

Wonderful! 426: Forget Fall, I'm a Kyle Man

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[theme music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy.

Griffin: Hi, this is Griffin McElroy.

Rachel: And this is *Wonderful!*

Griffin: Welcome to *Wonderful!* It's a podcast where we talk about things we like that's good that we're into. I have to cough. [coughs] I'm so sorry. I don't like coming at people with that energy. 'Cause now they're like, "Ew, yuck."

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: "I don't wanna get sick from a podcast."

Rachel: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: I've been hearing a lot about that from—

Rachel: How it comes through your ears now?

Griffin: From Robbie Jr., the health guy.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And he's like, [as RFK Jr.] "Don't listen to podcasting. Make you sick!"

Rachel: That's a really good impression.

Griffin: I didn't think so, but it's really nice of you to say that.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We have a bit of a weird one for you this week. Thank you for sticking with us. We took last week off. We did stream last week.

Rachel: We did! I was a real video game streamer!

Griffin: You were a real video game streamer. We did the *Super McElroy Brothers* together, although this was *Super McElroy Spouses*. And we played that *Mecha Chameleon* game with some fans, with some listeners, and that was a frickin' blast, dude!

Rachel: It was really fun.

Griffin: I had a really good time. And streaming with you was really fun!

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: You've got great gamer sense.

Rachel: Oh, wow! I don't know how to take that.

Griffin: As a compliment, as it was intended.

Rachel: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: I wish I had— I mean, [chuckles] I've got pretty good gamer sense.

Rachel: I would hope so!

Griffin: But I've been training it on the daily, eight hours a day, every day. And you have a sort of natural knack for it that I think, if you really put in the hours...

Rachel: I could go pro?

Griffin: I think you could go pro!

Rachel: Okay!

Griffin: I think if that is a dream of yours – and it's not, but if it was...

Rachel: No, but if it was.

Griffin: If it was, if you were a totally different person, you could live a life that would be so decadent. This episode, we're not going to talk so much about things we like that is good, that we're into.

Rachel: I will say, though, that what we talk about are things that we like.

Griffin: Sure, yeah. No, I mean, everything we talk about is things we like. We don't think about things we don't like, except Robbie Jr., the health guy.

Rachel: Yeah. [chuckles]

Griffin: Instead, we're doing a bit of a deep dive. A bit of a, mm, investigation, I guess you could call it?

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Rachel and I have a tendency to keep each other up, I would say, mostly at nighttime.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Just talkin' about stuff and goofing.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And there are many times where we'll be talking about stuff, whether it is in bed or while watching a crappy television program or something...

Rachel: We're inviting you listeners into our bedroom...

Griffin: Into the— Mm!

Rachel: ... in this exclusive [through laughter] episode.

Griffin: While doing this, one of us will say, “We should write that down.”

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: For what purpose, it has never been defined until this exact moment. Because we’re gonna go into the notes apps on our phone. I think I am more of the archivist, I would say, of our conversations.

Rachel: [laughs] I will say, some of the notes, too, aren’t necessarily bedtime notes.

Griffin: No, they’re not bedtime notes.

Rachel: That’s just where we get most of our great ideas.

Griffin: Guys, nothing’s sexy— Maybe.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: No, I don’t think there’s anything here that anyone could find the least bit salacious. So it’s not that kind of bedroom notes, as much as it is just things we wrote down because we had the thought, “We should write that down.”

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And we’re gonna just kind of— I don’t know about you. I went through, I’ve got maybe eight or nine things here. And some of them, I don’t remember the context of.

Rachel: I will do my best to help you with that.

Griffin: So I was hoping we could go through just sort of our notes apps, look at some of the notes that we’ve written down, and try and figure out what’s going on there, what’s happening.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Do you have any Small Wonders, before we begin this exercise?

Rachel: Oh, good question. Um, umbrella?

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: We got an umbrella on our back patio, which was normally—

Griffin: Oh, big umbrella.

Rachel: Big umbrella.

Griffin: Okay. I thought you were talking about rain umbrella, for on-the-go.

Rachel: I am having the feeling right now that we might've talked about this.

Griffin: I don't think so, dude.

Rachel: But I will say that we spend a lot more time outside, now that our...

Griffin: 'Cause of this bigass umbrella.

Rachel: ... patio furniture and patio surface aren't scorching hot.

Griffin: It's like ten by 12 feet. It's a *big* rectangular umbrella.

Rachel: It's a big umbrella!

Griffin: And it's got a nice little cantilever arm on it. Great action on that umbrella, I love it.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: We've had a few different patio 'brellas at this point, and most of them have been absolute trash up to this point. This one's premium stuff.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: I do love the shade that it affords us.
I finished Barad-dûr.

Rachel: Oh, you did.

Griffin: I finished the Lego build of Barad-dûr, which is of course Sauron's big tower with the big fiery eye on top of it from the *Lord of the Rings* movies and book. And this was a big undertaking, gang. This was about 6,000 pieces?

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: And it's about as tall as Small Son is. It's a big, big, big tower. And I really liked putting this thing together.

Rachel: It's got a lot of features to it.

Griffin: It does!

Rachel: Lego now, instead of just saying, "Hey, you made a building," is like, "Here's all the things that work in the building, and turn around, and go up and down."

Griffin: Uh-huh. There's a little part where there it was [chuckles] like Sauron's throne. But then you pull a little thing, and it splits. What's behind it? The palantír. [laughs] That's great. Why are you hiding that, man? That's crazy.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: What's your favorite thing about it? Your favorite *Lord of the Rings* thing about it?

Rachel: ... I—

Griffin: Mm. It's hard to choose, isn't it?

Rachel: It's got a little Gollum.

Griffin: It *does* have a little Gollum.

Rachel: That's one I know.

Griffin: You do know him.

Rachel: And there is a ring.

Griffin: There's a ring! Sure.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: It is probably pretty large, for scale.

Griffin: The ring is?

Rachel: Well, in order for Lego to make a ring that would be viewable by the human eye...

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: ... it is not to scale to a Lego man. It has to be more of a bracelet.

Griffin: In the canon of the story, the ring can change size, depending on who's wearing it.

Rachel: Oh, really?

Griffin: Yeah. 'Cause you gotta think about Frodo. He got, beep, little fingers. Boop, boop! Little sausages.

Rachel: How big are hobbits?

Griffin: Hobbits?

Rachel: I don't actually know.

Griffin: Three apples tall.

Rachel: Is that true?

Griffin: That's smurfs. Um...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know how tall a hobbit is, but I mean... I mean, they're about knee-high to a Sir Ian McKellen.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: If you factor in your mind one average Sir Ian McKellen...

Rachel: That's little!

Griffin: And then you go to about maybe the thigh. Maybe the thigh of him.

Rachel: Mm, okay.

Griffin: I'll tell you what it is, is when they run up to tackle-hug a human, their face is always crotch level.

Rachel: Oh, okay. Okay, alright.

Griffin: Like, always crotch level. So about that big.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But yeah, you know, when Sauron wears the ring, you got that big metal

hand. So it's gotta be, pff, big. Big ring. So yeah, I mean, it kind of makes sense. Anyway, that's Barad-dûr.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Should we start with the notes?

Rachel: Yeah, sure!

Griffin: This— I mean, I want to start out with this one. 'Cause this is like... I should maybe start with this one, because I think I've talked about it on the show before. This was a note that I had on my phone, and I can remember the context of it somewhat okay. The note simply reads, "I just came up with this sick idea. They should make a calendar that shows you when different fruits are in season. I am high."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: This one, I think we have discussed on the show.

Rachel: We have discussed, because a listener sent us this exact calendar.

Griffin: Yes. A calendar of when fruits are in season.

Rachel: Yeah, exactly. This is a real thing.

Griffin: Did we hang onto that calendar?

Rachel: Yeah! I have it downstairs in the kitchen.

Griffin: Okay. I need to check it. Because I still feel like I don't have a great grasp on this.

Rachel: Yeah. No, I understand.

Griffin: Cherries are tough, aren't they? Cherries have such a limited lifespan, I feel like. Such a small one.

Rachel: Oh, but when they're good...

Griffin: But when they're *good*...

Rachel: It's incredible.

Griffin: It is incredible. I'll tell you what I did enjoy, is a little bit of that pineapple that we got in the fridge the other day.

Rachel: Uh-huh!

Griffin: That one goes down real smooth, doesn't it?

Rachel: Uh-huh. [laughs]

Griffin: I notice you got it in ring form. Is that your preferred pineapple experience?

Rachel: I don't know. I feel like it keeps better, when it's in ring form. That's how it's intended to be, kind of, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And something about it seems to make it last longer in the fridge.

Griffin: Interesting. Maybe it's the surface area exposure to— No. You're shaking your head.

Rachel: No idea.

Griffin: No idea.

Rachel: No idea. Well, I think what it is, is the bottom starts to get gross.

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Rachel: But the height of the ring kind of supports more of it.

Griffin: It keeps it out of the juice.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true. That's the real lord of the rings, if you ask me, is... pineapple.

Rachel: [holding back laughter] Uh-huh.

Griffin: This— Okay, here's one we haven't discussed on this show before. This was in a note just called "Cool Ideas."

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: And this was one of the first ones that I can remember jotting down, after you and I talked about it. I don't know if it's aged particularly well. It seems a bit classist to me, if I'm being frank. But it is Jeff Foxworthy Ted Talk.

Rachel: Yes. I feel like— Do you remember? I feel like you were doing— We were maybe going back and forth, doing Jeff Foxworthy impressions.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: And then we had him to start talking about very [through laughter] detailed examples...

Griffin: So not just, "You might be a redneck..."

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: I think I just kind of was fascinated by the taking of that structure, of the "You might be a redneck," which is, if you're not familiar with Dr. Foxworthy...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: The run is very much like, [as Jeff Foxworthy] “If you have a tire swing on your... If you—”

Rachel: See? It’s harder than you think, isn’t it?

Griffin: “If you have a jerky rack on your tire swing...”

Rachel: There you go. [laughs] You found the right combination.

Griffin: “... you might be a redneck!”

Rachel: And then I think we just went longer, and longer, until it sounded more like a Ted Talk than like a joke.

Griffin: Right. Now, here’s— I feel like it’s been a long time since this note was written. I would be curious to hear— He’s had a career that I would be curious to hear about.

Rachel: Yeah. Very true.

Griffin: In the structure of a Ted Talk or a TEDx talk, if you must.

Rachel: Very true.

Griffin: I’m curious how he got to where he got. I’m curious about some of the— There’s no way those blue-collar comedy tour guys *all* got along super great.

Rachel: Yeah!

Griffin: If you look at where they all landed across the political spectrum, just to take that alone.

Rachel: True.

Griffin: Like, I don’t know if you can get Lawrence the Cable Gentlemen and one of the other ones...

Rachel: [laughs] One of the other ones.

Griffin: Bill Engvall.

Rachel: Oh, wow!

Griffin: I actually don't know Bill Engvall's stance on things.

Rachel: Okay. Well, I would believe anything you said right now.

Griffin: He is a democratic socialist.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: He stumped really, really hard for Mamdani.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I was surprised too. Like, why do you give a shit about New York City, Bill? That doesn't seem like—

Rachel: I don't know anything about this man.

Griffin: I don't know anything about really any of them, except Jeff!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Who did host *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader*, or third grader.

Rachel: True.

Griffin: I forget which grade you—

Rachel: Third. I think it's— Well, third or fifth. That's a good question.

Griffin: We just had— We have a fourth grader now, and I— Yes. [laughs]

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Yes. Across the board, yes. Sometimes, he says stuff that's like, I don't know, man. Maybe I've forgotten one or two things here, but I know way more than that guy.

Rachel: What did he tell you the other day? Oh, he was talking about diamonds, and how they're actually brittle.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: And we were like, "No way. Diamonds aren't brittle."

Griffin: No, 'cause they're forever.

Rachel: And then we looked it up, and...

Griffin: And they're actually quite brittle.

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: You could break a diamond pretty easy. I felt like a real jack.

Rachel: But you have to really intentionally do it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But it does scratch in a way that I didn't...

Griffin: No, it doesn't scratch.

Rachel: It doesn't scratch, but it breaks.

Griffin: It breaks, yeah.

Rachel: Okay. Alright, so—

Griffin: That's the thing about diamonds.

Rachel: Don't back your car over it.

Griffin: Yeah. Well, just don't throw a diamond at the ground as hard as you can.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: Do you want to do a note?

Rachel: Sure! This one is more recent.

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: This, I think, is one of the things that maybe gave us the idea to do this show. Because you said, "Toenails is pain leaving the body." [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, that's cool, yeah. And I stand by that. A lot of these, I won't own necessarily. But that one, I believe in full-force, wholeheartedly.

Rachel: This is in reference to my hurt leg, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah. I did some kind of fitness thing that hurt my quad muscles or whatever, and it wasn't serious, but it was the kind of thing that was gonna take time to heal. And what started happening was the pain was moving around my leg, because the other muscles were compensating in a weird way.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So I talked about how it was like, all the way down up my calf muscle. And then Griffin suggested, "Well, it's gotta leave your body." And then toenails.

Griffin: Right. So if the pain keeps going down, eventually, it gets to the Achilles, to the ankle, to the sole, to the toes, and then out of the body through the toenails.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: That's pain leaving the body.

Rachel: I like it. That's a good way to encourage people to clip their toenails, too.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: Like, that's extra pain you're just carrying around for no reason.

Griffin: And we gotta be doing something with these things, right? When I...
piss...

Rachel: Oh.

Griffin: ... I am ejecting...

Rachel: Ew. Toenails?

Griffin: No!

Rachel: Okay. I'm curious where this is going.

Griffin: Toxins.

Rachel: *Oh*, okay.

Griffin: And bits of food that I don't need.

Rachel: Oh, God. This is—

Griffin: That's the other one. But I'm just saying, I have so many different ways of getting bad stuff out of my body.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Looking at my fingernails and toenails, I'm just wondering, "Is that something?"

Rachel: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: "Is there something in there that I'm pressing out, that my body doesn't need anymore?"

Rachel: I like that idea.

Griffin: I like that a lot too.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: 'Cause then, it frames me as a perfect machine.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Like a perfectly efficient machine. My hair? That's just bad thoughts that my head is like, "Get out of here! Push it out."

Rachel: And it also gives you the freedom to eat terrible things, and think terrible thoughts.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Because it'll work its way out!

Griffin: It comes out as hair and toenails.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah. Absolutely, it does.

"Elmer Fudd, tea enthusiast." No fucking idea, man.

Rachel: Woah!

Griffin: Obviously, you know...

Rachel: Are you sure I was there for that?

Griffin: Yeah. You were there for Elmer Fudd, tea enthusiast. This was in an app that was— A notes section that was specifically dedicated to things that we talked about that you said, “You should write that down.”

Rachel: Elmer Fudd, tea enthusiast?

Griffin: Obviously, I’ve become a huge tea guy these past few years.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: I’m talking about a cup a night drinker, no matter what. And so maybe it was just the— Again, maybe a little classist, huh?

Rachel: You know what I think might help, is if you tapped into your Elmer Fudd impression.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: That would maybe get me back there.

Griffin: Okay. So it would be like, [as Elmer Fudd] “I’ve got a elderberry blend.”

Rachel: That’s so good.

Griffin: It’s not...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: It’s not that good. I think I just kind of like hipster Elmer Fudd. I feel like that’s the kind of thing you would see on a beach boardwalk t-shirt, of an Elmer Fudd with gauged ears talking about his loose-leaf experience.

Rachel: [laughs] Elmer Fudd with gauged ears is really powerful to me.

Griffin: It's cool, yeah. No, I like it a lot. He's got— You know, maybe he's got a clove cigarette. And I don't know what hipsters are into these days. This is like, I'm thinking early-2000s hipsters shit like gauged ears, corduroy jacket.

Rachel: A lip ring.

Griffin: A lip ring, and he's drinking a cup of chamomile.

Rachel: A lip ring that only further challenges his ability to speak clearly.
[laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. I don't know that he needs much— I don't know how much of an impact it would have on his speech patterns.

Rachel: I don't know. I think we're a good match, because I am so unable to do any kind of impression ever that anything that you spit out to me...

Griffin: Sounds great.

Rachel: Most of the time, yeah.

Griffin: That's the difference, is I also don't have many good voices inside me.

Rachel: That is not true!

Griffin: It's true, but I am not afraid to let 'em rip.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: 'Cause that's the only way you get better at doing an Elmer Fudd tea enthusiast.

Rachel: Well, maybe that's motivation for you to be more complimentary of my bad impressions. And then I'll feel more safe.

Griffin: I think I'm very complimentary of your bad impressions.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I always celebrate when you stoke the fires of your courage, and stand and deliver.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This one *rules*. We have an apparatus, we have a system for taking jokes and getting them turned *into* merchandise.

Rachel: Uh-huh. True.

Griffin: McKay, who works with us, who is extraordinarily talented and a diligent liaison for our whole network of artists and folks who have made stuff for us in the past to sell as merch, I have been nervous 'cause I don't know if we could do this shirt.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: But "Female Body Respector."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Female Body Respector feels so awesome to me, because it's trying so hard to be an ally, in a way that is like... It goes all the way back around to the other side, of like, that's bad, actually.

Rachel: It seems guaranteed to get a chuckle out of anybody that sees it. The only thing is, FBR doesn't really stand for anything.

Griffin: FBR is nothing. No, no. You can't— There's no way to fix that. You can't have it be like, "Female Body *Irrespector*." Because I think that's not a word, one.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: And two, it would be the opposite of what I'm extending.

Rachel: 'Cause in order to have people understand it, you'd have to do it in that kind of vertical way that the inspector one traditionally does it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I do love it.

Griffin: I love it a lot.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And maybe there's an opportunity to combine it to have Elmer Fudd with the gauged ears, and have it say "Female Body Respector" next to it. And maybe he's making a face like, "Mm?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "Aren't I great?"

Rachel: This is quite the task that you've given McKay.

Griffin: Again, I don't know if we could do this. I don't know if it would be appropriate for us to do this.

Rachel: Maybe Elmer Fudd is sitting in one of the letters. You know? Just kind of hanging out.

Griffin: Okay. Maybe he's scratched out "inspector," and written— Maybe Calvin's there, pissing on the word "inspector."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And underneath, Hobbes has written "respector."

Rachel: Yeah, that'll make it easier for her. [laughs]

Griffin: There's gotta be something there.

Rachel: I do like it.

Griffin: 'Cause it's such a funny notion to me, this idea of— It strikes me as we're watching the new season of *Married at First Sight*, which I'm not ready to endorse in any capacity.

Rachel: Yeah, no.

Griffin: But there's so much dudes saying, "And I'm an ally."

Rachel: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: "For the most lightweight, wrongheaded stance that I can take that seems okay on paper, but we know it's not anything." I don't want to arm those people with more tools, necessarily. But on an ironic level, "Female Body Respector" hits for me.

Rachel: Yeah. And it's the kind of shirt I feel like you would wear to a concert or the beach.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: Something where you get a lot of eyes on it, but nobody's expecting you to look your best. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. It really, again, has huge beach boardwalk vibes, "Female Body Respector."

Rachel: Yeah. I enjoy that.

Griffin: Let's take a quick break, and then we'll get back into our investigation.
[ad break]

Griffin: Do you have one you wanna do?

Rachel: So this one's not a bedtime one. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Rachel: But I kept it in here... [giggles] just 'cause it's a funny memory. And the whole note is, "It was poop."

Griffin: Awesome.

Rachel: Do you remember this?

Griffin: I mean, I guess this was... I'm guessing our child was in bed.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: And we had to communicate to each other.

Rachel: Similar. Similar to that, though. It *was* a communication to you. We had been informed that one of our children— I'm not gonna make this clear.

Griffin: Good.

Rachel: Because I don't want anyone to know which child, or when this was.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: But had an accident, and there was a bag with the shorts in it. And I am thinking in my head, "What kind of accident?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: But I didn't want to embarrass the child.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So I just [through laughter] held up my notes app, after I had looked at it.

Griffin: To show me...

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: ... it was poop.

Rachel: To make clear that it was poop, and to also kind of indicate, "I just threw those shorts away."

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I think that's fine. Obviously, that's not the most sustainable practice. I don't think we've thrown a lot of shorts away. But sometimes, you gotta throw the fuckin' shorts away, man.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: And if you have qualms with that, once you're a parent, you know the truth. Sometimes, you just have to throw the shorts away.

Rachel: The amount of time it takes to even get them ready to put in the washing machine is usually not worth it for me. [chuckles]

Griffin: Right. And also, then the— If it's a question of, "Is the washing machine contaminated in some way?"

Rachel: Yeah, right? Right?

Griffin: How are we to guarantee that? Obviously, these things can handle a lot. But sometimes, you just gotta throw those shorts in the garbage can, dude.

Rachel: Well, and because as a parent, this is the kind of thing no one sits you down and tells you, like, "Okay. Here's a list of 15 things you should know."

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: Nobody has ever told me what to do with pooppy pants.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And so I—

Griffin: If it's a little poop, washer. No problem.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Chuck it in there, throw it on high soil, *whatever*.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: But you have to make that call. And being a parent *means*...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... feeling confident when you make those choices. You *cannot* second-guess yourself.

Rachel: And your time is so precious...

Griffin: So precious.

Rachel: ... that you— I am always doing the calculation, I think you do this too, of "How much time will it take me to accomplish this, and get through this moment?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And a lot of times, it's not worth it.

Griffin: Yeah. I had one that I do remember doing. It was on a stream where me and Justin and Travis were playing *REPO*, I think, where once you die in the game, you can't communicate anymore. I had a note on my notes app that just said, "Just die," that I did hold up to the camera to Justin.

Rachel: Oh, I remember that!

Griffin: Or Travis, to inform them, "I'm bored."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But it was an alarming one to sort of have, scrolling through my Notes app. I didn't delete it; I held onto it for whatever reason.

Rachel: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I also have one on there that said, "Little Coco's." This is – I googled it – a restaurant here in DC. It's like northeast DC, it's an Italian restaurant. It looks nice, it looks charming. We've never *been* to it.

Rachel: Are you sure we haven't been to it?

Griffin: We've never been to Little Coco's.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But I just had it on my— This one was a true mystery, 'cause I do not know why— I think I have a Google Doc or something I started up when we moved here, of "Here's the restaurants we've eaten at that are great." This was not in there. This was a note, a solo note. Little Coco's.

Rachel: Maybe we were watching a *Top Chef*, or something?

Griffin: *Okay*, maybe.

Rachel: And one of the competitors worked there?

Griffin: Maybe it was a season of *Love is Blind* or *Married at First Sight* or something, and they went to Little Coco's, and we were like, "Gotta go there, it looks so cute."

Rachel: *Oh*, okay.

Griffin: It does look cute! I'd like to go to it.

Rachel: That's the only context I can think of.

Griffin: It's a bit far. It's a bit far.

Rachel: [laughs] That is— That is a big factor in DC, because there aren't easy ways to get anywhere.

Griffin: No.

Rachel: Because of how old the city is, and the way it was set up, you have to drive down 100 residential streets with 200 stop signs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And if something is maybe three miles away, it could still take you 30 minutes.

Griffin: If it's on the other side of Rock Creek Park, it may as well be in a different continent. It's hard to find a sitter to watch our kids for a sufficient amount of time, and to spend 35, 40 minutes in traffic to go eat at a place you don't know if it's gonna be good or not, it's a tough prospect.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: It's a tough one.

I mean, I got one here, and it's— I mean, I remember this one very clearly. The title is, "Age of Attraction." And then it's a really, really insane list of...

Rachel: Yes! [laughs]

Griffin: ... names and numbers that sounds like— It looks like I was trying to put together a fantasy baseball scorecard.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This was a Netflix show that I don't know if we've talked about on the program.

Rachel: I think we must have mentioned it.

Griffin: It's really— It was bad. It was not a good— It was not a well-made show. It felt kind of rinky-dink budget-wise, compared to some of the other bigger Netflix reality shows.

Rachel: Yeah. And the concept was the kind of thing that I think probably initially seemed like good television in a planning meeting.

Griffin: Sure.

Rachel: But once it happened, you realize, all you cared about was finding out the ages. For me, every— The whole idea of this show was that you went on the show because you were interested or open to dating somebody who was significantly older or younger than you.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: But as the viewer, they wouldn't *tell us*...

Griffin: The age.

Rachel: ... at the beginning, because the contestants didn't know either what the ages actually were. [chuckles] So before each reveal, Griffin and I would turn to each other, and we would try and figure out, "Here's our guess on how old this person is, or how young this person is." And then our idea was whoever had the biggest differential was the loser.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: And at the end of however six, eight couples, there was.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: And I believe you won, right? Or did I?

Griffin: I did. I actually have the full list here. It was close, babe.

Rachel: I know. We were usually pretty good at it.

Griffin: I have the full list here. This is only a partial list, with four of the different couples. Talking about Libby, Andrew, Pfeifer, Derrick, [laughs] Leah, Chris, Vanessa, Logan, you know. But I have the *whole* list here on my...

Rachel: [through laughter] Oh, God!

Griffin: ... app. You ended up having a differential of 38 years, and I had 34 years. So it was pretty close.

Rachel: Yeah, it was close.

Griffin: It was pretty close.

Rachel: And that's across all the couples added together.

Griffin: That's true. Um, bad show, but I love how studious we were about it.

Rachel: I don't even know— No, we did finish it eventually.

Griffin: We did finish it, because one of the guys ended up on *Perfect Match*. And everyone on *Perfect Match* was like, "*What* show are you from, again?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: And he's like, "You know, *Age of Attraction*?"

And they're like, "I don't— Is that a made-up— Did you make that— I think this guy came from a made-up show."

Rachel: Sometimes, it depends on when it's filmed, and whether or not it's aired. But sometimes, there is a real snobbery. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: Like, "Oh, I'm familiar with *Too Hot to Handle*. I don't know what that is."

Like the season where there was somebody from *The Mole*, and everyone's like, "What's *The Mole*?" [laughs]

Griffin: "What is— The what? The old— Anderson Cooper? Are you— What the fuck?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: This one, I stand by. This one, this note just simply said, "An app that helps you learn local geography, or lore, or whatever." I think that would be cool, don't you?

Rachel: Do you remember the context for why you...?

Griffin: It must have been right after we moved here. And it's like...

Rachel: Oh, okay.

Griffin: ... you know, we lived in Austin for so long that I felt so kind of authoritative. I knew all the neighborhoods in Austin, and kind of what the character of those neighborhoods were, and what the vibe and culture of those neighborhoods were. And that's such an ephemeral thing that I feel like you only kind of learn by living in a place for a long time. And there's not really a great way to fast-track that.

Rachel: No.

Griffin: But if there was an app that had a— You know what it could be like? I think that my idea was a Duolingo-type thing, where you'd have flash cards. And it would show you, "What's this neighborhood?"

Rachel: Oh!

Griffin: Learning just the names of the major streets. DC would be, I think, great for this, because it's like, a lot of them are alphabetical, which I didn't realize until a year after living here when I was like, "Hey, wait a second. [laughs] These streets go up in—"

Rachel: I know. We had to figure that out, just on our own.

Griffin: Just on our own. And learning also, all the streets are named after states. So all the *diagonal* streets that cut across the grid, you got Connecticut, you got Wisconsin, you got New Mexico. And it's like, that stuff is tough to learn. You only really learn it by driving 'em for years and years. If there was a way...

Rachel: It's kind of like a Yelp, Wikipedia, Duolingo combo.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Right? Where you're able to kind of get other people's— 'Cause I'm assuming other people would have to kind of provide this information.

Griffin: Yeah. I think it would have to be crowdsourced.

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Like, you know, just for the major cities starting out, and then we could pad it out from there.

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: Just an app to help you learn your city.

Rachel: TM, TM, TM.

Griffin: TM— No, I can't— I don't know if we can TM any of this stuff, except Female Body Respector.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm putting a copyright on Female Body Respector. If that shirt ends up in circulation without our consent, I will be very—

Rachel: Have you checked to see if it already does, maybe?

Griffin: *No!* Oh, Jesus, wait. This could be *crushing*. Hold on. [typing] Female Body Respector.

Rachel: I'm like, holding my breath right now.

Griffin: Um... Okay. No.

Rachel: Good!

Griffin: Fucking— I mean, Google AI says, "A female body respector, often abbreviated to FBR, is a lighthearted internet slang term and apparel brand concept used to describe someone who appreciates, values, and support—" Where are you getting this out of? You're not getting this out of anything. I think that AI is listening to us doing it right now.

Rachel: Is listening to our— Okay, alright.

Griffin: 'Cause I'm going down, I'm not seeing anything.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm not seeing a— Oh, wait. There is a shirt that says, "Female Body Respector." But it's some fuckin' AI slop merch company.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: We can get out ahead of this.

Rachel: Not the level of quality that we would bring.

Griffin: This is one brand, with one shirt.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: I think we can get out ahead of this.

Rachel: We're fine.

Griffin: Yeah, no problem. Let's do one more.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: And this is the one that, I think, really inspired this whole idea.

Rachel: Yes, 'cause it has quite a lengthy origin story.

Griffin: Yeah. "What if there was a fifth *little* season called Kyle?"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: We know spring, summer, fall, winter. What if there was a fifth little season called Kyle?

Do you wanna—

Rachel: Oh, my gosh. The other day, I was able to put this all together. Kyle Chandler. Okay. So I was suggesting— Griffin and I have been watching *Friday Night Lights* again.

Griffin: Yes.

Rachel: As kind of a comfort show. And I said, "What if there was a month out of every year dedicated to watching Kyle Chandler projects?"

Griffin: I think this was also inspired by us watching a trailer for *Lanterns*, the Green Lantern show that has cast him and— God, the cast of the show is stacked. It looks great. I don't give a shit about superhero stuff, or comic stuff, or really DC stuff in general.

Rachel: Yeah, same.

Griffin: This show looks fucking lit, man.

Rachel: Same.

Griffin: So we were like, "What if there was a month where you just watch a bunch of Kyle Chandler programming?"

Rachel: And we started adding Chandler to month names.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Chandluary.

Griffin: Chandluary is, I think, the closest we got to something functional.

Rachel: [laughs] But then I realized, if you just do Chandler, then people are going to assume it's a *Friends* thing.

Griffin: Right.

Rachel: So we had to fit Kyle in there somewhere.

Griffin: Which then led to...

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: ... my thought, which was, "What if there *was* a fifth little season called Kyle?" this obviously took the conversation in a completely different direction.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: But it's such a promising notion, isn't it? 'Cause I don't think our climate, as it is now, I don't think divides up into four clean seasons anymore.

Rachel: No! There's all these kind of middle periods.

Griffin: There's all these middle periods. So what if—

Rachel: And false seasons.

Griffin: False seasons.

Rachel: Where you think, "Oh, it's definitely spring now," and then it's not.

Griffin: Yeah. I think that, if we just kind of took a little bit out of one of them, maybe late winter into spring? Maybe Kyle is the season of renewal.

Rachel: [laughs] 'Cause I like the idea of being like, "Oh, man. Rainy Kyle this year."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: Or "Oh, this Kyle comes in like a hornet, and leaves like a June bug."

Griffin: That's great, honey!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: I liked that a lot!

Rachel: Thank you.

Griffin: It could be a spring-to-summer thing, then. And then it would go out like a hornet, in like a June bug. That works for me in a major way.

Rachel: Yeah, that's charming.

Griffin: I don't know if you still have to watch Kyle Chandler programming. It feels like the idea became bigger than him, didn't it?

Rachel: [through laughter] Yeah. It did. It did, but it was such a convoluted way to get to a ridiculous concept that it felt like this is important.

Griffin: And think about what it would do for culture, right? Haiku would evolve, because all of a sudden, there's a whole new set of season words that they could weave into poetry. We could have—

Rachel: Why did haiku come to mind, when you—

Griffin: Haiku traditionally has a different— I'm going to butcher this, but a set of seasonal words, based around the four major seasons.

Rachel: Oh! You just told me something about poetry.

Griffin: Amazing!

Rachel: Yeah.

Griffin: But we also have, you know, the five seasons could be the new chain that we could do that's even better than four seasons. And then you have new versions of songs, like, [singing] "Winter, spring, summer, oh, Kyle..."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "All you got to do is dial!"

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: "You just call—" Like, that works actually...

Rachel: But you left out fall.

Griffin: Fuck fall.

Rachel: Oh, wow. [laughs]

Griffin: I'm all about— I'm a Kyle man, now.

Rachel: And then people are named Kyle, and decades from now, everyone's like, "Now, are you named after the season, or are you an original Kyle?" [laughs]

Griffin: I mean, there's people named Summer and Autumn, you know what I mean?

Rachel: True! Uh-huh.

Griffin: Why not Kyle? [snorts]

Rachel: [through laughter] Why not Kyle?

Griffin: Why not Kyle?

Rachel: [laughs] It's time.

Griffin: It's time for Kyles, folks.

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Mysteries solved.

Rachel: Mysteries solved, sort of.

Griffin: Do you wanna know what our friends at home are talking about?

Rachel: Yes.

Griffin: First of all, wonderfulpodcast@gmail.com is where you can go to send us your small wonders. If you've got notes, nonsense notes in your phone that you wanna send us devoid of context, I would love to read those actually.

Rachel: Yes. As long as they're not gross.

Griffin: So inside-joke, or gross, yeah.

Rachel: Or— Yeah.

Griffin: Danny says, "My wonderful thing is closing out a browser tab or an app

that's been working in the background, and seeing my computer and/or phone noticeably speed up. I feel a weight lifted off my shoulders I didn't know was there, and my devices feel pretty much brand new."

Rachel: Oh, yes. I do this all the time with small son's iPad that he uses. He always has like 27 applications open.

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: I just go on through, and just swiping 'em out.

Griffin: Not because he's always kind of grinding between apps, but he just doesn't close 'em ever. And we never let his shit die; we *always* keep that shit charged.

Rachel: And he'll open something for like five seconds, and then move on.

Griffin: Right. And move right on. I agree with you, Danny. This is very powerful stuff.

Jess says, "As a fair gal, I started doing annual full-body dermatological checkups at 39. During the first appointment, my derm reminded me to wear sunscreen, and I said I wore it on my face every day. And she said, 'I can tell.'"

Rachel: Oh, so good.

Griffin: "It's in my top five experiences of getting approval from authority figures."

Rachel: Oh, man.

Griffin: "I can tell."

Rachel: Yeah. I mean, if you're gonna get that kind of compliment anywhere, that's exactly the person and the kind of compliment you'd want.

Griffin: From a skin doctor.

Rachel: Like, "I look at skin all day long, and it is my job to chastise people for not taking better care of my skin. And I recognize your talent and ability, and I want to acknowledge it."

Griffin: "Moist."

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you so much for listening to our program. Thank you to bo en and Augustus for the use of our theme song, "Money Won't Pay." You can find a link to that in the episode description. And thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. You can go to MaximumFun.org and check out all the great programming they've got popping off over there.

We've got – oh, gosh – just a bunch of new merch over in the merch store. There's new merch for the new logos for *Sawbones* and *Shmanners*. We got a "Stick with It, Big Boy" card designed by Maddy Vian. We got a McElroy Family Clubhouse pin. And ten percent of all of our merch proceeds this month will also be donated to Native Women Lead, which revolutionized systems and inspires innovation by investing in native women in business. Again, all of the merch that we have is over at McElroyMerch.com.

Rachel: Do you wanna— Now that I am a gamer streamer, I wanna tell people about the live *Besties* that's happening in October!

Griffin: Oh, yeah. Yeah, October 9th at the Town Hall in New York City.

Rachel: New York City!

Griffin: New York City!?

Rachel: "Well, it's just you guys don't go there a lot."

Griffin: Yeah.

Rachel: "You know, and this is..."

Griffin: Well, we've never done a live *Besties* ever.

Rachel: Well, for sure, yeah. But the McElroys in general don't tend to perform in New York.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, we've slowed our roll touring this year pretty dramatically. So if you've been champing at the bit to come see us...

Rachel: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: You can go see me and Juice and Russ and Chris. We're gonna talk about games, we've got all kinds of plans. It's gonna be a fun time. If you're a fan of *Besties*, and you should be, you can get tickets now at bit.ly/bestiesonbroadway. Also, the final *TAZ* graphic novel, *Story and Song*, is out now. You can get that at TheAdventureZoneComic.com. I think that's it.

Thank you so much for listening to our podcast, *Wonderful!* We'll be back with another episode next week, maybe back to form. Maybe not. I liked doing this a lot.

Rachel: Well, and it's summertime, right? People do fun, different stuff in the summer.

Griffin: Yes! Maybe the next episode can just be a sort of walkthrough of Barad-dûr. And we can show everyone our individual favorite parts of it.

Rachel: Do I need to be there, or are you just gonna...?

Griffin: You could be— You should be there. 'Cause you're more of a books gal than I am.

Rachel: Okay.

Griffin: So I think people will be wanting you to provide some literary context for what's happening.

Rachel: Okay. Influences that I see in your Lego model.

Griffin: Yeah. Like, why is Freebo's hair that way?

Rachel: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

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