

## **Wonderful! 381: No Links, Just Life**

Published on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

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

**Rachel:** And this is Wonderful.

**Griffin:** Wonderful is a podcast where we talk about things we like that's good that we are into. We are the world's premier authority on good stuff. And the buck stops here, and you got to wait. You got to wait till you get the sign off from us before you're like, telling your friends, like you checked out... You checked out cool slices of watermelon in the summertime. It's like, hold on, let me check with the experts. And you tune into Wonderful, and we're like, yes.

**Rachel:** You know that Saturday Night Live sketch that Fred Armisen would do sometimes with Kristen Wiig, that Garth and Kat.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sometimes I do talk like that in the intro, it does feel like.

**Rachel:** [laughs] I feel like I'm supposed to be like, talking at the same time as you.

**Griffin:** It's a challenge to think of words to say. I've been cast in a lot lately. I've been— I feel like I've been because of all the touring and just the way our schedules have gotten. I feel like I have squeezed out a podcast at least once a day for the last six weeks.

**Rachel:** Can I tell you some of the guidelines that I have picked up on?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** For an intro... here is Griffin McElroy's best practices.

**Griffin:** Okay, please. Thank you.

**Rachel:** Energy.

**Griffin:** Got to.

**Rachel:** Conversational.

**Griffin:** Huge.

**Rachel:** Positive.

**Griffin:** Yeah, always. Never sad. Never sad.

**Rachel:** Confident.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Rachel:** Almost authoritative.

**Griffin:** Yeah. No, that's the whole thing. That's the whole vibe I'm trying to encompass. It's all a lie, because there is very little confidence actually behind it. And, but we all wear masks, don't we? Do you have any small wonders that you would like to discuss?

**Rachel:** I kind of had like the perfect thing to watch while you were gone. Griffin just got back from California, at this point, from my vantage point anyway, less than 24 hours ago.

**Griffin:** Time is so fucked up for me, still.

**Rachel:** And it coincided nicely with Lena Dunham's new Netflix project, which is called Too Much. She created this series, and it's about a woman in her 30s that moves to London to kind of get past a relationship. And it's got the kind of Lena Dunham like, unflinching, like, flaws in all characters, but

like you're really kind of rooting for people. And that's not always something you get with Lena Dunham project. And I really, really enjoyed it. And it's actually where I got my big wonder this week.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's an exciting little tease.

**Rachel:** Yeah. So it really, it really served me well.

**Griffin:** I would like to lift up a movie I watched on the flight to California that I took last weekend. And that movie was Sinners. Just a great, just a genuinely pretty scary, great action movie with like, tons of really amazing characters. It's by Ryan Coogler, who did the Black Panther films and Creed. And it's got...

**Rachel:** So like a real Michael Jordan—[laughs]

**Griffin:** A lot of Michael B. Jordan support in this man's history. And Michael B. Jordan plays twins, plays two characters, twin brothers who return to their home in the Mississippi Delta in like the 1930s from Chicago to open up a juke joint, where people can come and drink and dance, and then also vampires show up. And it is a really, really, really fucking bold flick that has a lot of stuff to say. And also just deliver some really great vampire action in a way that...

**Rachel:** Did you feel uncomfortable watching it on the plane? Is it like one of those movies where like if somebody was watching it over your shoulder, you'd be like, ooh.

**Griffin:** I mean, there's certainly some gnarly moments. Yes. But I don't know. It's not like I... watched Girl with the Dragon tattoo on a plane once and had to really, really skip around or attempt to. Yeah, I mean, it is... There are some truly, truly staggering artistic choices made in the movie that I am not remotely equipped to try and dissect or discuss.

**Rachel:** But I love Michael B.

**Griffin:** And he's fucking great playing two characters who are twins and being able to distinguish them enough with your with the power of your acting is truly a feat. And I don't know, it felt very... I think the comparison to From Dusk Till Dawn, like, it feels appropriate. Where it feels like just like, here's one crazy day that this group of people had, with also like, you know, a message of the Jim Crow era south and also modern day. It really— it takes some huge fucking swings. And I think it does them with like a lot of grace and skill. And I just, I just I really loved it.

**Rachel:** Look at us with our media recommendations.

**Griffin:** I know, it's been a while since we've both brought one.

**Rachel:** Like some real Siskels and Eberts.

**Griffin:** That's us. I would like to talk about a different film for my big wonder, though, if I may. Today, I would like to talk about, and file this with 'can't believe we haven't discussed it before.' I'd like to talk about Wayne's World.

**Rachel:** Wow!

**Griffin:** Right?

**Rachel:** That's wild. We've probably referenced it, but I could—

**Griffin:** Everyone's referenced it, is the thing. Like, this is the moment I had where I was like trying to think of what to talk about. And I was like, oh, let's do Wayne's World. And then I was surprised I hadn't done it before, because like, I can't think of a single like media franchise or just specifically film, the first Wayne's World, that was more formative for me and Justin and Travis.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Than the first Wayne's World.

**Rachel:** It's one of like— there are a lot of particularly from that time period, a lot of Mike Myers projects, and a lot of them highly quotable. That is one that I never get tired of people quoting.

**Griffin:** And it's maybe the only one, right? Like I have that in my notes.

**Rachel:** So I Married an Axe Murderer, also enjoy quoting.

**Griffin:** I mean, yes. The shine came off that apple really hard, right? Because we all saw... every movie had Mike Myers in it from the years 1992 to 1996, right?

**Rachel:** Even later than maybe like, but yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't know when the last Austin Powers movie came out. But like, it was an era where like this guy was making these monster hits. Wayne's World was the number one grossing movie the year it came out in 1992, which is fucking crazy to think that like this SNL sketch was the biggest movie of the year.

**Rachel:** It is crazy.

**Griffin:** But like, everything that dude touched was catchphrase gold. And that's just so weird, because like that's not how anything works anymore. And that realization also kind of led me to like, think about how I think about Wayne's World is such an essential like landmark piece of comedy and just assume that everyone has seen it. But also, that movie came out 33 whole years ago. So like, I'm actually probably pretty wrong about that.

If you are not familiar with Wayne's World, first of all, you've heard so many... If you've heard people say 'shwing' or 'we're not worthy.'

**Rachel:** I have to imagine a lot of people have not heard shwing.

**Griffin:** Party on Wayne, party on Garth. Like, there's a lot of things you've probably heard, even if you aren't familiar. It was an SNL sketch, originally. It stars Mike Myers as Wayne Campbell and Dana Carvey as Garth Algar,

who are two best friends, just a couple of slacker, like, well-meaning metalheads who run a public access show out of the basement of Wayne's parents' house where he lives.

And like, from a... one of the more impressive things about Wayne's World, the movie is that that concept, the concept behind the sketch, is pretty bare bones, right? Like the character is what carries the sketch. But usually, it was just like these two guys hosting a show, they would do like a top 10 list, or like, whatever.

It was very mutable. It was very like morphable to like whatever they wanted these two characters to like be joking about, which you would think like, there's not much there. Like how are you going to do a whole movie based out of that? I was probably— I was definitely too young to participate in that conjecture. But I imagine when the Wayne's World movie was announced, there was probably quite a bit of skepticism about like, how are you going to... how are you going to movie-fy this?

**Rachel:** And what's kind of amazing looking back, is they don't do the work to like fill in a lot of holes. Like, you don't meet anyone's parents. You don't get any backstory. There's no sense of like who these people were before Wayne's World, you know?

**Griffin:** But at the same time, it does— it kind of does do those things in a way, right? Like it doesn't beat you over the head with like, you know, Wayne goes upstairs from shooting the show and there's just parents like, oh, thanks, guys. It's all like, kept in this like first person sort of like monologue, journal-style thing, where all of a sudden you leave the basement, which has been the like very narrow sliver that you have only seen these two characters through, and you watch them go out into the world and you see—

**Rachel:** He shows you like his collection of name tags from the various retail jobs.

**Griffin:** Right. Exactly. It's very it's like shockingly subtle, like really, really good character development stuff, but like, it shows you what the world is

like that these two fucking impossible weirdos come from. And that's like, really impressive stuff. Like, I genuinely think it's a very impressive movie.

And I mean, there were some big names that worked on it. I didn't realize that Wayne, the like character of Wayne, had been workshopped by Mike Myers like, really extensively before even Wayne's World, the first like sketch appeared on SNL. There was an overnight show on a local TV station in Toronto. The show is called City Limits and he would occasionally bring the character of Wayne on in this like prototypical stage in 1983. There was a CBC series in 1987 called It's Only Rock and Roll that Wayne just showed up on.

So like, he had been workshopping this character for a while, even before that the first Wayne's World sketch appeared on SNL in 1989. And I don't know, it's just like, the jokes are so good. It's really an oversimplification. And there's a lot going on in these movies, but just like, the number of jokes that that are just fully embedded in my brain forever. There's really no comparison to anything else. I think the reason this popped up in my mind and the reason I wanted to do it on Wonderful is because small son got sick while I was gone, with a tummy, a tummy illness, and like it's hard for me to be around that without thinking, if you're gonna spew...

**Rachel:** [laughs] We talked about that.

**Griffin:** Spew into this. It's so like... the jokes are just almost all non sequitur weird shit.

**Rachel:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** My very favorite joke in the whole movie, the original Wayne's World, is when Wayne and Garth and like their, you know, stoner buddies are standing in this like TV production studio overlooking the set that— they've recreated Wayne's Basement in the set below after they've sort of sold out to Rob Lowe's character. And Garth looks down and says, "We're looking down on Wayne's Basement, only that's not Wayne's Basement. Isn't that weird?" And there's a moment where everyone's like, oh, yeah. And then Wayne just stops everything and says, "Garth, that was a haiku."

And everyone just kind of like goes like, yeah, all right. Like, cool, you did a haiku. Like it's so... It's so it has nothing to do with anything. It's so like strange why like Wayne would catch something like that, or why like all of their friends would respond to that fact with such like instant satisfaction like, oh, all right. A haiku.

But like, man, it just it just fucking hits, man. I was also sort of especially like, I don't know, blown away by the ending of both films, where I'm not going to like fully spoil it, but they break the fourth wall and essentially like say, I didn't like that ending. We're going to do a different one.

And I think I was like seven years old when I first saw the first Wayne's World. And as silly a conceit as that is, like, I didn't know that was a thing you could do in a movie, where the characters could become aware of the audience being there and like change the events of the film because they, the characters inside the film were unsatisfied by it.

I just, I don't think the second Wayne's World movie is as like iconic and pure and strong as the first one. And I also like, know that there are quite a few goofs across both films that do not hold up to modern scrutiny. But I don't know, I would challenge you to find any comedy from 1992 that does.

**Rachel:** For sure.

**Griffin:** But I think like, I think both movies are just really truly impressive comedy writing. And I bet if you asked anyone whose like, work you admire in the comedy space today, like they would almost certainly agree with that.

**Rachel:** It feels kind of like Clueless to me and that it is very much of the time period, but also like kind of timeless in that like... the jokes are just kind of funny, because it creates its own little world in a way. Like it's not really the '90s. You know, it's like, I don't know, it feels like very much of the time period, but also not dated to me.

**Griffin:** No, the thing that anchors it to the '90s is the music, right? Because like, the music is so—



**Rachel:** Yeah, and the wardrobe a little bit.

**Griffin:** The wardrobe, sure, like the whole kind of like metalhead, grungy kind of vibe. But like, there's not much to the story of it, right? Like the first Wayne's World is a pretty timeless story about, you know, selling out to corporate interests and ruining the things that you love, that you make with the people that you love to, you know, go legitimate or make money. Like, that's a pretty, like, tried and true kind of story formula. And I think that it does kind of like, persevere a bit, until like, Aerosmith shows up, and you're like, whoa, whoa. Okay, that's right, this movie is taking place in the year 1992. Thank you for reminding me of that fact.

**Rachel:** It just feels really tight, too. Like, there's obviously like a romantic interest. Like there's these little side things with like, Garth, and like, there's these little plots that aren't really a part of the bigger story, but everything is quick. There's like, no wasted time really in the movie where you feel like, y'know, I'm going to go and get something to eat. I don't know. I feel like the movie moves fast.

**Griffin:** It does.

**Rachel:** And it's very satisfying.

**Griffin:** It moves fast and there's like, more great shit in it than I think I could probably sit here and name bits from the movie for a half hour and not even get to them. And not even get to like the big shit, right? Like, this movie spawned a music video for Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody that was like the number one music video. For Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody! Like, that is so played, right? But like, so played that you forget.

And this is true. And this is honestly, I think how I feel about Mike Myers, is like, he was everywhere and he made probably a billion dollars, and was in all of these movies that spawned all these catchphrases, and you could not escape him and folks got burned out. But like, that doesn't change the fact that like that Bohemian Rhapsody car sing along scene is like extremely iconic.

And in 2025, it's easy to look at it and be like, oh, well, that's just that. But in 1992, I have to imagine the zeitgeist was probably pretty thrilling to be a part of. I don't know, man, I don't feel this way about a lot of movies from, especially from that era. But I think Wayne's World has some special magic to it.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I feel like that's one of those movies too that if you've seen it once, you've seen it like 10 times. I don't know anyone that has just watched that movie once.

**Griffin:** Well, it also used to be on TV like nonstop back when that was the thing. Hey, can I steal you away?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Thanks.

[ad break]

**Rachel:** Okay, so I teased this a moment ago, but I was watching that show Too Much. Which has some hip music in it.

**Griffin:** From Aerosmith?

**Rachel:** [laughs] No, although maybe. I haven't watched the last episode.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Rachel:** So maybe the last episode has Aerosmith. But one of the songs that came on was a song by quinnie called 'touch tank,' which I had never heard before. And I heard it and I was instantly like, I bet I'm going to like everything by this artist. And that ended up being exactly true. So this week I wanted to talk about quinnie.

**Griffin:** Isn't that nice when that happens? It's so nice. I feel like you're so good at finding that, at finding like that stuff. I'm so terrible. Ever since our

children destroyed my algorithm on Spotify, like, I don't do that anymore. And I feel like I rely on you mostly.

**Rachel:** So had you not heard this? I'd never heard of quinnie, no. Okay. I felt like I was really late to the party, partially because when I looked this artist up, apparently in 2022, that song in particular went viral on TikTok. So that song that I heard on the show just over the weekend specifically, like, was all over TikTok and just like blew her up. But I had never heard it before.

I guess we can play it like, a little bit of it. I also brought another song of hers, because I thought in my head like, you know, you kind of get in your head and you're like, everybody knows that song. Don't even play that song.

**Griffin:** I don't think that's true in my life.

**Rachel:** All right. So we can maybe play a little bit of 'touch tank' right here.

[ 'touch tank' by quinnie plays ]

**Rachel:** Okay. So the artist is Quinn Barnett, professionally known as quinnie. Her debut album, Flounder came out in 2023. That 'touch tank' song was on it. She is an American indie rock musician from New Jersey, and kind of has this like folky quality, but also poppy. She lists her kind of early influences as, you know, Joni Mitchell.

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure.

**Rachel:** But also says in an interview from this website, Ones2Watch, said that an artist that made her really want to pursue music was Sufjan Stevens.

**Griffin:** Oh, wow.

**Rachel:** She said, quote, "I went through a multi-year phase when I was 14 or 16 where I was really sad in a childish way. Music was the only thing that comforted me. It was sacred. Sad music can make you more sad, but it can also comfort you at your lowest. I remember listening to Sufjan Stevens and feeling like someone finally heard and understood the thoughts in my head."

**Griffin:** Damn, dude. You picked the rightest guy. I feel like Sufjan Stevens has written more music that I have been sad with than any other musical artists. So I feel like a kindred spirit.

**Rachel:** It's that kind of like gentle dreamy quality, you know?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** That I think is really nice for somebody who's feeling kind of like isolated, but also has like a real appreciation for just like, folksy kind of music.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Rachel:** She began releasing her music on Bandcamp in 2017, and had her first EP in 2019. Between 2021 and 2023, she released music as a duo with her friend, Jake Weinberg, under the name Critter. And he has since worked as a producer for her.

**Griffin:** That's fun.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I will say she's got a new album coming out this month, actually. It's kind of amazing that I found her when I did, because her second album, Paper Doll, and the title track is actually now available, but the album is coming out July 24th.

**Griffin:** Oh, wow. That's so soon.

**Rachel:** Yeah, so very, very soon. Yeah. Her tour starts September 29th and she is going to be in D.C. on October 2nd.

**Griffin:** Hell yeah, man.

**Rachel:** I thought it was exciting. I also wanted to read what Pitchfork said about her first album. She said, "Jake Weinberg's cinematically homespun production means that the medieval acoustics and twinkling piano sound

timeless, wind chimes, running water and sounds of children playing paint scenes of youthful summers spent sneaking out of bedroom windows for a stolen moment of tenderness.”

**Griffin:** Feed it to me slowly like grapes, Pitchfork.

**Rachel:** [laughs] Another clip I wanted to play is from another song off of that album Flounder, and that is from the song called ‘man.’

[‘man’ by quinnie plays]

**Rachel:** So yeah, this is the, I believe this is the first song off of that Flounder album. At least, it's the first song that appeared when I downloaded the album. Apparently all of these songs on that album she wrote between the ages of 18 and 20.

**Griffin:** Geez, that's crazy.

**Rachel:** Like, here's the thing about quinnie, because I read this article in Medium and somebody, the person who wrote it was somebody who was like approximately that age who talked about, who said, quote, “I think the last artist to capture my heart this quickly was Phoebe Bridgers after I listened to her sophomore album Punisher in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic.” And I just felt like, oh man, I wish I was quinnie's age. Like I had this feeling of like this.

**Griffin:** Oh dude, Phoebe Bridgers would have hit so right.

**Rachel:** Like this music isn't exactly for me. Like, kind of like Kacey Musgraves, like when I was listening to it, I was like, this isn't for me anymore. This isn't my age. This isn't my generation, really. I love it. I can like, feel it. I can go there. It's not speaking *to* me.

**Griffin:** If you were a bit closer in the experience lived in the songs. I understand what you're saying.

**Rachel:** Exactly. Like, and that's the way I felt about quinnie. Like, I'm maybe not supposed to be listening to this. Like it's beautiful. It's exactly the kind of music that I have always liked and probably will always like. I don't know that she, uh...

**Griffin:** Had you in mind.

**Rachel:** Had me in mind. It's kind of the same reason like for example that I loved Fiona Apple.

**Griffin:** Yeah, of course.

**Rachel:** Like I am approximately Fiona Apple's age. She was writing music that was kind of capturing what I felt like was my experience in the time period that she was writing it.

I think quinnie is kind of doing exactly that with what she is writing. And I absolutely love it. I'm very excited that her new album is coming out this month.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I'm excited too.

**Rachel:** And I just fell into it when we did.

**Griffin:** I'm very much looking forward to checking it out. I've only listened to the couple songs you sent over, but they were both club bangers. Yeah. Do you want to know what our friends at home are talking about?

**Rachel:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Paige says, "My small wonder is the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum and all the other nonprofit museums and memorials throughout Appalachia. I moved to West Virginia in March, and seeing the care time and passion put into remembering this buried portion of history is inspiring." I had never heard of that museum.

**Rachel:** I was going to ask you about that. Did they say where it is or did you look it up?

**Griffin:** They did not say.

**Rachel:** Like where in West Virginia?

**Griffin:** Maybe in Matewan. I would be surprised if Matewan didn't have...

**Rachel:** Do you feel like you have a pretty good handle on the whole state?

**Griffin:** Parts of it. Pretty good. I have a pretty good pan handle on it. [laughs] Jolie says, "I hear Griffin wishing for personal pan watermelons on Wonderful. So my small wonder is the little orange watermelons I can get at the farmers market each fall. The first time I cracked into one, I was shocked by the color inside, then delighted by the perfect taste and texture. I've since sought out yellow watermelons and been equally pleased." You seen these guys? You seen these guys?

**Rachel:** Man, maybe restaurants. I feel like we have been to a restaurant where they put a little square of watermelons on your plate and you're like, what is this?

**Griffin:** Look at that little guy.

**Rachel:** Yeah, I feel like I've only had that as a little garnish on a with an entree.

**Griffin:** Give me a little handheld watermelons. That seems incredible. Thank you 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.

Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). Check out all the great stuff they have over there. We've got a bunch of merch over at [McElroyMerch.com](http://McElroyMerch.com) for you to peruse.

We also have some live MBMBaMs and TAZs still coming up. We're going to be in Atlanta during DragonCon in August. And then we have some shows coming up in Texas and Salt Lake City and some other places coming up later in the year.

You can go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours) for ticket links and more information for all that. Anything else, my love? I got a book coming out, [bit.ly/griffinstowaway](http://bit.ly/griffinstowaway).

It's a Choose Your Own Adventure book. It comes out next year. And I think you're going to like it. It's a sci-fi romp. And you get to pick what happens in it. That's sort of the format of the book.

**Rachel:** Yeah, you would get to, let's say, choose... the adventure.

**Griffin:** The adventure. So [bit.ly/griffinstowaway](http://bit.ly/griffinstowaway) is the link for that. That's it. I'm not going to say any more links at you. I feel like it's rude to do too many links at someone. No more links. Just life.

**Rachel:** Unless you're hitting the green with your clubs.

**Griffin:** Gotta hit the green!

[theme music plays]

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