

## **Wonderful! 370: Small Wonder Buffet!**

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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:** It's a little episode! It's gonna be a little one!

**Rachel:** Just teensy-teensy.

**Griffin:** Look at the little cute episode! This is Wonderful, it's a show where we talk—

**Rachel:** Girthy, though, we should say girthy.

**Griffin:** Girthy is important! Hefty.

**Rachel:** But focused on small.

**Griffin:** Focused mostly on small. This is a show where we talk about things we like, that's good, that we're into. And a lot of the time, every time, we do a segment called Small Wonders at the beginning of the show. Today, we're taking the format and we are... shaping it to our will.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** We're manipulating it.

**Rachel:** Griffin and I have often talked about how the format of our show is that the content changes every week.

**Griffin:** Which is crazy! No one else is doing this stuff, folks.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] And so, we don't have like an easy go-to when we want to like, you know, I don't know, go... go less hard.

**Griffin:** Go a little less hard. Or also, when we recorded another episode like two days ago.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah, that too.

**Griffin:** And because of our schedules, we got the boys' spring break coming up, gonna be AFK for a minute, we figured that this would be a fun time to bust out an all-wondies episode. And I'm glad for it, because I love the small wondies. I know that it oftentimes feels like you're being put on the spot with a small wondie, and it takes a little bit of extra—a little extra juice. But this episode is just all small ones.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** And so it's—we're ready for it. This stuff is, for me, at least, timely. I could talk at length about all this stuff for a long time.

**Rachel:** [titters] Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's real day to day shit.

**Rachel:** Yeah. And I will say like, it got me back to when we first started the show.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Because a lot of times, we have to kind of discard a lot of topics, because there just really isn't enough to say for like 10 to 15 minutes.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** But with this, like it reminded of when we first started and we just had endless opportunities in front of us, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah! What a beautiful time that was.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Now, we gotta go deep down in the salt mines.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** To fuckin' grind it out.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And you churn and churn and churn for hours, until finally—

**Rachel:** A little gem.

**Griffin:** Through a cleft in the rock, you see "automatic car wash" and you're like, "Oh, yeah."

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So, this week, all Small Wonders, do you want to—do you have a small wonder to start us off? [titters] Before we get to the Small Wonders, do you have a Small Wonder for this Small Wonder-based episode?

**Rachel:** I actually do, yeah.

**Griffin:** Okay, great.

**Rachel:** I was talking to you about this the other day. I have had Las Culturistas recommended to me several times.

**Griffin:** Okay, yes.

**Rachel:** It's Bowen Yang and his friend, Matt Rogers. Man, I should really confirm that, huh?

**Griffin:** You should confirm Matt's surname, for sure. Bowen Yang I love. Love all the clips I've seen out of this show. Very funny stuff.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it is. It is Matt Rogers. And it's just like they're buds. They've known each other for a very long time. The show is very positive. They invite on celebrities that they're like genuinely enthusiastic about.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** And then spend a lot of time kind of like gassing them up and like just getting really excited about things they have in common. And it's just like, it is like... a nice shower in the middle of the day. [titters]

**Griffin:** I saw—I've seen clips of the episode with Gabby...

**Rachel:** Yeah, Windey?

**Griffin:** Windey.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** From... well, I know her from Traders. I don't think we watched her season of The Bachelorette.

**Rachel:** No, and she has her own podcast now too.

**Griffin:** Amazing! Can't get enough Gabby Windey content. But yeah, I really enjoy everything I've seen out of this show. There's like a familiarity, it's like the thing I'm most interested in, in like the whole SNL universe, is like the familiarity that you get with other comedians and, you know, celebs, when you're like in the shit for a little bit.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I saw some stuff from the episode with Tina Fey that was just like, I don't know, just like old sailors just trading...

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Trading sea stories.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I mean, I genuinely tend to like a lot of podcasts where the hosts have been friends for a very, very long time.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But this one like is like exclusively joyous and funny, and I have really enjoyed it lately.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I gotta check it out. Do you mostly watch the video—because it's a video podcast as well, right?

**Rachel:** Yeah, I'll usually—I'll usually have like the video on while I'm doing something else, so I can kind of like glance over if something crazy happens.

**Griffin:** Do they do like stunts and tricks and stuff?

**Rachel:** No, there's gestures, though, there's wild, you know, broad, like excited gestures.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Since we've started doing video content, I've noticed that I've just sort of organically started doing more gestures.

**Rachel:** Yeah, well, and I've seen you kind of barrel the camera sometimes too, which is fun.

**Griffin:** A lot of Jim-style mugging.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** A lot of Jim mugs right to the...

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Right to camera one, for sure.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** I'm gonna hit this one, and I'm gonna hit it good. Hoodie weather. We're in it, folks. It's happening.

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** Crazy swings here in our nation's capital. The pollen sucks, it is very bad.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** It is like killing us... quickly. But there is—we have had a really prolonged hoodie season, and I'm living for it. I love a good hoodie.

**Rachel:** That is really true. I mean, I am continuously amazed by how long the seasons are here.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Because in Texas, you get a couple days, like never more than a week, of the transitional seasons.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** It's like that Ray Bradbury short story. But instead of rain on Venus, it's, you know, triple digit weather for nine months out of the year. I love a hoodie. I love a light option for the day. And when it's 53 degrees outside, 54, that's hoodie weather, now we're talking. I got this new one... got this new hoodie, it's true classic. It fits my frame just wonderfully.

**Rachel:** Your exceptionally long torso.

**Griffin:** Classic long torso. Got just a classic black hoodie, and it looks great, and I just feel great in it.

**Rachel:** Have you ever like laid out all the hoodies next to each other and done like a Marie Kondo kind of—

**Griffin:** I need to. I have probably six or seven hoodies, and I maybe really only like two of them.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Got that burgundy beauty that you know and love.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I've been rocking with that road for years.

**Rachel:** Big son references that a lot, because there were a lot of photos you had taken at a certain point in your life with that hoodie.

**Griffin:** With that hoodie, yeah, it's sort of my Doug uniform.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** But then I got a lot of just sort of... a lot of stuff I'll wear in there on laundry day. But not this one, this one I like. And I like a light jacket. And this is the time... this is the time for it. It is wild that it's still that chilly mid-April.

**Rachel:** Yeah, no kidding!

**Griffin:** But I'm not fully complaining.

**Rachel:** Ooh, I go first this week.

**Griffin:** Oh, wait, was that not the first one of the Small Wonders?

**Rachel:** Oh, for me, that was like our—

**Griffin:** Like a bonus? Oh, I just burned one of my real ones, I was like joking—

**Rachel:** Oh?

**Griffin:** Ah, fuck.

**Rachel:** Well, no, for me, that was like our traditional Small Wonder.

**Griffin:** Okay, well, then I'll think up something else.

**Rachel:** And then now we're in the all Small Wonder episode.

**Griffin:** I love it. What's your first official Small Wonder?

**Rachel:** My first official Small Wonder, I'm gonna say when snacks come with little scoops or sticks.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah!

**Rachel:** I—

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Rachel:** Growing up, I loved a Handi-Snack. I love that like bright red stick and the bright yellow cheese.

**Griffin:** You should explain what handy snacks are. I do not know if this brand is still extant.

**Rachel:** Hm, I don't know. It was just like... it was maybe like four or five inches long, and it was like a little tub of cheese, and then like five or six long crackers.

**Griffin:** Spreadable sort of...

**Rachel:** It was like before the Lunchable.



**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And yeah, it was like a spreadable cheese, and like it was really satisfying for people who like to exactly portion.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** So that like when you finish the snack, you had finished both sides at the same time.

**Griffin:** I mean, that requires quite a bit of, you know, planning.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And forethought. There's no feeling worse in the world than... cashing out the cheese and you've still got one cracker left.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] I also like the little ice cream cups that had the little wooden spoon on the top, that you'd get like at school.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah!

**Rachel:** I like—

**Griffin:** PhillySwirl, I'll hit you with that too, which I—

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** You know I love a Philly Swirl.

**Rachel:** The Kinder Eggs. Our kids are really into Kinder Eggs now. And it doesn't really come with a utensil, it just comes with a like pre-folded piece of cardboard.

**Griffin:** I mean, that's a utensil, babe. You can use that—

**Rachel:** But it's not shaped like a typical utensil.

**Griffin:** No, but, I mean, if you throw a spoon, if you throw anything with any kind of like curvature or depth in there—

**Rachel:** I guess so.

**Griffin:** You're gonna sort of disrupt the egg shape of the Kinder Egg.

**Rachel:** There's just something really delightful about that for me.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It's a self-contained snacking—like elevated, sort of like intelligent snack.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** I do like that a lot. Kinder Eggs are weird, huh? Because it's like, the toy's not very good, at all. I think that may just be an America thing, because we keep eating... toys. Whereas like in other countries, the Kinder Egg will have like, you know, cool stuff in it, like a Tech Deck.

**Rachel:** [titters] That'd be a big...

**Griffin:** But then you also get like two Ferrero Rochers floating in a field of creamy cream.

**Rachel:** I never grew up with these things.

**Griffin:** Nor I.

**Rachel:** This is... I don't know how new this phenomenon is, but our children love them.

**Griffin:** I'd swear on a stack of Bibles, we grew up with the Kinder Eggs where it was just one big chocolate egg with some shit inside of it, like a toy or whatever.

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah, that sounds right!

**Griffin:** And that is definitely like, I get that not—I get not doing it that way no more.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Well, and it also suggests that the manufacturer was not hemmed in by this idea that you needed a utensil to eat the snack.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** You know, at some point, they all sat around and were like, "Oh, but we can't do that, because somebody will have to go get a knife." And they're like, "You know what we could do?" [titters]

**Griffin:** What's that?

**Rachel:** Get a—

**Griffin:** Put it right in there.

**Rachel:** Get a small stick and attach it somehow.

**Griffin:** I have one here.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** At first blush, it's gonna sound weird, but communal online sleuthing, or puzzle solving. Not in the vein of like, hey, Reddit, I bet we can solve this murder, and in doing so, ruin some person's life based on specious evidence. More in the more benign, usually game-related sense.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** This has happened a lot. I've talked a lot about like the rise of these like first-person, super-deep sort of mystery games.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Blueprints being the one that like I'm obsessed with right now. And you know, that lends itself to opportunities where the developer of a game

can create the most obscure, the most cryptic and challenging puzzles. And then just kind of trust that the combined brain power of a community of people working on that thing can eventually like solve anything.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** I really enjoy being a part of that process. And it goes all the way—I mean, like... when Halo 2, I believe, was coming out, or maybe Halo 3, there was this very early ARG, or alternate reality game, where there was like a website called I Love Bees that you would go to. And there were like interviews with like test subjects and like all this different shit. But if you like got into the gully works of it, it would teach you about the Halo 3 plot, or whatever.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That is like I think a very early version of it. But now, I don't know, there's so many of these types of games that have—that are just so dense and so mysterious. And being a part of a group of people who are actively working on like cracking the code, and being the first ones to kind of crack the code, is always like really exciting. And always a process I really enjoy being a part of.

**Rachel:** Yeah, well, and in a similar way, it's been really helpful for like when Henry is playing a game—

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:** And he gets stuck. Like, there were so many games that I never finished as a kid, because I would get stuck and I would just give up, and that was it.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** But now to be able to like search things for him and like help get him through like a challenging spot has been really nice.

**Griffin:** Yeah, he doesn't require that help as much—like as often these days.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** But it is reassuring that like, I don't know, there is no puzzle that you can't solve if you just—if you just work with other people. And then like if you can be part of like the contribution towards like a breakthrough, like the satisfaction you get from that is always really neat.

**Rachel:** So you actually like contribute to these things?

**Griffin:** Yeah, for this one. There was another game that came out a couple years ago, or maybe last year, called Animal Well, which was like this big platformer game in this huge kind of mysterious world with all this insane, cryptic shit everywhere in it. And I was part of the like early press kind of review cycle for it. We got like an early code for it. And there was a Discord channel started so that people reviewing the game could kind of like bounce ideas and stuff off each other, because it was so difficult and weird.

And like, being a part of that and being like, "Oh, shit, guys, I think I found a..." I'm not going to spoil anything from Animal Well, because I do—that's still a fairly new game and it kicks ass. But like finding stuff was like always so, so, so exciting because you knew like, I can share this with the team!

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I find that very satisfying. What do you got next?

**Rachel:** I am gonna say... parachute day in gym class.

**Griffin:** Iconic. Iconic experience.

**Rachel:** I was—I went through this thing recently, I don't remember why I was thinking about it. Maybe we watched some video with the kids. And I was blown away that you could just buy one of those parachutes online. [titters] Because to me, it was this magical thing that only gym classes had.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And it didn't align with any other activity, really, or skill that you were doing in gym class. But occasionally, they'd break that big parachute out.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And you'd like, your whole class of like 25 kids would like kind of help lift it up, and then you would sit on the edge of it so that you'd have this little dome.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And it was just magical.

**Griffin:** We had a game where you would like float it up, and then they would like call a number as it goes up, and then you'd have to like run underneath it to the other side before the parachute fell on you.

**Rachel:** Or you'd like bounce balls in it. Like—

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Rachel:** And you kind of hold the edge.

**Griffin:** For sure. For sure. Not—I don't know what I am being physically educated on—

**Rachel:** Exactly.

**Griffin:** When I do—when I do this.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But it certainly is novel, and I do—I do enjoy that. I wonder if this is still a thing that—I haven't heard Henry talk about parachute day.

**Rachel:** And part of the reason I thought of it was that when our son, before he was in school and would go to like those little like activity gym, like Gymboree kind of places—

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Like, he would participate in parachute—

**Griffin:** In parachute day.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So, I don't know if it still happens at the elementary school level, but people are definitely still doing it.

**Griffin:** I think that there is, when you feel a certain way about school, there is something sort of exciting about anytime any shit is different, ever, at all. And parachute day was like that for gym class.

**Rachel:** Particularly in gym class, the thing that used to be really hard for me is the like heightened emotion about like people performing at the level that you wanted them to perform at.

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Rachel:** Like, I did not grow up in a family that was really like aggressive about sports. So it was very confusing to me to go to gym class and have people get really angry during kickball. And so it felt nice to do something that I knew like no one's gonna get mad at me or somebody else.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Rachel:** For this activity. [titters]

**Griffin:** It's a parachute.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Griffin:** What are you going to do? "You didn't fluff it high enough!"

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Toby!" I'm gonna talk about a book.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** It's a book that I recommended to our friend, Declan. And I read it last year, and it really blew my mind, really loved it. It's called Piranesi. It is written by Susanna Clark, who wrote—I always get the title of this book mixed up because I haven't read it. I have it... I actually have bought it to read it, because I really like Piranesi a lot. But Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell, we have this—we have a hard copy of this book somewhere.

**Rachel:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It feels like every house has one of these.  
[titters]

**Griffin:** That book came out in I want to say 2004. And then Susanna Clark didn't write—didn't publish a book for like 16 years. And then Piranesi just came out in 2020, and it fuckin' rules. It is a real page-turner, and just a really great like mystery that once it kind of starts to unfold—it's one of those books where like once you start to understand what the book is doing, you have to then see it through. Like you have to—you can't put it down.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** Because all of a sudden, the critical path has revealed itself. But it is a... a wild book about this man who lives in a giant house. And the house is made up of hundreds of rooms and antechambers. And there is so much bizarre shit about this house that's three stories, and the top story is all clouds, and the bottom story is the ocean. And sometimes the ocean swells and fills up the middle level of the house, and so he has to keep track of the tides so that he doesn't drown.

**Rachel:** Wow, okay.

**Griffin:** And there's statues... there's statues everywhere. And as far as he knows, he is one of two living people in this house. And then there's like 15 skeletons of people that he's found throughout this house.



**Rachel:** Wow?

**Griffin:** And there's obviously something wrong with his memories. But the book is written in a journal format, and so it is written from the perspective of this—of this person who has lived in this insane, other-worldly house for so long that like the rules of the real world are gone, are like abandoned to him. And so, he writes in this way that really is so intriguing, because it's like an alien's journal.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's like reading the journal of a person who does not have any kind of like context of what life is like.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And that is like, in and of itself, like really neat. And as you start to learn like what is this fuckin' house? What does this mean? Who's this other person? What do all these little clues mean? While you start to figure that out, he does too. And that is like a really, really, really satisfying experience. That lends itself to like, once big stuff kind of clicks into place, that is the moment where it's like, oh, shit. Okay, I gotta see where this thing's going.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Just a really interesting book that is very... I don't know, I don't read a lot of books like that, that are just sort of like... other-worldly sort of diaries. I haven't read *House of Leaves*. I understand maybe it's a little bit like that, but more interactive, maybe, in a sense. But yeah, it's called *Piranesi*, it kicks ass, and... I've been—Justin turned me on to it. And I've been recommending it to anyone who will listen. Do you want to do one more before we go to a break?

**Rachel:** Sure! That eyelash thing where you get an eyelash on your face and then you put it on your finger, and you blow it and make a wish.

**Griffin:** Very intimate, isn't it?

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I've only ever thought of—like anytime anyone has ever done that to me, it's been like, that was pretty intimate, first of all.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** The fact that we touched fingers or whatever, or—

**Rachel:** Oh, I wasn't even thinking of it as like a paired activity.

**Griffin:** A co-op activity.

**Rachel:** Like, I think usually somebody has to tell you. But I don't know that they always like... interact with you—

**Griffin:** I don't know if—

**Rachel:** In the process.

**Griffin:** There's some movie or TV show where like someone's like, "Oh, you have an eyelash, let me get it for you. Oh, make a wish."

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And then they like kiss or whatever. Like for me, that's the image in my mind.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't want anyone to do that to me, but you.

**Rachel:** No, I... I don't really understand how this could be a thing, or why it's a thing. I feel like I have this vague memory of finding out about it and being really confused, like how is this a thing?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But it's just one of those like, like... undefinable—is it undefinable or indefinable?

**Griffin:** The fact that you can't figure that out is, in itself, pretty great. I like that a lot.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Anyway, it's like one of those traditions that like I wouldn't even know how to figure out how it started, but everyone seems to know about it?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** I don't know.

**Griffin:** I mean, it's a core memory when someone does that to you for the first time, because of how intimate it is.

**Rachel:** I also—[chuckles] I also just love this I—the opportunity to make wishes. [titters]

**Griffin:** I love a little wish.

**Rachel:** Like when the time is the same, like in the front and the back half of the colon, and everyone's like, "Make a wish!" You know, when it's like—

**Griffin:** Babe, I don't think people do that for anything other than 11:11, do they?

**Rachel:** I always thought it was like—

**Griffin:** 4:04?

**Rachel:** 12:12, yeah. Like, it didn't matter, as long—if it was doubles.

**Griffin:** I've only ever heard 11:11, make a wish.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** But if you want to make a wish every hour, I think that's—you should feel empowered to do that.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Well, it's just if you happen to look. You can't like sit in front of a clock.

**Griffin:** Bummer if you live not in America where they do 24 hour time, huh? Because that—then you're only getting half the wishes, aren't you?

**Rachel:** True.

**Griffin:** No, you're not. Wait, that doesn't make any sense. Because you can—it can be 23:23. So, what I just said doesn't make any sense. And it was just foolish.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Well, but it's more satisfying when it's like 13:13, instead of like... one—

**Griffin:** 1:01?

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I agree. I agree with that. I'd like to make a little wish for us to take a break and let me steal you away.

**Rachel:** Yes.

[ad break]

**Griffin:** I got one. There's so much buzz happening! What's the word? Tell me what's happening. There's a new video game console coming out called the Switch 2, and I feel lukewarm about it, but it's still exciting—

**Rachel:** When is it coming out?

**Griffin:** June 5<sup>th</sup>, I believe.

**Rachel:** Okay, so it's not that far away.

**Griffin:** Not at all!

**Rachel:** I didn't know if this was one of those like, "This Christmas season."

**Griffin:** I was expecting that. We didn't know like what the timetable was looking like, and then there was this big Nintendo Direct on April 2<sup>nd</sup> where they announced the release date. They also announced the pre-order date and price, and then that got sort of canceled out immediately when the tariff hijinks started.

**Rachel:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** Sorry to classify that as hijinks, it's obviously way more dire than that. But at the time we're recording this, I still don't know when we're going to be able to buy one of these things. But is going to be out on June 5<sup>th</sup>! And man, I just, I love... I love games, and I love tech so much. And this shit doesn't happen that often anymore, where there's like a new game console that comes out.

**Rachel:** What does it look like? Look like the same one?

**Griffin:** Look like the same one.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I believe, yeah, that's how they did it. It came out the first day and they like—

**Rachel:** It's not like a thing where they like show it at an angle, and you realize one side is like a little bit smoother than it used to be? [titters]

**Griffin:** So, I mean, okay, they do the like deep CG render product shot shit when they announced it. The screen is quite a bit larger.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** The Joy-Cons—it has the same depth, so it's like, you know, not like bigger and bulkier to kind of hold. The Joy-Cons are like magnetically attached. They kind of like pull straight out.

**Rachel:** Oh?

**Griffin:** And the big thing, I mean, there's a few big things. There's like a chat button that you press and it opens up like a, basically, Discord window where you can chat with your buddies at any point.

**Rachel:** Ah! That's interesting.

**Griffin:** Yeah, which is like of limited use to me, but I think for kids who want to play, you know, Minecraft or whatever with their friends and have like an instant chat room, that is neat. The other thing is that you can take a Joy-Con and turn it on its side, and put it on a table, and then basically it's an optical mouse.

**Rachel:** Ooh! That's clever.

**Griffin:** And so, you can do sort of like mouse-based games, so like the new Civilization is coming out. Anyway! Like, I don't care about most of that, but I am excited to, I don't know, have a new piece of gaming hardware to like get excited about and—

**Rachel:** Well, and those new games coming out are pretty exciting too?

**Griffin:** Yeah, man, that new Donkey Kong looks great, there's—

**Rachel:** New Donkey Kong.

**Griffin:** New Mario Kart that is like open world? So you like drive between the different tracks, between races, which is very fun.

**Rachel:** That's cool. Like new Kirby updates.

**Griffin:** New Kirby updates, the big son is over the moon about that stuff.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So, yeah, I... this used to happen a lot more often and—when I was like in the games industry proper. I'm on the outskirts of it still, I guess, technically, with Besties, but like in it, covering these like game console launches every like couple years. It was really exciting! And it was always something that got me really fired up. And now like, I don't know, between the collapse of E3 and the elongation of like console life cycles, you don't get that hit as much anymore. So, it's fun to be sort of like, I don't know, on the awaiting end of one of those.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** What do you got next?

**Rachel:** I was going to talk about being a room parent.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Which is when your children typically are in elementary school, and they need a few extra parent volunteers to help co-ordinate some of the activities like holiday parties and teacher appreciation, and if your school has a yearbook, they need some parent volunteer to kind of send out emails and like rally the parent community.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** And I started doing it when Henry entered kindergarten, as—and I was very deliberate about it and like strategic. I was like, I want to know more of what's happening in the classroom.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** I want to have like more access to the teacher.

**Griffin:** We were also, I mean...

**Rachel:** We were new.

**Griffin:** We were new to DC, right? And so like, new to this school system and new to this neighborhood. And like, I think that—

**Rachel:** That's the in—that's the other thing, is that you instantly like get connected with like—I mean, we've been lucky in that in our classrooms, it's never just like one or two people.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So you're like instantly connected to at least like two or three other people, which is nice when your kid is starting in a new class, to kind of build that relationship. Especially in the younger grades, like Henry is in second. So like, he hasn't been there necessarily long enough for me to feel like I know a significant number of parents.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Anyway, I feel like I'll probably keep doing it. It's not a huge commitment for—usually, like the stuff I sign up for is more like I'm gonna send the emails and—

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, it's not like PTA president, like—

**Rachel:** Create the sign ups. Yeah, like I don't have to be there for every party or plan every little thing. Like, we divide it up. But it's just like, it just feels like I have a little backstage pass to the classroom!

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** And I don't know, and you get a better sense of kind of how the teacher operates.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Rachel:** And it makes it easier for me too, if I like have a question or feel like I need, you know, to like connect on something, to already have kind of my foot in the door.



**Griffin:** Yeah. Baby, your biceps are absolutely popping. No, don't put 'em away!

**Rachel:** I feel like this is the second time you've talked about it on the show?

**Griffin:** Well, you do this pose sometimes where you kind of rest your arms on your—on your—top of your head, and then the biceps are just bumpin'. And it's like, damn, I got a strong wife!

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Strong wife, strong life! You know what I mean?

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Anyway, sorry to talk about your muscles like that.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But don't hide your light under a bushel. Your light is so, so strong.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So, so much girth. [titters]

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Tinned fish! Tinned fish.

**Rachel:** Whoa, really?

**Griffin:** Yeah, so... I somehow found myself perusing tinned fish TikTok while I was—

**Rachel:** Is this exactly what I think it is? Or is this slang? Or like—

**Griffin:** Like sardines and—

**Rachel:** Okay, okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah, tinned fish.

**Rachel:** So it's a real thing, okay.

**Griffin:** There's like a community of people who are very into tinned fish. I got into sardines for like a minute, a while ago, when I was trying to get a little healthier and wanted to mix up my lunchtime routine.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And I found a couple different brands that I was like into, but—

**Rachel:** Are you saying you want to return to this lifestyle?

**Griffin:** I kind of do. I kind of do. And it's because I've been exposed to it so much through tinned fish TikTok.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Some of it is irony. *A lot* of it is like bulk influencers who are like, "I eat five cans of sardines every morning!"

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** "At 4:00AM!" That's not my jam. But I found this TikTok like channel where it's just two dudes, look like they're probably college students, and they have a little candlelit session where they eat a few different types of tinned fish and do reviews. And it feels very—

**Rachel:** Oh, that's so nice.

**Griffin:** It's very charming, and it's very erudite, and like hm...

**Rachel:** See, that's what's nice about TikTok. Like, I wouldn't ever intentionally look for something like that.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But like—

**Griffin:** But if I do see it—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Then I will go so deep and so hard in the paint forever on it. I was hoping that I could find them... I think I started following them. I follow 58 people, and one of them is a tinned fish TikTok reviewer. Yeah, Kyrik, K-Y-R-I-K, just reviews tinned fish with his friend.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And I do like it. And I do like, you know, there are health benefits and stuff to it, but I find it still neat that you can get fish in a can!

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And it's good! Like—

**Rachel:** And they're—like look like fish.

**Griffin:** And they look like fish—

**Rachel:** Like it—

**Griffin:** And it tastes a lot like fish.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And you can get 'em in hot sauce or olive oil, or whatever the fuck! There's lots of different ways you can get tinned fish. And then it's a fish

that you eat out of a can. And it always seems so, I don't know... satisfying, I guess.

**Rachel:** I will feel like... well, I feel like sushi was kind of a gateway into the like unusual fish vehicle world.

**Griffin:** Sure, I think that makes sense.

**Rachel:** Like, I don't know that I would have eaten tinned fish before having sushi. But then it's like, you start to feel a little more experimental.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like, I don't know, maybe I'll do that too.

**Griffin:** Well, these guys are usually cooked too, so, yeah.

**Rachel:** Yeah, but just the idea of picking something up that looks—

**Griffin:** Like a fish and eating it.

**Rachel:** Like it's still a fish.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Because it is still a fish.

**Griffin:** Well, now we're grown. We're fully grown and we—

**Rachel:** I know, it's true.

**Griffin:** We can enjoy... you know, adult things, like tinned fish. And tinned fish TikTok.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I really went down a rabbit hole. I was on tour, and I couldn't sleep, and it was like eleven o'clock at night, and I was just watching people reviewing tinned fish.

**Rachel:** [laughs] It's the rock and roll lifestyle.

**Griffin:** It fucking isn't. If people only knew.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Let's call it there! That's a lot of Small Wonders. We've given our friends at home—

**Rachel:** That's a—that's a lot of...

**Griffin:** Holy shit.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I've never seen you sprint at something and then like try to skid to a halt before going over the precipice of it. Like I've never seen you realize what you were doing is... not awesome. And then like do it so quickly, and then like bail from it so quickly.

**Rachel:** Sometimes, when you have been in a relationship for a long time...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** I can look at you—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And judge from your expression like, "Oh, you're getting very close to the edge right now."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And recognize that this is a joke that is not worth getting close to the edge.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] And recognize in your face, like after I say it, you'll probably have some feelings about it.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] That's what happened.

**Griffin:** This conversation reminds me of another TikTok I saw yesterday that I can't stop thinking about. And it's somebody who drew a diagram of the Creed song where he's like, [sings] "Hold me now, I'm six feet from the edge and I'm thinking maybe six feet ain't so far down." And he drew a diagram and he's like... yeah.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** If you're standing six feet from the edge of something that then has a sheer six foot drop, that's not so—that's not so far down.

**Rachel:** It's not a lot.

**Griffin:** Why are you singing a song about that? That just makes... that just makes sense. Got one here from Hannah, who says, "My Small Wonder is Costco Puma socks." Am I wearing 'em now? No, I'm not. "Costco always has these super soft socks made by Puma, for a great price, obviously, and they are so comfy and hold up well after being washed. It's also fun when I and a bunch of my friends are all wearing them. Highly recommend." Absolutely.

**Rachel:** I follow—

**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Rachel:** Multiple Costco-related accounts on Instagram to just see what like the new items are, and like what is on super sale. And I haven't been inside of Costco in several years now—

**Griffin:** It's been a bit.

**Rachel:** Because it's not particularly convenient to us. But I'm still thrilled by it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, absolutely. Julie says, "This may not be a Small Wonder, but the first episode of Wonderful I ever listened to, you talked about sitcoms. I assumed the sound you play when transitioning to the ad break was specifically chosen for the topic. I was very confused on the next episode. It still makes me laugh every time." Yeah, I mean...

**Rachel:** [chuckles] I think about—I remember thinking about that sometimes. Of like, we are so far from when we started doing that. I mean, I guess it's not that different than like "kiss your dad square on the lips."

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** Like this idea of like, you continue to do something that makes absolutely no contextual sense anymore.

**Griffin:** No. But that's podcasts! Thanks so much for listening. Thanks to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to that in the episode description. Thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network.

We have a bunch of shows for MBMBaM and TAZ announced. We are coming to the great state of Michigan. We're going to... we're going a bunch of cons. We're coming all over the place. You can find all the tour dates and get tickets over at [bit.ly/mcelroytours](https://bit.ly/mcelroytours). We got some new merch over at [mcelroymerch.com](https://mcelroymerch.com). We have a Miggy spinner pin, for fans of the McElroy Family Clubhouse. And you can—you can check all that out over at [mcelroymerch.com](https://mcelroymerch.com)!

**Rachel:** Oh, by the way, if you missed a recent McElroy Family Clubhouse, particularly one that maybe looked a little different than the other ones, I would recommend you go check that out.

**Griffin:** I don't know what you're talking about.

**Rachel:** I'm talking about the one that was this week, as we're recording it.

**Griffin:** I don't know—I don't know—I don't remember.

**Rachel:** Oh... well, I guess you probably wouldn't, would you?

**Griffin:** Nothing sticks out. Thank you so much for listening! And we'll be back next week with another episode of Wonderful. But this one's gonna be big one. [titters] Jumbo-wundos!

**Rachel:** Next week!

**Griffin:** Next week! Nothing but jumbo-wundos in our nine hour long series finale!

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Bye!

**Rachel:** Bye.

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

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