

## Wonderful! 380: Puppies Up, Low Recline

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

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

**Griffin:** What's up? It's Griffin McElroy.

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful.

**Griffin:** Super cas'. In a let your—let down your hair and business tie.

**Rachel:** I'd say put your feet up, but that's pretty standard for you.

**Griffin:** I do kick the puppies up anytime we are in the studio. And it's mostly for circulation.

**Rachel:** Do you think you have a signature pose for each of your podcasts?

**Griffin:** This is definitely the Wonderful pose.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Puppies up.

**Rachel:** Puppies up.

**Griffin:** *Low* recline. Just staring intently at my beautiful wife. I think I'm so excited to have someone in the studio, let alone my favorite living human being.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That, you know, I just make myself comfy, and that's the sort of vibe I would love to instill in our listeners today.

**Rachel:** Okay?

**Griffin:** For this episode of Wonderful.

**Rachel:** Everybody, put your feet up. Unless you're driving, then keep them where they are.

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** Whoa?

**Griffin:** No, sorry, no cop outs. You can—you can either save this for later—

**Rachel:** What if they're—

**Griffin:** When you can pop your feet up, or you can drive without your feet.

**Rachel:** What if they're piloting a bicycle?

**Griffin:** They can still put their feet up, like—

**Rachel:** That's true.

**Griffin:** Like Pee Wee does.

**Rachel:** That's true.

**Griffin:** In Pee Wee Big Adventure, in that long part.

**Rachel:** [titters] That's true. Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** We, just a bit of background info, we've been traveling—or some amalgamation of us has been traveling literally every weekend for, I believe, the last five weekends?

**Rachel:** Although, we were here this past weekend, but it was—it was the fourth holiday.

**Griffin:** It was the fourth holiday, and we had what felt like eight sons to watch over—

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** For a long, long week.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it's weird how there seems to be more of them.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** You'd think—

**Griffin:** They multiply.

**Rachel:** You'd think two would never feel like more than two, but it definitely does.

**Griffin:** But when the two don't want to do the same thing, there's four all of a sudden, isn't there?

**Rachel:** Is—

**Griffin:** That's—

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** That's how—that's the beauty. That's the beauty of child rearing, folks. And also, I'm about to leave town, again, here in like two days, which sucks.

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Today's episode, very cas' chats, Small Wondies, audience submissions, casual hang. So like, if you came here for—

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** If you came here for biographies of so—old sodas.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's, one, insulting that you think that's what our show is, and what our show is about. Even though we do sometimes get into talking in deep detail about old sodas.

**Rachel:** Yeah. Sometimes, when I think about trying to distill our show down—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And I think like, I could sit down with somebody and be like, you know like a... a dessert you really like?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Imagine talking about that for twenty minutes.

**Griffin:** Yeah. It doesn't always gotta be that!

**Rachel:** But it's more and less, and sometimes exactly that.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** You know?

**Griffin:** Sometimes, it can be way less. Way, way, way, way less.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Check this out. You know what I think is wonderful? Having a little game on your phone. Just having a little game on your phone that you come back to and you play sometimes. I had one on my phone when Gus was born, and I played it a lot. It's called Archero, and—like Archer Hero. And then I didn't play it for a while. And Archero 2 came out, didn't even know. Picked it up this week. It's nice to have just a little game on your phone!

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** For when there's like a few minutes there. And I know you've been playing a game on your phone for a while. Do you feel like talking about it? Or—

**Rachel:** Oh, gosh, not really.

**Griffin:** You get so uncomfortable talking about your phone game.

**Rachel:** Well, mainly because I got pushed ads for it.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And it was one of those games where the ads are not really reflective of what it is.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** So, there was a lot about it that's embarrassing. But it is like primarily a farming game.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** But then there are also—

**Griffin:** You're in such—can I just say, just from your tone of voice, I just want you to know, this is a super safe space.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** It's not like you're playing, you know, something exploitative—

**Rachel:** No, I know. And I don't have to—like, I don't get ads. I don't have to constantly like pay. I haven't paid any money for this game, ever.

**Griffin:** That's impressive.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So it's not like Candy Crush, where at a certain point, like you get timed out and can't do anything.

**Griffin:** Yes. Hate that!

**Rachel:** Like, I have been able to actively play this for free, but—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it just, it feels—it's not—I, you know... if you weren't like my video game husband—

**Griffin:** Yeah, you wouldn't even mention it.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I love it, I—whenever I see you holding your phone in landscape mode, I always know—

**Rachel:** [chuckles] I know! It's such a tell!

**Griffin:** It's such a tell. It's why I only really tend to play portrait mode games, so I can not—

**Rachel:** Uh-huh!

**Griffin:** Get clocked *immediately*, that I'm that I'm gaming out. Do you get ads in that game for like... "my boyfriend is so weak, he only has a triple A blue dragon draw." And then they'll be like, "I'm your strong boss, and I got a quintuple S—"

**Rachel:** There's no ads.

**Griffin:** Okay...

**Rachel:** So, here's what—here's what started happening to me. So, Words with Friends, I was paying every month for it.

**Griffin:** How? For what? What do—

**Rachel:** There are ads in that game.

**Griffin:** Oh, you were paying for a no ads—

**Rachel:** And I was paying not to get the ads.

**Griffin:** They make you pay a subscription to do no ads?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** That's crazy.

**Rachel:** And I was justifying it because I was playing it a lot.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So I was like, okay, it's not a big deal for me to pay a little bit each month.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But then what would happen is the subscription would expire, and I started getting ads again, which is how I've actually found the game I'm playing now.

**Griffin:** Do you want to say the name of the game you're playing now? Or are you—

**Rachel:** It's called Township. And I realized that a lot of people don't know what it's called, because now they added in this update where anytime you're playing something and you get like a good move, it says "township" real big on the screen. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So they're making sure that you know—

**Rachel:** So I think they've realized like people don't remember what this game is called. Because I couldn't tell you like two weeks ago, but now I remember because—

**Griffin:** It's good to have a little game on your phone, though, I think.

**Rachel:** It tells me all the time.

**Griffin:** Check this one out, too. You ready for this? Marble Run. Marble Run.

**Rachel:** Oh, like what Gus has been playing?

**Griffin:** Yeah. And what kids have been playing with for decades.

**Rachel:** Like the—okay, I thought you were still talking about games on your phone.

**Griffin:** Marble Run does sound like a game on my phone. In fact, I bet if I searched Marble Run on the app store right now, it would give me a result.

**Rachel:** I mean, he definitely—small son watches a lot of YouTube videos of people building courses.

**Griffin:** It's—this is what I wanted to talk about. One, it's fun to put together a little marble track and then watch the marble go down. We have two different marble sets that are not compatible with each other.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And over the weekend, I managed to build a really big one of one set, that could split in half, and then feed half the marbles into a smaller set I made from the other set. And it was so *fuckin' satisfying*.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** From a dad engineering sort of standpoint, it was... it was exhilarating stuff.

**Rachel:** Griffin is not somebody that like puts me in a position to like praise him very often. He doesn't need a lot from me in that department. But every once in a while, he will build something for our children, and he will be like, "Hey, did you see that?"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** No, I mean, it's—I don't need a lot, like you said, but it was—

**Rachel:** But in that case, I could tell. And it was impressive.

**Griffin:** It was—it was—

**Rachel:** And you deserved it.

**Griffin:** Fantastic. And I do love all the YouTube content creators who are like... marble Olympics or you know—

**Rachel:** A lot of domino stuff.

**Griffin:** A lot of domino stuff. I love that shit. You got anything off the dome? Just super cas', so like, it doesn't have to be fully fleshed-out, fully... fully-formed. It can be loose, it can be... could do your ninja war—a Ninja Warrior update?

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah, I will—I guess I will say just having a show that is a long-running show—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** That you can just click over to at any point, when you're kind of out of your like go-tos. So, for example, we just finished the most recent season of The Bear.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Rachel:** And we really tore through it with—like we were watching like two episodes a night. Which is about really all the time we have in the evening to watch television.

**Griffin:** About two Bears.

**Rachel:** And we ran out after two Bears a night. [chuckles] And realized we had good old Ninja Warrior to return to, just waiting for us. And those show—those episodes are like three hours long.

**Griffin:** There's like six hours long, they're all sponsored by How to Train Your Dragon.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** They're all sponsored by the latest DreamWorks feature film.

**Rachel:** There are—and Griffin and I, our knowledge of the show is so encyclopedic that we know things about the competitors that like members of their family probably don't—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Fully remember. Like we know romantic partners and former jobs, and like—

**Griffin:** The romantic partner thing is easy, because Ninja Warrior, if you don't watch it—which fucking of course you don't! We're the only two people on Earth who watch this show.

**Rachel:** [laughs] We're the only two people. You know what's funny? Is we say that a lot on the podcast, and I keep waiting for somebody to correct us, and nobody—

**Griffin:** And it's never, ever, ever happened! There's these big cabal-like families in Ninja Warrior.

**Rachel:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Where every person in the family does Ninja Warrior.

**Rachel:** And they all date another—

**Griffin:** And they're all married to each other! Not—I mean, they're married between families. So like all the Bextrans are... they're all hookin' up with the Bergstroms.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Those are two—there's a Beckstrom family and a Bergstrom family, and they all do Ninja Warrior! Why is no one else watching this fucking show?! It's a fever dream!

**Rachel:** There's apparently a YouTube family called the Ninja Kidz.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And they—one of them got involved with a Beckstrom kid.

**Griffin:** Luke! It sucks that I know exactly which Beckstrom it is.

**Rachel:** Yeah, Luke and Kai are kind of the big like Beckstrom—

**Griffin:** Kai is the big Beckstrom. God damn, that boy put on twenty pounds of muscle between seasons.

**Rachel:** And their dad does ninja! And their mom has definitely done at least—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** At least a season of ninja.

**Griffin:** I think there's a sister that has tried it too.

**Rachel:** But anyway, Ninja Warrior gets really excited about these couples and really like promotes them and builds whole intro packages around like what they like to do together and how they met. And like—

**Griffin:** And it's giving huge like arranged sort of—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like a medieval fiefdom dowry ass situation.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] To the point that there are couples that we feel like are just for the purposes of the show, because they have been quote/unquote 'engaged' for like a decade.

**Griffin:** So like, you know we're nasty dogs about that stuff.

[group chuckle]

**Griffin:** We don't watch Bachelor and Bachelorette really that much anymore, and so it's—

**Rachel:** There will just casually be like—

**Griffin:** Gotta get it somewhere.

**Rachel:** "So and so and his fiancé—" And we're like, "Still fiancé, huh?"

**Griffin:** Hm, interesting. You wait until you get up Mount Midoriyama, huh? Not gonna happen!

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, I mean, we're still watching that shit. I like to think someone joins the Wonderful listenership, you know, every twenty episodes or so. And then every hundred episodes or so, we'll go hard on talking about Ninja Warrior.

**Rachel:** And they think we're just exclusively—

**Griffin:** And people will think we're being ironic or like—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, it's so—it's so fuckin' weird.

**Rachel:** The other thing we get kind of nasty about—so the thing about Ninja Warrior is there are people that will go to the course and watch you in person.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And then there are people on like a big zoom screen that are usually like watching you from like home. And we always kind of like play back and forth like, oh, you couldn't come? Had to watch from home, did you?

**Griffin:** Yeah! "Oh, he's got the support of his fiancé back home. Here she is—

**Rachel:** it's like—

**Griffin:** "Via Zoom call!"

**Rachel:** It's like, she couldn't—

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** She couldn't come? Interesting.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** She couldn't come support you on the one thing that you've built your whole career around?

**Griffin:** Because that one guy's entire second grade class came to support him.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Griffin:** This entire archdiocese came to support—

**Rachel:** [laughs] The Papal Ninja?

**Griffin:** The Papal Ninja. Man... And here's the thing, I love the Papal Ninja. And that's not a thing that you would think would be the one that you'd be into.

**Rachel:** He's so chill!

**Griffin:** Be he's—he's—and he's chill! And he stands on business, and he gets it done.

**Rachel:** He like, he definitely like—

**Griffin:** He gets injured every other season.

**Rachel:** He does. He does.

**Griffin:** Which is a shame.

**Rachel:** He's got a lot of interests. He's got a lot of like front-facing qualities.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** But he doesn't feel preachy to me. Even though like he is exactly—

**Griffin:** That.

**Rachel:** Pretty much that.

**Griffin:** Kind of, yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I have been watching more of, because I got the distinct impression that you didn't dig it, I have been watching more of Murder Bot.

**Rachel:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** On Apple TV.

**Rachel:** What do you think? Is it growing on you?

**Griffin:** It has. So, I've read—

**Rachel:** The first episode was so much set up—

**Griffin:** It's very—

**Rachel:** It was hard for me to really buy in.

**Griffin:** And it was—on the like opposite end, I kind of struggled with it because I feel like it was like wildly exposition-heavy.

**Rachel:** Yeah, exactly.

**Griffin:** And not really hitting the tone of the books exactly right. But I think I'm on the last episode now, and it has definitely like, it has found its groove and sort of made its own thing. And it is—it is enjoyable TV.

**Rachel:** And it has Skarsgård, and I love Skarsgård.

**Griffin:** Skarsgård putting in the work. Just a great, great show about a robot that's become sort of self-aware.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And free to do what it wants. And is trying to keep a group of well-meaning, sort of hippie scientists alive on an alien planet where everything wants to kill them. It's really good, really enjoyable. The books, I prefer. I know that's a bold—

**Rachel:** Oh, you like the book better than the—

**Griffin:** Position. I just love those—

**Rachel:** You like the book better than the show?

**Griffin:** I do love those books. I've read like five of 'em in the last year.

**Rachel:** You would tell people to read the book first—

**Griffin:** Yeah, I kind of would! In this one instance. I think the show's—I think the show's fine, but the books are like so—they're novellas, which I like. You can really just—

**Rachel:** Yeah, no, you're a big—

**Griffin:** Fuckin' rip through 'em.

**Rachel:** You're a big novella guy.

**Griffin:** What's that supposed to mean?

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** What does that—

**Rachel:** It—[chuckles] I've never pegged you as somebody who's like, "You know what? I prefer the book." And so it's just wild to hear you be that person in this moment.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Well, I don't read a ton of books!

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So, statistically speaking, I'm almost always gonna prefer—

**Rachel:** I guess that's fair.

**Griffin:** The non-book form.

**Rachel:** Now, did you like the book *The Martian* better than the movie *The Martian*?

**Griffin:** You know what? That's the odd case where I do think—the movie did such a kick ass job—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Adapting *The Martian*, which was a book I thought to be unadaptable.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I was so impressed with it. And like it really was very, very faithful, while like changing the stuff it needed to change to be a movie. I thought that the movie was fantastic. I think the book is fantastic. I think they're on pretty equal footing. Did you see—I know you didn't read the follow up to Andy Weir's—to *The Martian*—

**Rachel:** I didn't.

**Griffin:** But his other book, *Project Hail Mary*, they're making a—I don't know if it's a movie or a series, with fuckin' Drive. I can—Ryan...

**Rachel:** Gosling.

**Griffin:** Gosling. Drive guy. It's a very similar book. Guy stranded on a spaceship, sent on a mission to figure out why the sun is dying, and encounters all kinds of weird shit. And it's just him. And so he does a lot of, you know, diary stuff.

**Rachel:** Oh?

**Griffin:** Very *Martian*-esque. And the trailer looks great. The trailer looks pretty much a lot like it.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** So, I'm in—I'm into that. You got anything—other Small Wonders? I know we have some stuff from our friends at home, who are playing the home game of Wonderful, alongside us.

**Rachel:** I will just say, and I will say this only because I have been feeling the lack of it lately.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Rachel:** I love when there is a movie in the—in the theater that we can bring our kids to.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** It doesn't have to be like a particularly good movie. We have taken our children to a lot of films that I would never watch on my own.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But it is like such a nice, novel thing to do.

**Griffin:** Absolutely, it is.

**Rachel:** And it's like, we don't go to movies anymore and—but it gives us that little like scratched itch of going to a movie. And lately, like we just haven't had that as much. And I miss it.

**Griffin:** We're not really plugged in to the world of cinema, I will say. Like, there's that How to Train Your Dragon live action movie. Our kids still don't really fuck with live action movies, or How to Train Your Dragon. There's an Elio movie I've heard some good stuff about.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But like I—that one just kind of came out of nowhere and it—you do need to sell 'em on the thing a little bit.

**Rachel:** Yeah! That is the thing. Like, we had no problem, we were at the Minecraft movie opening weekend.

**Griffin:** Fuck yeah—

**Rachel:** Like there are definitely films, like the Dog Man movie—

**Griffin:** Got to!

**Rachel:** A lot of movies that we could very easily say, "Hey, do you want to see this?"

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And it was an immediate yes.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But we don't do the hard sell, because we're not going to particularly enjoy it.

**Griffin:** No way!

**Rachel:** And keeping the kids in the theater for the whole movie is still kind of a challenge.

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Rachel:** So, yeah, we don't take it on otherwise. And I—and I would like—especially in these summer times—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And it is super hot, I would—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Really like that again.

**Griffin:** My last thing, Bomb Pops. Great summertime treat. Great summertime treat. They have their own troughs, their own juice troughs, right there in 'em.

**Rachel:** Do the different levels taste different?

**Griffin:** Yes, yes.

**Rachel:** I have not had enough. I've maybe only had one or two.

**Griffin:** They're all pretty... sugary—

**Rachel:** Do different—so the different levels do taste different?

**Griffin:** I mean... rarely are you sort of slobbering on just one level at a time. Like, there is an amount of crossover.

**Rachel:** A popsicle is kind of like a lollipop for me, in that about halfway through, I'm done.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And now I'm just holding it.

**Griffin:** That's why I like a Bomb Pop! A Bomb Pop ain't too big. A Bomb Pop ain't a big commitment?

**Rachel:** It's still pretty big...

**Griffin:** I guess so.

**Rachel:** I'd rather have like a freeze pop.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** You know, it's got its own little container and—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I mean, you can knock one of those out pretty quick.

[theme music plays]

**Griffin:** Do we want to know... I mean, of course we want to know. But do we want to talk about what our friends at home are... why am I struggling with the construction of this sentence? Do—is it time for—it is now time for us to discuss what our friends at home have been talking about. That isn't right either.

**Rachel:** I mean, we could just say we put out a call for Small Wonders, and here's what we heard.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's good.

**Rachel:** Sarah says, "My small wonder is fireflies! There are so many this year, and it's truly wonderful each night around dusk, when they start lighting up all over my yard."

**Griffin:** I saw my first one like two nights ago.

**Rachel:** You were so—like, it was so cute how excited you were.

**Griffin:** I still get very excited. They're glowing bugs. That's fucking crazy.

**Rachel:** It does feel like, you know, DC is a pretty dense like metro area.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** And so to see a firefly, it feels very much like—

**Griffin:** Very exciting!

**Rachel:** Look at us! Like we're—both you and I, were kind of... I mean, we're not like small town people, but...

**Griffin:** Kind of? I am, I would say, more than—more than you, arguably.

**Rachel:** Because we're very suburban people, I guess. And so to see a firefly like in a—in a city—

**Griffin:** If I was suburban, I would have gone to Cabell Midland High School and not Huntington High School, thank you so much. In fact, I was pretty much right in the city center, so I don't actually appreciate you...

**Rachel:** [chuckles] I'm sorry.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I have also been seeing quite a few spotted lanternflies, which I've been learning about a lot lately, and how they eat all the trees that you've got on your shelf, so just let them introduce themselves. They are a menace.

**Rachel:** I feel like the one we saw looked more like a ladybug, but then when I looked 'em up, they were like real flappy.

**Griffin:** Well, there's like a—they come in different stages.

**Rachel:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** That was more of like a post pupil, kind of... that was the pupil ninja.

**Rachel:** Oh, he was not—[chuckles] He was not wingy yet?

**Griffin:** He wasn't ready to—he was—I mean, he was ready to fuck up our trees, but he wasn't ready to, you know—

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Step into his power. I got one here from George, who says, "My Small Wonder is hearing a baby say your name for the first time. I'm a

relatively new uncle and my one year old nephew said my name to me for the first time this weekend." Very strong, very powerful.

**Rachel:** That's so cute.

**Griffin:** I don't remember... I guess I remember like my nieces calling me Uncle Griffin for the first time. And it was very exciting.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it was pretty cute.

**Griffin:** I do also remember when our kids called me Griffin for the first time—

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** And it felt super-duper weird, and still is to this day.

**Rachel:** At least they both kind of get the like the joke of it. Like neither of them have tried to make it stick.

**Griffin:** No, yeah.

**Rachel:** Which is nice. I was gonna ask you about this one.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Rachel:** Terry says, "My Small Wonder is the sound of the string's squeak when you move your fingers on an acoustic guitar."

**Griffin:** *Ah, baby.*

**Rachel:** "It lets you know your music is tactile and real."

**Griffin:** I do love that. I love feeling it, love making it, love hearing it.

**Rachel:** It seems like there should be—

**Griffin:** More than—More Than Words by Extreme? That's—you're getting so many fuckin' squeaks.

**Rachel:** Loud squeaks in there.

**Griffin:** The squeaks per minute there is off the charts!

**Rachel:** It seems like there should be a name for it, that's what I was gonna ask.

**Griffin:** Probably, yes.

**Rachel:** Like if there's like a more precise—

**Griffin:** This might be what a glissando is. I've seen that term bandied about so many times.

**Rachel:** No, it's not a glissando.

**Griffin:** Maybe it's just a gliss then. Doesn't that feel right?

**Rachel:** Yeah, that sounds right.

**Griffin:** I do—I do like that. Yeah, I mean, I think E, A, B and G are all kind of like corrugated. Like the metal is kind of like—

**Rachel:** Oh?

**Griffin:** I mean, you can go touch my guitar if you want. I haven't in three years.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** But they're like kind of notched. They're kind of like very—

**Rachel:** Oh?

**Griffin:** There's let a text—there's a texture to them. So those ones, especially. Especially if you get those greasy strings, like an Elixir or something like that. That was always the brand I rocked with, because they were so easy to play.

**Rachel:** It's so wild. For me, so I—when I grew up, I played the flute. Which is like, you know, it's a woodwind, it's an instrument that has keys. So this idea that the strings that play specific notes have different textures still like blows my mind a little bit.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I mean, they're different widths, right? And so I don't know why... I don't—I don't know why the lower strings have to be kind of like a—but the high E string is just like a straight wire. Like it is—I don't believe it has—

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** 3D texture at all.

**Rachel:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Unless you're playing a nylon string acoustic guitar, which I don't think is ridged at all. But I don't know, because I've never really played one. Anyway, you want to hear more about instruments I don't know anything about?

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Because there's a lot of 'em.

**Rachel:** No, thank you.

**Griffin:** How about, "When you cut a watermelon up into a metric ton and have a delicious fruit for days? What a perfect summer treat."

**Rachel:** Have you ever tried—well, no, actually, I know the answer to this. I was gonna say, have you ever tried to cut up a watermelon from like whole cloth, but—

**Griffin:** But then you know.

**Rachel:** But I do know the story.

**Griffin:** Have you seen the picture of this event taking place? I think it might be—

**Rachel:** I think maybe I have.

**Griffin:** I feel like Facebook, once a photo of you reaches a certain age, like there's a little tiny hole that they push those photos into so you don't have to really look at 'em anymore.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** So like, a picture of me in college cutting up a watermelon with Cloud Strife's buster sword from Final Fantasy VII.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That one, I don't—I hope you didn't see during our courtship period.

**Rachel:** I probably did. You know those early days when you like do a little digging in the Facebook.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's true.

**Rachel:** I'm pretty sure I did see it.

**Griffin:** You didn't have anything remotely as bad as—

**Rachel:** No.

**Griffin:** Cutting up a watermelon with Cloud Strife's—

**Rachel:** No, I mean, here's the thing I'll tell you, though, to me, it was just a sword. [titters]

**Griffin:** That's great. A big sword, though, right? You understood that it was a huge sword.

**Rachel:** Didn't you tell me that basically after that watermelon was cut, no maintenance was done to the sword? And—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** It just kind of fell apart.

**Griffin:** I was a young man, and I didn't know that you were supposed to wash the watermelon leavings off of Cloud Strife's Buster Sword from Final Fantasy VII.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] You just let it sit in the sink.

**Griffin:** So I let it sit in the sink.

[group laugh]

**Griffin:** We had a huge sink. I put it in the shower.

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** God, that does actually sound like something we would have done at my first apartment, which was just a den of sin. But yeah, man, I do love watermelon in the summertime. I do wish watermelons were smaller. I wish they made personal pan watermelons that you could have like a little orb of and then not worry about, "Well, now we have so much watermelon, and if we don't eat it all, it's gonna get—it's gonna get gross."

**Rachel:** No, then it is like a real challenge. Especially with those like seasonal fruit where you know it's like super good.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** You don't want to waste it.

**Griffin:** No.

**Rachel:** Jeff says, "My dog pushes his big, warm stomach against me in the early morning. As someone who struggles to give himself adequate rest and downtime, his pork belly cuds help encourage me to lounge for a little bit longer before I start my day."

**Griffin:** I miss it. I miss that.

**Rachel:** This is the thing! This is—this—part of this is what makes me know that I'm not ready to have a pet again. But the thing I miss most about a pet is when they are just stationary on top of you.

**Griffin:** Chill.

**Rachel:** Which is a very small percentage, I think, of having a pet.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** But man, it's the best.

**Griffin:** It's really good stuff. I do miss it a lot.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Rebecca says, "My Small Wonder is the show Destination X. It's the first time in a long time my husband and I have had a current show, and the weekly ritual of sitting down weekly to watch the show together makes me so happy. Plus, the show is so good."

**Rachel:** Tell me again what this is? I feel we've talked about this.

**Griffin:** Justin gave us the hard sell on Besties. So, dear listener of this show, if you want a better pitch—because I haven't watched this show. Based on why he said, it is Negan from The Walking Dead, and he is, instead of hurting people with a baseball bat—

**Rachel:** The actor.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I can't remember, he has three names, like—Jeffrey Dean Morgan!

**Rachel:** Yes, that's right. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Wow, I went from not knowing his name, and then I had the thought like he's like an assassin, because he has three names. As soon as I said that, I was like, oh, Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

**Rachel:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Takes people to different destinations around the globe, but doesn't tell them where they are. And then they have to like do challenges and stuff to try to like figure it—figure it out.

**Rachel:** I mean, it sounds like our jam?

**Griffin:** It does sound like our jam, it's... I struggle a bit, I think, with the presentation, because the trailers we have seen, it seems like it is half Jeffrey Dean Morgan mugging to the camera like, "Not a bad vacation, huh?" Like, yeah... yeah...

**Rachel:** But I mean, if you think about it, like, The Mole—

**Griffin:** We watch American Ninja Warrior, so—

**Rachel:** Amazing Race—

**Griffin:** Oh. Yeah.

**Rachel:** Like, a lot of those shows, like the host is in kind of an awkward position.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And like, their little dialog is not great.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And it's still a good show. So we should give it a shot—

**Griffin:** Man, this last season of Amazing Race, Phil Keoghan really has lost his fuckin' mind.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** The host of that show has truly, truly gone off the deep end, I think. Just a lot of jazz coming out of that dude.

**Rachel:** I mean, he is—

**Griffin:** He's following the Jeff Probst route of like, "I've got tenure! I can say anything I fucking want to!"

**Rachel:** I mean, here's the thing; like, you show up, you've been doing this for a very long time. You don't have to put a lot of thought into it.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Rachel:** I imagine you kind of party—you kind of forget the cameras are rolling.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I guess so.

**Rachel:** And you just start speaking your truth, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah. Hey, I—can I do this one?

**Rachel:** Oh, sure, go ahead.

**Griffin:** Jake says, "My Small Wonder is trying a new topping on a hot dog. I tried horseradish for the first time, and it felt exciting trying something new with your old friend, hot dog, there to hold my hand through it all."

**Rachel:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Thank you, hot dog." Horseradish!

**Rachel:** *Huh.*

**Griffin:** Dad used to love horseradish. He probably still does.

**Rachel:** On what? Like a sandwich?

**Griffin:** I think sandwiches, for the most part. He would—he would, you know, do a lunch meat sandwich with horseradish.

**Rachel:** I do like—if somebody presents it to me. Like, if somebody who knows what they're doing says—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** "I'm putting horseradish on this," I'm almost always delighted by it.

**Griffin:** I want one little flake on an oyster. That's usually about as far as I go—

**Rachel:** Mm-hm! Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** With a horseradish experience. I admire it. You got any good ones over there?

**Rachel:** Oh, I was gonna say this one, from Chelsea, "My Small Wonder is my cherry tomato plant. I can pick a delicious tomato and eat it on my way out the door every morning."

**Griffin:** [chuckles] That's wild!

**Rachel:** Isn't that great?

**Griffin:** Nature is amazing!

**Rachel:** I do miss that. I... I have not tried to grow anything... really at all, in a very long time. Like I—we have like little house plants now that I put time into—

**Griffin:** Yeah, but not things you can eat.

**Rachel:** But not like a food item in a very long time.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Rachel:** But I do miss that, this idea of just like, I've got my own little plant fridge that I can go and pull food out of when I want.

**Griffin:** Amazing. And but also, so can bugs, and that's cool. Circle of life and all that.

**Rachel:** Well, the cherry tomato, too, it's so pocket sized, like—

**Griffin:** It's nature's Gusher.

**Rachel:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Nature's savory Gusher! Cassie says, "My Small Wonder is that I wear fewer socks over the summer, since I normally wear sandals, and it makes folding my laundry so much quicker."

**Rachel:** Oh my gosh!

**Griffin:** I mean, Cassie, yes, anything to speed that horrible, horrible process up. I wear no like button downs—

**Rachel:** This one I wanted to share just because I felt like it was so perfect, and I want to live in this space.

**Griffin:** Oh? Perfect. I love to hear that.

**Rachel:** This is from Megan, it says, "When you drop a round thing and it rolls on its side, and you pick it up before it falls over."

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah.

**Rachel:** Like, yes.

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Rachel:** A hundred percent.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** And also, when I sit down with you sometimes and you ask me for my Small Wonder?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** That's the kind of stuff I want to remember!

**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Rachel:** And I almost never do! So, thank you, Megan.

**Griffin:** When you drop a thing, and you catch it with your foot a little bit?

**Rachel:** *Yeah.*

**Griffin:** There's a lot of ways to catch something—

**Rachel:** I just—

**Griffin:** That feels so good.

**Rachel:** I need to start like keeping notes on my phone.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** So that when you ask me what's my Small Wonder, I'm ready.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** With—

**Griffin:** I do that.

**Rachel:** Things exactly like that.

**Griffin:** I do that. I've gone through most of mine, at this point. And I need to get back in the habit. Hey, folks, thanks for listening to this very caj, very chill episode of Wonderful. Thank you to Bo En and Augustus for the use for theme song, Money Won't Pay. You can find a link to it in the episode description.

Thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. We will be doing normaler episodes soon. This is the last bit of travel I have for a little bit. So, hopefully we get this train right back on the tracks. We have some merch over at the McElroy Merch Store, some new pins, some other cool stuff up on there. And there's some live MBMBaM and TAZs coming up very soon.

This week, we're going to be in Anaheim and Sacramento doing MBMBaM and TAZ. The TAZ in Anaheim is going to be TAZ Dadlands, the game that we made, GMed by Brennan Lee Mulligan. There's Cornhole for Your Soul. There's all kinds of stuff that happens at those shows—

**Rachel:** There's fanny packs, there's hats.

**Griffin:** There's fanny packs! There's all—there's—

**Rachel:** There's—it's incredible.

**Griffin:** So many dads, and it's all great. [Bit.ly/mcelroytours](https://bit.ly/mcelroytours). Come see us. We're coming to Texas, we're coming to Salt Lake City, we're coming... we're coming all over. So, come check it out. And that's it! Thanks for listening!

**Rachel:** Yeah, thank you for all the people that submitted Small Wonders. I'm just always so grateful to receive them.

**Griffin:** Yes, it's a—it's a delight to read what you all like. And it's the only place, I think, on the internet where that happens.

**Rachel:** [chuckles] That's fair.

**Griffin:** Is that what Pinterest is? Because I've not—

**Rachel:** Well, usually when people pin things, they don't say like, "And this is what I like about it." [chuckles]

**Griffin:** "And this is why—" Well, maybe they should start. Hey, thanks, and bye.

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

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