

## Still Buffering 297: My Chemical Romance

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[theme music plays]

**Raleigh:** Hello, and welcome to *Still Buffering*: a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Y'all catch that groundhog?

**Raleigh:** I mean... with my hands?

**Taylor:** Catch it? I don't think you're supposed to catch it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Isn't that the purposes of Groundhog's Day? [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** To hold it? Like they toss it, and [crosstalk] catches it?

**Sydnee:** Every—everyone tries to—no, you—you don't have to catch that one. You just have to catch a...

**Raleigh:** Oh. A groundhog.

**Taylor:** If we all catch a groundhog, then winter goes away.

**Sydnee:** Hmm...

**Raleigh:** You know, I foolishly thought there was a groundhog that was, like, the one for Groundhog's Day.

**Sydnee:** Well, there is, like, the—the—I mean, there's the most famous.

**Rileigh:** Well, yeah, but then there are all the news stories about the one groundhog that, like, didn't make it to Groundhog's Day.

**Sydnee:** [laughing tearfully] I know!

**Rileigh:** But, like, it was—it didn't have the name of, like, the big guy, so it wasn't the big one. It was one in, like, New Jersey or something.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, the New Jersey groundhog gave up.

**Rileigh:** The New Jersey groundhog. [wheezes] Didn't make it until, like, the day before.

**Taylor:** I mean, if groundhogs are predicting the future, if they have some sort of clairvoyant property, what omen is it if the groundhog dies before Groundhog Day?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** What does that mean?

**Rileigh:** Yeah, I don't think a good one.

**Sydnee:** I was gonna say, Milltown Mel. That's who it was.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Aww, Mel!

**Sydnee:** Milltown Mel, may he—may he rest in peace, um, gave up the day before Groundhog's Day, which, I mean, I don't know. Like... I don't know how... I was about to say "I don't know how things could get worse," but that seems like a bad thing to say! [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Do you guys ever feel bad for the big groundhog?

**Sydnee:** Punxsutawney Phil.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, because you know it's not the same groundhog every year.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** You know it's not the same one every year. But they call it by the same name, so it's like that groundhog never really gets an identity. They're just, like, fulfilling a role. They don't get to be their own person.

**Sydnee:** It might be the same one for a year, for a couple years. How long do groundhogs live, traditionally?

**Rileigh:** Well, I don't know, Sydnee! But they've been doing this for, like, decades, and I know it's not been the same groundhog the whole time!

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] It's not the same one that drove the truck with Bill Murray. I know that.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I mean, none of us now a groundhog's lifespan, so maybe they're like—maybe they're like the big turtles that live for, like, hundreds of years. I don't know. You could tell me that's true and I—

**Rileigh:** That's kind of terrifying, actually.

**Taylor:** I wouldn't not believe it.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. As somebody who has a—[laughs] a biology degree, I don't know this. But I'm thinking they don't live that long. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** About three years.

**Sydnee:** Whoa. Less than I would've guessed!

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Raleigh:** Less than I would've guessed. That's less than a guinea pig—

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] So we've gone through a lot of Phils.

**Raleigh:** —and groundhogs are hardy. Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Oh, man! I didn't know it was that short!

**Raleigh:** So, the one that, um—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Here for a good time—

**Sydnee:** Milltown Mel?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** —[through laughter] not a long time!

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** That's what groundhogs say.

**Sydnee:** You know, they have to—this is the universe's way of balancing out. They have the power to predict the future, so they can't be with us too long. They could tell us too much.

**Raleigh:** Oh my God! They canceled all the Groundhog's Day festivities!

**Sydnee:** Aww.

**Raleigh:** For the entire city!

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah! Milltown Mel is gone!

**Raleigh:** Well, they could've gotten a different one!

**Taylor:** No!

**Rileigh:** Who's gonna know? [laughs] They do it every year with the big guy!

**Sydnee:** That's true. There is—that is—I have to say, there's a legitimate question. 'Cause, like, you know a bunch of stuff was planned and, like, money and time and resources used on this stuff. People were excited. There had to have been somebody in the room when they found the groundhog who was like, "[quietly] Why don't we just get another one real fast?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** well, apparently they tried to get another one.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Rileigh:** This says—this was from Milltown Mel's Facebook page. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Oh!

**Rileigh:** It says, "We wranglers are sad to report that Milltown Mel recently crossed over the rainbow bridge."

**Sydnee:** Aww!

**Rileigh:** "Considering the average lifespan of a groundhog is about three years, that is not such a shock, but Mel left us at a tough time of year, when most of his fellow groundhogs are hibernating, so no babies will be available to replace him until this spring. We tried everywhere to get a stand-in, but to no avail."

**Sydnee:** Aww!

**Rileigh:** So...

**Sydnee:** Aww!

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It said "We'll work on—we'll work hard on getting a new weather prognosticator for the next year. Until then, please check out what all of Mel's cousins have to say on February 2nd."

So, you know, all the other ones across the country.

**Sydnee:** What a bummer!

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Taylor:** That sounds like a good basis for, like, a—like, an animated movie, though. Like, you know? "Oh no!" And then, like, winter doesn't end because—because the groundhog passed on before it could predict the end of it, so a brave young groundhog [through laughter] has to come to the surface to make winter end.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** This is—this would be a great anime. I agree with you. I can see this. It is a wonderful anime to film. But if it's gonna start off...

**Raleigh:** With a groundhog death.

**Sydnee:** ... with a death...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** ... it's gotta be Pixar, right? Like, it's gonna be a Pixar movie.

**Taylor:** I don't know, Disney's killed off a lot of parents.

**Raleigh:** Guys...

**Sydnee:** That's true. Oh—[laughs] if it's the parent of the ground—no, that's too sad!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Guys, last year—last year—

**Taylor:** It's like *Bambi*, but for groundhogs.

**Sydnee:** That's the pitch.

**Raleigh:** Last year, Milltown Mel had to spend Groundhog Day in quarantine, but he did take a quick peek outside and predicted an early spring last year.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** He spent last year in quarantine! He's a groundhog.

**Taylor:** Grou—can groundhogs—

**Raleigh:** Can groundhogs get COVID? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uhh... may—may—maybe? Maybe?

**Raleigh:** Did we have to lose him because we let him out too soon and he—he was exposed?

**Sydnee:** I don't know. I mean, they can car—there are, of course, many coronaviruses that animals can carry. I mean...

**Taylor:** I mean... well, I mean, I guess if it's a predictor for the next year and old Mel got COVID, and that's why he passed, that's a pretty... pretty one-to-one prediction there.

**Raleigh:** That's not a good sign, yeah.

**Sydnee:** I don't think... I don't know. I mean... I don't—I don't know which strains of COVID—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —infect groundhogs if, in fact, they do. I mean, it's reasonable to guess they may.

**Rileigh:** Well, but you only need to one guy to hold up to groundhog. 'Cause, you know, they do the whole thing where, like, they hold it over their head—

**Sydnee:** yeah.

**Rileigh:** —[crosstalk] think is funny 'cause it looks like *The Lion King* but it's a groundhog. Um, like, you just need the one guy. So, like...

**Sydnee:** Well, was he really in quarantine, or is that just fanciful?

**Rileigh:** Well, I don't know, Sydnee!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** We're talking about a groundhog celebration that we, as a country, have recognized every year. So how fanciful does it have to be?

**Taylor:** Is this something that they told children as to why they couldn't gather and why they just—you read it and you believed it.

**Rileigh:** It was in a news article.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** What does that mean?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] It was in a news article!

**Rileigh:** It was from Milltown Mel's Facebook page!

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It was on Facebook!

**Taylor:** Yeah, I don't—I don't trust old people or old groundhogs on Facebook with the truth.



**Raleigh:** I gotta say, I was just scrolling through the article to get to the end, 'cause I was trying to see how old Milltown Mel was. Uh, and there are a few quotes in there from someone labeled as a funeral director, and I didn't read into detail, but I'm gonna assume that means they had a groundhog funeral, right?

**Sydnee:** Aww...

**Raleigh:** Right? [laughs]

**Taylor:** This is just getting, like, more... more depressing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** Uh, uh, Tey, did you—by the way, we were talking about animals getting coronavirus. Did you read the article about how they're finding a bunch of, um, different variants of COVID in the waste water in New York, and they're not finding them in humans, so they don't know what the source of these COVID strains are? [laughs quietly] I read this article and I was just becoming more and more upset!

**Raleigh:** Taylor's face... why did you tell them that? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, their theory is that it's the rats, but they haven't been able to prove it.

**Taylor:** [groans]

**Sydnee:** 'Cause they—they keep catching rats and testing them, and they've never found these specific—this, you know, combination, these mutations in the rats. [holding back laughter] But there's something that's carrying them in the wastewater! I was reading this article going "[distressed] Oh, no!" It's like the beginning of, like, a Spider-Man villain.

**Taylor:** Or something, I don't know. It's... a different—different creature that's living in the underground. [laughs quietly] That apparently is having a hard time with COVID!

**Sydnee:** I don't know. I was reading this article, and then they were talking about all the rats in New York, and I just—I was like—I started to tell Justin, and then I was like, "I can't tell Justin about this."

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** He'll never sleep again.

**Raleigh:** No. How does Justin feel about groundhogs?

**Sydnee:** He doesn't like any—anything that's rodent-like.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah, but they're so big. I didn't know if—

**Taylor:** What about a capybara?

**Raleigh:** —he could accept that. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** He does like—actually, the bigger they are in that sort of family of—or whatever—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Whatever word. Kingdom, phylum, genus, species, family, I don't know. Wherever we're talking about. [laughs] Genera. Uh, he does like the bigger ones. 'Cause he actually said that rats scare him less than mice, because mice are smaller, and so mice freak him out more than rats.

**Taylor:** So—so rodents of unusual size. Great.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** He's fine with those. He would love those.

**Raleigh:** A capybara. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** He wants one.

**Taylor:** Yes.

[all laugh]

**Taylor:** Everybody wants a capybara.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um... so he's fine with my big chubby guinea pig, not with the tiny, tiny weird one.

**Sydnee:** Well, he says that, but at the—remember that—what was that one little thing you used to have in your room?

**Raleigh:** The hamster. It was a hamster.

**Sydnee:** Ohh.

**Raleigh:** I mean, literally was, like, two or three inches big. I mean, it was so tiny.

**Sydnee:** He was terrified of that hamster.

**Raleigh:** I was too, to be fair.

**Sydnee:** Well, it tried to bite me once.

**Raleigh:** It bit me, and then bit dad. Um, so... yeah. Yeah, one of those tiny guys.

**Sydnee:** I say that, but one time in an apartment we lived in, there was a raccoon that used to hang out on our fire escape all the time, and when that raccoon was out there, Justin would freak out, so I don't know.

**Taylor:** Really?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Aw, raccoon are the best.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** He'd look out there and go, "Oh, God! Oh, God! It's back!"

[all laugh]

**Sydnee:** I'd go, "Hi!"

**Raleigh:** Have you guys seen there's a big capybara in *Encanto*? It's, like, on all the posters and in, like, a lot of the scenes.

**Sydnee:** I don't think I noticed.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It's very cute, 'cause they just look like big guinea pigs. Anyways, we're not talking about rodents.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** We're talking about romance!

**Raleigh:** Romance!

**Taylor:** Chemical romance!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Whose chemical romance?

**Taylor:** *My* chemical romance.

**Raleigh:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Oh, there we go!

**Taylor:** All of our chemical romance. It's a socialist chemical romance.

**Sydnee:** That was expert level transitioning.

**Raleigh:** Yes. It was a team effort.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Uh, yes. This week, I brought My Chemical Romance to the table. It's a band formed in the early 2000's. It broke up, but then recently has gotten back together and has performed again, live shows, so.

**Sydnee:** Okay, so this tour isn't the first time they've got—I didn't—I actually didn't know that part. I knew they broke up back in, like, 2013 or something, but...

**Taylor:** Yeah, they got back together in—I think their first show out was 2019, and then obviously a lot of the 'em got canceled, and now they're back playing live again. This—this was, of course, partially inspired by that When We Were Young show that's happening soon-ish. A couple months.

Uh, which I don't... I felt kind of funny about it, 'cause the name When We Were Young... My Chemical Romance—it was in the time span of, like, for me to listen to it, but I felt a little too old for it, you know? Like, I was in high school transitioning to college when they were kind of making it big, so I was, I think, a little bit—I was a little too pretentious with my music by then to enjoy something like this. It was kind of after the fact that I got back into it.

But that all of these people that are younger than me are like, "Oh, the When We Were Young Tour! I remember what it was like to listen to those bands." I'm like, "You're—you're still young! What? Am I old?" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I know. I feel that way a lot, because I've seen—as much as, like, 90's fashion was having a moment, I feel like we've moved into some more

2000's kind of stuff that people at least are making TikToks about. And they're talking about, like, "Can you believe this was like this so long ago?"

And I'm looking at it thinking, when these trends were popular, I felt too old for them.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** So now I don't know what to do with that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, I didn't know. This one kind of surprised me just because, Tey, I didn't know you were that into My Chemical Romance. Usually I know the stuff that you're really into, and this one I didn't realize.

**Taylor:** Well, I mean, I think that this was—because, let's see, their first... their first album came out in 2002. But then, like, the... the big album that I think everyone knew was 2004. So this would've been around, like, when I was graduating. I think it was more like college that this was a band that was relevant for me.

**Sydnee:** Sure, yeah, that makes sense.

**Raleigh:** Which does make sort for me, because I always had a vague awareness of them as a band, and that's usually not the case with some of the other music you all listened to growing up, because it was before anyone I would've known—like, most of their older siblings would've been, like, listening to music. But this was always one of those ones that, like, as I got into, like, middle school, there are a few people that were like, "Look at this cool band I discovered," and it was My Chemical Romance.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And it was like, I mean, you know, probably five or six years after those big albums had come out, but not as far behind, you know, me as some of the other music you all listen to, so.

**Sydnee:** Well, and I didn't realize how many songs, as I was listening to it, I knew. And then somehow had no—like, if you had asked me, like, uh, "The Black Parade," if you had asked me who does that song, it occurs to me, I would have said "I have no idea." I mean, I really—and I know that song. I've heard it, I mean, dozens of times. Know it well. I—how do I not know that's who did—I don't know why—I don't know why this band I missed the existence of, but their music I absolutely did not. It's really weird.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** I think—and you all can make fun of me for this, that's okay. I have accepted it. For some reason—

**Taylor:** Wha—

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** —in my head, I have conflated—I—what?

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** No, it—

**Sydnee:** You've accepted that we make fun of you?

**Rileigh:** No, that you all might make fun of me for this.

**Sydnee:** Oh, okay. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I've accepted that.

**Taylor:** I just—just to clarify—

**Rileigh:** 'Cause I laughed at myself for it.

**Taylor:** —I think in the range of who gets made fun of the most on this show, it's probably Sydnee first, then me, *then* you. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's fair, that's fair.

**Raleigh:** Sure, yeah. But if I was making fun of myself for this as I was realizing it, 'cause it makes me sound like I have no idea what I was talking about. I think in my head I conflate Paramour, My Chemical Romance, and Panic! at the Disco. Like, there's a collection of songs from those bands that I know one of 'em did it.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I couldn't tell—I couldn't—it'd be a guess to tell you which one. 'Cause, I mean, they're all very similar, and I guess in my head they all were slightly before, like, the era of music that I was watching, like, be made. So I know they're all slightly before me, and they all have a similar feel. So I just kind of mix 'em all together.

**Taylor:** I don't think that's wrong. I mean, I think that that's—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** —they're—I—I know all these bands, so I could tell you, like, "[sarcastically] Well, like, oh, well, you know, Paramour has a—a female lead vocalist," or whatever.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** There are differences. But sound-wise, they were all... especially, like, all of their first albums were definitely similar-sounding. They were that, like, early 2000's... emo before emo—I mean, emo was still a word that we didn't wanna use, but, like, kind of before emo became such a dirty word that bands actively tried to sound differently to not be associated with it.



**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, and I mean, I think that's fair. What happened—what I realize about a lot of these bands is that in high school, not because I was in high school but because of what years those were, the way you got music was to go buy it. Like, it would come on MTV or the radio but, like, if you wanted it, you went to a—you went to your local Sam Goody. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [muffled laughter]

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** You know. I mean, you went to the mall, for us, and you bought the CD you wanted, at the time. Like, this was past tape. Records were not quite the, like, cool retro thing yet.

**Raleigh:** They hadn't come back yet.

**Sydnee:** They—like, they were still in existence but they hadn't, like, rushed back yet. So it was like—it was very much I went and I bought the CD I wanted. So, like, that's limiting in a sense because if I only knew one song by a band, I wasn't gonna go buy their whole CD. 'Cause that was money. Um, but when I got to college was right when Napster became a thing.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And so the—it was! And that was, like, the moment where all the sudden we could go find songs? And they became very disconnected from the album they were on, or even sometimes the band. Like, I would listen to a song and have, like, the wrong band listed as who played it, because it was just some weird stolen file that was passed all over the internet or whatever. Don't do that, kids. Don't steal music. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** See, I—I—man. I was right in that weird in between time where, like, they figured out that people were stealing music and it became harder to do that, but also you could pay for it online. Like, you could download

songs on, like, the Apple store, iTunes store, whatever. But for the most part it was buying CDs.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well—

**Raleigh:** I was in such a weird in between place. But also, like, YouTube was kind of a thing, but they didn't really have music on there a lot. That wasn't a thing people were using it for.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that totally missed me. I'm still not caught up on YouTube.

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** And I think in that realm something that helped get My Chemical Romance off the ground is they were one of those MySpace bands, Syd.

**Raleigh:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Ohh!

**Taylor:** Yeah. That's how—I mean, there were a lot of artists that got their start. I mean, they had a MySpace page. You could listen to their songs on their MySpace. So, they were one of the early ones to really capitalize on that and grow a big following on MySpace. Uh, which when you think of, like—even, like, scene fashion. Like, you know what I mean when I say scene fashion, right?

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** Like, that kind of evolved from that sort of MySpace era. Uh, like, you could see the roots in, like, those bands that—that got their launch from the MySpace platform.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Man, that makes sense.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I can definitely see that.

**Rileigh:** You know, you say MySpace, but My Chemical Romance was also one of those bands that when I, like—Tumblr became a big thing and then people realized you could, like, edit the code in your Tumblr page to, like, make it look different and add pictures. Then there was a feature where you could add sound, so music was playing when people get to, like, your dashboard on Tumblr, and there was a little music player at the bottom.

And My Chemical Romance was always one of those bands that, like, if I'd go to, like, the popular Tumblr blogs or whatever with all, like, the girls that had the perfect aesthetics that I wanted to copy, it was always My Chemical Romance that was playing whenever I go to visit their Tumblr pages. [laughs]

**Taylor:** The aesthetics.

**Rileigh:** 'Cause it kind of, like, made a weird entry into, like—I don't wanna say, like, weird entry into mainstream, but it also crossed over into, like, a demographic of listeners that was definitely not a part of, like, that scene... you know, scene. [laughs]

**Taylor:** No, it's true. I mean, I—I mean, it was mainstream. Like, early 2000's was when this style—and, I mean, I do think this is—okay, I'm gonna ask this, uh, to both of you. What would you call the genre of music that My Chemical Romance is?

**Sydnee:** I mean, looking—I know that at the time... the fans of My Chemical Romance and certainly probably the band itself wouldn't have liked this, but listening to it I would say this is emo.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Like, from my concept of what was emo back in the day, that would've... it was emo.

**Rileigh:** I guess I would say more punk, but like a pop—a more pop punk. Like, you know what I mean?

**Taylor:** Well, that's—I was curious, because, you know, I—I thought of this not too long ago. I went to an emo—an emo-themed drag night. And, I mean, having, like—I don't know, like, a bit more of, like, a... going kind of deep into, like, my pretentious music. No longer there, but definitely spent, like, my 20's having strong opinions about [laughs] what music was legitimate.

Like, emo means something really different to me. Like, that term comes from a certain time, and then sort of was... like, a lot of these bands that I would qualify as, like, pop punk or just pop music with, like, some alt rock aspects, was called emo. But, like, I kind of did a deep dive before this. Like, where does that term specifically come from? And it's interesting to see how that sort of progressed. That idea of, like, what is emo? Because the root for that is emotional hardcore.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Taylor:** So it was like a thing that spun off from, like, the mid-80's, like, hardcore scene. Uh, it's usually—like, the first band to be called this was, like, Rites of Spring in, like, Washington DC. But more to our period, Syd, like, Weezer, early Jimmy Eat World, like, Jawbreaker. These were sort of—Sunnydale Real Estate, Dashboard Confessional—these were, like, emo in, like the 90's. And, like, that aesthetic, which was purposely, like, not an aesthetic, right? Like, "Oh, I just bought this thrifted shirt. Like, it doesn't mean anything. Like, my hair is messed up. My shoes are dirty."

But it was all very, like, planned.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** And I think when you really—and then you look at, like, how it kind of progressed from there into, like, the early 2000's with, like, My Chemical

Romance and, like, Taking Back Sunday and, like, Hawthorn Heights where you kind of get into that, like, Hot Topic aesthetic.

**Sydnee:** That's exa—yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. It's not any less prescribed than we were with our skinny jeans and our hoodies and our ironic t-shirts and our messy hair versus this, like, you know, the black hair with the stripes and the studded belt. It's all just as much a style, but it's interested to see that, like—it follows the progression of emo, and it still has the same elements. But from the beginning to the end, no one wanted to be called emo. [through laughter] All of these bands were like, "No, we're not that!"

**Raleigh:** Interesting.

**Sydnee:** Well, it—I think that it really does—you're hitting on something that I thought about. Like, why did I not listen to this? And it was about, like, for so long it was so uncool to care about literally anything. And I wouldn't say that's true today. I don't think that's true anymore. But, like, that was—and the way that you showed you didn't care evolved, but you had to constantly be showing you didn't care. And so once it became obvious you did care, it was like, "Ugh. Oh."

And that—and, I mean, to me, like when you say the Hot Topic aesthetic, that's the first thing I think is, like, "Oh, people who care too much." And I have to fight that, because that's still—that's who I was as a teenager was like, "I don't wanna look like somebody who cares too much."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And it's still like I have to fight that sort of, you know, impulse. Like, 'cause it's not bad to care. It's not bad to care what you look like. It's—you know, I don't feel that—I don't want, you know, people to think I feel that way. But, like, that was who I was as a teenager.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Well, but I do think that that—I mean, same. Like, that was my initial—like, I definitely listened to a lot of My Chem in college but I could not, like—that was headphones on, like, in my dorm room alone when no one could judge me for it. Because they absolutely cared.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** You couldn't—I mean, their music was very dramatic and, like, you know, it wasn't trying to like, "Oh, we're just cool." Like, no, we're screaming, and we're also singing about, like, vampires and, like, Bonnie and Clyde. And, like, you know, we're not taking ourselves too seriously. And there's costuming, and there's makeup, and there's a whole aesthetic. Like, all of that stuff was very—

**Sydnee:** It's very intentional.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Which was not okay at the time, you know? Like, "I just... wandered into this studio and I picked up this guitar, and I didn't write this, I don't, you know, give a crap. I'm just gonna sing." Like, that was what you wanted to sound like or look like. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um, I wanna talk about more—I think that's really interesting. I wanna talk about more of that. But before we do that...

**Raleigh:** Let's check the group message.

So, I have—I have something I want to tell you about first.

**Sydnee:** Okay?

**Raleigh:** And that's a snack I've been loving, and that's Magic Spoon. So I— Magic Spoon is cereal, first of all, and I'm usually not a big cereal person. Don't tell Justin. But it's just never been—like, I'm not a breakfast person. Usually I associate that with breakfast. But because of Magic Spoon that has zero grams of sugar, 13 to 14 grams of protein in every serving, I've been having it as a great little pre/post workout snack, and it's great. It's

delightful. It tastes great. Um, it's good for you. It's keto-friendly, gluten-free, grain-free, soy-free, uh, and they have lots of tasty flavors.

My personal favorite is the fruity. It tastes like one of the other maybe more well-known fruit circle shaped cereals.

**Sydnee:** And I will tell you that even if you were a big cereal fan, like Justin, Justin enjoys Magic Spoon as well, so...

**Raleigh:** So, yes.

**Sydnee:** If you consider yourself an aficionado...

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Sydnee:** ... this will also please your palate.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, and our dad also is a big cereal—cereal-eater. He loves Magic Spoon. Um, they have four great flavors in cocoa, fruity, frosted, and peanut butter. Uh, like I said, my favorite's the fruity. I know our dad likes the cocoa.

**Sydnee:** Justin likes to mix the cocoa and peanut butter.

**Raleigh:** Mmm, like a little peanut butter cup.

**Sydnee:** Yep.

**Raleigh:** Mmm, delicious. But they're all great. Uh, and all four come in the variety pack, so I highly recommend Magic Spoon for cereal lovers and apprehensive cereal-eaters of the past, like myself. Um, definitely a great breakfast and a great snack.

So, Tey, if our listeners want to check out Magic Spoon, what should they do?

**Taylor:** Well, they should go to [magicspoon.com/buffering](https://magicspoon.com/buffering) to grab a variety pack and try it today. And be sure to use our promo code "buffering" at checkout to save \$5 off your order. And Magic Spoon is so confident in their

product, it's backed with a 100% happiness guarantee. So if you don't like it for any reason, they'll refund your money no questions asked. Remember: get your next delicious bowl of cereal at [magicspoon.com/buffering](https://magicspoon.com/buffering), and use the code "buffering" to save \$5 off.

**Sydnee:** So, I know we're all busy, especially the new year comes around. We're all, you know, trying to get motivated, trying to get more work done, and this leads to really busy days for all of us where we have a lot of tasks we're balancing, trying to get everything together. And sometimes your—your meals, your dinners, your lunches, whatever, they slip through the cracks.

**Raleigh:** I know mine do.

**Sydnee:** And you think, "Oh my gosh. I don't have time to cook! What am I gonna do? What am I gonna do?"

And that's where DoorDash can take care of you. That's one less thing to worry about, because all you have to do is open the DoorDash app. You pick your favorite local place, restaurant—we do it for all meals. We do it for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Um, it's a great way to support local businesses, local restaurants.

Um, if you're not going on to eat right now, you can have that same yummy food delivered right to your door, contactless delivery. They drop it safely right outside. Um, you can wait until you got a safe distance, open your door, yell a thank you. That's been Charlie and Cooper's favorite thing to do throughout the pandemic is yell "Thank you" [laughs] to our lovely DoorDash delivery drivers, and make sure and tip them well for this wonderful service that they help provide.

Um, and you can, uh—you can even get, like, little—if you think of things from convenience stores and stuff that you might need, DoorDash can help you out there, too.

Um, I can't recommend it enough. It's been a lifesaver for us so many times when we just can't, won't, don't want to cook, or we really want something yummy and we, you know, can't go out and get it. DoorDash has got you



covered. So, Teylor, if our listeners want to check out DoorDash, what should they do?

**Teylor:** Well, right now our listeners can get \$5 off their first order of \$15 or more and zero delivery fees for their first month when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "buffering." That's \$5 off your first order and zero delivery fees for a month when you download the DoorDash app in the app store and enter code "buffering." Don't forget! That's code "buffering" for \$5 off your first order with DoorDash.

**Raleigh:** So, I was thinking about this while we were talking about the group message and while we were talking about this earlier. Um, I think that maybe part of the reason why people—I don't wanna say rediscovered My Chemical Romance but, like, it's somewhat made a resurgence—um, is because people have finally accepted that it's okay to care about things.

**Teylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Because I also definitely was in a different era of not caring about things that was more so, like, the Tumblr girl aesthetic of, like, not being like other girls. And, you know, not wearing a lot of makeup and, you know, wearing, like... I don't know. "I'm so quirky, I wear sweatpants to school and I wear my hair in a messy bun."

**Sydnee:** Uh-oh. You know what that sounds like to me?

**Raleigh:** What?

**Sydnee:** A pick-me girl.

**Raleigh:** A pick-me girl. Yeah. Like, that was what I—that's the era that I was a part of not caring, and I think finally we've made another loop back around to being like, "No, it's okay to care." Like all the girls that now have accepted, like, I am exactly like other girls and I love it. Like, I am so basic. I love my Starbucks and my Taylor Swift and wearing, you know, leggings and all that. Like, I'm exactly like everyone else and I love it. So, I mean, we've made another little loop back around. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Well, I think—I mean, I think it's the same thing. Like, when I was young, I—I never—I genuinely did not care what I wore a lot of the time. I genuinely wore what was comfortable most of the time. Um, so I don't feel like that was, like, fake. But I also have come to terms with the fact, that doesn't matter. [laughs quietly] Nobody cares. Like, it's fine if you want to wear a Jimmy Buffett t-shirt and b—[wheezes] and, like, bell bottom jeans, which is literally what I used to wear.

Like, those—or not bell bottom but, like, the big... jeans on the bottom that would, like, hang and get torn and dirty. You know what I'm talking about? Jeans that drag the ground. But they weren't like the skater jeans that were large all the way—I don't even know what these were. But I wore that and a Jimmy Buffett t-shirt to school.

**Raleigh:** It sounds like they just didn't fit you right.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It sounds like they were too long for you.

**Taylor:** I think that's what it was.

**Sydnee:** But everybody wore 'em! Tey, you know what I'm talking about! 'Cause, like, you would—

**Taylor:** No, I didn't wear my jeans like that. I wore skinny jeans.

**Sydnee:** That came next. And, I mean, I got there. Like, by college I was in, like, the skinny jeans with my Chucks and my adorable quirky t-shirts. Like, I went there. [laughs quietly] But the point is, none of that makes you, like, better or worse than anybody else.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** It's just like, that's fine. I mean, that's the point. [laughs]

**Taylor:** And I think it's that—I don't know. I mean, that ability to—I don't feel like it comes from any different of a place internally to engage with your

music taste as it is to engage with your fashion sense. Like, that separation that used to exist of like, to be taken seriously, like, you know, you could have opinions about music, and you need to listen to it, like, listen to the B-sides and everything.

But if you, like, dressed and you looked to purposely punk or whatever, then you were called a poser. It's like, but, like, they're all—it comes from the same place. Like, I care about the music I listen to and I care about the clothes I wear and, like, it's all part of you expressing yourself. That used to be kind of separate things.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, I read, as I was listening to My Chemical Romance, uh, I was reading about it and I found this things. Apparently they covered one of the songs on Glee?

**Taylor:** Or Glee let them—

**Sydnee:** Have you read about this?

**Taylor:** —cover one of their songs, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. G—Glee did a My Chemical Romance song.

**Taylor:** Yeah, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Uh, they did "Sing."

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Do you—do you remember this?

**Raleigh:** I have seen every episode of Glee at least, like, a dozen times, so I must. Hold on, hold on.

**Sydnee:** And it, like, really upset Glenn Beck? [pause] I was rea—I—I was listening to the—I was reading this story about, like, Glenn Beck got really

upset because this song, "Sing," that My Chemical Romance did, was on Glee, which made it even more mainstream, right? You get to a whole new audience and younger kids or whatever. Like, we're—this music is accessible now. And for whatever reason, Glenn Beck felt like it was this awful, like, call to arms anthem for young punks or some—I don't even know what the problem with it was.

**Taylor:** It's—it's wild that this happened, but, like, that's not—there was a lot of, like, media frenzy around, like, this concern that, like, My Chemical Romance was the front to a cult that, you know, kids were giving into, like, this emo cult where they're going to, like, you know, think about, like, harming themselves and—and worshipping the devil or whatever.

There was a lot of that kind of stuff that is sort of funny when you're coming from the very opposite side where it's like, My Chemical Romance wasn't hard enough for a lot of us. It's like, oh, you know, like, that's not... that's, like, fun pop music. It's not—it's not dangerous. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No! And if you look at the lyrics of the song—'cause that's what I was like—okay. I was listening to it and I was like, "I have to actually, like, look at these lyrics. I have to know what was so upsetting."

It is, like—there is nothing! I was trying to figure out, like, what was Glenn Beck mad about? They're sort of saying, like, we—you need to, like, stop giving up about things and not—you know, you need to care about things and speak out about things and do something.

Like, it's a motivational song. It's inspirational. It's like, sing for the other people. Like, you know, inspire others. Like, be somebody. Like, it's all good stuff. It's like, don't just give into that, like, ennui of the 90's of I, "[sarcastically] Whatever. We don't care anymore." Like...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rleigh:** Well, they sang—on Glee, they sang this song as part of Anthem Week. That was their assignment for the week. And I'm reading the description of this episode, now I remember it very clearly. And this is another one of those that sounds fake. Glee, so many plots sound just fake.

Um, in Original Song, Sue forbids New Directions from performing "Sing" at regionals, claiming that her former lover, who she claimed to be the drummer of My Chemical Romance, refused to give them the rights to perform the song.

That is how [laughs] My Chemical Romance fits in the Glee canon.

**Taylor:** I love that.

**Rleigh:** So... but yeah, I do remember that, and I would—I could—I would not have told you that was a My Chemical Romance song if it wouldn't have been for that story line.

**Sydney:** It's a really lovely song, and it's very, like... I know that, like, if you look at some of, like... you know—I don't know. You said costuming and it really does look like costuming, like, the stuff that they wore. I wouldn't say, like, outfits. I would say, like, it does look very intentional, like these are choices that everyone is being—that they're making.

If you look at the costuming and the hair and the makeup, you don't expect what's coming out of them is this, like, pick yourself up and, like, do something big and don't be afraid and speak out. And, like, that is not what you think is a—but that's, like, kind of what the song is. It's like a—it's very moving.

**Taylor:** Well, and I think—you know, that, like, the—the sort of, uh, to add more to that, there were other prominent, like, rock bands of the time that had specifically not allowed their songs to be covered on Glee. Because that would undermine their authenticity, you know? And, like, My Chemical Romance is like "Yeah, okay, sure." Like—which I think goes back to that idea of, like, you know, it's not—it's not about, like, not taking yourself seriously, but it also kind of is? 'Cause I think it also—it's important to note

that, like, Gerard Way, the founder of My Chemical Romance, he went to my alma mater. He was an SVA kid. He was a cartoonist.

**Sydnee:** Oh!

**Raleigh:** Oh! I didn't know that.

**Taylor:** He actually worked—he interned at Cartoon Network before he decided to start the band. There's actually kind of a wild story. I mean, he was—he was working in the city when September 11th happened, and he—this was the thing that inspired him. Like, I don't—I wanna get that out there and do stuff now. Like, I wanna be making things now. And that gave him the impetus to start the band.

But, like, that element of, like, kind of creating characters, sort of fantasy, like, the, uh... sort of the story line. that runs through a lot of these albums, or even in the songs, has that sort of comic book, like, fantasy element that is so the opposite of, like, "I'm trying to be super serious real world."

Like, and when you look at the roots of, like, emotional hardcore, the big thing that it stood out for is it was talking about your personal life and things that matter on a personal level. And it's kind of taking that vulnerability but... but, like, creating fantasy out of it, which is really fun.

Like, there's that—you can't take that away. I mean, *The Black Parade*, the album, when they debuted that album they literally announced at the show, like, My Chemical Romance isn't gonna play tonight. They're gonna be replaced by this band called The Black Parade, and everybody got mad. And then they came out on stage, and it was My Chemical Romance, but they were wearing those—you know those marching band outfits? And they all had adopted different personas.

Like, there's a performance. I feel like it's almost more like glam rock, which is something that Gerard Way referenced a lot. Like, you know, Ziggy Stardust. Like, it's a David Bowie thing, and I think that's really cool. Like, it's creating a narrative, creating characters, creating a mythology, you know?

**Raleigh:** I love the campiness of that.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** I didn't know that.

**Taylor:** Totes!

**Sydnee:** Well, and I think that we finally recognize that, right? Like, that all these—throughout the decades, all these bands that people thought were so cool, and part of that being like, they're just, like, doing their thing and they don't care what you think and they don't need your approval. Like, well... okay. But they also are, like, performing. It's a show. It is.

And when you talk about, like, glam rock, like, everything is intentional. It is costuming. It is hair and makeup. Like, if you look at, like, all the hair bands! Like, you think they weren't taking a ton of time to get ready for those shows? I mean, all of that stuff.

And even when you move into the—the grunge era of don't care. Like, you think—you think Nirvana wasn't making choices? I mean, everybody makes choices, and that's what makes a good show. That's what makes it fun to watch, and why you watch their videos and go see their shows and stuff like that, and it's the same thing as theater. It's just that's cool, and apparently theater isn't as cool.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] I do—I think—I think it requires a very specific type of courage. And really when we talk about, like, a punk rock attitude, to really not care, I think it's actually—it's not about not caring. It's about not caring how people perceive how much you care, how much you love the thing you love.

Like, that to me reads more true. Because, you know, that... like, I'm gonna do the thing that I'm passionate about, that I think is cool, that I think is fun. And putting your passion and, you know, your choices on display like that, that's a lot scarier than saying, "I don't know, whatever. Like, I just wrote this. I just play—who cares. Like, I don't care."

Like, when you're like, no, clearly I care. I have designed a character and an outfit and I have written, like, an album that has a whole theme and a story to it. Clearly I care.

I think it's funny. You know, we talked about Green Day and, like, the later Green Day albums like *American Idiot* and *21st Century Breakdown* that are kind of operas. They're rock operas. That intention that lost Green Day a lot of fans but also gained them way more new ones I think comes from the same place as My Chemical Romance evolved.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I thought that as well. As we were talking about it, I was thinking it reminds me a lot of Green Day. 'Cause, like, if you had told me when we were, like, sitting in our friends basement listening to Green Day...

**Taylor:** *Dookie*? [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Back in—yeah, listening to *Dookie* back in the 90's. If you had told me, like, this—these performers are going to do, like—they're gonna be making choices in the future to put on these very intentional, like, stage shows with this artistry and, like, all this stuff, I would've been like, "Are you kidding me?" These are a bunch of, like, cool guys in a garage. Like, you know? I mean, it never—but that definitely is what it is.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And I enjoy that. And most of us do. Like, if you just get over yourself, most of us do like that.

**Taylor:** It's nice to consume something that you think somebody really put a lot of thought and work into. Like, I think it's... you know. I don't know. And I guess that wasn't—that wasn't cool, but I'm happy that we're moving into a period where people can appreciate this stuff. I mean, I think it's cool that they're back and playing again and, I mean, you know, Green Day was on Broadway. That's great. [wheeze-laughs]



**Rileigh:** Yeah. That's how I knew what Green Day was.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It was because they had a musical.

**Taylor:** So the My Chemical Romance musical is clearly the next step.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, when's that gonna happen?

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

**Sydnee:** It could. I mean, they could move in that direction. Like, the same—you know? The music has the same... fell. They definitely could. Uh, and then Gerard Way did *The Umbrella Academy*, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah. Yeah. Uh, that was... um, he... he wrote and illustrated it. Then they—I think they went back and had somebody else redraw the original ones, but yeah. I mean, he's continued to work in comics. He's done some—some stints and stuff. And, like, some of his—his younger brother, Mikey Way, is also in the band. I think he just had something come out.

But they've always, like, kept a hand in comics. Actually, my junior portfolio review at SVA, Gerard Way showed up because he was—he was good buddies with one of my teachers, Joey Cavaleri. Uh, the same dude that got me my DC internship got Gerard Way his Cartoon Network internship [laughs] so.

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's cool.

**Rileigh:** Wow, that's crazy.

**Taylor:** I am one degree [through laughter] of separation from Gerard Way.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But—but I remember he showed up at the review just to kind of walk around and look at people's stuff. And there was such a mix of like, "Oh,

that's so cool." And then, like, you know, seeing your cartooning students are like, "Oh, whatever. Oh, he's in My Chemical Romance. Who cares?"

Like, are you kidding? He—hey. We're—we're in a room full of people that haven't done the thing that we wanna do, and he did the thing that he wanted to do. That alone sets him apart from us, so maybe have some respect.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Well, it really—it really is, uh, hopeful to me looking to the future that, like, I feel like the younger generations... it is not uncool to care about stuff and let people know you care about stuff.

In fact, if you are completely detached and don't care about anything, it's more concerning. Like, aren't you paying attention? Are you awake? You should be caring about stuff because, you know, there's—because there's a lot of stuff, changes and things that need to happen, and that starts with you actually paying attention and caring about stuff.

**Raleigh:** And that's people younger than me. That's not even, like, my mini generation in between, like, the actual Gen Zs and the millennials. That's, like, all the current teens. I don't know what happened to my...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** ... tiny generation. We're just trying to get through. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Well, I think that's—I think a lot of us feel that way, too.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Yeah.

**Sydnee:** We're just trying to get through.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** But I definitely agree with that. I think that we definitely have moved to you should care about stuff.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** If you don't like anything, what are you... what's going on?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And I think we've all embraced, um, like, cheesiness a little bit more.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I think that as a society we're a little more open to that. I think—maybe 'cause we're all about to cry all the time now. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I think so.

**Taylor:** Yeah. If you can find joy somewhere, like, wha—why? Why would you hold yourself back? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Look at the world.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I love cheese. I love camp. I love things that are...

**Raleigh:** I also love cheese.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I—I—and I don't love it ironically. I just... love it.

**Taylor:** The—the ability to not only, like, take the thing that you wanna do seriously, but also the people that laugh at it or think it's bogus or whatever, to not take them too seriously. Like, that's—that was—'cause, you know, you think of, like, those—you know, the—the—trying so hard to not be a poser it's like you kind of... any, like, joy was so sucked out of that. It was just like

trying to be as legitimate and as serious as possible. And, like, that's just—that's not a very fun way to make art, or even, like, consume art. Like...

**Sydnee:** No. I remember those days of standing in Hot Topic and staring at the t-shirt wall with all the bands, with all the different t-shirt bands, and thinking, like, "Now, I love that band and I own all their CDs, but I've never seen them play live, so I don't know if I can get that t-shirt, because then what if somebody asks me, 'Have you ever seen 'em live?' And then I'll say 'No,' and then they'll think I'm a poser, so... yeah, I can't get that one."

I mean, I remember, like, literally standing there looking at shirts thinking "I can't own it because I'm not... I'm not legit enough." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I've had that same experience, except the fear of someone coming up to me and being like, "Oh, you like—" I don't know. If I was wearing, like, a My Chemical Romance shirt. "Like My Chemical Romance? Name, like, five of their songs."

**Sydnee:** Well, that used to happen. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Name all of their albums." Like, that happened a lot.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** We had moved past the phrase "poser," I think, but same idea.

**Sydnee:** I feel like the kids are all wearing, like, AC/DC shirts now.

**Raleigh:** Well, that's—like, The Ramones, AC/DC, like, Led Zeppelin shirts, like, for groups like that, became super popular, like, made a resurgence in, like, the Forever 21 era of—of fashion.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And I know—I—I mean, maybe they're listening to this music. Probably not.

**Raleigh:** They're probably not, because I had them as well, and I wasn't really listening to it.

**Taylor:** Well, but I do think—'cause, I mean, I'm a—I live in Brooklyn, where everybody's younger and more stylish than me, and I see, like, these 20-year-olds wearing, like, My Chem shirts or, like, Paramour shirts. And I'm like, "Oh. Oh, that's what cool in Brooklyn right now." [wheeze-laugh] "[through laughter] Oh, wow!"

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** So...

**Sydnee:** I don't know. I don't—I don't run with many people who are wearing cool shirts anymore.

**Raleigh:** You looked right at me when you said that!

**Sydnee:** Oh no. I meant—

**Raleigh:** Wow!

**Sydnee:** I don't mean you.

**Raleigh:** No. I'm just wearing my Taylor Swift shirt.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] You're wearing a Taylor Swift shirt.

**Taylor:** I wear cool shirts all the time!

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** Well, that's—well, okay, you two. I mean in my, like, work life.

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** You know?

**Raleigh:** I mean, you're a doctor, so...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Nobody wears cool t-shirts when they're doctoring!

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I do. I still wear [through laughter] Jimmy Buffett t-shirts.

**Raleigh:** Under that white coat.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Um, can I ask what songs did either of you enjoy, of My Chemical Romance? 'Cause I won't get a chance to ask this again. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, I had heard—like I said, I didn't realize that, um, "The Black Parade" was their song. But that's a great song. But, like, I really did like "Sing." That one—it intrigued me, and then I listened to it, and it moved me. Um, I really thought that was good. The "Teenagers" song, again.

**Raleigh:** That's what I was gonna say.

**Sydnee:** Didn't realize that was—didn't realize that was them. Love that. I mean, I've heard that many times. That's an awesome song. Um, yeah, I was really shocked how many songs I was like, "Oh, I know these songs. Okay."

**Raleigh:** Yeah, no, "Teenagers" was the one that I was thinking of that I had definitely heard, did not know was My Chemical romance, and then also thoroughly enjoyed.

**Sydnee:** Cooper made us play the "Teenagers" song over and over again.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I love that! Of course she did.

**Raleigh:** Of course.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. She has this whole da—like, she kept tossing her hair down in her face and then, like, swing herself around as she was, like, kind of headbangy-esque a little bit. Like, I don't know. It was—but she—she made sure. She kept, like, mussing her hair up and putting it down in her face every time I'd put the song on. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I love that.

**Raleigh:** It's perfect.

**Sydnee:** What's your favorite song, Tey?

**Taylor:** Oh, I... I don't know. I mean, I feel like I have songs off of each album that I like, 'cause each album kind of has a different experience. But, you know, I think it's literally the first song that Gerard Way wrote, which was inspired by the events of September 11th, uh, "Skylines and Turnstiles," it's off the first album, that I think is really beautiful. A lot of the ones you've named, I also like. I like "Hang 'Em High." I like a weird Western aesthetic behind. [through laughter] I think that's a song that—that's also one of my favorite Green Day songs.

But, um... oh, gosh. I don't know. It's... I should've—I should've made you a playlist this time, like I have in the past.

**Raleigh:** I skipped around.

**Sydnee:** I did too, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Did some explorin'. Well, thank you. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] But thank you, Tey. Yeah.

**Taylor:** Thank you. Um, I, uh... [laughs] appreciate you listening to My Chemical Romance for me.

**Raleigh:** It was fun.

**Sydnee:** It was fun, yeah. I like the music. And, again, like, some of it I knew I liked, I just didn't know it was them. And then others I liked as well, and Cooper has a new favorite band, so...

**Raleigh:** There you go.

**Taylor:** You know what? That makes sense for Cooper.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. It really does.

**Raleigh:** It does.

**Taylor:** You should show her some of the music videos.

**Sydnee:** Oh, she'd love—she would. She would love 'em.

**Taylor:** Like the video for "Hang 'Em High" or, uh, "I'm Not Okay" or "Black Parade." I think she'd like all those. Or not "Hang—" "Helena," that's what I was thinking of.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I will—I will show her that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well, what's next, Rilo?

**Raleigh:** So... [snorts] um, very similarly, of course, to My Chemical Romance, I have a movie that I think fits this aesthetic very well. It's called *Camp Rock*.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Okay.



**Raleigh:** It's a Disney Channel original movie starring Demi Lovato and The Jonas Brothers.

**Sydnee:** Perfect.

**Raleigh:** So it's perfect. There are several—you just gotta watch the first one. It's very silly. It's very goofy. But it was very important to me, because it always made me wish I could go to, you know, rock star summer camp. That didn't exist, so.

**Sydnee:** Alright. We will watch *Camp Rock*.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Charlie'll like it.

**Taylor:** Sounds good.

**Sydnee:** I was gonna say, this'll be Charlie's aesthetic.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Alright. Well, thank you all. Listeners, you should check out My Chemical Romance if you've never heard of 'em. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You probably have. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I'm sure you have. If nothing else, you've seen the TikTok with the graph about *The Black Parade*.

**Taylor:** Wait, what?

[pause]

**Sydnee:** Oh, I'm gonna show you this TikTok. Okay.

**Taylor:** I forget that Sydnee watched TikTok, like, a lot.

**Raleigh:** I know.

**Taylor:** Which is always weird to me.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** Sydnee's on TikTok a lot.

**Sydnee:** I love TikTok. Alright, well, I'm gonna show you that. But first, you can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

[theme music plays in the background]

**Raleigh:** This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I'm Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Teylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering...

**Sydnee and Taylor:** And I... am... too.

[theme music raises in volume]

**Sydnee:** There are so many great TikToks. [unintelligible]

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly] Sydnee just loves those 'Toks.

**Sydnee:** I love all those 'Toks.

**Taylor:** When—when's your next TikTok comin' out? When's your next 'Tok premiering?

**Sydnee:** I don't know. I've read plenty of articles about shows I haven't watched, so...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

[theme music ends]

**Sydney:** Everyone about [laughs quietly] the new *Sex and the City*.

**Taylor:** Ugh!

[all laugh quietly]

**Jesse:** Hi, I'm Jesse Thorn, America's radio sweetheart.

**Jordan:** And I'm Jordan Morris, boy detective.

**Jesse:** Our comedy podcast, *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* just celebrated its 15th anniversary.

**Jordan:** It was a couple months ago, but we forgot.

**Jesse:** Uh, yeah, completely. Our silly show is 15 years old. That makes it old enough to get its learner's permit.

**Jordan:** And almost old enough to get the talk.

**Jesse:** Wow, I hope you got the talk before then. A lot of things have changed in 15 years. Our show's not one of them.

**Jordan:** We're never changing, and you can't make us!

**Jesse:** *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* The same forever! At [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org), or wherever you get your podcasts.

[ad ends]

[chord]

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