

Still Buffering 166: How to Home Videos

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[theme music plays]

Raleigh: Hello, and welcome to Still Buffering, a sister's guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: Sisters... I beat you to it.

Sydnee: Hey.

Taylor: Ho!

Raleigh: Um...

Sydnee: All right.

Taylor: Changing up the guard. Sydnee always launches in. I like this!

Sydnee: I know, I'm excited.

Raleigh: I have things going on this time.

Taylor: Wow!

Raleigh: I had coffee. I am done with my classes for my first year of college.

Taylor: Woohoo!

Sydnee: Oh, you are?

Raleigh: I only have finals, but I don't have to go to any more classes.

Sydnee: Wow, that's awesome.

Taylor: You did it! Almost.

Raleigh: And I only have two finals.

Sydnee: So...

Taylor: Congratulations.

Raleigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: What are you gonna do with all that extra time?

Raleigh: I have no idea! I haven't had free time in so long. We just did an episode about this.

Sydnee: [singsong] Party!

Taylor: [singsong] Come visit your sister. Come visit your sister.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Party!

Raleigh: Party?

Taylor: Or that with me.

Raleigh: In New York?

Sydnee: I guess you could combine those two ideas.

Raleigh: Do that at the same time?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I could— I could facilitate a-both things.

Raleigh: Woah.

Taylor: Whoo.

Raleigh: Sydnee, I don't hear you offering anything up for my free time.

Sydnee: Uh, we are doing— hey, listen.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I tried. I tried.

Raleigh: Well, what did you— what did you try?

Sydnee: Next week, we're gonna do a show in Cincinnati, and I offered for you to come stay at Great Wolf Lodge with us the night before.

Taylor: How could you turn that down? You get a wand!

Sydnee: She said no!

Raleigh: I have rehearsal!

Sydnee: [sighs] Such a lame excuse.

Raleigh: I have rehearsal.

Sydnee: I know, that's what I told her. I was like, 'cause the boys are gonna go to Cleveland without us, 'cause we don't wanna drive to Cleveland, 'cause— no offense, Cleveland.

Taylor: Wow.

Raleigh: I was gonna say, what you got against Cleveland?

Sydnee: I just—

Taylor: You just threw Cleveland under the bus. The tour bus.

Sydnee: It's like it would be driving to Cincinnati, then driving to Cleveland, then driving back to Cincinnati, then the next day driving back to Huntington. That's just a lot of car time for little kids.

Raleigh: And then Charlie and Cooper don't get to be at the 'fodge.'

Sydnee: Yes. So instead, we're just staying at the 'fodge' while they go on tour to Cleveland. And then... you could've come to the 'fodge.'

Raleigh: Could've come to the 'fodge.'

Taylor: I don't understand your choices.

Raleigh: I have rehearsal.

Taylor: You could've walked—

Raleigh: All the time.

Taylor: You could've walked to Kings Island from there.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: We could do— we could do Kings Island.

Raleigh: Although your kids can't do Kings Island. They're so small. Your kids are so small.

Sydnee: There's stuff that they can do there.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: They're not cool enough for the fun stuff.

Sydnee: There's stuff.

Taylor: Yeah, but you just could've, like, done a cool teen moment of just doing your own thing at Kings Island. Instead, you had rehearsal.

Raleigh: Hey. I do...

Sydnee: You gotta come. I would say we could stay an extra day and go to Kings Island, but we gotta come back 'cause of Charlie's dance recital, so...

Raleigh: Oh, of course.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That's fair.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: That's a good— that's a good reason.

Sydnee: I mean, she's dancing to Rockin' Robin. Can't miss that.

Taylor: Oh!

Raleigh: Yeah. Have you seen that costume? Oh, I can't miss it.

Sydnee: There's so many feathers and sparkles.

Raleigh: So many feathers and sparkles.

Taylor: We're making sure the costume is getting there this time, yeah?

Sydnee: Oh, got it.

Raleigh: Oh—

Sydnee: It is at— it is in my possession. [laughs]

Taylor: Wait.

Raleigh: No one will let that happen again.

Taylor: Is she a little bird?

Sydnee: It's like— it's not a bird costume, but it is supposed to be like...

Raleigh: It's bird-adjacent.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Bird-adjacent! I'll take it.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes. It is supposed to make you think of a bird. I will show you the— they had us take pictures, that's a thing...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Yes, pictures.

Sydnee: ...that you put your kid in a costume, and they take pictures before the recital...

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: ...as if they are about to do the recital, but it's a trick. 'Cause they're not. The recital is three weeks later.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: But... [laughs]

Raleigh: That's how dance works, Sydnee.

Sydnee: It's all a trick. But they put her out there in her costume, and they were about to tell her how to pose. I guess there were dance poses that she was supposed to do. You can tell I know so much about this world of dance.

Raleigh: You're such a dance mom.

Sydnee: I'm such a dance mom. And she just launched into her own set of Charlie...

Raleigh: Oh, good.

Sydnee: ...original poses. And the photographer went nuts...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ...and started taking pictures of her. And I— the two of us looked, and she said, "Look. I kinda like this." And it was not at all what she was supposed to be doing.

And I was like, "Yes. That is my daughter."

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: That is a— so just wait 'til you see these pictures.

Raleigh: Oh, I haven't seen these!

Sydnee: Well, they— I— we haven't gotten them yet.

Raleigh: Oh, man.

Taylor: That's amazing. I can't wait to see these.

Sydnee: Yeah. It was totally her own thing.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Charlie is her own thing.

Raleigh: She's good at that.

Sydnee and Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: It was not what anyone else was doing. I was all on board.

Taylor: Very cool.

Sydnee: Everybody said, "Where does she get that?"

And I said, "I— not from me. I don't..."

Taylor: Justin.

Sydnee: I think it skipped a generation. I think it came from Meemie.

Raleigh: From Mom? Yeah, that's true.

Taylor: Yeah, that's true. That's true.

Raleigh: Also Dad.

Taylor: That's true.

Sydnee: Yeah, actually, that's fair.

Taylor: They both are always ready to pose.

Raleigh: That's true.

Sydnee: Well, and if we go to the other side of the family here, I think...

[crosstalk]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Both sets of grandparents just...

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: ...kind of offer up that gene.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. But not from me and Justin.

Taylor: The ability to be photogenic skips a generation. I can believe that.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughing] That was like— we were watching her at the play place at the mall, and she ran up to a group of kids, started talking to them, made friends with them, and was hanging out with them instantly.

Raleigh: What?

Sydnee: And Justin looked at her, and said, "How does she just talk... to people?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Wow. This is gonna be so good for y'all, because when she's old enough to place delivery orders, you all can just— that's— that was a gift that was given to you.

Sydnee: I know.

Raleigh: She can call the food places and order food.

Taylor: Any—

Raleigh: I bet she would do that now.

Taylor: Yeah. Any time you need to—

Raleigh: You tell her exactly what to say.

Taylor: You need to call a credit card company or something...

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: ...or like, you know, like, about a bill, you just put her on the phone.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: She likes to try to answer the door. If she sees, like, the mailman coming or a UPS truck or something, she likes to try to get to the door and talk with them.

Raleigh: Oh, man. You all— I don't—

Sydnee: Just greet them, ask what they're bringing, see how their day was.

Raleigh: Where did she— she was at— Taylor, I had an art show. 'Cause I'm an art student.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um, and...

Taylor: That's great!

Raleigh: I know. And Charlie...

Sydnee: It was very good.

Raleigh: Charlie came, but there were other teen girls there. And Charlie lost her mind! She was like, "Teen girls! Look at my skirt! It has two sides!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: "Look at my shoes! They light up!" Like, she talked to my roommates more in that 20 minutes than I think I have the whole time I've lived with them.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. She was in a circle of teen girls, just...

Raleigh: She was in heaven.

Taylor: Just in a happy place.

Sydnee: Just doing her thing.

Taylor: That's great.

Sydnee: You did good art, though.

Raleigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: Your art was...

Taylor: What was your art?

Sydnee: ...well-executed.

Raleigh: Uh, I have to do a seminar for my scholarship program every semester, and it's a different topic every semester, so that we're well-rounded scholars, as students. And this one was about the combination of math and art. So we did four art projects, and we had an art show as our final exam. Just had to display our art.

Sydnee: She welded one.

Raleigh: I did weld one.

Taylor: You welded?

Raleigh: I wielded a welding... machine.

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Well done!

Sydnee: [laughs] Ha.

Raleigh: Uh, yes. That's a good one.

Sydnee: That's a good skill to have, welding.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah!

Raleigh: Will I ever use it again? Probably not.

Taylor: Well, I don't know. That's one of those things that always comes up on, like, Doomsday Preppers.

Sydnee: Exactly.

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: In the apocalypse, apparently there's a need for welding.

Raleigh: It was very scary.

Taylor: Interesting.

Sydnee: It is a skill I wish I had, so I think that's good.

Raleigh: It was very scary, but I did it, and I made a sculpture.

Sydnee: You can be—

Raleigh: And it stayed together.

Sydnee: It's like a Ron Swanson thing. People who buy things are stupid.

Raleigh: [laughs] I can just make everything!

Sydnee: Just make everything. [laughs]

Raleigh: Except I have to buy the things to weld with.

Sydnee: He didn't cover that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: In that episode of Parks of Recreation, so I got nothing.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, sisters...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I don't have a...

Raleigh: See how you go with this one.

Sydnee: Mm.

Raleigh: Yeah. Go ahead.

Sydnee: You know, another art—

Taylor: You know what else is art? Haha!

Sydnee: Ah! There you go. Go ahead, Tey. You take it.

Taylor: Oh, no. I don't— I don't take the lead. Uh, yeah, so another form of artform is a movie, that's also art. What about...

Sydnee: That's exactly what I was gonna say.

Taylor: ...movies?

Raleigh: We're switching everything up today. I did the lead-in to the show, Taylor does the switchover to the topic, Sydnee's week off.

Taylor: I didn't like it. I didn't like it. Never again.

Raleigh: Sydnee's going to Disney, and just took the week off.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. That's true.

Raleigh: This is actually a voice panel of Sydnee, and she's not actually here. We're just pressing buttons. It's crazy. She says very often...

Sydnee: Sisters!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: And then I tell a story about Charlie. That's pretty much me.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yep. Pre-recorded. Just like the dance recital.

Sydnee: Would you like me to talk about breastfeeding now?

Raleigh: Oh, there we go.

Taylor: No!

Sydnee: [laughs] It's the holy trinity. Uh, yeah. We mentioned, actually, on our episode last week, when we were talking about stuff we do when we're bored, that we all have engaged in trying to make movies or YouTube videos or whatever era we're in, appropriate media format. And it occurred to us that that is a shared, like, teen experience.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: A lot of us try to record either, like, documentary-style...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...our teen years, or actually make a film.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [laughs] And so we thought that would be something we could talk about. There you go. There's the whole...

Raleigh: There's the whole thing.

Sydnee: That's the whole thing there.

Raleigh: There's our thesis statement.

Sydnee: Uh, I don't— it— I feel like it used to be more of a challenge, and so I would like to celebrate the efforts of my and Taylor's generation more.

Raleigh: Hey!

Taylor: It's true.

Sydnee: Because it was a lot harder to make movies back in the day.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah, but... but you can make 'em better now.

Taylor: Well, that is true...

Sydnee: Fair.

Taylor: ...but now you just can like, push a button on your average laptop and record a movie with no additional anything. Like, it might not be the best quality, but it's better quality than what we could do with the stuff we could get.

Raleigh: It's true.

Sydnee: With our dad's giant camera.

Taylor: That weighed, like, 10 pounds!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like having a whole baby on your arm.

Sydnee: I mean, it had to be big enough— it had to be big enough to actually record things, and then fit the VHS tape that you've been recording...

Raleigh: Oh, my gosh!

Sydnee: Think about that.

Raleigh: That's wild.

Sydnee: Think about the size of a VHS tape. That's how big the camera was, 'cause it fit the VHS tape in it.

Raleigh: That's bigger than my phone, which is what you use to make movies now!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes. A VHS tape is considerably larger than a phone. [laughs]

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Well, it didn't used to be. Phones used to be so big.

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: Now, phones are so small.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: And rectangular.

Sydnee: Yes. It is— yes. Portable phones were quite large.

Raleigh: Should we talk more about the difference in sizes of phones?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I like that you felt the need to specify. Phones now are rectangular.

Raleigh: Yes. It is a small...

Sydnee: As opposed to...

Raleigh: ...rectangle that is all screen on one side, now. No buttons, even.

Taylor: Now you're just— what? Who do you think this podcast is for, time travelers?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes. Hello, those of you listening from...

Taylor: The 16th century?

Raleigh: ...the 1870s.

Taylor: Yeah, like...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Now.

Sydnee: To a podcast on your listening device.

Raleigh: [laughing] Phones are...

Sydnee: Now, listen. I've been watching a lot of Fringe, and I could come up with a way that that would work, okay? Just give me a lab, and a cow...

Taylor: What is this show about?

Sydnee: ...and Joshua Jackson, and five minutes. I'm not gonna tell you what I need Joshua Jackson for.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Don't ask; it's none of your business. He's just essential to the process.

Raleigh: Mmkay.

Taylor: You need a cow? I'm not even questioning Joshua Jackson...

Raleigh: What do you need a cow for?

Taylor: ...maybe he knows things about time travel. Well, I guess maybe the cow knows things about time travel.

Sydnee: It's all on Fringe!

Taylor: What...

Raleigh: I don't watch Fringe!

Taylor: What is this show that involves cows and science?

Sydnee: I can't with you people. Watch Fringe!

Raleigh: Sydnee, you have some weird tastes in shows, though.

Taylor: Sydnee, the one true Fringe stan in the world.

Raleigh: Yeah, really. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I will watch anything with Joshua Jackson in it. I'm just saying that.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Just putting that out there. Also, Fringe is amazing.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It is. It is. Taylor, you would love it. You loved X-Files; you would love Fringe.

Raleigh: There are cows, apparently!

Sydnee: Just a cow. Gene.

Taylor: Is it, like, still a show?

Sydnee: No, it's— but you can, like, still watch it, 'cause of internet.

Raleigh: Yes. Hello. Welcome, again, time travelers. [laughs] There is—

Taylor: So I know we were gonna talk...

Raleigh: There are streaming platforms now, where you can watch shows that are from the past!

Sydnee: It's been off the air for a few years, but...

Taylor: I was gonna say. Like, it's not an active show that people are excited about. Everyone else in the world, "Game of thrones, oh my God!"

Sydnee, "But Fringe?"

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm doing a rewatch!

Raleigh: Also Sydnee, "But The OC, though!"

Sydnee: I'm doing a rewatch. It's by JJ Abrams, of Lost fame!

Taylor: Of Lost fame.

Sydnee: And then all the movies since then.

Raleigh: Where does fame go?

Sydnee: No, the show Lost!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughing] Hahahahaha.

Raleigh: Haha!

Taylor: Ha.

Sydnee: But let us not dwell on Lost. So we used to make movies...
[laughs] We used to make movies— I think we referenced, we attempted a horror film.

Taylor: And that became just called [drawling] "Oh, my God"? Right?

Sydnee: Yeah. I think that was it.

Taylor: It had a name, but there was a lot of cuts of one of our friends, we— this was in the South, had a very thick Southern accent, just going "Oh, my God. Oh, my God, you guys. Oh, my God."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That was pretty much it.

Taylor: That was the movie.

Sydnee: Yep. [laughs] 'Cause all of our friends in the movie kept dying. We never finished that. That was our great unfinished work, there.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: The films we made the most were all GI Joe based, which is weird because I never watched GI Joe. Tey, I don't know if you did.

Taylor: I watched a bit of— I was— I dabbled in GI Joe.

Sydnee: I would see the very end of GI Joe, because it came on right before whatever we watched during breakfast.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Like, I remember seeing the last— like, the little PSA at the end of GI Joe a lot.

Taylor: Which was... [pause]

"And now you know, and knowing is half the battle."

Sydnee: "Knowing is half the battle." There you go.

Taylor: Which we con— well, one of your friends convinced one of his friends was uh, quote, "from Abraham Lincoln."

Sydnee: Yes, that is true.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: We went with that for many years.

Taylor: For years, that poor man thought that that was said by Abraham Lincoln.

Sydnee: As Abe Lincoln once said... [laughs]

We— our cousins were way into GI Joe, and we were making movies with our cousins, so we made all these movies that were GI Joe-based. I never knew who I was in them...

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: ...or why I was that person, or what my motivations were.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: Uh...

Raleigh: You needed a really deep character analysis, and you just couldn't...

Sydnee: No. They weren't into that. They were more into planting bombs.

Taylor: Well, and I think that there's maybe like a girl in GI Joe, and you got a character. I was just support. I just ran around behind you all, like, "Also this one!"

Sydnee: [laughs] "Also Taylor! Is here!"

Taylor: Teylor... I Joe.

Sydnee: Teylor is part of it!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: They had to let her play, 'cause mom said so.

Sydnee: So we filmed us running around at our grandparents' house, planting bombs. We didn't have bombs. There were no bombs.

Raleigh: What? Movie magic.

Sydnee: I'm pretty— I think they were rocks.

Taylor: Yeah, definitely. But there's a really—

Sydnee: Yeah. I think we just put rocks in the field.

Taylor: We buried rocks, and we filmed it.

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: This was entertainment. Let's called it what it was; we buried rocks on film.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Were we dumb?

Sydnee: No, we were creative!

Taylor: And the best...

Raleigh: You had an imagination!

Sydnee: That's right.

Taylor: Which also explains the scene where one of our— I believe it was our small, small redheaded cousin was sitting at a picnic table, pointing at like, the little— like, the knots in the wood on the picnic table.

"And we will plant the bombs here."

Sydnee: Yep.

Taylor: "And we'll plant the bombs here. And we'll plant the bombs here."
[laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: He was like, what, like seven?

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: I just want that clip.

Sydnee: I wish we could find it. We have dubbed that film since, as you can imagine, Plant the Bombs.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: 'Cause other than that, there was no action.

Taylor: No.

Raleigh: There was just planting of bombs?

Sydnee: The bombs never exploded...

Raleigh: They never went off?

Taylor: We did not quite have a total grasp on pyrotechnics.

Sydnee: We had to go home for dinner before we got to film that part.

Raleigh: Right. It got dark outside.

Sydnee: So— and then we never revisited it. It all depended on when Dad would let us use the camera.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Actually, I am gonna— I don't know this to be true; I'm gonna have to ask Mom. I don't think Dad knew we were running around with his camera. I think Mom was letting us use it.

Raleigh: Mm.

Sydnee: Now that I think of it. There's no way Dad was cool with us running around with the video camera.

Raleigh: Well, what did Dad use a camera for?

Taylor: Oh.

Sydnee: The beach!

Taylor: A lot of things.

Sydnee: Every holiday.

Raleigh: I, in my entire lifetime, have never seen and remembered our father holding a camera.

Taylor: I think...

Sydnee: Oh, my gosh.

Raleigh: In my entire life.

Sydnee: I have to— see, this was a— I think this was like, an '80s, '90s dad thing. Like, once the cameras came out, there was a huge faction of dads...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: ...who got these cameras. And there are lots of home videos, and it's not just our family, this is a lot of families, who just like, Dad walked around filming all the holidays, all the vacations, like, various summer things...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...and narrating it. 'Cause that's key, is like...

Raleigh: Yeah, of course. The dad narration.

Sydnee: ...Dad saying stuff while he's...

Raleigh: And trying to make good jokes.

Sydnee: Yes. Trying to make dad jokes while he is filming us.

Taylor: Sounds about right. I do very distinctly remember when we were at the beach, and there was the red tide. And seeing that video that Dad made that was just looking up and down the beach... "There's more of it. And there, it just keeps on going. It just keeps on going."

But it's like 20 minutes of the same, like...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yep.

Taylor: ...span of beach, and Dad just being like, "Wow. Yeah."

Raleigh: [laughs] That sounds about right.

Sydnee: It's funny that you say that, 'cause I guess, I mean, maybe people just don't do that anymore.

Raleigh: I just— I can't— even when I was younger, I don't ever remember Dad having a camera. Like, it even got to the point where like, we didn't trust him to take pictures of us. We always had to give someone else the camera to take pictures of us, because none of us thought Dad did very good at taking pictures.

Sydnee: Well, that was because in your— you're talking about phones.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Not always.

Sydnee: Oh. Well, because—

Raleigh: I remember Mom being at the beach when I was much younger, with one of those tiny, tiny, like...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: ...Nikon type cameras. Not a disposable one, but close...

Taylor: The digital ones?

Raleigh: Yeah. Um, and always wanting to take the pictures. And Dad kind of standing with it really, really far away from him, like, trying to see through it, taking the picture.

Sydnee: I think that Dad gave up on that sort of technology once... I think it moved too fast for him at some point...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...and he went, "Forget it."

Rileigh: Do you think if he still could walk around with a giant camera like that and take videos, he would?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: That's what— maybe there was something to the left of it.

Rileigh: Mm. Made him feel—

Taylor: It was like, "Oh, a dad must wield this! It is large and heavy."

Rileigh: Dadly.

Taylor: Like, this is a dad weapon. And then when it became little phones, it was like, "No."

Rileigh: Too small. [laughs]

Sydnee: I think you're right, though. But I think, actually, you make a point that is valid, Tey. I think that the video cameras were the domain of the father. [laughs] Not just dads. We're not being dad-exclusive.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Just our experience was that it felt like the domain of the father.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I'm also— Clint filmed all of the boys' stuff, and so I'm like, associating that.

But now, technology, like, kids always know about first...

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...and it's removed it from the parents and the caregivers and the adults somewhat, you know? Um... and so I do think there was a shift there

where it was like, for a while, if I wanted to use the camera, not only do I have to ask Mom and Dad, but like, I had to ask Dad how to use it.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: And can you imagine asking Mom and Dad...

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: ...how to use a piece of technology now?

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: That is true.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: Technology used to come down from your parents. Now, it comes up from the kids. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. And I think that has a lot to do with it. 'Cause I think that probably, Dad would walk around with a giant video camera on his shoulder, if that was still the thing to do, because he would know how to use it, and we wouldn't, but now, like... he'd be walking around with his giant video camera, and we'd be filming him eight different ways, with different filters and different effects and whatever, on our phones while he was doing it. So...

Raleigh: This makes me want to fashion a large uh, cardboard...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: ...fake camera, and just stick a phone in the end of it.

Taylor: How do you get a chance for a phone, yes.

Raleigh: Where Dad can press a button, and then it presses the record button on the phone. So Dad can feel like he's carrying around a large, heavy camera, but it's just filming through an iPhone. I think he'd like that.

Taylor: I think that's what we need to do.

Sydnee: Well...

Taylor: Christmas.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Father's Day isn't that far off.

Raleigh: It's true.

Sydnee: Hey, and his birthday's even closer than that.

Raleigh: That's true!

Sydnee: So...

Raleigh: Well, this is a team craft project we can make, sisters.

Sydnee: Uh, I wanna talk more about our modern incarnation of videos, because Raleigh, I know you've been very prolific with your contributions...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...to the internet.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the Group Message.

Sydnee: Uh, sisters, I wanna talk about HelloFresh this week.

Raleigh: Well, then, do it!

Sydnee: Because we are sponsored in part by HelloFresh. Uh, you may be familiar with HelloFresh because we have talked about them before, and hopefully you have also been lucky enough to experience the goodness that is HelloFresh. They make conquering the kitchen a reality with really simple recipes. They send you all the ingredients you need pre-measured, six-step pictured recipe cards so that you can just follow the pictures, follow the instructions, make sure what you're doing looks like the pictures.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. I always appreciate that most.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: The pictures are nice.

Sydnee: Those, and the picture of what it's supposed to look like at the end...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...are crucial so that I can make sure that I arrange it appropriately.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Like, you want the plating to be...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...nice, you know. I watch a lot of cooking television.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I know how important plating is.

Raleigh: Presentation's most of your score.

Sydnee: Not most.

Raleigh: But a third.

Sydnee: Taste is most.

Raleigh: Taste and then presentation.

Sydnee: Well, here's the great thing about HelloFresh, is they've got you covered on all fronts. Taste, presentation, speed, all the meals come together in 30 minutes max, and flexibility. Whether you need a family plan, a classic plan, or a veggie plan, they've got you covered. So if our listeners want to check out HelloFresh, Tey, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, you could take a total of \$80 off in your first month, so that's \$20 off your first four boxes, if you just go to [HelloFresh.com/StillBuffering80](https://www.hellofresh.com/StillBuffering80) and enter the promo code "StillBuffering80." That's [HelloFresh.com/StillBuffering80](https://www.hellofresh.com/StillBuffering80), and you get \$80 off your first month.

Sydnee: So check that out now.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: So video cameras evolved.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: I have to say, in the years between— we're pretending like there's nothing between the giant VHS recording camera and the cell phone.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Like, cameras did get smaller.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I think that with that, Tey, I know we dabbled in the documentary-style recording...

Taylor: Um...

Sydnee: ...kind of stuff. Especially on trips. Like, we have a lot of vacation videos um, that are out there, specifically for my senior trip.

Taylor: Yeah. Oh, that's right.

Sydnee: With you and Kyle and Joe and me.

Taylor: Yep. We made weird horror movies as teenagers.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: That— on that trip.

Raleigh: So good.

Sydnee: Yes. Uh...

Taylor: That is a recovered memory. I'm like, "Wait! Wait."

Sydnee: That was the descent into debauch as we traveled down the coast for my senior trip...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...and went to progressively less restrictive families' houses.

Taylor: Yep. Yep.

Sydnee: [laughs] Until we ended up at Scampi Mike's, where full...

Raleigh: Oh, man.

Sydnee: ...where full debauch could ensue. [laughs] Uh, and that really just meant that he let us drink alcohol.

Raleigh: [gasps] Sydnee!

Taylor: The funny thing is, I remember coming back and being like, we had the video camera, we were video taping it. No one can see it.

Raleigh: Yeah, really. [laughs]

Taylor: Our parents can never see these tapes.

Sydnee: 'Cause we weren't allowed to go to a— I remember Mom was big on "Don't stop at one of the rest stops."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: If you have to stop at the bathroom, go to like, a fast food restaurant or a gas station. Don't go to one of the just, like, rest areas.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. So of course you did.

Sydnee: So we filmed driving through one...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...just screaming the whole time.

Taylor: Yeah, that's right. Oh, God.

Sydnee: Uh, and we made a uh— gosh, this dates it. We made a spoof of Unbreakable.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. That's right.

Raleigh: Oh, my gosh.

Sydnee: Because Kyle kept sitting on all the Little Debbies in the back seat.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: We bought a b—

Taylor: Okay. Syd. I just need— I need to take this back to the people listening right now, and you said, "We filmed an Unbreakable spoof because Kyle kept sitting on the Little Debbies in the back seat."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: As if anyone's going to make the logical conclusion as to how that makes sense.

Sydnee: [laughing]

Taylor: And I kind of want to just leave it there, because I think that's better.

Sydnee: I can't say what he said, 'cause it's a cuss word!

Raleigh: [gasps] A cuss word?

Taylor: Well, the bad guy is Mr. Glass, and because Kyle kept ruining things with his butt, he was...

Raleigh: Mr. Butt.

Taylor: Yes. Mr. Butt. [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It was the apex of the— of our film! "It was the kids! They called me Mr. ...Butt." [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, no.

Sydnee: Oh. So— [laughs]

Taylor: I— oh, wow.

Sydnee: The cameras got smaller, but our ideas got bigger.

Taylor: Well, I— in art school, my freshman year, I made a video— had to, it was part of one of the classes I was in, and I had a roommate who was a film major, and so she had a mini DV camera. So like, really— like, nice. Like, something that was kind of coming— like, that was what a lot of people were using at that time. Like, young people to make films.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: But I— I will ne— I will never know what happened to that movie, and I never want to, because I am sure it was the most cringiest, like...

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: ...pretentious, like... It was definitely like, here are some leaves gently rustling in black and white. Here is me reflecting on my fears. Here is a shoe, abandoned, on the sidewalk. Like...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: ...definitely that.

Raleigh: That's very good.

Sydnee: Ah, the shoe abandoned on the sidewalk. That's the best.

Taylor: Like, it was— yeah, and I remember, like, I got a really good grade on it, but oh, my gosh, I hope no one ever recovers that film.

Sydnee: Uh, did you put it on the internet?

Taylor: No. This was— that was not a thing that was easy to do at that point in time.

Sydnee: Ah. Then you may be safe.

Taylor: I think that's the thing. 'Cause this is— and this is where I feel really bad for the current generation, 'cause I made a cringy freshman year art student film that began and ended on my laptop, that's it.

But if I had been in this current generation, I would have put it up on YouTube and thought, "Wow, I'm a creative genius." And I would've had to live with that. For the rest of my life, it would've just lived in perpetuity forever. I'm so sorry, Raleigh.

Sydnee: Raleigh, right now, to use the parlance of your generation...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...you look like a picture of you and the word "mood" would be appropriate.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I just—

Sydnee: That's what you kids do, right? [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes. You made a meme. I'm proud of you, Sydnee.

Taylor: You described a meme. That's slightly above reading a comic out loud, Syd. Don't be so proud.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: This is as bad as the episode we did where I tried to describe memes to you all.

Taylor: I don't know. You just described a cell phone, so we're just about par for the course. [laughs]

Raleigh: I—

Sydnee: What uh— what kind of contributions do you have to the world of teen filmmaking?

Raleigh: I made a lot of YouTube videos, okay? Listen. Okay, it was in this time period in between, like you were talking about, the generation in between your all's giant cameras, and our tiny cell phones, where you had the tiny little digital cameras, before you could record on your phones, when YouTube was becoming a thing like, in 2009, 2010, like that sort of— sort of time, when all the YouTubers started becoming YouTubers, and there were those people you would see all the time grabbing their cameras and doing random things, and they were getting a lot of people watching them online.

So if you had a camera, you were like, "Well, I can also do this thing."

Sydnee: These were the early Obama years. Anything was possible, you know?

Raleigh: Anything was possible.

Sydnee: [laughs] We all had hope.

Raleigh: We truly could do it. [laughs]

Taylor: Wow.

Raleigh: And...

Sydnee: It's true! It was a different time.

Raleigh: And I made a lot of YouTube videos. And I think most of them are gone now, I hope.

Taylor: Somebody has archived those, out there.

Raleigh: Somebody has archived them.

Sydnee: What kind of stuff did you uh...

Raleigh: Well, okay. When I was younger, like around this time, like nine or 10 years old, I had my best friend. We would make movies. It wouldn't be like you all did. It wouldn't be just random videos. We would make scripts and characters, and often we'd force her little sister, who was like five or six, to be in them, or her dad, or our dad, or Mom. Someone would have to be in them, and we would just tell them over and over again, like, a very simple thing to say, but then try to direct them on how to say it properly, as a nine-year-old to an adult. Um, because we were filmmakers.

Sydnee: What were these called? These movies. What were the— like, a plot or a basic idea? A character? Any— just any little— what genre?

Raleigh: We really thought we were really good at pranks.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, no.

Raleigh: We made a lot of uh, prank videos. But they were never actual pranks; like, they were always scripted pranks.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. I remember the ding-dong ditch videos.

Raleigh: Yes. The ding-dong ditch series was very— very popular amongst our fans.

Sydnee: It was them— it was them ding-dong ditching and then people pretending to be irritated.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, I remember your friend's dad opening the door, and being like, [incredulous] "Who is here?"

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: And we would wear costumes, and it would be at the same house that we would film ourselves coming out of...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: ...we would then ding-dong ditch with my friend's dad. Um, we never actually were able to actually ding-dong ditch anyone, though; we always had to script it ahead of time.

Taylor: So you never actually ding-dong ditched?

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: That would be too bad!

Raleigh: Too anxiety-inducing.

Sydnee: Too bad for TV!

Taylor: That is illegal.

Sydnee: [laughs] I don't think there's a law against ding-dong ditching.

Taylor: I don't know.

Raleigh: Uh, but as I got older, like 12, 13, I started making— oh, gosh. I told myself I wasn't gonna talk about them, and now I feel like I have to.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: I started making a series of YouTube videos with four of my friends... and we had a name, and it was four friends I did theatre with. And we would make— we thought we were gonna be, like, the next big YouTube sensation. We would make, like, videos together, and then each of us had a day of the week where we would film a different video, and then post it on that day, and we each had like a nickname, and they all kind of went together...

Sydnee: What was your...

Taylor: What was it called? Yeah!

Sydnee: ...name there? You wanna share?

Raleigh: We were... if I say it, people are gonna be able to look it up on the internet. Those videos are still there.

Taylor: Well, then all the more reason.

Raleigh: [hesitantly] We were called the Fab Five Lards.

Sydnee: Lards?

Raleigh: Yes. L-A-R-D-S.

Sydnee: 'Cause those were your names, right?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: That's what the— That's where the Lard...

Raleigh: We each had a nickname that was one word that we thought described our personalities, followed by the word "Lard."

Sydnee: What was the...

Taylor: What was your name?

Sydnee: Yes. I have to know.

Raleigh: Honestly, I couldn't tell you why this was my name, or where it came from, or who came up with it; I was the Cupcake Lard.

Taylor: Cupcake Lard?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: There was a— the only other one I remember was there was a Crop-Top Lard.

Sydnee: Crop-Top Lard?

Raleigh: Yes. My best friend was the Crop-Top Lard.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: Cupcake La— you know, I watch a lot of children's TV these days...

Raleigh: Right?

Sydnee: This actually isn't that farfetched.

Taylor: Cupcake Lard.

Raleigh: And we would do, like... all five of us would sit down. We'd have sleepovers, and do like uh, best friend challenges. Like, see who could answer the most questions about the other people.

Sydnee: Mm.

Raleigh: Um, or we would do a makeup video. Like, each of us had a day— I think mine was like, Fridays. We all picked a day of the week, except for

the weekends, where we would post videos. And I did, like, a tutorial on how to make hair bows.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: One of my friends did one on, like, how to curl your hair without heat.

Sydnee: Was this the— was this, like, into the days of YouTube prank things where like you do— or challenge, I should say, not prank...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...but like eating cinnamon, and stuff like that?

Rileigh: Yeah. Like we definitely made videos. I don't think these actually ended up on the internet, but we would do like the cinnamon challenge, or other ones like that. I'm trying to remember other ones we did. Maybe like the salt and ice one, where like you put salt on your hand, and put a block of ice on there...

Taylor: Ooh.

Rileigh: ...and see how long you can leave it on there.

Taylor: That's not good.

Sydnee: Yeah, don't do that.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: For anyone listening, please don't do that.

Rileigh: Yeah, don't do that. It was a bad idea.

Sydnee: You'll— yes, you will hurt yourself.

Rileigh: We never put that on the internet. That was bad. But we would, you know, like there was one challenge where you had to like— I think this maybe was the one that you started— someone started watching the other day when we talked about this, maybe it was you...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: ...but you have to put a pile of flour in a bowl and put a gummy bear or some sort of small candy on top of it, and then you have to answer questions about the other person. And if you get one wrong, it's like Jenga. You have to take a spoonful of flour out of the stack, out of the little mound. And whenever it falls over, the person who knocked it over has to then use their face to try to get the candy out of the bowl of flour.

Sydnee: Ah.

Rileigh: Like, the gummy bear.

Taylor: That's a lot of—

Rileigh: And then your face ends up— your face ends up covered in flour, and you look real silly.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: A lot of moving parts in that challenge.

Rileigh: We were very creative.

Taylor: Wait, did you come up with that challenge?

Rileigh: Uh, I didn't. I think one of my friends did.

Sydnee: Mm.

Rileigh: I don't remember ever seeing this online. I don't remember this being a thing. I think we thought we were just being creative YouTubers.

Taylor: The thing is, like, all of this stuff, like, yeah, it's like, "Oh, no, it's documented," but like, kids do weird stuff. We do weird stuff with our friends.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, we all had secret names and like, little clubs, and did weird stuff. None of this is actually weird. I just feel like your generation probably has, like, a collection of accessible videos of documenting themselves.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Because I don't think you were alone in doing that. I think it's probably a fairly— would you say it's a fairly normal teen experience that most of your friends were producing weird, like, YouTube content?

Raleigh: Yeah. Just— I mean, everyone always has been. We just got to put it on the internet.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, I think you're exactly right. Yeah. 'Cause I think about some of the weird challenges and stuff— I mean, we didn't call 'em challenges, but it was just weird, sometimes dangerous, sometimes just dumb stuff that we used to do when we were younger that is—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I mean, it's not that far off.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: I mean, a lot of these are just like extensions of slumber party games. They're just like, things that film better.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Make it a little more visual, so that it looks better instead of just something that is insular. It's kind of funny, though, because as you describe all this, like, what you're talking about are weird videos.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: These are—

Raleigh: We made weird videos.

Sydnee: Yes. These are the origins of what my daughter now refers to as weird videos.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And you and everyone else making them has created lots of fertile ground for young people today to watch, but I was thinking about... Charlie is always asking me if we can make weird videos.

Raleigh: She wants to be in them.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I do have one video with Charlie that is still on the internet.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: And she loved it.

Sydnee: This was prior to our...

Raleigh: To not putting things with Charlie on the internet.

Sydnee: ...our banning our children from appearing on the internet.

Raleigh: That video still has like, 10 times as many views as any video I have ever made.

Sydnee: I feel like it's a— my rationale is, she looks way different now.

Raleigh: She does.

Taylor: Yeah, that's true.

Raleigh: That was like three years ago.

Sydnee: Yeah. We now do not put any visual depictions of our children on the internet, just for safety and privacy. You know, their own— she says she wants to be in weird videos, but she's four, so I feel like she's not quite old enough to make that.

Raleigh: Well, when are you gonna say she's old enough, Sydnee? I was seven and making ding-dong ditch videos.

Sydnee: Well, that's— but I think that— what I was gonna say is, I think that you being seven and making ding-dong ditch videos and me being 36 and watching all of these weird videos...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...has made me a lot more vigilant about that. And I think what you're gonna see is, 'cause I've told Charlie, I will film you doing these weird things that you want— I mean, she wants...

Raleigh: You just won't put them on the internet.

Sydnee: And when I say weird things, like, she wants to make slime.

Raleigh: Yeah. And unbox things.

Sydnee: Yeah. She wants to unbox things. Or like, we were building with one of her little, like, building— it's really cool. It's like flowers, but you build 'em. It's like a little engineering thing with flowers. Anyway, we were building it, and she wanted to make a YouTube video of her building it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Which you can always tell when she wants to make a YouTube video, 'cause she starts off by saying, "Hey, guys."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. That's good.

Sydnee: She'll go, "Hey, guys," and then she'll give herself a name.

Raleigh: Oh, cool. Internet name?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Like...

Raleigh: Do you have any good ones?

Sydnee: The one she said yesterday was, "Hey, guys. Strawberry Raspberry Blueberry here."

Raleigh: That's good.

Taylor: Strawberry Raspberry Blueberry!

Sydnee: Yeah. I don't know where that came from.

Raleigh: Well, see, she's already getting good at, like, protecting her identity online.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: She has nicknames.

Sydnee: But I'm not gonna let her make those videos, because I— I mean, I'm not saying I never will, I'm just saying for now, my inclination is to protect her from that, because one, I don't want her face all over the internet, but two, I don't know what she's gonna want on the internet.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I know now enough, like I've seen you go, "Oh, I don't know if I want people seeing that."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I've thought about that I made when I was younger, and thought, "Thank goodness the internet didn't exist..."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...that now I have enough of that wisdom to look at her and say, "I'll film you, but we're not posting this anywhere."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Do you have, like, an age that you'll like... 'cause she's gonna keep asking. Like, is there an age where you're like, "Okay. Now, it is up to you if you want to put things on the internet"?

Sydnee: I don't know. I've thought about that a lot, because I feel like to say, "When you're 18," that sounds like a wild thing to say.

Raleigh: That is a wild thing to say.

Sydnee: Right. I mean, like, that's very naïve of me. Um...

Taylor: That's gonna be Charlie's little secret rebellion. She's gonna be podcasting and YouTubing out of your house. Like...

Sydnee: And I'm not gonna know about it.

Taylor: "Mom and Dad are gone. I'm gonna YouTube."

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: No, I mean, I— I'm realistic enough to know, like, she will want to do this before then. I'm hoping that if I just keep talking about it with her and being really open and honest about why I have concerns...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...that she'll listen to me. I mean, for right now, it's easy. She doesn't have a phone. I mean, she has one of my old phones that she can watch things on, but it doesn't— she can't upload a video. But I'm hoping that like, we can keep talking. 'Cause every kid matures at a different rate.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And every kid understands things in a different way. So it's hard for me to say what age she would be mature enough to make an informed decision about that. I don't know. I think I just have to wait and see.

Raleigh: I will say, though, there was never anything I made that like, I wouldn't want people to see, because I think it's like a bad thing that I made...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: ...or would offend anyone. It's just because, like, I was a dumb 12-year-old.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And I like, hate the way my voice sounds. I'm like, "Oh, why did I talk like that? Why did I think this was cool?" And it's kind of like, embarrassing in the sense you get when you watch old home videos or whatever.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: But it was fun to like, sit there with my friends, and we'd like, edit these videos together like on our little iPod touches and our iPhones, like, thinking we were all professional and adding music over top. That's what

we'd spend all of our sleepovers doing, is making all these videos, and we would sit there and post them, and watch our subscriber count go from like, three to four. Like, "Oh, one of our moms just subscribed!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: But I mean, it was fun. Like, looking back on it now, I'm not even close with any of those people anymore, but they are there for me to still look back on and watch, and they're good memories, and...

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: I don't know. Like, they were fun at the time, and it's a weird thing that I'm a part of this small generation that is after Charlie's, where they have parents that will say, like, "You don't want to post everything on the internet just yet," but before the people who like didn't have the ability to post it on— or after the people who didn't have the ability to post it on the internet.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: So like, Mom didn't know what it meant when I said I was making a YouTube channel. So she didn't know, like...

Sydnee: To say no.

Raleigh: ...to tell me not to.

Taylor: Yeah. That's true.

Raleigh: So I just did it. And it's a very small window of people who did that, because like, you know, that's not a thing anymore. Everyone knows what YouTube is. Like, you know what it means if Charlie says she wants to make a YouTube video.

Sydnee: Yeah, it is really interesting. 'Cause I don't think it is, and if I indicated that I apologize, 'cause I don't think it's a bad thing.

Rileigh: Oh, no, no. Yeah, I don't think that, either. I just think it's a very weird generational shift that...

Sydnee: Yeah, I—

Rileigh: ...when I said that when I was, you know, not a lot older than Charlie, it was like, "Wow, okay, sure." Like, I don't know what that means.

Sydnee: Sure.

Rileigh: But now, when Charlie says she wants to make a YouTube video, even in four years, when she's the same age I was, it'd be like, "Well, that's a— well, maybe not."

Sydnee: Eh...

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: It is a weird— because I do think it's a great creative outlet...

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...to, whether you're talking— whatever art form you're talking about, I mean, making weird videos, making movies, making music videos, filming yourself like singing or playing piano or whatever, I mean, I think these are all wonderful, creative explorations. And I think they're just as important as other art forms as Taylor in her room as a kid, drawing.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know? I think that these are all different creative outlets. And so I think there's something to be encouraged and celebrated. I think they're great for kids to have access to. The question is, you know, how do you keep your kid talking to you, so that you know what they're doing it, what they're putting out there, and when they're like, saying or doing things that come from a place of immaturity that could hurt them.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: 'Cause that's hard. All kids are prone to doing insane selfish things, or thoughtless things, or...

Raleigh: Well, and—

Sydnee: I mean, I think we all have that capacity to accidentally be cruel.

Taylor: Right.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And what you need are people around you to help support you and shape you and help you not be, you know, like...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Answer to your better angels, and not your demons.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And like, that— to keep that off the internet, that's the struggle.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I think it's like it's a— it's always been an impulse in teens. Like, we wanna be heard. We want to communicate. And we don't always have easy sources to do so. So it makes sense that we do things like art or music videos, but yeah. I mean, there is that added— we didn't have videos, but we had things like LiveJournal, where people could read your thoughts. And like...

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: I remember in college having a— somebody that I knew LiveJournal very viciously and cruelly about me. And yeah.

Raleigh: And that's the other thing, is like, people who will say mean things. Not even you being offensive or...

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: ...or anything on the internet. Just people who will come at you just to come at someone, and say mean things about you.

Taylor: And it's the added knowledge that it's not only that it hurts; it's that a bunch of other people also have access to this and can, you know...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: ...see this. So that is— I mean, I get the concerns. Because it can— social media can ruin lives. This is just another form of that. So it is something that I think you do have to police to a certain degree.

Raleigh: I think it can be, like, helpful, though, as you get older, to kind of like— I'm not saying everyone should have people say mean things to them on the internet. It's not a fun experience.

But uh, when we started the podcast, there have certainly been, you know, comments and reviews of our show or on my YouTube videos or whatever from a while ago that aren't very nice, or about me that are kind of hurtful. But at first, I didn't really know how to deal with them, it made me really sad every time I saw one, but now it's just like, "Well, okay." Like, you kinda learn how to deal with people that aren't going to like you, and accept the fact that people aren't going to all the time.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And you learn how to better handle criticisms like that, even if they're unnecessary and by people that, you know, are just being mean people on the internet. It kind of gives you a thicker skin to deal with the internet, because it's just like, everyone's going to be on the internet at some point.

Sydnee: You know, it's an interesting point you make, 'cause my first thought, as you were saying that, was like, "Yeah, but you don't want your kids to learn that there; you want to be able to help them learn that lesson before they're exposed to that."

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: But when you say, like, on the internet, specifically learning how to deal with it on the internet...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...is a skill everyone's gonna have to have...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...not just like, you need to be used to the idea that not everybody's gonna like you, and you're gonna have criticism, and sometimes the criticism is founded, and you grow from it, and sometimes it's just somebody doesn't like you, and it's mean and...

Raleigh: You just have to deal with it. Someone not liking you. Yeah.

Sydnee: ...you just gotta let it roll off your back. But you have to specifically have the skillset to deal with it on the internet.

Raleigh: Because it doesn't just happen when you have a podcast or a presence on the internet. Like, it happens when you're just someone using social media. People will find ways to say mean things to you.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: And to find you some— I don't understand how some people do it, just like find people on the internet that don't even have a large following, and say mean things, but it always happens. And I mean, it's— as long as the internet and social media exist, it is going to continue happening. And while it's not fun, it's a good skillset to have.

Taylor: And it is one of those lessons that, like Syd was saying, you can't— no matter how much you try to prepare somebody, like, "Hey, people are gonna say mean things to you."

It's like, "Okay, that's cool. Cool, cool, cool." You don't learn it until it happens, and then you go, "Oh."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: "But they're gonna say that specific thing. I wasn't ready for those words— for me to read them. This is when I have to learn it." So you always learn that lesson alone, unfortunately.

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. No, it's true. And that'll be the struggle, I think, with the younger generation, is like, how do you let them have that creative outlet? How do you let them explore? How do you let them learn to take good criticism and brush off bad and— you know, how do you do that without just saying, like, "No internet for you."

Raleigh: But—

Sydnee: But you can't. 'Cause like the— the idea that we can just hide kids from the internet, that's just...

Raleigh: Right. That's not gonna happen.

Sydnee: No. That's not the— I just don't think that's a realistic idea. The internet and youth are forever intertwined, at least as far as I can tell. And so learning how to live within it is going to be important.

Raleigh: But I will say, there are also a lot more nice people on the internet most of the time than there are mean people. And sometimes, it's nice to, you know, post a video of you singing a song or playing your ukulele or like a podcast episode, and have people say, like, "You're really talented," or "I like this thing you said." And you meet people that, you know, are appreciating the things you do, even if you don't have a lot of people doing that in person.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Sometimes that's nice as well. So there are good things and bad things...

Sydnee: Oh, yeah.

Raleigh: ...to sharing your content on the internet. And I think it's just something that I would have liked to think more about and know more about before I did it, but I didn't have that ability, because no one really knew anything about it when I was doing it. And you know, now the next generation does have that ability, but it's hard to find the balance between when's too early and what's a good amount and a good time and all those things.

Taylor: Well, and I think there's also the difference of like, if you started posting videos of Charlie, it would have an instant gigantic audience. I think there's something to say to the fact that, Raleigh, while you were doing this, it was sort of proto-days of people being aware of this stuff. So you did have like a handful of people, probably all people you knew. You were only—

Raleigh: Yeah. I had like seven views on my videos.

Taylor: It wasn't like thousands of people were suddenly seeing your 12-year-old thoughts, or your 10-year-old thoughts, and you just had to live with that forever.

Raleigh: Right. Yeah.

Taylor: But you know, as people now, like, have such larger followings at such younger ages, that's something you have to deal with. I feel like I meet kids at the cosplay community, and they're kids, like 16-year-olds, and they have, like, thousands of followers. And I'm like, oh, man. You're just under the microscope already, and how does it— well, how does it feel? Why would you do this to yourself?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's tough. It's tough, 'cause that's just— I mean, when you're that young, and you're growing and changing every day, and you realize, like, what I firmly believed six months ago I now know is so wrong...

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: That's a hard— it's hard. That's a hard place to be publicly in.

Raleigh: I also would say I have a better skill set now, though, to like, know how to still be able to share my thoughts on the internet, but do it in the best, most...

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: ...open way, but honest way possible. I think there are sometimes my friends or people I know that like, don't necessarily have people following them that they don't know in person like I do, will just tweet things, post things without thinking about anyone seeing it beyond the people they know actually.

And I spend a lot more time thinking about, like, well, can't really post that in that way, but let me think about how I can that makes it so that all these people that I don't know that are seeing it will see it, and still like, you know...

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think there's a good— and I don't know exactly what the sound byte is, but I think there's a good advice in there somewhere...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ...akin to... I remember the day that I realized I, as a doctor, the stuff— it was long before I was a podcaster.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: As a doctor, the stuff I say on the internet should reflect the way I— like, I have a responsibility.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That was the way I felt about it. And I'm not saying that you have to be a doctor to have that responsibility. It was just this was what made it click for me personally.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: There are ways that I talk to my patients and, like, the people who have faith in me to help them...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: ...like, trust in me to help them, and I want to represent myself well in all arenas. And I remember that that was the day I started thinking, like, "I need to tweet like I'm a doctor."

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: "And I need to tweet— I need to Facebook like I'm a doctor." And for me, that was my, like, call to action to be more responsible and really think about what I say and what I put into the world, and how I say it. And I think we all need whatever that is that you think about, like... I mean, it's really like, being a kind human, I guess...

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: ...is what the answer is. But for me, I remember that was the moment— that was the lightbulb moment for me. Like...

Raleigh: Oh, yeah. It's the same if you're a college student, an employee somewhere, you know, whatever you do, you have to think about what

you're presenting on the internet, and how that would be seen as a representation of you and also as your title and your, you know, what you do, and...

Sydnee: And as what kind of human you want to be in the world. And not just like, "Haha, it's the internet, it doesn't matter; I'm just making some mean jokes."

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Like, it does. This is me. This is me that I'm putting into the world, and who do I want people to know I am?

Taylor: And that's a new thing, because like, and we've talked about this before, the internet for our generation was a secret place. Like, you go on, it was anonymous...

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: ...you were not connecting with people that knew you. Like, it was a place where you could go and just kind of scream about, like, "My boss sucks, and I'm angry!"

But now it is far more akin to, would you walk into a room crowded with people, both strangers and your peers, and say whatever you're about to say?

Rileigh: And say those things.

Taylor: If you would, then it's okay.

Sydnee: Exactly.

Taylor: If not, then don't put it on the internet. 'Cause that's the same thing.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah. That's exactly right.

Sydnee: No, I think that's very true.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: Well, I will continue to do what we've been doing, which is make weird videos that only...

Raleigh: And keep them for you.

Sydnee: They exist only on my phone.

Raleigh: Some day, when Charlie is 30 years old...

Taylor: Give them back to her.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: ...Sydnee will share them on the internet.

Sydnee: Yep. I will let her see them, and say, "If you would like to post these now, that is on you."

Raleigh: Yeah. That's her college graduation present.

Sydnee: "Here are all the weird videos you made." [laughs]

Taylor: That's the time.

Sydnee: That's actually a really great present idea.

Taylor: I think you should start saving them now.

Raleigh: Yeah. Just put 'em all together. Like, her 18th birthday...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: ...high school, there you go.

Sydnee: Do I burn 'em on a DVD...

Raleigh: No. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Help her with that.

Raleigh: By the time Charlie's like 18, there'll probably be some, I don't know, hologram chip thing...

Taylor: You could probably upload it...

Sydnee: Microchip.

Raleigh: ...you can just like, insert into her brain, probably.

Sydnee: I love the idea that I'm still thinking it's gonna be a physical piece of media.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It'll be a chip, right? No.

Sydnee: It won't be physical. Well, thank you, sisters. This was fun.

Raleigh: You're welcome. It was.

Sydnee: Thank you both for doing all the hard work today.

Taylor: Yeah! You're welcome.

Raleigh: We really did.

Sydnee: Thank you very much. Um, thank you, listeners, for joining us. And you can let us know about all the great movies I'm sure you made in

your teen years at— you can tweet at us at @StillBuff. And you can email us at StillBuffering@MaximumFun.org.

You should go to MaximumFun.org for a lot of great shows that you would enjoy.

Raleigh: [laughs] Okay.

Sydnee: I don't know. I thought I was gonna say something more creative there, but I didn't. They're just great, and you should go there, and you should check 'em out. And uh, thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

Raleigh: This has been Still Buffering, a sister's guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am a teenager...

Sydnee and Taylor: And I was too.

Taylor: That was bad. Bye.

Raleigh: Please don't— no, please don't go look at my YouTube channel. Please. Please.

Sydnee: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[gavel bangs]

Speaker 1: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my favor.

Speaker 2: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my friend's favor.

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John: It's the Judge John Hodgman podcast. Find it every Wednesday at MaximumFun.org or wherever you download podcasts.

[gavel bangs]

Speaker 8: Thanks, Judge John Hodgman.

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