea kind of demands my attention, like I like to hold it and warm my hands up and hold it close and smell it, and sip at it while we like enjoy our evening of reality TV watching.

**Rachel:** Do I need to be jealous tea?

**Griffin:** I'm not in love with the tea. I also do—I do love, however, that because it tells you the temperature to brew it at, it is like the exact right temperature to drink when it's done like steeping. So like you pour it in the cup and it's ready to go, you don't have to wait for it to cool down.

**Rachel:** That is a huge improvement.

**Griffin:** It's so fucking good, man! There's not like a bunch of extremely strong evidence out there that tea has like a bunch of tangible long-term

health benefits for you. There's a lot of not as sort of peer reviewed stuff out there saying as much.

**Rachel:** Well, and there's the suggestion that if you're comparing tea and coffee, tea is a healthier option.

**Griffin:** It depends entirely I think on what type of tea you're drinking.

**Rachel:** Yeah, the caffeine is a big thing.

**Griffin:** Tea does contain a lot of polyphenols, which is a plant compound that acts as like an antioxidant, anti-inflammatory sort of situation. There have been studies that show that like regular tea consumption can help lower the risk of like certain cardiovascular diseases. But again, not a lot of great studies showing that. That's not why I drink it, like I drink it for—because I like to have a special little treat for myself at the end of—end of the day. And tea is, you know, absolutely that for me.

**Rachel:** Well, and for a long time, we were doing like ice cream.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** Or like an alcoholic beverage, which was not sustainable for us.

**Griffin:** No, not to the degree that we were certainly eating ice cream. And now like, yeah, because of the ritual—because this takes a while to make and to drink, like I feel like at the end of it like, okay, my snacking, I don't need to go quite as crazy on like the late-night snacking. Which is where I feel like you and I typically do go too hard sometimes.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I'm also just kind of excited by tea because, yeah, I feel like I have taken my first nascent steps into this gigantic world of teas.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Like, I have had chai tea in the past that I've always enjoyed, but I haven't like really gotten too deep into it. So like that's a whole vector to explore. Like there's a whole universe of tea opportunities out there waiting for me to discover.

**Rachel:** Teaportunities.

**Griffin:** Hm... Ppporteanities? Opportuniteas?

**Rachel:** Opportuniteas.

**Griffin:** Probably that.

**Rachel:** All of these work for me.

**Griffin:** Yeah, me too, definitely. Like, there's classic teas. I didn't realize this, the like classic like white teas, yellow teas, green teas, oolong, black teas, like there's—all of those use a specific plant, like the traditional tea plant. Which is... I'm going to say this wrong, *Camellia sinensis*?

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Is the name of the plant where like all of these traditional teas come from. And it gives it like a specific mouth feel and flavor and caffeine sort of content. And then there's herbal teas which use parts of different plants. And that's where you get into to, you know, the all—most of the teas that I drink at this point. But then there's like chai and maté and rooibos and all of these different kinds. I'm drinking this elderberry herbal tea now. And like I don't—I couldn't pick an elderberry out of a lineup!

**Rachel:** Yeah, right? That's what—that has kind of been a barrier for me. Is I will look at bags of tea online, and it will list all of the various plants. And I have no idea what these plants—

**Griffin:** I don't know what the fuck that is?

**Rachel:** You really kind of have to get your nose in it.

**Griffin:** You gotta get in there! I ordered us—I had to restock some—we're running low. And I got a sampler, a holiday sampler—

**Rachel:** Oh, good!

**Griffin:** So, we'll dabble, we'll try some new stuff. I don't know, I'm just learning about the whole world through this journey, and I'm so glad that you have been so supportive and enjoyed the tea too. I like making tea for you. It feels nice.

**Rachel:** Yeah! It's very nice. There's also a lot less accessories. Like, remember when you were candy making?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And there were so many things involved. And it really started to take up a lot of space.

**Griffin:** Now I got a little shelf.

**Rachel:** Yeah, you just have a little shelf. There are only so many ways to make tea, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah. And I love it. And I would love some tea recommendations from the listeners.

**Rachel:** Teaminendataions.

**Griffin:** Not anything...

**Rachel:** Recommenteations. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Recommendayteas...

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Shins...

**Rachel:** It's so fun, is the thing. I recognize it's not funny. [laughs] It's just fun.

**Griffin:** Not everything has to be funny.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

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

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Katie says, "My small wonder is seeing people's Spotify Wrapped top podcasts and seeing random crossover with the podcast I listen to, too. This random person I don't know also listens to Wonderful and this might get weird. We must be so alike." My Spotify Wrapped is absolute trash this year.

**Rachel:** I don't really use Spotify all that often, so I don't even look at it. But like, is yours all just kid stuff?

**Griffin:** Oh, dude, it's all—

**Rachel:** I know that the Adventure Time song is number one for you.

**Griffin:** Yes. We have a playlist, it's called 'the Henry and Gus party bus,' and it's like all of the songs they always want to hear when we do our late-night dance parties—

**Rachel:** Or if we're in the car.

**Griffin:** Or if we're in the car.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And so like that is absolutely the bulk of it. And then, you know, Henry's bedtime song is Everything Stays from Adventure Time. And I was in the top 0.001% of listeners globally to that tune, which is what happens when you listen to it every single day.

**Rachel:** It is a gorgeous song, by the way.

**Griffin:** Beautiful song! I adore it.

**Rachel:** I always love hearing it.

**Griffin:** Me too. I love that song a lot. How about this one from Adela, who says, "My small wonder is flat surfaces in bathroom stalls. It's always such a wonderful solace to be able to set my phone and wallet down on a flat surface to ensure it doesn't fall in the toilet."

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** It drives me crazy when I have a hot drink—and I know I shouldn't be taking that into a bathroom. I know.

**Rachel:** [titters]

**Griffin:** But then like all that's there is a rounded toilet paper dispenser?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Dangerous.

**Rachel:** Yeah, and you don't want to put it on the floor. I recognize a surface in a bathroom is probably not much better than the floor, but it feels better than the floor. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah. That's it, thank you so much for listening. 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. This week, this Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the week you're hearing this—

**Rachel:** Oh, okay. Now, yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** It's going to be Candlenights! The annual Candlenights spectacular.



**Rachel:** If you—can I just say one thing? I always want to remind people that if you are not available to watch it this Saturday, go ahead and get a ticket, because you can watch it later.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Video on demand is available for a few weeks after and it's—we work really hard on it, and everybody does a special bit. The Wonderful segment is unhinged, and I think everybody's really, really gonna like it a lot. But all the bits are great. We have special guest segments from—

**Rachel:** Oh, I just saw that Dwight and Justin are doing Things I Bought At Sheetz.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** So excited about—

**Griffin:** If you enjoy the stuff we make, like all of it is kind of represented here in the Candenights show. And all the proceeds go to benefit Harmony House, which is a really, really great organization in Huntington that works to end homelessness by providing all kinds of services and housing to folks who need it. It's an incredible group of folks, and I'm so glad we're able to support them with this thing. [Bit.ly/candlenightstickets2024](https://bit.ly/candlenightstickets2024) is where you need to go to get your tickets and come watch it. Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9PM is when it airs. We'll be airing it like sort of live—we pre-made it, but it'll be a live airing. And there's a chat room—

**Rachel:** Yeah! We love the chat experience too.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Because Griffin in particular worked very hard, and it is always nice to see people appreciate the stuff.

**Griffin:** Yes. I'm very excited to see people's reaction to your contribution as well.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So, come and see it. And we got some merch. There's Candlenights merch, there's some last Fungalore merch up in the merch store, at mcelroymerch.com. So go check that out as well. And hopefully we'll see you then. And we'll see you here next week for another episode of Wonderful. So, stay tuned. I almost did the Besties outro. That's a first.

**Rachel:** What do you guys say at the end of Besties?

**Griffin:** Because shouldn't the world's best friends—

**Rachel:** Oh, you still say that?

**Griffin:** Pick the world's best games? Yeah.

**Rachel:** Oh, I love that.

**Griffin:** But we're kind of—I mean, we're best friends? Just married best friends. And we pick the world's best—

**Rachel:** Stuff!

**Griffin:** Stuff.

**Rachel:** Period.

**Griffin:** Stuff, period.

**Rachel:** I know, right? Take that, Besties. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Take that, Besties! Chumps!

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

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