

## Still Buffering 176: How to Drink Responsibly

Published on August 9th, 2019

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[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Um, sisters, this is an interesting setup we have here.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I didn't really think about it 'til I watched you all pass off the microphone to each other, huddled over a— a sports-themed bedroom—

**Sydnee:** We needed more microphones. We should've brought a fourth.

**Raleigh:** We didn't know—

**Sydnee:** Well, no, we did. We just didn't bring another one.

**Taylor:** We did, you're right, we did. We absolutely did.

**Sydnee:** I don't think we had another good one. Okay, well, anyway, we have a guest.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I was gonna say, you may be wondering why we need four microphones.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** We're not gonna tell you! It's just gonna be confusing.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] The secret fourth Smirl sister is finally revealed. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yay! The Smourth.

**Raleigh:** The Smourth! [laughs]

**Liz:** Hey, nice— nice to be here, Smirls. This is Liz June. I'm here, 'cause we're doing a crossover!

**Raleigh:** Ooh!

**Sydnee:** Ooh!

**Taylor:** This doesn't just have to happen in fanfics, this can happen in real life! Still Buff meets Neat! The Boozecast!

**Raleigh:** Do I— every time I say "Neat," do I have to say [enthusiastically] "Neat!"?

**Liz:** Yeah, because there's an exclamation point on it.

**Raleigh:** Right. Right. Okay. You go [varying tones] "Neat! Neat! Neat!"

**Taylor:** Just some excitement. Yeah.

**Liz:** Yeah. Sometimes we harmonize, and we do...

**Taylor and Liz:** [singing] Neat!

**Raleigh:** That's very good.

**Sydnee:** That was very good.

**Taylor:** That was outta nowhere.

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So this is a special crossover family event.

**Liz:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Liz:** It's been a family event all week.

**Sydnee:** It has. We've been at the beach all week, and we're in a football-themed bedroom. So...

**Liz:** We're in the endzone.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** That's what this room is called!

**Sydnee:** No, you're right. That's what it's called.

**Liz:** That's what this room is called! I'm looking at a photo— a poster [laughs] um...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Liz:** ... with a bunch of naked dudes holding various sports equipment...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Liz:** ... over their junk, and the caption is, "Got balls?"

**Sydnee:** Yup. That's a...

**Liz:** I don't know if you can talk about that on your... [laughs] podcast. I just realized.

**Taylor:** We can say balls, but hey, this is a— this is a language-free podcast, so...

**Liz:** Okay. I'll keep it clean. I have no problem with that.

**Sydnee:** But that's okay.

**Raleigh:** Balls are fine.

**Taylor:** Balls are okay.

**Liz:** I mean, I don't— I don't—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Balls are fine" is the official Still Buff position...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** ... on Balls.

**Sydnee:** Balls are fine.

**Raleigh:** They're fine.

**Sydnee:** Liz, thank you for joining us. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Liz:** I'm so happy to be here.

**Sydnee:** We always ask guests for— on our show a general question, how did you teen? Like, where did you fit into the teen pantheon?

**Liz:** I actually um, I had like, friends in a lot of different circles, 'cause I was into a lot of different things, so I was definitely into theater, and I did, like, choir and all that, but I was also— uh, I also hung out with the art kids. I did a lot of art.

And then, randomly, because I just, like, didn't, like— I wasn't, like, a great student, but I did have this thing about, like, proving how smart I was, so I took AP classes, so I could, like, hang out with my smart friends and then like, learn stuff, but not like...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Liz:** ... apply it to my grades or anything like that.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** I don't know if that was a good way to teen, but that's how I did it.

**Sydnee:** No, that's good! Eclectic. You were an eclectic teen.

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Liz:** I'm just here for the experience, really.

**Taylor:** Multifaceted. That's good!

**Liz:** Yeah. It was fun.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. There's nothing wrong with that. If you're pleased with your teening experience, then that's all that counts.

**Liz:** I'm pretty pleased. It was pretty dramatic, but like...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

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

**Raleigh:** Whose— whose wasn't?

**Liz:** Whose wasn't? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, so for this special crossover episode, we're talking about beverages of the adult type.

**Raleigh:** Ooh.

**Liz:** Uh-oh.

**Taylor:** What— which, you know, obviously Raleigh is at a disadvantage because she is not 21, so she has— the only input she has in this episode is from her adult uh, 21-year-old friends.

**Raleigh:** Yes. I am in college, therefore like, 50 percent, I would say, of my peer group is 21 or older, which means legal drinking age here in the United States. So all of my experience is purely secondhand experience.

**Taylor:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** So just a— a disclaimer.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Liz:** Why would it not— why would it be any other way?

**Raleigh:** Exactly. I am underage, not even 19 yet.

**Sydnee:** And of course, we all had our first drinks when we turned 21.

**Liz:** Oh, yeah. [hesitantly] Definitely?

**Taylor:** On this podcast, that's what we say.

**Sydnee:** That is the case.

**Taylor:** But... [laughs] if you need to know otherwise, listen to our other podcast.

**Sydnee:** Age aside, [laughs] uh, we wanted to talk about some of the drinks that uh, you tend to have when you first start drinking.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Because you don't really know what you're doing, and there are a lot of people with a lot of bad ideas that they want to share with you.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Liz:** But it's okay, because as a young adult, you have really good taste, you know?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Do you?

**Taylor:** Do you?

**Raleigh:** Do you?

**Taylor:** Do you?

**Liz:** Yeah, you're super— you know, it's cool.

**Raleigh:** I would disagree just based off the faces I get from Taylor especially, whenever I talk about the drinks that my friends get at, like, bars whenever they go out.

**Taylor:** Yeah...

**Raleigh:** And I just name them and list off their ingredients, and Taylor's just like, "Wuh? Uh, why?"

**Taylor:** I mean, like, some of the like— some of the earliest things that I remember drinking were things like definitely Bartles & Jaymes like, wine coolers, like...

**Liz:** Oh, yeah. Cheerleader beer.

**Taylor:** Ch— cheerleader beer?

**Raleigh:** What?

**Liz:** Yeah. That's like— those, like, Smirnoff Ice...

**Sydnee:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh, okay, yeah.

**Liz:** ... like, in beer bottles, but like, they're fruity— they're basically like alcoholic seltzer. That's what— I don't know, like, who— who said that to me, but that was what we called it... back then. Way back.

**Taylor:** I like cheerleader beer.

**Sydnee:** All right. Like, now they have those Seagram's drinks that are similar.

**Liz:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And they are three percent alcohol.

**Liz:** Right.

**Sydnee:** And I assume 97 percent sugar is the other...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's the hundred percent. Well, no, there's gotta be water in there somewhere, I guess.

**Taylor:** Well, and there's a weird sort of benevolency there where it's like, well, I guess I'm glad that the stuff that, like, the people that are younger, inexperienced drinkers are gonna try is, like, not as much alcohol, but then



it's like, anybody that has been of drinking age for a while knows that the stuff that destroys you the most is a bunch of sugar!

**Liz:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like, it's... yeah. So I don't know. They're designed to teach you a harder lesson than you should learn. [laughs]

**Liz:** You're also more resilient to hangovers, I feel, when you first start drinking.

**Taylor:** That's so true.

**Sydnee:** No, that's true. That's true. But it really is— the funny thing is, though, I feel like it's a mixture between these super sugary drinks that, like, you're really just like, "I don't really like the taste of alcohol, so I'm trying to hide it but also look like I'm drinking, so here, give me all the sugar with vodka in it or whatever." That was usually the standard. Like, something very sugary with some vodka.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or it was, "I don't really know how to drink, so... rum... in a cup?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Liz:** Right?

**Sydnee:** "Is that a thing?"

**Taylor:** I— yeah. I sometimes feel like the reason that I ended up a bartender, it was some sort of curse that was initiated by the bartender that I approached on my 21st birthday, uh, at a bar in New York in Manhattan, and I said, "I want," uh, what did I say, "a cherry bomb."

**Liz:** What is that?

**Taylor:** Well, it— she said, "What is that?"

And I said, "I don't know. Make it up."

**Liz:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Liz:** So were you already drunk when you got to this bar?

**Taylor:** Oh, absolutely!

**Liz:** Okay. All right.

**Taylor:** And I just decided that was— that's a good name, it should be a shot, so I'm just gonna order it. And it's like, this lady's just gonna do it for me.

And she was just like, "That's not a thing."

And I'm like, "You're right." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "You got me!" [laughs]

**Taylor:** But I think at that moment, she was like, "And you must bear the burden now," and that's why I'm a bartender. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** Yes. She put a curse on you.

**Raleigh:** It just, like, breathed out of her mous— mouth into you.

**Taylor:** [exhaling noise] [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And she turned to dust and blew away in the wind.

**Taylor:** It's like, "Oh, no! What is happening!"

**Sydnee:** All of a sudden, you were behind the bar...

**Taylor:** "Oh, no!"

**Sydnee:** ... chained to it. There can only be one!

It's gotta— to be a Highlander thing at some point, I'm sorry.

**Taylor:** And that's where I am now.

**Liz:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I uh, I remember ordering, for me, it was just color. Like, I would go up to the bar, and be like, "Can I have something blue or maybe something pink?" [laughs] "Do you have a red one?"

**Liz:** "Is there a rainboow?"

**Sydnee:** "Whatever." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Can you put all of them in one cup?"

**Sydnee:** "Do you have a special? Whatever color it is, is fine."

**Taylor:** Yeah. I don't— like, I think any time now, if somebody asked me a color, I would say, like, "Well, let me see your ID again, 'cause I think someone messed up at the front door."

**Liz:** Right.

**Taylor:** But...

**Liz:** You know what, I mean, grown adults, I mean, we're all adults when we go into bars, but... [laughs] I mean, I've seen grown people order really,

really ridiculous things that don't make any sense. So, I mean, I guess if they looked underage too.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Liz:** I wouldn't just— I wouldn't just put the burden on new drinkers. But yeah, that's a lot of it, to be fair.

**Sydnee:** It's true. It's true. I always think— a good sign of it— you know in the movie *The Room*? [laughs]

**Liz:** Yeah. [laughs] Yes. Go on.

**Sydnee:** When they drink alcohol at one point...

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Continue.

**Sydnee:** ... and in the room...

**Taylor:** This is definitely applicable.

**Sydnee:** ... the drink... the drink they make appears to be, here's some whisky in a glass, to which I added some vodka, and it's warm.

**Liz:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Drink now. And I think about, like, we always laugh, 'cause we're like, "Tommy Wiseau doesn't know about drinking, ha ha ha," the director...

**Liz:** Right.

**Sydnee:** ... star/producer/everything...

**Raleigh:** Mastermind. Evil genius.

**Sydnee:** ... of the film, but like, if you think about it a little more, no one on set stopped to say, "That's not— that's not a drink." [laughs]

**Liz:** Well, there are so many—

**Sydnee:** No adults are drinking that. And I thought about that, like, were there just no adults who knew, like, nobody mixes whisky and vodka warm in a cup and drinks it. That's not a thing.

**Liz:** There were a lot of things that got— that slipped by that production.

**Taylor:** Ye— I don't think there was much of a...details in the—

**Sydnee:** That's fair. That's fair.

**Raleigh:** There are framed pictures of forks and spoons.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, I— yeah. I don't think that there was somebody paid extra to call anybody out on the— the factual situation going on.

**Liz:** No.

**Taylor:** It was a fantasy within a dream. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's fair. I'm just saying, I think there are a lot of adults who don't know how to drink. I think you're right. I think, like, there are adults who—

**Taylor:** [laughing].

**Sydnee:** Well, like, who go up and order things that they've been ordering since college, and it's like, that's— doesn't taste good. That's not... 'cause there's a way to drink that it, like, it tastes good.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** I mean, it's not just ab— [laughs] like, and you can be like, "I'm enjoying this experience."

**Taylor:** I would bet on that.

**Sydnee:** It doesn't have to be, like, "Get it down." You know, that's a very, like, immature attitude towards alcohol. Like, "Just get it in, get it in me."

**Liz:** Right. Right. "I just wanna get..."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Liz:** "...messed up."

**Sydnee:** Exactly.

**Raleigh:** Well, it's the same way I've heard you all talk about beer, right? Like, you all look for those, like, fancy beers. You're like, you don't have to stick with, like, the basic beers that you get, you know, in like gas stations and stuff...

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** ... when you're in college, right? Right?

**Sydnee:** They do sell good beer in some gas stations now, though, I will say.

**Raleigh:** But I mean, like, you— I know you and Dad specifically, Dad mostly, search out like, the fancy draft beers when you're at restaurants. Not just like, what they would have in like a bottle or a can, like whatever standard. That's like the same thing, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah. No, I think that's true. I mean, when you— the f— I mean, I don't know if this is still the case, but back in my youth, your introduction to beer was Natural Light.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Liz:** Mm. Natty Light.

**Sydnee:** And that was just what everyone had.

**Raleigh:** That's the first time I ever heard the phrase, "Natural Light." My brain was like, "Natu— Natty Light. Okay." [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's still the first beer? The baby beer?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I know there are new Naturdays...

**Taylor:** What?

**Sydnee:** What?

**Raleigh:** That are like, Natty Light mixed with like a uh, trying to make it more of a Smirnoff-type Mike's thing, where it's like a strawberry lemonade Natty Light.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Taylor:** [groans]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Those are popular at the parties.

**Liz:** I vote no.

**Raleigh:** I would say no. My body does not want that.

**Taylor:** I just hurt internally and externally...

**Raleigh:** Call it a Naturday. [laughs]

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** No. How was that— how did they make Natty Light worse?

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** How are they like, "This is bad. Here, hold my Natty Light."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "But give me half of it."

**Sydnee:** "But give it back to me then, 'cause I'm gonna make it worse."

**Taylor:** [incredulous] What?

**Sydnee:** No, I didn't know about that, but that— yeah, no, that's a— I mean, that's a good example. Like, I started out, because that was around, I drank Natty Light. And then I moved onto Miller Lite. [laughs]

**Liz:** Right. That's a natural evolution.

**Sydnee:** This is more sophisticated and it's union-made, so I will... I will drink [laughs] Miller Lite now.

**Taylor:** But when did you go to Miller High Life? 'Cause that's...

**Liz:** That's the champagne of beers.

**Sydnee:** I skipped Miller High Life.

**Taylor:** What?

**Sydnee:** See, I was stuck on Miller Lite for a long time, because they say that union-made on there, and so I was...

**Liz:** You're really for the union?

**Raleigh:** [laughs]



**Sydnee:** ... I was part of the um, college democrats, and it was very important to us at all of our gatherings that we [laughs] drank Miller Lite. And I just got stuck there.

**Liz:** I am so proud of you for supporting the unions.

**Sydnee:** But you know, you think about it, they're both made by Miller. They've gotta both be union-made, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I think you're right.

**Sydnee:** I think they probably are, but we didn't know. We were— anyway, I got really hung up on Miller Lite for many years. And then we went to an out-of-the-way in Ohio beer store. Like, this weird gas station place that had a ton of craft beers. Warm, on the shelves, and only like one or two bottles of every kind. Like, not even like whole six-packs.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** It was called Leo's. And we went there, and got just a whole collection of, like, "I don't know what any of this is. We'll try it all." And our minds were blown, and I've never looked back to Miller. [laughs]

**Liz:** She's never looked back, folks.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That was the end of my Miller Lite days. No shade on Miller Lite, I'm just—

**Liz:** No shade. It's a— it's a perfectly fine, you know, if you're... [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** You know, it's fine. I mean, I feel like— I still drink um, beer— I love beer in a can. I'll drink a Tecate or a Modelo like, I usually won't go back for a Miller Lite, but uh...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Liz:** ...but I'm— I'm into those beers too.

**Taylor:** I—

**Liz:** What do you have to say about that, Taylor?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I think it's fine.

**Raleigh:** My bartender sister.

**Taylor:** No. No. I actually— I mean, I don't— I usually don't drink light beers, just because it's like— they're— there's less— a lot of the reason that they're light is because they have less alcohol, so it's like... I mean, I don't mind if a beer has more or less alcohol, I just like— I just want a regular beer. And I'd rather just drink a regular beer than have, like, a beer that's had some alcohol sucked away and, like, I'm just drinking more carb water.

But, I have no problem if it's like...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I like High Life. I like Budweiser. Like, if I'm— like, I'm find with that. I love light stuff like Pilsners, like, I like American Pilsners. Um, but I just— I'm curious about— I guess the thing that I guess hasn't changed is like, when we're young, the reason that all the drinks we talk about are very sweet and there is a lot of sugar because it hides the alcohol, it's like, the point is not that it tastes good necessarily, it's just that you can get it down, and you... you get wasted.

Has that changed? Like, are there like— are— 'cause if there's a person in college that has any understanding about, like, well, cocktails or whatever that is of legal age, I like— I want that advancement. Like...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Is there one person that's not thinking, the only mixers are like vanilla vodka and vanilla coke.

**Raleigh:** Um, do I know those people? No.

**Taylor:** No. All right.

**Raleigh:** But I will say that I've seen, like, people say on Twitter and on the social media talking about, like, kind of similar to how we talked about people posting about all, you know, the teenagers now don't go through that awkward blue eyeshadow, shimmery chap stick phase, 'cause we have all this, like, nice modern makeup and stuff. We don't go through that awkward stage. It's kind of the same thing when I see people talk about alcohol. It's like, oh, you don't go through that awful, like, green apple pucker blue drink phase...

**Liz:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** ... because you have, like, White Claws and Hard Seltzers that are still the same kind of thing, that are made for, I would think, a younger audience, but aren't as, like, sugary and awful, and other people can still enjoy them? Um, I think it just is— you know, the same kind of thing? Not as much with the cocktails. I think when you go to a college bar, it's still kind of like, "Give me something blue. Give me a vodka cran." Like, that— like, a lemon drop shot. Like, you know, those kinds of things.

**Sydnee:** Oh, yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** But you know, the kind of alcohol you buy, it's less, like, "Just give me whatever's gonna get me drunk!" and more like, "I also want it to be at least enjoyable, you know?"

**Sydnee:** I think that's a fair point about the White Claws, though.

**Liz:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, I am not a huge— well, I'm not a huge fan of them personally...

**Raleigh:** Sydnee loves claws. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I think everybody in this family loves claws.

**Sydnee:** I don't— I'm not a big fan of seltzer. I know that's, like...

**Taylor:** What?

**Sydnee:** I know. You can't say that now, right? In 2019, you're not allowed to be not a fan of seltzer?

**Taylor:** I mean, I think it's fine. There's a lot of worse things that people are out there being in 2019, so I think a fan of seltzer is... I mean...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I'm still very liberal. I just don't like seltzer.

**Taylor:** Like, Nazis are okay being Nazis these days. I don't worry about the seltzer. [laughs]

**Liz:** Good point. Fair point.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Liz:** I just like, you know, I really just drink seltzer to trick my— trick myself into drinking water. 'Cause like...

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Liz:** I'm not really into... like, I know I'm supposed to drink water, but...

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Liz:** ... I won't, like, make myself drink that, like— I see people, like, the good— the people who are out here doing the good work...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Liz:** ... carrying around New York City a full jug gallon of water, I would never do that, but I would drink a liter or a two-liter of seltzer.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Liz:** Because my brain just goes, "Bubbles!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "This is definitely a drink!"

**Sydnee:** You're not alone, though. I really think that's true. People love seltzer. Everybody loves seltzer now. It's the thing.

**Liz:** Yeah. And put some alcohol in it...

**Sydnee:** It makes total sense. And I do think it tastes better, even though it's still not my preference, it does taste better than back— what we used to drink, which were Smirnoff Ices...

**Liz:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And Zimas with Jolly Ranchers in the bottom.

**Raleigh:** What?

**Sydnee:** And— yup. That was a— you always did. You get your pack of Zimas, and a bag of Jolly Ranches, and then put a [laughs] Jolly Rancher in your Zima to make it taste like something. Yes. This is—

**Liz:** Oh, my God. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That was like, par for the course. That was standard. Like, you did not have a party with Zimas and not have Jolly Ranchers. That would just be like, "What were you even thinking?"

**Taylor:** But Zimas were still okay. They weren't super sweet.

**Liz:** I think I miss Zimas.

**Taylor:** Like, the evolution to that, like, wine coolers...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** ... and like, like the Smirnoff stuff, that got pretty sweet, but like, Zimas— I— I recently had a Zima, because for some reason, they got a stronghold in Japan and just stayed there.

**Liz:** Ooh.

**Taylor:** Like, Zimas you can get at every, like, bodega, basically, in Japan. So...

**Sydnee:** It's— well, and they were better, I will say, like, there were the Zimas, and then the lemonade beers arrived, and everybody was drinking various lemonade beers. There were Two Dogs and there were, obviously, Mike's Hard Lemonade became a thing, and everybody went crazy for lemonade beers.

And they were— I mean, now— now, my IPA palette [laughs] says they were sickening. They probably weren't as bad as I'm remembering, but I like bitter beers, so for me, it's, you know. But White Claw's better. I would say White Claw's better than that stuff. It is a better place to start than where we started, which was literally "Give me a warm solo cup of green apple pucker, and I'm gonna sit here and sip on it like I'm an adult."

**Taylor:** That sounds...

**Sydnee:** Was what we did!

**Taylor:** ... terrible. It sounds like something no one should have to do.

**Raleigh:** [voiceover] Hello, and welcome to the Group Message [laughs] portion of Still Buffering. This is Raleigh of the future, coming to you uh, this week, bringing you our Group Message. I hope you're enjoying this mashup episode, this crossover, if you will, with Neat! The Boozecast, Taylor's other podcast. Again, go check that out, if you haven't already.

I want to tell you about a few sponsors we have this week that helped make this episode possible, and all of our episodes other— our other episodes possible. Let's see if I can speak that time.

[clears throat] Um, this week, Still Buffering is sponsored in part by HelloFresh. We've told you about HelloFresh before. They give you everything from step-by-step recipes to premeasured ingredients, and they give you everything you need to get a wow-worthy dinner on the table in just about 30 minutes, which is such a good amount of time. I mean, not all of us have hours to spend preparing dinner, and sometimes you get tired just ordering food, you know, making frozen food.

I know I do that a lot as a college student, so getting a really good, really tasty meal in just about 30 minutes, and they have something for everyone, from family recipes to calorie-smart and vegetarian, and fine menu series like Hall of Fame and Craft Burgers.

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Uh, we're also brought to you in part this week by Warby Parker. Warby Parker is the glasses service we've told you about before, they have glasses starting at \$95, including prescription lenses, and they include anti-glare and anti-scratch coatings, and blue light-filtering lenses are also now available, which is important for people like me, who spend a lot of their time looking at computer screens and phone screens, and as most people do, especially all of us teens now in the year 2019, screens are our life and can really hurt your head, hurt your eyes, so those blue light-filtering lenses are really helpful.

Um, and if you have an iPhone X, you can download Warby Parker's app where you can use their brand-new virtual try-on, allowing you to try on their eyeglasses, so you don't even have to do their at-home try-on, which is also available, but you can do it on your phone, and just try out as many lenses as you want. Take a picture, see how they look on your face. I know that's super important, um, you know, when you're picking out your lenses, you want to know how they look on your face, so now you can try 'em out on the app.

And for every pair of glasses sold, Warby Parker distributes a pair of glasses to someone in need, which is super awesome.

Um, with Warby Parker's free home try-on program, you can order five pairs of glasses and try them on for five days, and there's no obligation to buy! I did this, Sydnee did this, Teylor did this, we all have done this at-home try-on. We all loved it. You can pick five different frames, you know, maybe something you would never try on usually. Maybe something that's usually



more of what you stick with, something new, something fun. Try them on, five days, no obligation to buy.

Try them on, see how they look. And um, they ship free and include a prepaid return shipping label, so really, there's no reason not to do it if you're looking for a new pair of frames. You should check out Warby Parker's at-home try-on program.

If you just go to [WarbyParker.com/StillBuffering](https://www.warby.com/StillBuffering) to order your free home try-ons today. That's [WarbyParker.com/StillBuffering](https://www.warby.com/StillBuffering).

So go check out Warby Parker, go check out HelloFresh, and now we're gonna finish talking about uh, college and blue drinks and all those kinds of things with Liz and Tey, so on with the crossover.

**Liz:** You don't have to— We got White Claws. I actually don't know what Zima is. I'm holding the mic far away. I don't know what Zima is.

**Sydnee:** Zima was— is— I mean, it's just a malt. Is that all it is considered...

**Liz:** Ew!

**Sydnee:** ... just a malt beverage?

**Taylor:** Yeah. Flavored malt beverage.

**Sydnee:** Flavored malt beverage.

**Liz:** I hate malt beverages.

**Sydnee:** It was clear—

**Liz:** I'm sorry. That— I don't know if that's controversial to say. I don't like it.

**Taylor:** That's what all of them are. That's what Smirnoff is. That's what all of them are.

**Sydnee:** It came in a clear bottle, and it was clear.

**Taylor:** Yeah. It tasted vaguely lemony.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Maybe vaguely citrusy, and that was it. And I mean, it was really just that, and then...

**Liz:** I'm thinking of a different kind of malt beverage.

**Taylor:** You meant like Colt 45?

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Old English?

**Liz:** Yeah. Those were—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, it wasn't like that.

**Liz:** Those ones were nasty.

**Sydnee:** No, Zima's like...

**Liz:** So why are those allowed to be called malt beverages, and then also Smirnoff Ice is a malt beverage?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. It's a malt beverage. They're just not beer, right?

**Taylor:** Yeah, I guess it's just a malt sti— or it's a malt distillate, so you call— that's what you call it, but...

**Liz:** They should have distinctions. They're not the same.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Well...

**Sydnee:** No. They're just not beer; that's the only thing I would stand on.

**Liz:** Mm.

**Taylor:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** I'm not holding to, like, a German purity law on beer here, but that's not beer.

**Raleigh:** I will say, those Smirnoff Ices, and the Mike's Hards, and I haven't seen Zima, I think that's probably gone, right? All those things do still exist at, you know, parties and stuff. Like, it's still— when you're starting to drink after you're 21, you know, it's like, you still want something that tastes good, because you're not used to what alcohol tastes like, so you still want something that's like, "Oh, this tastes like soda. This tastes like, you know, candy. This tastes like sugar."

**Sydnee:** What about the bottles of Boone's Farm? Like, Strawberry Fields?

**Taylor:** Oh, no way.

**Sydnee:** What about that? Is that still around?

**Taylor:** Those cannot be cool anymore?

**Raleigh:** What is that?

**Liz:** I don't know what that is.

**Sydnee:** Boone's Farm was a... wine?

**Taylor:** No...

**Sydnee:** I use the word "wine" so loosely here, but that's what it wa—

**Taylor:** Boone's— okay.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it was sold like a wine. Like, in a wine bottle.

**Taylor:** In a wine bottle.

**Sydnee:** Like a size of bottle— it looked like a wine bottle.

**Taylor:** It was only about—

**Sydnee:** Except you knew instantly there was something wrong, because instead of a normal wine color, it would be, like, bright pink or blue or green or yellow or red or something, you know, primary colored.

**Liz:** Okay.

**Taylor:** And its names were like, Melon Balls, Strawberry Hill, like...

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's not wine. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Those were very popular in parties back in our day.

**Liz:** Is that like— is that like Arbor Mist?

**Taylor:** Um, Arbor Mist is the same thing, but Arbor Mist had a slightly better advertising budget.

**Sydnee:** Yes. 'Cause Arbor— this was— so Arbor Mist was marketed at, like, moms. [laughs]

**Liz:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Whereas, like, Boone's Farm was marketed at, like, kids. [laughs]  
It was like—

**Taylor:** “You’re gonna make a mistake. Make this mistake: Boone's Farm.”

**Sydnee:** There it is. [laughs] “Take this to your next high school party: Boone's Farm.”

**Liz:** Oh, my God.

**Taylor:** And it was only, like— I think it's only nine percent, so it is like— it's high for a beer, it's low for wine, but it drinks like juice, so...

**Raleigh:** That's their catch phrase. [laughs] High for beer, low for wine. Drinks like juice.

**Sydnee:** Drinks like juice.

**Raleigh:** Boone's Farm. [laughs]

**Liz:** I actually did— I used to do, like, liquor repping, and I did— not like repping, but I don't know, you know when you go into the liquor store, and you see somebody, like, giving samples or whatever? I did that for a little bit.

There was a— there was a company, I forget the name of the company, but they made wine, carbonated wine, and they had, like, the regular like— like, I'm not gonna claim what kind of grapes were in here, but they had a yellowish-tinted one that was carbonated that was kind of like supposed to be kind of like a prosecco, and then they had a pink one that was supposed to be like a sparkling rose. But then they had a red one, and it was carbonated, and they literally marketed it as, like, adult Coca-Cola. Like...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** But it taste— it tasted like that. Like, it tasted like alcoholic coke, kind of. Like, it was— it was very strange.

**Sydnee:** Because that's the taste everybody's dying for.

**Taylor:** "I love just coke, but can you make my coke boozy?" We already did that—

**Sydnee:** But not with caffeine, I'm assuming. It just tastes like...

**Liz:** No, it just tasted like— it would just taste like cola. It tasted like— like kind of like, fruity cola, but like dark cola. Um, and yeah. It was...

**Sydnee:** Isn't it wild?

**Liz:** It was weird. Like, it sold really well. People bought it.

**Sydnee:** Really?

**Liz:** People li— like, when you would do tastings of it, people would buy it.

**Sydnee:** I guess people like cola.

**Liz:** They do.

**Sydnee:** You know, so... [laughs] they don't wanna—

**Taylor:** That's the one thing I've always thought about cola. I wish this cola had no caffeine and lots of alcohol!

**Liz:** "You know what, I don't want to drink two different liquids. I just want— I just want the liquid I'm already drinking to get me drunk."

**Sydnee:** I mean, I guess that makes sense if you think about— I've never been a big fan of cola as a mixer, 'cause I think it makes it taste flat, persona— this is my personal opinion.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I think it makes it taste flat, and I don't like it very much. But I guess if you like to use cola as a mixer for whatever the heck you're mixing it with, this'll save you the trouble.

**Liz:** Right. I guess so. I don't know, I can't explain that. I wish I could remember the name of the company, because it was just like, if you— if you look up this marketing, it was so— it was the strange— one of the strangest jobs [laughs] I've ever had in my life.

It was so weird, 'cause I would mark— I would tell them, like, "Oh, it's like adult coke!"

And they'd be like, "That sounds good to me!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** "Gonna get three bottles of it."

**Sydnee:** "Okay."

**Liz:** Uh, yeah, sorry, weird segue in there.

**Sydnee:** No, no. Well, I mean, but that— but that— like, as I got a little older, like, outside of my early drinking years, the next big thing that I remember everybody ordering was vodka Red Bull.

**Raleigh:** Hmm.

**Liz:** Ooh.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, every time I went out, that was— everybody around me was ordering that all the time. That was just, like, the standard. Like, if you had no idea what else to order, and you're with a group of friends, and you just want to look like you're cool, [laughs] order a vodka Red Bull.

**Liz:** Or you wanna stay up all night.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** All night.

**Sydnee:** Which was a bad idea.

**Raleigh:** That sounds like a bad idea, because I know how I feel after I just drank Red Bull. [laughs]

**Liz:** Right.

**Raleigh:** I feel like adding alcohol to that would not be a good decision.

**Taylor:** It's like... your brain is gonna go, "Good night!"

And your body's gonna be like, "I'm still here!" for like, four hours.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** With a vodka Red Bull.

**Liz:** That is— that's how people black out.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Sydnee:** No, you're very true. You're very right. I mean, it's a terrible idea, and for some reason, there was this moment in alcohol history where it was like, "Oh, well, if you like vodka Red Bull, here. Here's—" uh, what were they all called? All of the...

**Liz:** Oh. Oh. Four Loko?

**Sydnee:** Four Loko! Yes.

**Taylor:** Yes!

**Raleigh:** Oh, okay.

**Liz:** Oh, man.

**Raleigh:** So...

**Liz:** Oh, do you have a story about that, Raleigh?



**Raleigh:** Four Lokos are the thing that, in my experience [laughs] from friends, are the things that are like, oh, you're wanting to get drunk, and you want something that tastes, like, okay, then you're each going to get one Four Loko. And that is your night, is one Four Loko.

**Liz:** It has to be the whole night.

**Raleigh:** Because they come in these giant, tall cans, right? Like, they come in these huge, tall cans...

**Liz:** I could never finish one. Because I would get them with my friends in college.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Liz:** And I could never finish one. Never. I would pass out before I finished one.

**Raleigh:** Those are definitely still a thing. They're huge.

**Liz:** They're huge, and they taste nasty.

**Taylor:** They're terri— but they used to have so much more caffeine. I think that's the thing now.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Taylor:** They can't have as much.

**Raleigh:** That has to be what they changed, because I don't— I've never heard of them as being like, oh, like an energy drink alcoholic thing. It's more just like, a higher percentage than a Smirnoff or a, you know...

**Liz:** Well, they had to stop, because they were giving people heart attacks.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah, a lot of people were staying awake and drinking way more than, like—

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause usually, your brain does that thing where it's like, "You're done now! Sleepy time! Bye!" And makes you stop. And the caffeine was preventing that.

**Taylor:** I remember playing um... so this is all bad, this is nothing that anybody should do, but there's a game that I played in college called Edward Fortyhands, which is where you tape...

**Liz:** No...

**Sydnee:** Oh, no...

**Liz:** I've played that game.

**Taylor:** ...a 40 to each of your hands, and then you can't get your hands back until you finish them both, and that's bad. That's dumb. But then even dumber was the next year, when we played Edward Four Loko-hands.

**Liz:** No. No!

**Taylor:** [laughs] We each had two Four Lokos taped to our hands.

**Sydnee:** That's— that's not— don't ever do this.

**Taylor:** It was a terrible idea.

**Sydnee:** That's so dangerous.

**Taylor:** And— and—

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Knowing how I've seen people after like three-fourths of one Four Loko, having two?

**Taylor:** Oh, no. No, we had a buddy snuck in the bathroom and helped our— each other cut the Four Lokos off our hands, and then we left the party. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That was the right move, though. Kids, leave.

**Raleigh:** That was the smart decision.

**Taylor:** We were just drinking for like...

**Sydnee:** Leave the party.

**Taylor:** We don't wanna— no, 'cause there were still like— there were still like five other people in the game. We were like, we don't even know— wanna know how this ends. We just wanna leave.

**Liz:** "I want out." Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No, if you're ever at a party where someone tries to tape alcohol to your hands...

**Liz:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** ... don't let them ta— don't even wait like Teylor did and cut it off in the bathroom. Just like, say no and run.

**Taylor:** Yep. Yep.

**Sydnee:** Say, "I need an adult! I need an adult!" and run.

**Raleigh:** Because obviously, if you are in a party where there are people trying to tape alcohol to your hands, there are no adults there. [laughs]

**Taylor:** This is true.

**Sydnee:** Yes, this is a bad idea. [laughs] And that's the beauty of, as you get older, you realize, like... are you handing me the mic? Ah. Okay.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You realize that it's hard to share a mic when you're recording a podcast— [laughs] a podcast.

**Raleigh:** A podcast, in bed!

**Taylor:** Oh, no, we're at that at this point.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] A podcast. No, but you realize that like, there is— alcohol can be something that tastes good, and like, you enjoy a little bit of it, and it's nice at a social event, but if you're drinking something that you can barely, like, tolerate, don't.

**Liz:** Don't.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I really think like— I know that sounds like a really simple message, but I remember a lot of times when I was younger, like, taking a sip of something, and being like, "Ooh, don't like that, but I guess that's what you do!" Like...

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Liz:** Yeah. I mean, I remember like, 'cause my parents were— my parents were winos, so they were all— they drank— I'm sorry, is that not okay to say?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Liz:** I meant in the— okay.

**Sydnee:** They like wine.

**Liz:** They call— they jokingly called themselves winos, like they have a group of friends that they're like, they like to drink wine together! That's just their thing. They like it. But— so they always liked wine. That was their bonding, my mom and dad. Um, among other things, I'm sure. They have other things that—

**Taylor:** Who knows what they were into, but definitely this.

**Liz:** Who knows. [laughs] Um, but they would always— like, their thing was kind of um, you know, like, they would always say like the— 'cause the law in Ohio is that you can drink within adult supervision. So the under— guardian— not adult supervision. That doesn't make any sense. Wow. [laughs] Um, let me clarify. Under supervision of their guardian.

So my parents would give us, like, let us try their wine and stuff, and I always thought that that stuff was nasty, so I was like, "Yeah, no, I don't want any of that." Like, I actually was pretty— I was pretty good in my um, in my, other— other than that, pretty rebellious teen years. That wasn't one of the things that I did, because I was like, "That's gross. [laughs] I don't want any of that."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, that's not a bad thing, though, to normalize it. Like, 'cause for a lot of people, alcohol is gonna be part of their life. Not for everybody, whether they choose to or it's just not a good thing for them.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Um, you have to figure out how you're gonna have a good relationship with it, one way or the other.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** So I don't think, like, parents like introducing you to the idea of alcohol is a bad idea.

**Liz:** Oh, no, and let me clarify. I like wine now.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Liz:** I didn't— I didn't like it when I was eight, you know, but that's also like how they— I think that's like, uh, something about the way that they do stuff in Europe.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Liz:** When like, you can drink earlier and... it's not as stigmati— it doesn't— it's not, like, built up this thing. I think we um, maybe over here in the States, like...

**Taylor:** Yeah, I hear that.

**Liz:** ...you're not— you like, feel like an adult, but you're not allowed to drink, so you might be more inclined to do it out of spite or like, out of a rebellious streak, whereas if you just grew up knowing about it, then like, it's not a big deal, so you don't feel as inclined to do it.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** That is true. I feel like Americans are the worst binge drinkers when it comes to that, but...

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** No, it's very true, 'cause we don't— alcohol is still seen as like, this party thing, as opposed to just like, the way I think about it, which is occasionally I'm eating something, and I think, "This would be good with a beer. I would like to have a very nice beer with this."

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And it's not like, in any pursuit of trying to get drunk.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** It's purely, "I would enjoy the taste of a beer with this food."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And there aren't a lot of good non-alcoholic beers, frankly.

**Taylor:** No.

**Liz:** No.

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Liz:** Mm.

**Taylor:** But I think that, like, having booze in restaurants, that's also been coming back way, way more and more in fashion, even laws have been passed that say, like, "Hey, you have to have food if you serve alcohol in certain areas," so I think that's cool, 'cause it kinda— it normalizes it a bit more, I think.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Rileigh:** I mean, I think that's the— the thing, right? Like, here, it's not like in the UK, for example, where you can have sliders and then you move onto harder stuff the older you get, but you can start having lighter stuff when you're like 16, 17 years old, and then it's like, oh, you're with your family, so you're casually having, like, an alcoholic beverage. Then you get to college, and you're not like, "Oh, what is alcohol? What is this thing? What does it mean to be drunk?"

But I know— I feel like a lot of college students still are at the point, especially here, where it's like, "I'm drinking to get drunk. Not because it's a thing I enjoy, not because it's like a— a tasty thing, but I'm just pounding these things until I get to a state of, like, not-sober-ness."

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Liz:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Um, and I feel like that's not good.

**Taylor:** No.

**Raleigh:** Like, if alcohol's gonna exist and be... 'cause, I mean, when you're in college, half of your friends are gonna be legal drinking age. You know, most people in college are between the ages of 18 and 22, so by the time you hit your junior year of college, you can drink legally, so you go to the bars with your friends, and those are the people you're surrounded by.

Like, I don't... that shouldn't be the first experience you want people to have when they drink, to be like, surrounded by a bunch of people that are like, "I've never had alcohol before, so I'm just gonna drink a bunch of stuff that gets me not sober."

**Taylor:** Yeah. I think any time, and I mean, even like, even as an adult, I have to question, like, "Am I drinking this because it's cheap and, like, it's a quick buzz, or do I enjoy it?" and I think that's a good rule to follow. Like, "Am I enjoying this drink, then— and it's— that's the only purpose, then great." That's okay. Like, as an adult. But like, it's like, "Am I doing this just to get drunk?" No. No one should— should do that.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Liz:** Right. There are certain things that like, I wouldn't want to take a shot of, for example, because I'm like, I know that if— I know that I don't like that, so I know if I'm gonna do that, it means, like, right now, I want to get drunk.

**Sydney:** Right.

**Liz:** So that's like a good gauge of that. Like, if I'm willing to take a shot of vodka, then I clearly only have one thing in mind.



**Taylor:** Yeah. If you would enjoy more to sip on something, then sip on it. And if you wouldn't sip on it, don't drink it!

**Sydnee:** I think that is a good rule. But that— and I apologize to any uh, Jägermeister lovers out there...

**Liz:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** That's why, like, I...

**Liz:** Do you deserve an apology? Think about it.

**Taylor:** Hey. You know I'll get in Jägermeister's car but...

**Sydnee:** I can't— I can't— I look back at the days where I would drink— and I just don't know. I never enjoyed the taste of Jägermeister.

**Liz:** No.

**Sydnee:** I don't want to drink it now.

**Liz:** It's like pine and licorice.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** I think it works great in cocktails.

**Sydnee:** May— okay. Then maybe in a cocktail.

**Taylor:** In cocktails...

**Sydnee:** I just mean on its own.

**Liz:** I would drink it in a cocktail...

**Raleigh:** Well...

**Liz:** ... if you made it, Taylor.

**Raleigh:** ... yeah, but when you're in college, I feel like none of your friends are gonna be, like, mixologists, like, great bartenders.

**Liz:** No.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** And you don't have—

**Taylor:** You could!

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I will be the one.

**Taylor:** I will give you all the knowledge now, and then on your 21st birthday, you're just like...

**Raleigh:** I'll throw a party...

**Taylor:** ... Invite your friends over, and you're like, "Hello, I'm a mixologist." And just do it.

**Raleigh:** Here's what good alcohol is.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** But I mean, when you're like, going to bars or even at a party, no one has the stuff to mix it with. Like, they just think about like, "We're having a party, we're gonna get liquor, and we're gonna get sugary bottled and canned drinks."

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Liz:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** So you don't even have the opportunity to try, like, liquor mixed with stuff, I feel like, when you start drinking, if you're in like a college setting or a party setting, if you start drinking then. Because it's just

surrounded by liquor that people got to get drunk, and then you know, like, standard canned beers and Smirnoff Ices and stuff.

**Liz:** Right.

**Raleigh:** So like, I wouldn't even know what liquor mixed with stuff tasted like once I started drinking.

**Taylor:** Well, you just show up with your own shaker full of— of—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** ... classic— I was gonna say gin martini, but that should be stirred, so I don't know. But just show— or— yeah, so you know, do some like, dirty martinis from the '70s. That's stylish. You can leave those in the shaker for a while, let 'em melt down. That's the truth.

Uh, yeah, just show— be like, "Oh, I brought my own drink! Where are your martini glasses?"

**Raleigh:** Ooh.

**Sydney:** Can you imagine that? Like, it would be like a— like a full-on, like, Maude look. She like, shows up, and she's got her own full bar set up, and it's like a Mad Men scene or something, and she's like, "I'm gonna make some drinks for everyone. I want something a little more sophisticated."

**Taylor:** "I just need ice and glasses, that's all."

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I'm gonna roll up to my first party right after I turn 21 with a backpack on, and just start whipping out, like, a shaker, some mixers. Like, just making drinks at someone else's [laughs] party.

**Liz:** That's like, a lot of work, though.

**Taylor:** Suspenders.

**Liz:** You can just make a punch.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Suspenders.

**Sydnee:** That's true. That's true.

**Raleigh:** A straw hat.

**Liz:** Like, we always did, when I was in college, we did Hairy Buffalo, which is like— you know Jungle Juice?

**Raleigh:** Isn't that just where you mix together, just, everything?

**Liz:** Yeah. It is basically a giant Long Island.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** No! It's better than that.

**Liz:** No, it's better than that. It's better than that. It's got, like, real juice in it. It's basically like, juice, like, whatever— I mean, lemonade, uh, I guess fruit punch? But like, or like, you could do— you can do better juices. You could do, like, grapefruit juice.

Like, a Hairy Buffalo is like, really fruit-heavy, so you do like— but it's like, some mix of like, fruit juice, lemonade, and iced tea, sweet tea usually. And— but you soak a bunch of fruit in it— oh, and Everclear. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I was like, "What is the booze in this?" thinking like...

**Raleigh:** I was sitting here, like, "I could drink that!"

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. We're all on board, and then you're like, "Oh, and Everclear," and we're like whoa, whoa! Hold the phone.

**Taylor:** Where's the fire.

**Sydnee:** It's— hold the phone! [laughs]

**Liz:** Because it's— it's really— and I consider it really dangerous, because it like, it tastes really good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I bet.

**Taylor:** Oh, tasty alcohol. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I bet. [laughs]

**Liz:** So— because it's just like, if you put like a um— what is that called? A— the spirits? Rectified spirit?

**Taylor:** Those— no, those are even higher than Everclear.

**Liz:** Really? Yikes.

**Taylor:** That was 94 percent.

**Liz:** But what is— what is that category of spirit called?

**Sydnee:** Raleigh, don't drink these things.

**Taylor:** That's called...

**Raleigh:** That sounds scary. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Stay away.

**Taylor:** ... grain...

**Liz:** Grain alcohol?

**Taylor:** That's grain alcohol.

**Liz:** Yeah. You basically like...

**Sydnee:** Stay away. [laughs]

**Liz:** You can't drink it without a bunch of stuff.

**Taylor:** And I don't— I don't recommend drinking anything that you have to mask with sugar.

**Liz:** It's not a mask, it's just like...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Anything that smells like it could also go in a rubbing alcohol bottle.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Liz:** But it is really easy to make, and is not— is not Jaeger. I don't know what my argument is.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I also remember the first time that somebody introduced me to the concept of, like, shots that weren't liquor. Like, just liquor.

**Liz:** Oh, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, the first time somebody was like, "I'll have an oatmeal cookie shot," or a pineapple upside-down cake, or a buttery nipple, or you know...

**Liz:** Kamikaze.

**Sydnee:** Something— something that would taste good, and I was like, "Oh! Well, that was— I really enjoyed that. I would drink a whole glass of that." I would— it would be very sweet, probably. [laughs]

**Liz:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Would wanna throw up, but like...

**Liz:** It would be like, a half an ounce of alcohol.

**Sydnee:** But like, there— like, I remember being introduced to this concept, that like, don't just drink liquor. Like, just— here, this tastes good. Now, okay? Now, you're done with that. Okay. Now, sit down. [laughs] Sit down and chill out for a while, and have a glass of water, and recover from that.

**Taylor:** It's funny, 'cause I still don't know like— 'cause I still have those people that are like, "What kind of shots do you have?"

And I'm like, "Whisky, tequila at my bar."

And there's always that moment where the people are like, "Oh, wait, like, shots."

And I'm like, "That— we have shots. Like, I can make some of the mixed shots if I have to."

**Liz:** We don't put them on the menu.

**Taylor:** But there's— I still don't have the confidence to be like, "Oh, you don't know what you're drinking?" I'm like, is there another level of bar where this is normal? Where like, I have a specialty...

**Sydnee:** Come to Huntington. All the bars.

**Taylor:** ... small shop menu.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Liz:** My— I knew a bartender who made...

**Sydnee:** College bars.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Liz:** ... a specialty shot, but it was like— it wasn't among a list of them, it was just like one. It was like, a honey bee, or like— it was basically, it was like gin and honey and lemon, like— you know, that cocktail.

**Taylor:** Bee's knees. That's a bee's knees.

**Liz:** It was a bee's knees cocktail, but in a shot form.

**Taylor:** Oh. Nice.

**Liz:** So like...

**Sydnee:** That sounds good.

**Liz:** I guess he called it— not a bee's knees, he wouldn't call it the cocktail.

**Raleigh:** A bee's toe.

**Liz:** Bee's toes.

**Sydnee:** You can't get the whole knees.

**Taylor:** Bee's little pinky.

**Liz:** Just a little pinky, baby toe.

**Taylor:** Little pinky baby.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mentioned green apple pucker. Raleigh, what is the drink that all your friends drink? What's the awful— or wonderful, whatever you decide?

**Raleigh:** Um, I mean, I've heard them order various things, but the one that— the only one I didn't know what it was based off the name, like, they order a vodka cranberry, and like, okay, I can put together what that is...



**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** ... but [laughs] um, was a blue motorcycle. And all I could gather was they'd order it, and the bartender was immediately like, "Got it," and they bring them back a big, blue drink.

**Liz:** Do you know what's in it? What is it?

**Raleigh:** Um...

**Taylor:** We looked it up.

**Raleigh:** We looked it up.

**Liz:** Oh.

**Raleigh:** And upon looking it up, it was gin, rum, vodka, tequila, blue cura— how do you say that?

**Taylor:** Curacao.

**Raleigh:** Curacao, and Sprite.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Liz:** A long...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Well, it is— okay, so it's basically a long island.

**Raleigh:** A long...

**Liz:** You just didn't want to go there with me.

**Taylor:** No, no, no. It's— the long island—

**Liz:** You say things at the same time all the time, my gosh.

**Taylor:** Oh well I was like, you do it. I don't know. I don't know. I thought you wanted to say it. Anyway...

**Liz:** I wanted— I looked at you, 'cause I...

**Taylor:** I was wondering [laughs] why you were taking so long to say it.

**Raleigh:** Take two.

**Sydnee:** All right. Take two.

**Liz and Taylor:** A long island.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Uh, no, the— it's a long island with blue curacao instead of triple sec, and Sprite instead of coke. Um...

**Liz:** Can you improve upon this beverage?

**Taylor:** Well, for one, I can't say what the— 'cause I knew this drink as soon as you told me the ingredients, I was like, "Oh, but that was called something else for my age group." So I think the same drinks regenerate, like some sort of like... horror movie villain.

**Liz:** Time Lord.

**Taylor:** Or a Time Lord.

**Raleigh:** It's The Doctor.

**Taylor:** No, but it's evil. So it's not The Doctor.

**Liz:** Every season, they have to rebrand it.

**Raleigh:** It's just a blue drink with all the kinds of liquor in it.

**Taylor:** It's just a—

**Liz:** It's the master.

**Taylor:** There you go. Yeah. And my— in my time, it was called an Adios Mother... and I can't finish the last word. Um...

**Raleigh:** It was just, "Adios, Mom."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Bye, Mom. Adios, Mom."

**Liz:** [laughs] Mine was called a Trashcan.

**Taylor:** That's more accurate.

**Raleigh:** That's accurate.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Liz:** Yeah. This is good.

**Taylor:** All right. So we're gonna try to make these drinks better.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. So go check out Neat! The Boozecast's YouTube channel...

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Where Liz and Tey showed us how to make those better. Obviously, I did not partake, but Sydnee did.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** And now you can go learn to make those so they're not Trashcans.

**Sydnee:** And— and Green Apple Pucker, so it's not just...

**Raleigh:** Green Apple Pucker. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Warm Green Apple Pucker in a plastic cup. This is literally what we drank.

**Liz:** We're gonna— we're gonna improve the Apple Pucker drink by just literally adding anything to it.

**Raleigh:** Yup. Anything.

**Taylor:** Yes. Just anything. And maybe some ice. Ice being one of the things.

**Sydnee:** That's true. You know what, we had ice. I don't know why we didn't use it. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Questions.

**Raleigh:** Didn't water it down to get the full taste.

**Taylor:** The full pucker.

**Sydnee:** Uh, kids, if you're not 21, don't drink.

**Taylor:** Don't drink.

**Sydnee:** I mean, unless you live in a country where it's legal, but then it's... that's possible.

**Taylor:** That's— which some of you do.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. But if you're in the States like me, don't— be responsible, and don't drink.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Don't drink and drive ever, no matter how old you are, and drink responsibly. I feel like we should say that.

**Taylor:** If you're of legal age.

**Sydnee:** If you're of legal age.

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Liz:** That's good advice for everybody.

**Sydnee:** Exactly. Exactly.

**Raleigh:** All right. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That was good. I like the PSA at the end.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I feel like that was necessary.

Thanks, Liz, for joining us, being our Smourth sister.

**Liz:** Oh, I'm the Smourth? I love it! Thank you for having me!

**Sydnee:** Yay!

**Raleigh:** Um, we hope you enjoyed this Neat— oh, I'm sorry, Neat! and Still Buffering crossover. Um, go check out Neat! the Boozecast on YouTube and Spotify, is that where it is?

**Taylor:** Uh, yes.

**Liz:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um, Taylor's on it, and it's super good and super fun. Our dad was also in a video [laughs] that they did, so there's that. Um, go check us out at MaximumFun.org, where there are a lot of other great podcasts. Um, you can tweet at us @StillBuff, and you can go to MaximumFun.org— I already said that.

You can email us at [StillBuffering@MaximumFun.org](mailto:StillBuffering@MaximumFun.org) if you have questions, comments, suggestions for future episodes. And thank you to The Nouvelles for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind. I took the whole bit, Syd. Um... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** You did.

**Raleigh:** I did not want to have to pass the mic [laughs] back. 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.

**Liz:** And I'm Liz June!

**Raleigh:** I am a teena—

**Taylor:** I'm a teenage—[laughs]

**Liz:** Wait, who is saying it?

**Sydnee:** No, you're not.

**Taylor:** [laughs] I'm so sorry.

**Raleigh:** I am the teenager... [laughs]

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

**Raleigh:** Not you! Just me. [laughs]

**Taylor:** I was so confused!

**Raleigh:** I am the [unintelligible].

[theme music plays]

**Dave:** Hi, I'm Dave.

**Graham:** Hi, I'm Graham.

**Dave:** And we're two house DJs who have been trapped inside our drum machine.

**Graham:** We love it here, and we'd love if you stopped by and visited us, every week...

**Both:** On Stop Podcasting Yourself.

**Dave:** Here on MaximumFun.org. We're just a couple of doofuses from Canada, and listen to our show or perish. [laughs]

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