

Wonderful! 378: Boss Socks Energy

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

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi! This is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: Why are you laughing at me? Why you always—why you always laughing at me?

Rachel: You took your socks off with such like decisive like... like 'the boss is here'-like energy.

Griffin: So I took my socks off in a manner that suggested that I'm a boss?

Rachel: Like the way that you push up your sleeves when you're ready to get work done, is the way you took your socks off.

Griffin: Okay. That's cool.

Rachel: Like, all right, let's get down to business. [titters]

Griffin: It's like if the—like a hard-nosed journalist. Like Woodward and the other guy, and they're like... instead of pushing up their sleeves, they take off their socks.

Rachel: I'm not gonna say the other guy's name, because I think that you left that out for comedic effect.

Griffin: No, I don't... Ba... some... Burn...

Rachel: Yeah?

Griffin: Stein?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Woodward and Bernstein?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Anyway, those two guys ripping off their fuckin' sweaty old socks, ready to get the—to the hard work of reporting the news. That is not what I was doing. It's 600,000 degrees, and I just took my socks off for—

Rachel: In the Caribbean seas?

Griffin: Huh?

Rachel: [panting] I was doing... Will Smith's... party city...

Griffin: Are you out of breath from that joke?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Are you out of breath from referencing Will Smith's Miami?

Rachel: Sometimes when a reference feels particularly sweaty to me, I get out of breath trying to continue doing it.

Griffin: Yeah. I hear you. I'm glad to hear you verbally recognize that what we do is hard work.

Rachel: Well... he says something about the Caribbean seas with the... hot mommies.

Griffin: Oh, cool?

Rachel: Saying...

Griffin: Tell me more. [chuckles] Don't stop. Don't stop, keep telling me more about the city where the heat is on, all night on the beach 'til the break of dawn. Please tell me more about Big Willie Style, a life that I lived.

Rachel: [titters] Lived?

Griffin: Yeah, I lived it. I lived—

Rachel: Past tense.

Griffin: I lived Willie Style. Not anymore. Look at me! When have you—in the time that you have known me, have I ever lived Big Willie Style?

Rachel: I would like photographic evidence of you having lived Willie Style.

Griffin: Okay, I'll get that to you. Get this, turn of the millennium, appropriately enough—

Rachel: Uh-huh?

Griffin: It was big in West Virginia. Will Smith was huge in West Virginia.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: This is Wonderful! A show where we talk about things that we like, that's good, that we're into. You got any Small Wondies?

Rachel: Ah, geez... man...

Griffin: Yeah, he's great, I agree. Died for our sins...

Rachel: Do you think people called him Geez? [titters]

Griffin: I think probably Simon, of all the—of all the apostles—

Rachel: I don't know enough about this to continue.

Griffin: How many of the 12—you can't name any of the 12 apostles? I mean, name any common Christian names.

Rachel: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are those the apostles?

Griffin: Yeah, probably.

[group laugh]

Rachel: Look at you.

Griffin: Thomas. Doubting Thomas. Judas, obviously. And then I think there were a couple Johns.

Rachel: Simon. You said Simon with such—

Griffin: Simon feels right, doesn't it?

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: I could do mine first?

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I think I said the Switch 2 the last...

Rachel: Sure.

Griffin: The last episode. Sure.

Rachel: Did you think about the fact—so, here's the thing. I didn't tell you this yet. And now it's content, which is fantastic.

Griffin: Cool. Hell yeah.

Rachel: Our son declared that he wanted to have some friends over to play the Switch 2.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And when I reached out to one of the moms, she said, "Oh, yeah... my son told me that Henry had a Switch 2." And I thought like, wow, we're that family!

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: We're that family that the kid runs home and says, "Well, Henry has a Switch 2!"

Griffin: Well, yeah.

Rachel: And I was like, what an honor.

Griffin: Well, they should say Henry's dad is professionally obligated.

Rachel: [chuckles] No. None of those parameters are mentioned.

Griffin: No, I know.

Rachel: Like, we're just that family.

Griffin: I know. And I want to go to those parents and I want to say it's a professional obligation.

Rachel: What an honor.

Griffin: It is an—it is a huge honor.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I feel—I feel revered by all of the second graders in our—in our neighborhood.

Rachel: [chuckles] Anyway, what is your Small Wonder?

Griffin: I just, I've been playing Tears of the Kingdom again. It's that Zelda game.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's that Zelda game, it's like the best. It's one of the best fucking games ever made. You can like build stuff. And Henry's been playing it with me now too. It came out in 2023, and he—like, it's a very complicated game, and he couldn't really hang with it then, and now he can kind of hang with it.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's just fun because like I'll play it for a little while, while he's at school. And I'll like knock out some shrines, and I'll get some new armor and some upgrades and stuff. And then he'll play it for a while, and I'll come back, and he's just made a big man out of rocks that he stuck together.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And it's like shit yeah, dude. You can do anything in this game. I love it. It's really, really good. Do you have a Small Wonder?

Rachel: Eh... oh! I know what I was gonna say.

Griffin: Yeah?

Rachel: So, I went to the gym today.

Griffin: Cool.

Rachel: And there was a woman there with—had to have been her son. Like college age son. And it was kind of darling, because she kept going over to him. This is a woman I've seen at the gym a lot. She's like a regular. And her son must have been home for the summer, and she was—had brought him for the first time. And she kept like running over to like give him tips.

Griffin: Oh, god, that's good!

Rachel: And there was one point where he wiped his face with his shirt and almost fell off the treadmill, because he like—[chuckles] he covered his face with his shirt, and then like started to move back on the treadmill, because it was still in motion, and almost fell over. And then she like ran over and was like, "So you're gonna want to use the towel to wipe the sweat. The towel is to wipe the sweat off your face." And I kind of loved it, I mean, not just for like the kind of the...

Griffin: The sweetness of it.

Rachel: The AFV of it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Of it all. But also like, those moments where I realized like, one day, I will be the mother of a college age son. And I—

Griffin: Our boys are going to be real gym rats!

Rachel: [chuckles] No, I just had the moment of like feeling some empathy for the son, who was probably like a little bit embarrassed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: To be—and like a—basically an adult male, having his mom explain to him what a towel is for.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [chuckles] But then also recognizing like, as the mom, like, yeah, I would probably still also do that.

Griffin: Of course.

Rachel: For my adult child.

Griffin: Naturally.

Rachel: So, yeah, it was just kind of a nice like full 360 view moment.

Griffin: How are the gains?

Rachel: Oh, the gains? You know, it felt good to have just any opportunity to gain at all. I didn't—it was a—it was a late decision for me to even go.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: So, it felt—

Griffin: I heard the door slam seven minutes before the usual gym time. And I was like, wow, damn.

Rachel: Yeah, I was sitting on the couch, and I had basically decided not to go. And then I looked at the clock and I was like, you know what? I'm gonna do it. And I ran out the door. And I'm glad I did.

Griffin: You look huge, babe. In like a great way. Imposing.

Rachel: In a "I love my big, beautiful wife" way?

Griffin: I love my huge, powerful wife.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Powerful wife!

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I go first this week. You wanna—

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: You wanna know it? What I'm doing?

Rachel: Sure.

Griffin: Umbrella. Not the song—not the—

Rachel: Not even the song.

Griffin: Not even the song. It's not even in my top—it doesn't even chart at my favorite—

Rachel: Not the like, we're all together under this big, beautiful umbrella?

Griffin: I guess the symbolism of umbrella can be—can fall under this umbrella—the umbrella umbrella.

Rachel: But you're talking specifically about the tool used to keep rain off of you?

Griffin: Yeah! And it sounds like you're saying it in a sort of dismissive way, when it's an umbrella.

Rachel: Seems like a—

Griffin: You know what's fucked up? I feel like you don't actually like umbrellas all that much.

Rachel: [chuckles] I do like umbrellas.

Griffin: It doesn't seem like it!

Rachel: [titters] I do. This seems like one of those things where you're like, this is probably a small wonder. [chuckles]

Griffin: Not to me, baby. I love a good umbrella.

Rachel: You think I've got 10 minutes on umbrella?

Griffin: I'm not even talking about the aesthetic idea of umbrella. I'm talking about, I love to have a good umbrella.

Rachel: All right, let's—

Griffin: If I'm walking—I'm walking around, rain or shine, with a good umbrella in my hand? I feel ready. I feel prepared.

Rachel: Ladies and gentlemen, let's start the timer.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: 10 minutes on umbrella. [laughs]

Griffin: This is a fun—this is a fun energy! We, I feel like exclusively, used to rock with those rinky-dink, tiny little umbrellas that you would buy at like a Walgreens or whatever, that would last you a couple storms before one of the poles just went flying out of it in the middle of a storm. And so, when we moved here, a few months after we moved here, we were like, wow, it actually rains a lot more here than it did in Austin. So I invested in that nice big, sort of burgundy colored, *large* umbrella. That can cover you and a child, or a lover...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Fairly easily. And I just love that thing! And I am excited whenever I have opportunity to take it out of the house and possibly deploy it.

Rachel: You did when it was raining the other day, you got really excited to offer it to me. And I explained to you that I do not prefer to take that with me on the train, because it is basically like bringing a whole other person with me on the train.

Griffin: Well, I guess if you leave it deployed on the train. But if you fold it up—

Rachel: It's just, it's close quarters in there, and—

Griffin: It is pretty close quarters.

Rachel: Yeah. But I—

Griffin: But I don't—

Rachel: I do appreciate that it does offer maximum coverage.

Griffin: I'm fine with a small to medium-sized umbrella, if it's of substantial build. Like my problem with a smaller umbrella, one, you can't share it with a—with a—

Rachel: With a lover.

Griffin: With a lover. But I don't usually like go out—I don't usually dress for rain. I don't usually like say, well, it's raining, so I'm gonna wear my galoshes and my raincoat, as some people are want to.

Rachel: Should we have some galoshes?

Griffin: I'm specifically doing this segment saying I don't need to, because I have this incredible tool called umbrella.

Rachel: I know. It's just that I bought myself some rain boots the—like a few years ago, and it feels like a nice accessory.

Griffin: I did step in a puddle the other day, and my shoes...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Got pretty wet, and I didn't like that. I think it's like the peak of human ingenuity that we devised—

Rachel: True.

Griffin: Like a portable ceiling for ourselves. And it's such a natural thing, like it fulfills one of the real foundational pillars of the hierarchy of needs.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Which is famously separated into pillars. It's a pillar-based system, the person that came up with—

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: Maslow or Laszlo? I feel like I fuck that up time.

Rachel: Maslow.

Griffin: Yeah, thank you. It's such a basic like primitive need that it fills, that it has shown up like all throughout sort of history, across different civilizations, in different forms. They've been around for a long-ass time. Before, of course, they were umbrellas, they were exclusively called parasols. The Oxford English Dictionary cites the word umbrella as surfacing for the first time in 1611. Parasol, of course, is a combination of the Latin para, which means to shield, and sol, for sun. In France, an umbrella is called a—I'm gonna do a bad job with this, I apologize—parapluie. As pluie is the word for rain.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: So it's a rain shield.

Rachel: A rain shield! Yeah.

Griffin: There's also a snow shield, but I didn't—I can't remember what the name of that was.

Rachel: Huh.

Griffin: In ancient Egypt, around 2450 BCE, which is a very long time ago, they had what's called a flabellum. A lot of fun words in this segment already. Which is basically like, you've probably seen them in... in TV and movies, depicting the era. It was basically like a huge fan that you could use for, you know, fanning off someone, or as shade. But because it was flat, right, it was like a flat extension of the handle, you couldn't really use it on yourself. You would, most of the time, just use it—so, sort of organically, it was a thing that was used for fancy royal types of people.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Most historians think that the first like folding umbrella design originated in China over 3000 years ago, where they were first made out of paper and like bamboo rods for support. And then later, were sort of lacquered and oiled to make them waterproof. But they have appeared like throughout different countries' folklore in different ways, which I find very interesting. Like it's such an old tool that it shows up in stories and stuff.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: In Japan, umbrellas have like sort of an interesting sort of place in their... like artistic and mythological heritage. The most ubiquitous of that is a yōkai, which is a ghost in sort of Japanese folklore. And this yōkai is called Kasa-obake. And he's just this silly one-eyed, one-legged umbrella ghost who hops around. Just—and he's sort of a lighthearted, silly... like a silly specter that you might see at like a haunted house that isn't meant to actually terrify the shit out of you.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: He's like Slimer. He's like a fun—

Rachel: Oh, I love that.

Griffin: He's like a fun ghost. Sidebar, Casa-okabe is also part of this subgroup of yōkai from Japanese folklore called tsukumogami, which are tools that after like 100 years, after long enough, they just get haunted and turn into fun little—fun little characters. I love that. But if you look up like the history of umbrellas, the truth is that lots of different cultures kind of started to figure it out a very long time ago. In America, widespread umbrella usage was like pretty slow to spread, because they were regarded as—this is a quote from a study that someone did in 1991 on like the history of umbrellas. They were regarded as a, quote, "ridiculous effeminacy."

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: Until they were sort of adopted as a more sort of unisex sun and rain protection method in like the mid-20th century.

Rachel: Yeah! Because I can see like parasols were a big thing for a while, and they were real frilly. And I can like, picture a time period where people with big, frilly dresses had like big, frilly, matching parasols.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: But I see them as like so elegant—

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And like I don't know, maybe—I wonder if *Singing in the Rain* helped a lot.

Griffin: Oh, wow!

Rachel: Because it feels like this very glamorous like accessory.

Griffin: It does kind of feel like a glamorous accessory.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I do think *Singing in the Rain* probably has something to do with that. But there is also like a pretty long history of like umbrellas being cool things in like fiction, in different ways. There was, you know, your James Bonds, your *Kingsman*, that movie with... the guy.

[group chuckle]

Griffin: In the '60s, there was this British spy show called *The Avengers* that they made a movie out of, with Uma Thurman and someone else in it, in like the 1990s. But the main guy in *The Avengers*, not the comic book *Avengers*, but these British spies, was named John Steed. And he had this cool umbrella that was like bulletproof, but it also had a sword inside the handle. God, that's the coolest shit ever!

Rachel: That is cool.

Griffin: That shit's so good. And when I'm carrying around a nice, hefty umbrella of a good build, I think like, what if... what if I could flip a little switch and—f-wing, sword. Awesome!

Rachel: It does really feel like a demonstration of my like preparedness too. Like I really do like walking around with an umbrella and really showing everybody like, look, look, I knew.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I knew, I did my research. I knew this was gonna happen. I brought the right tool. And I was ready.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. It does feel good.

Rachel: It does.

Griffin: Like you have a leg up because you—

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Looked at outside and—

Rachel: Oh, it's raining? Let me get out my umbrella. Because I knew.

Griffin: Because I knew and you didn't. And you should be embarrassed.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: And of course, like when you talk about applications of umbrella throughout fiction, you gotta get—you got to hit your Mary Poppins.

Rachel: Of course.

Griffin: Gotta hit your Kirby also.

Rachel: Oh?

Griffin: The things that teach us that umbrella can be used to fly, or at the very least, slow your rate of descent to a safe degree.

Rachel: Mm-hm. Penguin.

Griffin: Penguin! Penguin.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Penguin I don't think used it to fly. Penguin used it—

Rachel: Hypnotize?

Griffin: Gun.

Rachel: Oh, shoot?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: So anyway, that's another—

[group chuckle]

Griffin: He might have used it to fly, I don't know. Penguin's fuckin' weird, man. They made the show—I didn't watch the show that came out, I guess, last year, or earlier this year. The HBO show with... why can't I remember anyone's name?! Colin Farrell? Does that sound right?

Rachel: You're asking the wrong person.

Griffin: Damn it! But his powers, or whatever, it seems like kind of like they're making them up as they go. In that one, he doesn't have powers. But in the movies, where it's Danny DeVito, he had an umbrella that could

shoot out bullets. And also, I think he can talk to birds. I'm like 90% sure the Penguin can talk to birds. And that he can make birds do crime for him.

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, it's—right? There's been so many iterations, I'm sure one of 'em could.

Griffin: Yeah. That's cool. It's cool that we have a character in American fiction who can fill so many roles depending on whether or not we need him to talk to birds or not.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Rachel: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Umbrellas are so sweet! I only use them for rain. I do think with summer approaching, I wonder if I am a—if I am entering my parasol era. I think—

Rachel: I do like 'em for sun. I get it, man. I appreciate it.

Griffin: Yeah. Absolutely. I've since—I'm very sensitive to the sun's UV rays. And so, a little parasol would go a long way.

Rachel: Mm-hm. Like 'em at the beach.

Griffin: I love a huge umbrella at the beach!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh my god, the best. I love videos of umbrellas flying wildly out of control on a gusty day at the beach.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: As long as no one's getting hurt, like it's cool to see them—like hell yeah, man, go for it. I love videos of tents that have been swept up and are

just flying around in the sky like a beautiful plastic bag, American Beauty style. As long as no one gets hurt, I love that shit. But today, I *really* want to focus on umbrellas. And I've done so, and I'll eat my hat if that wasn't 10 minutes.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: So eat my shorts, Rachel McElroy.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Can I steal you away?

Rachel: Yes.

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

Rachel: All right, my topic this week...

Griffin: Yes?

Rachel: Is Used to Be a Pizza Hut.

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles] So, yeah, absolutely. Sometimes I can't tell when you're about to hit a Poetry Corner. And so like sometimes—

Rachel: Yeah, no, I was—

Griffin: I feel like you're setting me up to like come in there with a—and I think it's because in the break there that we just took between segments, you were scatting quite a bit.

Rachel: I was a little bit, yeah.

Griffin: And so I was like in that headspace, but I would love to talk about Used to Be a Pizza Hut.

Rachel: Yeah! So this... I actually stumbled upon this because I was thinking specifically about when fast food restaurants are repurposed for other businesses.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And you can tell—

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: What they used to be.

Griffin: Sure. Not many places fit that description better than a Pizza Hut.

Rachel: Yeah. And I went to Google it, because I thought, internet, don't let me down. Clearly, somebody has documented this. And nothing came up right away.

Griffin: Shame.

Rachel: But what ended up happening was that it did, specific to Pizza Hut. And it just so happens that there is a 99% Invisible episode.

Griffin: Of course.

Rachel: Episode 103, that is called U.T.B.A.P.H.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Which stands for Used to Be a Pizza Hut.

Griffin: Used to Be a Pizza Hut.

Rachel: [chuckles] It directed me to the website, usedtobeapizzahut.com, that is all about the creation of this blog by Mike Nielsen, that tracks the locations of Pizza Huts across the United States, and seven other countries, where Pizza Huts have been repurposed into other establishments.

Griffin: Do you want to just, maybe for our friends at home who maybe they've never been to a Pizza Hut—

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Which, I can't blame them. I've been to Pizza Hut exactly once in the last two decades, just outside of Morgantown, in the middle of a road trip with our kids. So, it's not, I think, the most—the hottest destination.

Rachel: Yes. Yes. So, and you can get a lot of this from the 99% Invisible episode. But Pizza Hut began in 1958, it started in Wichita, Kansas. The story is that two brothers, Dan and Frank Carney, bought a building. They got a sign that only had room for eight letters. [titters] This feels like suspicious, but apparently this is the story. They figured the first five ought to be pizza.

Griffin: Good.

Rachel: And that left them three letters.

Griffin: Shit, man, that's—sliding doors, can you imagine if like we were all talking about pizza boy?

Rachel: I know! I know.

Griffin: I gotta get down to pizza, dog.

Rachel: [chuckles] Or if there had been like nine letters, and then it would have been like Pizza Zone. You know?

Griffin: Gotta put a Pizza Zone.

Rachel: Right?

Griffin: Pizza Zone would be good, because you could make one of the Zs in pizza extra big, and have it be the Z for zone too.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: But then people might think it says pizza one.

Rachel: You see what a big decision this was.

Griffin: This is a *huge* decision for these—for the Carney brothers.

Rachel: The building itself was pretty small, so they ended up calling it Pizza Hut. But what ended up happening in the late '90s, early 2000s, Pizza Hut shifted towards a carry out and delivery model. So a lot of the Pizza Huts started to be repurposed.

Griffin: It's so—it's one of the many things that have obviously changed from our childhood. But I did used to go into a Pizza Hut fairly frequently. Usually, on our way back from church for a Sunday luncheon. And it was so lit. I remember they had those red like Lucite cups that I would drink soda out of, and that was so good. And they also had one of those flat-top Super Mario Brothers arcade machines, which was also so choice.

Rachel: So yeah, part of it is like very nostalgic. Because like the experience of a Pizza Hut was like very specific.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Like the cups, as you mentioned, like the inside was like—

Griffin: Very dark and red?

Rachel: Yeah. And a lot of that was kind of like not just like the materials that like decorated it, but the design of the building itself.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: So, in the 99% Invisible episode, they talk a lot about that. They talk about the trapezoidal awnings.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And then the—there's the like roof hump that shoots up straight over the awnings.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And then a lot of the windows were kind of like trapezoids also.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: This kind of changed, because I guess like different like franchise owners were able to like, you know, make changes.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: But yeah, like a lot of those windows were like kind of small and like shaped oddly.

Griffin: And what's fun about it is that it also became their logo—was the sort of like trapezoidal shape of the of the roof and the awnings. And so it's the only thing I can really think of where the logo and the architecture sort of informed one another.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Which made it, I imagine, pretty difficult to change either.

Rachel: Yeah. No, that's a good point. That's a good point. So all that to say, like that is why when something has been repurposed that used to be a Pizza Hut, like you can tell almost immediately.

Griffin: This is some sort of corporate building of some sort. And also, it has this insane pagoda style roof.

Rachel: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Griffin: That overhangs. Unlike every other building on the street.

Rachel: So this website, usedtobeapizzahut.com, has started as like a blog since 2008. And they have over 270 locations, and there are like hundreds that are pending. Because like the way it is set up, like you can submit it.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Like when you—when you see one and you want it to be considered. There was also, in 2024, there is a new documentary about these buildings. The documentary is called *Slice of Life: The American Dream in Former Pizza Huts*. It came out in 2024, it is an 83 minute film which premiered at the South by Southwest Sydney? Which I didn't know was a thing. In Sydney, Australia.

Griffin: Okay? They are south. They're very south.

Rachel: They're very south. But it looks amazing. I watched the trailer for it. You can rent it or stream it. But it talks about all the different locations of a former Pizza Hut. It goes to like churches and like dispensaries and—

Griffin: Damn, dispensary is an awfully canny usage of a Pizza Hut building.

Rachel: Uh-huh. There's like—

Griffin: Because there's got to be a residual scent in there that I have to imagine is going to drive a weed head wild.

Rachel: [chuckles] There's bars. And they're all featured in the documentary, and it just kind of talks about like—and of course, like different restaurants, like Chinese food and like—

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Mexican restaurants and all the stuff—

Griffin: Any pizza restaurants? You gotta wonder if that's even allowed.

Rachel: I mean, I'm sure. I'm sure.

Griffin: That's gotta be crazy.

Rachel: But yeah, anyway, I would encourage you to go to the website. It's fascinating. I went to the—of course, I couldn't help myself. Like you go to the website, you can click around the map and see—

Griffin: I lost a good 15 minutes just—

Rachel: Yeah. There is one in St. Louis, but it's actually like pretty far outside of St. Louis. But it's called the St. Louis Crematory.

Griffin: Okay?

Rachel: Which I was like—

Griffin: And you need to tell me right now, if they make ice cream or if they prepare people for—

Rachel: They cremate people.

Griffin: Okay...

Rachel: Which is—

Griffin: Different.

Rachel: Remarkable.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Their coverage, I will say, of West Virginia is a bit lackluster. There's like none.

Rachel: Well, I mean, here's the thing, there are like over 300 pending right now.

Griffin: I think a lot of them gotta be in the Mountain State.

Rachel: This man clearly does not have the resources to—

Griffin: Gotta have a street team.

Rachel: Yeah, keep on top of all of the pending submissions. But, man, I love this. And the one thing I will say, just to kind of close about the 99% Invisible piece that I love so much, it's—Sam Greenspan did it. And he talks about like—obviously, this can be kind of viewed in a sad way when you think about like... you know, demonstrate some kind of—you know, could be interpreted as like a failure on Pizza Hut's part, that all these restaurants are no longer in operation.

But he said, quote, "Like the pyramid, the Pizza Hut, the humble Pizza Hut succeeds in etching its identity onto everything else that will ever come after it. It is at that level."

Griffin: Yeah, I like that.

Rachel: Which I love! It's like so recognizable, it's so iconic that regardless of what takes its place, you will still always remember what was there. I love that.

Griffin: Which was a Pizza Hut. I do like that too. Do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: Emily says, "My Small Wonder is that every year in Minneapolis, there's a giant pencil sharpening ceremony in someone's yard. They carved an old tree into a giant pencil, and they ceremoniously sharpen it every year, drawing thousands. It's such a silly thing that makes me love how silly humans can be." And they sent a picture of this giant pencil.

Rachel: Oh, I love that.

Griffin: I do love that as well! I love a harmless little silly project! Got another one here from Jasper who says, "My Small Wonder is using a box cutter to cut a box! It's something I do often to get them in the paper recycling. And whenever I push the little blade into the cardboard, I can't help but think, this is exactly what you were made for." And then they did include a smiley face emoticon here at the end. Which...

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I agree.

Rachel: That is really nice. I always like—I always think that is a tool we should have more readily available, but then I always panic that our children will—

Griffin: It's scary. I must have—I must have accidentally injured myself with a box cutter or something in my past, because I remember—like, I—they freak me out a little bit. Those and X-ACTO knives, I think like—

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: That's so—I—a general purpose pocketknife I can usually find my way around, and not injure myself.

Rachel: We must have gotten one when we moved one time?

Griffin: I don't think so—

Rachel: Because I feel like I remember having a lot of them around the house at one time, and then—

Griffin: Just a bunch of box cutters laying around the house?

Rachel: Yeah, I feel like when we unpacked in one location, we decided it would be good to have a few.

Griffin: Some box cutters, okay.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't believe you, they're too scary. I've always been so scared of 'em. But I do think it's cool when you use them to, you know, cut a box.

Rachel: It's satisfying.

Griffin: So satisfying. We're quoting our four year old when we say that.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Because he learned it, I guess, from an ASMR video—like slime videos and stuff?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And now whenever he does something tactile *in any way*, "So satisfying."

Rachel: And he will demand that we agree with him.

Griffin: "Satisfying, right?"

Rachel: Like, "Isn't this so satisfying?"

Griffin: [titters] Yeah, man, for sure.

Rachel: [chuckles]

Griffin: Kids say the darndest things! Thanks to Bo En and Augustus for the use of our theme song, Money Won't Pay. That was them. You can find a link to that in our episode description. We got some shows coming up. If you are planning to come see us in Anaheim for either the TAZ or the MBMBaM shows, we have had to switch the days that those shows are taking place.

The TAZ show in Anaheim, which was going to be our Dadlands show with Brennan Lee Mulligan, has been moved to Saturday, July 12th. It was going to be on Friday, July 11th. We have pushed it back. And the MBMBaM show

that was supposed to be on the 12th is now going to take place on Friday, July 11th.

We're very, very sorry for the inconvenience. I know it's a pain in the ass to make plans around stuff like this, and we would not do it lightly. It is the *only* way that we could get this to happen.

Previously purchased tickets are going to be valid for the new date, and if you're unable to attend, refunds will be available for up to 14 days before the show, at the point of purchase. But we also have other shows going up very, very soon. We're actually going to be doing TAZ and MBMBaM in Columbus this week, June 19th and 20th, for the—during the Origins Game Fair.

And we have other shows coming up too. You can find out links and dates and all that at bit.ly/mcelroytours. And we have a bunch of merch over at the McElroy Merch Store that you can check out too, including a Faster Than Fear Miggy standee, which is—which is really, really amazing. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will be donated to the Transgender Law Center.

Also, we can talk about this now, because I don't know if you know this, we're announcing it on Monday. I'm writing a Choose Your Own Adventure book, for the Choose Your Own Adventure book company.

Rachel: Yeah, you are!

Griffin: And I've been working on it for a while now, and I'm super-duper excited. It's called The Stowaway. It's like an outer space spaceship survival story. And it's a Choose Your Own Adventure book, and—

Rachel: That's so freaking cool!

Griffin: I have always loved that entire genre, that entire format. I was obsessed with it when I was a kid.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: And so, I am overjoyed to get to do—to get to do this, to have this opportunity.

Rachel: I can't wait until there's like cover art for it.

Griffin: Yeah, I also cannot.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: We're recording this before the announcement has happened, so I'm not sure exactly what is sort of out there. I believe pre-orders are available. But if you check our social channels, like on Instagram and stuff—

Rachel: Mm-hm, I'm gonna share the heck out that.

Griffin: Yeah, me too, man. So yeah, that—it's not coming up for a while, but... but I—now you can know about it. And I'm excited, because I've been working on it for a while. Okay, that's it. Thanks for listening. And I hope you'll join us again next time here on Wonderful, because we really like having you. You're a great guest. You always take your shoes off, and sometimes you bring snacks. And that's all right with me.

Rachel: [chuckles]

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

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