

Still Buffering 180: How to Teachers/Professors

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl.

Sydnee: Uh, happy belated birthday!

Raleigh: Hey, thanks!

Sydnee: Raleigh Smirl.

Raleigh: Last time we did this podcast, I was 18. Now I'm 19. It's my last year of being a teenager.

Taylor: Uh-oh.

Raleigh: So our—

Taylor: Then we all gotta find new jobs! [laughs]

Raleigh: I don't know what happens to my job once I turn 20, but—

Taylor: [through laughter] We kick ya off!

Raleigh: Just gone.

Taylor: Why do you think Sydnee had two kids? We gotta get the next generation on here!

Raleigh: Charlie'll be six. Is that old enough for her to start her career?

Taylor: Um, I mean, you know... you gotta do something.

Rileigh: Sydnee, I think that kicks you out, though. I think it just bumps everyone up one.

Sydnee: [quietly] Aw...

Rileigh: I think Teylor and I become the older generation, and Charlie becomes the new one.

Sydnee: Aw, man.

Teylor: Oh, is that how it works? Alright.

Rileigh: Yeah! Three—three spots!

Sydnee: I don't have any other marketable skills.

Teylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Or any other podcasts? [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: This is true.

Sydnee: I was joking. I have a medical degree.

Rileigh: I know.

Teylor: [laughs loudly]

Rileigh: You are a doctor. A medical doctor.

Teylor: Oh, Syd, I don't think anyone knew that. Thanks for mentioning that.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Teylor: Once a podcast—once every podcast. "By the way, I have a medical degree."

Sydnee: Well, it—it—if anybody also listens to Sawbones, and then they heard me say that on this podcast, they might think it was all an elaborate hoax.
[laughs]

Taylor: That is... [laughs] is quite—

Raleigh: She never was a doctor! A doctor of jokes.

Sydnee: [laughs] Uh, so, Raleigh, how was your birthday celebration?

Raleigh: Um, it was great. A few days after my birthday, I fulfilled a longstanding childhood dream of seeing the Jonas Brothers in concert.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Because you got me tickets, and it was the best night of my life.
[laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well, good!

Raleigh: It was amazing. The Jonas Brothers grew up. They are all... Jonas men, now.

Sydnee: [snorts]

Raleigh: No longer boys.

Taylor: Well, they're still brothers. It doesn't stop—

Raleigh: They're still brothers, but they are men. [laughs] They, um... they did shots onstage, because they're grownups now.

Sydnee: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: Whaaat?

Raleigh: And I thought it was funny that when I was listening to the Jonas Brothers growing up, I was, like, you know, eight or nine when they were super popular the first time.

It was a whole ten years ago, and everyone I knew that liked them was also eight or nine years old, and now at this concert, I did not see one child. Everyone I saw was at least probably eighteen or nineteen years old, and most of them were drinking, so most of them were older.

Sydnee: I—I assume that the, uh, the current US shortage of White Claws—

Rileigh: Was because of the Jonas Brothers world tour.

Sydnee: —is entirely because of the Jonas Brothers tour, right?

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Is that—

Taylor: [quietly] I can believe that.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] They were selling so many White Claws at this— at this concert, and everyone around me was drinking one. [laughs]

Taylor: I think that's how you summon a reunion tour. I think that's what happened.

Rileigh: White Claw!

Taylor: The consumption of a million White Claws brings forth the Jonas Brothers, as men! [laughs]

Rileigh: I mean, we were—it was just a stadium full of high school and college aged young women, singing along to Jonas Brothers songs that came out in the year 2008... with fully grown Jonas Brothers.

Taylor: This is a little weird for me, 'cause I've gone to a lot of, like, reunion tours, for bands that, like, I was way too young—like, I would've missed. Like, bands that were around the late 80s. The idea that, like, when the Jonas Brothers came out, I was like, "Oh, I'm too old for that." And now they're having a reunion, and I'm like, "Well, I'm... too old for that." Like—[laughs]

Sydnee: I'm—I'm so old that, like, my only reference point for them, really—I mean, I was aware of them—I've never listened to their music.

Raleigh: Disgraceful.

Sydnee: Outside of, like, if it was playing somewhere and I didn't know that that was who it was, perhaps this has happened. I'm not gonna say that hasn't happened.

Raleigh: It probably happened.

Sydnee: But I watched them on that new TV show, where they pick somebody...

Taylor: [laughs] What?

Sydnee: ... to make a song.

Raleigh: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: They have a bunch of, uh, songwriters come on, and, like, perform songs that they've written and then, like—they always have a musical artist there who gets to choose one of them that they're going to record.

Raleigh: Yeah. The Jonas Brothers were on there.

Sydnee: Which is very cool. Like, they'd go through the process of how they rework songs, which is cool, and also a little bit like, "But I liked... I liked the way they did it the first time." Anyway, the Jonas Brothers were on there and they reworked a song, and... so that's it. They're very musically talented.

Raleigh: They are.

Sydnee: I was very impressed with their musicality on this program.

Raleigh: They are.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Perhaps my favorite part about the Jonas Brothers is how—

Taylor: [quietly] Musicality.

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm just saying, they were—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —they are! They were very good, like, with their... instruments, and their...

Raleigh: I love—

Sydnee: ... vocalization.

Raleigh: —how self-aware Kevin Jonas is. Because when the Jonas Brothers first came out, everyone's favorite was either Joe or Nick. They were the two younger ones. They were the two that sang. And then, like, as they were getting older, Kevin was the one that got married, started having kids. He never sang. All he did was play guitar.

And at this concert, he d—that is what he did! He stood there while his brothers sang, and just played guitar for them, and then smiled at everyone like, "Am I—I'm doin' good! I'm playin' guitar for my brothers, my younger brothers. I love 'em both very much."

Sydnee: Uh, there's nothing wrong with being the cool, quiet guitar player.

Raleigh: Is that what you would be?

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: [laughs] 'Cause he's the oldest.

Sydnee: I've never been cool in my life. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Which—which Jonas brother would we all be?

Taylor: Oh, that's right, there are three of 'em!

Raleigh: There are three of 'em.

Sydnee: Uh... I don't—

Raleigh: Would that make you Kevin?

Sydnee: You're gonna have—I guess? You're gonna have—

Taylor: I don't know.

Raleigh: Teylor's like a—Teylor's like a Joe.

Taylor: Which one's punk?

Raleigh: Joe's the middle one. Joe is the one that wanted—that you said, reading that list about the Jonas Brothers, who wanted to be—he wanted to be punk.
[laughs]

Taylor: [laughing]

Raleigh: He was the one that in 2008, 2009, had the really, really, like, long shaggy hair that, like, covered half of his face, and in all their music videos he would either spike it up or wear it down, and always wore, like, blazers with ripped jeans and stuff in his music videos, and always did the—

Sydnee: Blazers and ripped jeans?!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, wow.

Raleigh: Always did the screaming in all the songs. Like, whenever they'd have a guitar riff and a little, like, yell.

Taylor: He did the—they have *screaming*?!

Raleigh: He did the screams.

Taylor: There's *screaming*?! Is this—

Raleigh: Um, but Nick was—

Taylor: What is this Jonas?

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Nick was the baby who always did, like, the soft, like, sweet guitar songs.

Taylor: Oh, okay. So you want—you wanna be the babby.

Raleigh: He was the babby. I love Nick.

Taylor: Okay, alright.

Raleigh: Joe was always my favorite, though. I was always in love with Joe.

Sydnee: I guess I'm Kevin.

Raleigh: [snorts]

Taylor: [laughs loudly]

Raleigh: Well, Kevin's the one who got married and had two kids, while the other ones were still, like, you know, teens and stuff.

Sydnee: Young and cool? [laughs]

Raleigh: So, yeah. I think that's fitting.

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: Alright. Hey, listen. I feel like Kevin is probably thinking the same thing I would be thinking, which is, "I'm just happy I didn't get left out, like bonus Jonas."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh, no! Is one of us bonus Jonas?!

Taylor: Wait, there's—you said there were three! What's a—

Raleigh: Well, there's a f—they have a fourth, younger brother, who's much younger than them. His name is Frankie.

Taylor: [simultaneously] And they named him Bonus?! Oh, okay. That's not—

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] His name is Frankie, and what I remember about Frankie is when the Jonas Brothers had a very short lived television series on the Disney Channel called Jonas, he was in their TV series, and they always joked about him being the forgotten fourth Jonas brother.

Taylor: Oh, no.

Raleigh: He's, like—I think he's, like, my age. I think he, you know, was a kid when they were teens, and making music and stuff.

Sydnee: I knew that they must've gotten up in that Disney Channel action at some point.

Raleigh: Oh, yeah! They were in Camp Rock.

Sydnee: That is a Disney Channel thing.

Raleigh: Camp Rock was, like, the next big High School Musical after High School Musical.

Sydnee: Ah.

Raleigh: It was a Disney Channel original movie—

Sydnee: I—listen—

Raleigh: —with Demi Lovato, and the Jonas Brothers.

Sydnee: —I am deep into Descendants right now.

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: That's really where I am. Uh, the Descendants movies, I've seen all three. And then, while we were at Disney World, they had a Descendants pajama party singalong.

Raleigh: Were you all about that?

Sydnee: Uh, we went and attended it, and watching preteen girls—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —'cause that's what it was, it was a row of—and my daughter, who I guess is preteen...

Raleigh: I guess all kids before they're thirteen are preteen.

Sydnee: Uh, watching them sit on pillows and eat popcorn and sing at the top of their lungs along with the Descendants was... [audibly smiling] I mean, it was so joyful. It was amazing. I love that. The Descendants are great.

Raleigh: Well, I'm glad you enjoyed it.

Taylor: I didn't—I didn't know there was a, um... I thought the Descendants was a punk band? I mean, it is. That's my only touch point—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —and I was very confused as to why—

Raleigh: Tey, I feel like you'd be very into the Descendants!

Taylor: —like, little girls today were *really* into some—some late 80s punk, early 90s—

Raleigh: Well, the Descendants is a movie about all the Disney characters' kids. Like, all the villains' kids and all the good guys' kids.

Taylor: Oh, okay! That's sounds like something I'd enjoy.

Raleigh: Like, Maleficent's daughter, and Cruella de Vil's son—

Sydnee: It's interesting, 'cause the villain's kids, or VKs, as they're called, uh, the VKs—they're a little more nuanced. Like, they've grown up in this world of evil, and now they don't really feel that, and so they're trying to, like, reach beyond this evilness they've been taught, to, like, be something more. To, like, self-actualize and be a whole person with both good and bad.

Taylor: Oh!

Sydnee: And a lot of the hero kids, like, the good people kids, are, like, a little kinda spoiled, and take it for granted, because they've kind of lived these lives of privilege. [loudly] It's a very interesting—anyway, I just think it's—

Raleigh: I agreed starting this podcast off—

Sydnee: —[loudly] There's a lot goin' on! [laughs]

Raleigh: —as me talking about the Jonas Brothers and how much I love them. I didn't realize it was gonna turn into Sydnee's Descendants Fancast.

Sydnee: I'm sorry. I love the Descendants.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Okay, I thought that was pretty good, though. I like The Runaways, and that's—they're not—yeah. Runaways. It's kind of the same thing. It's a bunch of kids that are the kids of supervillains, and then they become a fighting team. So yeah, cool.

Sydnee: It's nuanced. [laughs]

Raleigh: But it's been 10 minutes of this podcast, and all we've done is talk about the Jonas Brothers and the Descendants, which I guess are both teen things, but not what we were talking about today.

Taylor: Well, let's talk about another teen thing. It's fine.

[pauses]

Sydnee: Go ahead, Raleigh. You're in charge of this transition, now!

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Well, no, you always—no, you always do—

Taylor: Well, you just—

Rileigh: You always do it.

Taylor: —just made a demand for the topic change.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Uh... you—you know what the Jonas Brothers probably... actually, I don't know that's assuming a lot. You know what they probably didn't do is go to regular school. They probably went to... boy band school.

Sydnee: [snorts]

Rileigh: And you know what they have at regular school [through laughter] that the Jonas Brothers probably didn't have, are teachers! [laughs]

Taylor: You're saying—wait, boy band school doesn't have teachers? That makes no sense!

Rileigh: Nope! They just have guitars.

Sydnee: Somebody's gotta—hold on. [laughs]

Rileigh: They taught themselves. Kevin said, "Here, brothers. Let me show you." And Kevin started playing guitar, and they followed. So see, really, Kevin is the secret hero of the Jonas Brothers.

Taylor: [quietly] I don't think that this is a proper representation.

Rileigh: Their unsung... savior.

Sydnee: I think they probably had teachers.

Rileigh: [exhales] Nope. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, I'm gonna go with Syd, there, and also just assume that they had teachers?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh—

Raleigh: [loudly] I don't do the transitions, okay?!

Sydnee: It's—

Raleigh: Do it better!

Sydnee: Okay. Well, we're already here. We're here, now, talking about teachers.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: It's—

Taylor: [through laughter] We drove up on the curb and ran over the mailbox, but we've arrived.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: We are—[laughs] we are present. Uh, here on the subject matter.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: The interesting thing, especially for you, currently, Raleigh, is I think you have seen now, after a year of college, that your relationship with teachers really changes.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: From everything before, to once teachers start to become... professors.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Or profs. Do you call them profs?

Raleigh: No. I've never done that.

Sydnee: Really?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [pauses] Not once?

Raleigh: No!

Taylor: Syd, did you? [pauses] No...

Raleigh: Like, to their face?

Sydnee: No, but, like... I would ask, like—I would use that term. Like, profs—

Raleigh: Use it in a sentence, will you please? [holding back laughter] Hey, please use it in a sentence.

Sydnee: Uh...

Raleigh: That you would've used.

Sydnee: Where—we have a... meeting with the profs.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I don't know! [laughs]

Taylor: That's not a—that is not a sentence. You've never used that word, Syd!

Raleigh: Not a word!

Sydnee: I will be—I will be attending a Descendants singalong with the fellow profs! [laughs]

Raleigh: The ruling is: not a word! [laughs]

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: I am merely an assistant prof, so.

Taylor: That is a word that, like, a guy with two popped collars and a puka shell necklace in, like, a bad college movie has said.

Raleigh: "[dudebro voice] Eh, what's up, prof?"

Taylor: Exactly. [laughs]

Sydnee: "[dudebro voice] Hey, prof!"

Uh... okay, fair. Anyway. Everything changes, because I feel like when you're, you know, when you're a teenager, your teachers are still... although, I don't know. I'm gonna say this, but I don't—this was not entirely my experience. Your teachers are this entity that only exists when you're at school.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And, like, you go into the room where the teacher lives. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah, that's where they live. That's where they were born, and where they will live always.

Sydnee: [through laughter] That is the room where the teacher lives. And then the teacher interacts with you, and then you leave the room, and you... I don't know if the teacher enters stasis, or... [laughs]

Raleigh: Just kinda disintegrates, and then reforms at the start of the next school day.

Sydnee: [through laughter] I don't know—I don't know if they power down—

Taylor: [laughs] Just—just—

Raleigh: At some point they grade your papers and put stickers on them.

Sydnee: [laughs] I'm not—this is not—I do not mean offense to any teachers. I love teachers. Teachers are great. And this is why I say, this was not really my experience, 'cause, like, I did chat with my teachers in between classes—

Raleigh: [loudly] Nerd!

Sydnee: —I did join, like, clubs and groups specifically so that I could get more face time with some of the teachers that I thought were particularly inspiring or cool. Uh, so this was not me, but I feel like they—your impression of teachers is that outside of school, you don't know what they do.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Or where they are.

Raleigh: I remember very clearly the first time—I think I was in middle school, and one of my teachers in middle school started doing theater, like, the same place I was doing theater, so we were at rehearsals together?

Taylor: Oh...

Raleigh: And I remember just being, like, "[quietly] Whaaat... you're not... wha—uhh..."

Taylor: Man.

Raleigh: "This is... what are you doing?" [laughs]

Taylor: The exact first place my brain went when you said that is, "I know where I would think, and that's, 'Oh no, this means that if we're in the show, we're gonna be in the dressing room together, and then I might see my teacher's panties!'"

Raleigh: [snorts]

Taylor: [holding back laughter] That is definitely where everyone else's went first.

Sydnee: How do you come back from that?

Raleigh: That's not where I went.

Taylor: Oh. That would be trauma—I mean, that's a thing you're not supposed to see!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: No one's supposed to see teacher panties!

Sydnee: Well, either way, I think whether we're talking about—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —[laughs quietly] actual underwear, or emotional... nudity—[laughs]

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: And that's—it's a metaphor.

Sydnee: Yes. There is a vulnerability associated with theater that perhaps you were not ready to experience with... you know, your social studies teacher.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Or maybe you are, no judgment. But I think that it is true that generally speaking, like, in high school, there are the teachers and there are the students, and never the twain shall... meet.

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, it's like that line from Mean Girls, right? Where they're at the mall and they see their teacher and they say, "Seeing a teacher outside of school is like seeing a dog walking on its hind legs."

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Like, it's just—it's unnatural.

Taylor: Well, and it—

Raleigh: But it happens.

Taylor: —they have a lot more—I mean, I don't wanna say they have more power over you in high school, but it's a very distinct kind of like—I mean, you can—you know, it's a bit more of a—the relationship is super different. It's more of a parental figure, you know? They can...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: You can get in trouble with your teacher. That doesn't really happen in college. You can't "get in trouble." They can't send you to detention in college.

Raleigh: Yeah. They aren't gonna send you to the Principal's office.

Taylor: [through laughter] Right?

Sydnee: That's very true. Did you—when you did see a teacher outside of school, no matter what level we're talking about, did you—like, the first thing I would always think is, "I wonder if since we're outside of school, I can casually ask them how I did on that last paper or test or whatever."

Raleigh: Nope.

[pauses]

Taylor: Hm. No.

Sydnee: Is that just me?

Raleigh: Never would have thought of that.

Taylor: No, I would just have, like, leave—like, if you're at the mall and you see a teacher, that's just a store you don't go in. I don't know.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, it depends on which teacher it is. Some of the teachers were like, you know, the cool—cool teach.

Raleigh: Uh-huh? Cool prof. Cool teach.

Sydnee: I guess the other big difference is, like, in high school, I would say that the majority of classes I was in were small enough that if I saw my teacher outside of school, they would recognize that I was one of their students.

Raleigh: For sure.

Sydnee: Whereas in college, that's a lot... that changes a lot, too. I mean, there—yes, I was in small classes where my teachers would recognize me, but I was also in big, giant lectures, especially for my early sciences, that I guarantee if I walked up to the professor and started talking, they—they would probably pick up on context clues. [laughs quietly] They're pretty smart, but—

Rileigh: Or, like, if you're me and you're in a class for a whole semester with only seven other people in it, and then you see the teacher two months later after the class ends [holding back laughter] and they don't remember who are.

Taylor: Well!

Rileigh: Oops! [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, context, you know.

Rileigh: Didn't make a good enough impression.

Sydnee: Eh, context. That's part of it. I mean, when you see your teacher outside of school sometimes it's like—it can be a little jarring.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "Wait a second." [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Um, I remember my senior year English teacher, after I graduated and was about to start college, she was like—I loved her and loved her class and everything. She was like, "Hey, let's go get coffee and catch up, you know, before you start college."

And I remember the first time I sat down with this teacher outside of class talking to her, and we were just having, like, casual conversation, and I went to go call her by her, like, teacher name. She was like, "No. Call me... you know, first name."

I was like, "Whoaaa, what?! *First* name?!"

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Wow. I don't think I could do that.

Raleigh: I—I didn't. I was like, "Nah, I'm gonna stick with teacher name, 'cause that feels too unnatural."

Sydnee: I don't know that I have any of my, like, high school teachers, or anybody that I ever called by their first name.

Raleigh: I can't.

Sydnee: Like, ever got to a point where I could've been on a first name basis with them.

Raleigh: Even teachers I had back in, like, middle school, that now I only know as like a—I don't wanna say "friend," because, like, still a teacher. But, like, on an acquaintance level outside of school, like, I haven't interacted with them in a school setting in many, many years? Still call them teacher name.

Sydnee: Does—has social media changed this at all? Like, are you—do you interact with any of your teachers on social media.

Raleigh: Um... yeah.

Sydnee: Really?

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, I have teachers...

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I'm trying—that is—see, this blows my mind! Teylor, the equivalent—'cause I was thinking, like, well, when I was high school obviously we weren't on Twitter. But, like, imagine your... I don't know, your teacher on your MySpace?

Raleigh: Well, I mean—

Sydnee: Or, like, your teacher reading your LiveJournal—like, I don't—I can't—I can't come up with, like, some—[laughs]

Raleigh: The thing is, like... I mean, I couldn't interact with them when I was still in high school.

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: Yeah. There's the rules.

Raleigh: Like, there's these weird—I don't know if they're real—yeah, I don't know if they're real rules, or if they're just, like, these unspoken rules of the social media age, that you can't, like, friend your teacher on Facebook until after you've graduated.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I don't—yeah, I guess?

Raleigh: I know that was always something that someone said. Like, "No, you can't, like, follow them on Twitter, like, friend them on Facebook or Instagram or whatever until, like, you're not their student anymore."

Sydnee: I love the idea that there are some students that are goin' like, "Man, when can I start friending my teachers on Facebook?" And you know there are gonna be other students who are looking at you going, "You—what?! I'm sorry?!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah that was—that was me. Except I wanted to friend my teachers on Facebook, and everyone else was like, "What are you—what?"

Sydnee: "You're asking, 'When *can* I?'"

Raleigh: Yeah! Well, I was one of those kids in high school that my only close teachers were all of my English teachers, and all four years I became very close to all of my English teachers, and wanted very much to hang out in their classroom extra, and talk to them after class. I saw a tweet once that said you could tell how sad someone is in high school by how close they were to their English teachers. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I felt very attacked! [laughs]

Sydnee: I would say that was generally true about English teachers, maybe more so than other teachers. I don't know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Tey, do you think that was—although you would probably say the same about your art teachers.

Taylor: Well, that's—yeah, I mean, 'cause I didn't—I didn't have a lot of actual—well, that's not—I don't wanna "actual friends" in high school. [through laughter] My art teachers were my friends in high school. I didn't have any, like, my age friends, really, to speak of.

Raleigh: Kid friends!

Taylor: I didn't have kid friends, I had adult friends, and they were the nice old ladies that ran the art department. [laughs] and they let me eat lunch in their room, so I didn't have to eat alone.

Sydnee: Aw.

Taylor: They were my friends. I stayed in contact with one of my art teachers, I mean, pretty consistently on social media. Like, every now and then, like, through college, she'd like one of my kind of, like, depressing Facebook posts, and I'd be like, "Oh, no! She's watching! I gotta—"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "—I gotta try harder! I don't want her to think I'm a failure!"

Raleigh: "[hushed tone] She's watching!"

Taylor: Yeah! Like, you know, I went to art school! I'm supposed to *make* it, she's counting on me! I gotta do better!

Um, we're still friends on social media. I still call her by her teacher name. Like, I saw her at the Sawbones book signing when I was in town, and I absolutely could never call her anything but by teacher name. But, uh, yeah.

Raleigh: Teacher name, for sure.

Taylor: But regardless, she was still one of my—[through laughter] my best friends in high school!

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah. I get that.

Sydnee: I think there are certain, though—I mean, like, I definitely, of all of the different... uh, I had a couple science teachers that I formed a pretty strong bond with, but I would say—

Raleigh: Yeah, you were a science girl.

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, maybe so. Maybe it's not always... it's just that you English people then go write about it.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Hmm, hmm.

Sydnee: [through laughter] That's the difference.

Taylor: Well, and it's—

Raleigh: And now I—and now I write full time in college, just learn about writing. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: It's funny, 'cause I'm thinking, like, in the restaurant world, I have, like, eighteen year old bussers and runners that I consider, like, "Oh yeah, that's my friend." But in the—like, the age gap there is similar. Like, you know, an eighteen year old—

Raleigh: Do they call you Ms. Taylor?

Taylor: No! I mean, we're—you know, we're—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —I think, like, "Oh, it's—that's weird to be friends with a teacher, right?" I'm like, "What the heck? I'm, like, so much older than these people that I consider, like, you know—like, we go out to dinner together." Like, "Oh, I guess it's not that weird. It's just the context."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Maybe you could get 'em to call you prof.

Taylor: No, I—I would not ever want me to call me that weird—

Raleigh: Professor Cocktails!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That doesn't even sound like a cool word! Like, "prof."

Sydnee: How about you could be Dr. Cocktail?

Taylor: No... oh, so they would just shorten it to—[through laughter] never mind, I don't think I can say that on this podcast! [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. Let's—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —we'll let you...

Raleigh: Hey, you know what we should do before we keeping talking about—

Taylor: Like Doc Oc from Spider-Man, but using the words *you* said. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: We'll let you suss that out at home.

Taylor: There you go.

Sydnee: But in the meantime—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Let's check the group message!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Please.

Taylor: Please nobody call me that.

Sydnee: Quickly!

Raleigh: Um, I have a sponsor—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: —I wanna tell you about, sisters.

Sydnee: Oh! Well, go for it.

Raleigh: I'm going to, because this week, Still Buffering is sponsored in part by HelloFresh. We've told you about HelloFresh before, but we're gonna do it again, because we like HelloFresh so much. Because they make dinner easy, and they make cooking delicious meals at home a reality, regardless of your comfort in the kitchen.

They give you step by step recipes and pre-measured ingredients, and there's something for everyone. They have family recipes to calorie smart, and to vegetarian, and fun menu series like Hall of Fame and Craft Burgers. And, you can add extra meals to your weekly order, as well as yummy add-ons like garlic bread and cookie dough! How delicious!

Taylor: Yum!

Raleigh: You have a lil pre-dinner snack, a lil post-dinner snack.

Sydnee: That's—that's dessert.

[pauses]

Taylor: That's—[through laughter] a post-dinner snack!

Raleigh: What if I wanna call it my post-dinner snack?! What if I wanted the cookie dough before, and I wanted the garlic bread after?

Taylor: I think that you could use appetizer as well, but whatever. Everything's a snack if you want it to be! [laughs]

Rileigh: [emphatically] Everything's a snack! You know what dinner is? Just big snack.

Taylor: Big ol' snack.

Sydnee: Listen, HelloFresh is not gonna tell you which you have to eat in what order.

Rileigh: No!

Sydnee: They're just gonna send you the delicious food. [laughs]

Rileigh: And you make that decision for yourself. [through laughter] So, Taylor, if our listeners wanna check out HelloFresh, what should they do?

Taylor: Uh, well, you can get a total of \$80 off in your first month, so that's \$20 off each of your first four boxes. You just need to go to Hellofresh.com/stillbuffering80, and enter promo code "stillbuffering80"! That's Hellofresh.com/stillbuffering80, promo code "stillbuffering80," get that 80 bucks off your first month, and have all the snacks you want. Big snacks, lil snacks, dessert snacks! Early snacks, late snacks!

Rileigh: Midday snacks! That's lunch. Morning snack? That's breakfast.

Taylor: Nope! Just snacks.

Rileigh: Snacks.

Taylor: Snacks all day.

Sydnee: Uh, sisters, Still Buffering is also supported this week by Dashlane. Now, I am someone who's bad at password-ing.

Rileigh: Me too.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, the internet—any time I create a password, whatever device I'm using is always trying to suggest to me, like, better passwords, and I never use them, 'cause I'll forget them. And so, Dashlane is a solution that would work for me, and you, and—

Raleigh: Everyone.

Sydnee: —everyone who is in this exact same situation, because it's a password management app that will solve all your "How to Password" problems but keeping all your online information safe, secure, encrypted, and easy to access. Dashlane'll do that by remembering all those passwords so you don't have to, so you also don't end up using the same password every time, which is a bad idea.

Raleigh: I definitely do that. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Yes, or using a really easy to crack password, which is also a bad idea that we're all guilty of. Dashlane seamlessly auto fills all your login information, syncing automatically across all of your devices. It even stores payment details. Dashlane can even generate all those super strong passwords *for* every account. So, those passwords that I say I'll never remember? Well, Dashlane's gonna generate 'em for you, and then store them in an ultra-secure password vault that only you can unlock, so that you *can* use all those complicated passwords that we really all should be using, uh, for all of our secrets, our internet secrets.

Raleigh: Right.

Taylor: Hmm.

Raleigh: Internet secrets.

Sydnee: Uh, so if our listeners wanna check out Dashlane, which I would highly advise you to do, Taylor, where should they go?

Taylor: Well, you should go to [Dashlane.com/stillbuffering](https://dashlane.com/stillbuffering). You can get Dashlane free on your first device! As a special offer for Still Buffering fans, they're even offering a 30 day free trial of Dashlane Premium, including VPN, dark web monitoring, and more! And if you like it, use code "stillbuffering" at checkout to save 10% on your premium subscription.

[pauses]

[quietly] Dark web monitoring.

Sydnee: So go do that, and stop using bad passwords.

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: I should do that.

Taylor: Probably.

Sydnee: Yes. Uh, so, as we were mentioning, things kind of change with your teachers, as you get to college. I was somebody who, like—like I said, I kind of already looked for these opportunities when I was in high school.

Specifically, I would say I was closest with one of my English teachers. Uh, and she would have, like, outside of school gatherings for our creative writing class, which was very, like, "Oh my gosh... we're gonna see a teacher.. in her native habitat, outside of school."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Wait. You mean she doesn't live in her classroom?!

Sydnee: "We're gonna go somewhere, meet with a teacher, see what, like, her living room looks like. It's crazy. Can you believe it?"

Raleigh: Yeah. I, um... I remember I went to a comedy show at a local, like, restaurant/bar type place recently. Um, and I went in, and I saw, like, two of my professors, like, someone who's very important, like, a Dean of—of one of the colleges, and all just, like, dressed very casually, like, at the bar or, you know, having dinner. And they were all like, "Hey, what's up! Like, you—you comin' here to see comedy?"

Like, talking to me just, like, about casual stuff. And I was just like, "I... this is... you're... wearing jeans?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: "[unsteadily] And you're—you're at a bar? I know you're an adult, but you're—you're at a bar?!" It was just very weird, like, "Wha?"

Sydnee: You always wonder, like, "Am I gonna get in trouble for being here?"

Rileigh: Yeah, "Am I—are you mad at me for being here? Like, it's a restaurant, but, like, are you gonna—is this... cool? Are we equal?"

Sydnee: I think this says something about probably my wardrobe choices, but I remember when I graduated from medical school, I wore a dress, 'cause it was graduation and I thought I should dress up, so I wore a dress.

And at the end of the ceremony, two of my professors came over to ask me if I had a tattoo on my leg, 'cause it was the first time—

Rileigh: [through laughter] You'd ever—[laughs]

Sydnee: —that they'd ever seen this tattoo on my leg.

Taylor: Oh nooo! And then they took away your medical degree, because they realized that you were a rough person.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] I had a moment where I—

Taylor: Bad girl.

Sydnee: —like, I was terrified! Like, "[distracted] They've seen my tattoo! Now they know! [laughs] What if they—" I mean, they liked it.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: They also thought it was surprising that I had a tattoo, and I was like, "Haha!"

Rileigh: "Aha!"

Sydnee: "I have levels!"

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Depth! Layers!

Sydnee: "You—[laughs quietly] you didn't know!"

Raleigh: I had a similar experience when I was at, like, a—kind of like a school event. Um, and I was wearing a dress, but I was wearing, like, a cardigan over it, and I kept the sleeves long intentionally so that all these, you know, important, uh, adults in my program wouldn't see my tattoo on my wrist. Not that I'm, like, embarrassed of it, but just because, like, I don't know. It was an important event. I figured, like, I probably should. I don't know. No one else here has any tattoos.

And I remember I reached up my hand to shake hands with someone, and my sleeve came up, and one of the other students was like, "Oh, I love your tattoo." And I looked at her like, "Why would you—why would you out me like that, dog? I was gonna—I was gonna cover it back up! Why'd you have to say something?"

And instead of saying anything about it, the, uh, woman I was shaking hands with was like, "Oh, you know, I've always thought tattoos were just so beautiful and so intricate and so interesting. I really like that!"

And then I told her what it was for. I was like, "You know what? That's what—that's what college is about."

Taylor: Well, yeah, but see, the problem that can also happen in college, 'cause your teachers can be cool, is that sometimes... they're cooler than you! [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Uh, I—

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: I ran into that a lot in art school, specifically 'cause it's art school in New York. Of course the professors are all really cool. But, like, there was—the head of my department was this tattooed dude who, like—just, like, he was all about being cool, and I remember in one of my assessment meetings, he recommended this one class for me, and it was like, a computer graphics class. I'm like, "That's not really what I do."

He's like, "Right, but this professor that teaches it is incredibly cultured, incredibly cool guy, and you just need to, like, work on that."

I'm like, "I need to work on—I need to work on being cool?!"

Raleigh: Being cool!

Taylor: He's like, "You need to, like, have that exposure to, like, you know, scenes, and, like, the world, and, like, cool stuff!"

And I'm like, "You're telling me to take a class that has *no* effect on my major, that has nothing to do with what I do artistically, because the professor will teach me how to be cool!" [laughs]

Raleigh: How to—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: And I did! Because the cool dude told me to take the cool class! I got an A in the—

Raleigh: Did you get cooler?

Taylor: —well, I got an A in the cool class, but I don't think I got *any* cooler! [laughs] I just did my assignments on time!

Raleigh: But you got an A—

Sydnee: Oh, but wait—

Raleigh: —and good grades are cool.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: I don't think gettin' an A in cool class is actually how you get a—how you get cool. [laughs]

Sydnee: I think that was the—

Raleigh: [laughs] The secret is you fail cool class.

Sydnee: Exactly.

Raleigh: He says, "Okay. You're in."

Sydnee: That was your problem!

Raleigh: [crosstalk] "Welcome to the real class."

Sydnee: Your problem is that you did too well in cool class, and that's not cool!
[laughs]

Taylor: That's what I'm—I was supposed to, like, get frustrated and walk out, like, throw on my leather jacket and be like, "F this class! I'll take that F!" And they're like, "And that's why you passed, cool kid." And I didn't do that.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Uh... [laughs] they were, like, similarly—

Sydnee: You were supposed to say, "Eat it, prof!"

Taylor: Exactly!

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: That's one that used—that's the one time that word is used. There was even, like—some of the cooler kids in my department would go out with, like, a couple of the professors and drink with them, but I was never invited, and it really bugged me that I wasn't cool enough [through laughter] to have a drink with a teacher!

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

Sydnee: We had—we had one of those cool professors, uh, I remember from college. I mean, I had lots of good professors. I had lots that I thought were very cool, but there was that was, like, I think by universal standards would be accepted as particularly cool.

Uh, he wore an Indiana Jones hat.

Raleigh: Whoaaa.

Taylor: Was it—it wasn't Indiana Jones, was it? 'Cause he was a professor!

Sydnee: I know, I know! And he wore an Indiana Jones hat, *and* he pulled it off.

Raleigh: Ohh!

Sydnee: Which is a whole other thing. Uh—[laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] That's a whole other thing.

Taylor: That's painfully true. When you see somebody in an Indiana Jones hat and they're not pullin' it off...

Sydnee: Yes. They might be me.

Taylor: [through laughter] I was gonna say, "Wait, I had an Indiana Jones hat at some point!"

Sydnee: As did I. Uh, but he pulled it off. He was an English professor. He had a wonderful voice, and so he would read things to the class, like, poetry and stuff, and everybody was just, like, "[dreamily] That voice, and the hat—"

Raleigh: "[dreamily] And that hat!"

Sydnee: And he—he was, like, proficient in several different martial arts.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: He was so cool!

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Everybody thought he was just the coolest.

Taylor: He was proficient in several different martial arts. Are you *sure* he—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —he wasn't—was he an adventurer, in the summertime?

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] I think he was an adventurer—I know that he did, like, West Virginia adventuring-type stuff, like hiking, climbing, rafting, like those kinds of outdoor adventures. So, perhaps he did more intricate adventures, and I wasn't aware.

Taylor: Hey, West Virginia Jones was your teacher!

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: He, uh—he gave me a standing ovation once, when I did an oral interpretive reading for the class, and it was... one of the greatest days of my life. The birth of my children are—it's above that, but only a little bit. [laughs]

Raleigh: You got Charlie and Cooper tied for first and second, and then that's number three.

Taylor: Wow, where's—where's your, like, proposal, or your wedding? Where does Justin fall on this?

Raleigh: I was gonna say, your wedding's, like, number four.

Sydnee: Oh, they're up there too. It's just—this was a really good moment for me!

Taylor: [quietly] Wow.

Sydnee: Uh, I'll tell you—you mentioned drinking with a professor, and I think that's where college, like—that was the thing that really, I didn't know how to—I didn't know what to think of that situation the first time, when... I remember we had some sort of "outside of the classroom" activity, and it was, like, a learning, but also there was drinking, activity? [laughs]

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydnee: And I remember being, like, "[haltingly] Do—is—I—can—do I have—that? In front of you? Is this okay? What is the—"

Raleigh: "Are we equal?" [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: "[haltingly] I—what are the rules? And, like, I—I don't know, like, is one—is that cool? Or—I don't—" I found that very hard for me to navigate at first.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, I enjoyed the, like—I really enjoyed that, because I figured out about halfway through high school, like, "Aw, man. These teachers—not just the stuff they're teaching me, but, like, a lot of them are really cool people who have a lot of cool stuff going on that I don't know anything about, and they're more cool adults in my life that I can learn things from, and, like, you know, wanna be like."

And once I figured that out, I really wanted to be closer to a lot of my teachers. In college, I think that's a lot more accepted, like, that that's the norm, is that you're gonna find professors that you wanna model yourself after.

Rileigh: Yeah. Well, I mean, and then when you're in college, when you have those teachers, the professors that you really like, you can, like, go out of your way to make sure you take them multiple times. Like, I know I had an English professor my first semester of college that I was just, like, "This is—this is great! I've never had an English class like this before, this is amazing!"

Like, we watched movies, we didn't just read books, we listened to music and we talked about art and wrote about it and everything, and I went to go make my schedule for this semester and I saw she was teaching another class, and I was like, "Well, it wasn't even what I'm supposed to be taking, but I guess I just have to take it, because she's teaching it, so that—that's my only option!" And I took it, and I love it! But you get that option when you're in college. [through laughter] You just keep taking classes from the same professor!

Sydnee: Hey, this is how I ended up taking a class about Fight Club.

Taylor: You took a—

Sydnee: I—I heard—

Rileigh: Was it that professor?

Sydnee: —well, I had n—I hadn't had the professor before, but I had heard she was a really great professor and, like, you could learn so much, and it was so cool

to take her classes, and so I really wanted to take one of her classes, so I—I intentionally took this class that ended up bein' all about Fight Club.

It was a great class! I don't know—I don't know how applicable that information is—

Rileigh: To your career.

Sydnee: —to my day to day, but it was a great class, at least.

Rileigh: Now, here's a good generational—

Sydnee: It wasn't all "pro," I should say. It was all pro, like, "[dudebro voice] Fight Club's cool!" It was, like, dissecting—

Taylor: I was gonna say, that's gotta—I think that is applicable to our world today. [laughs] Like, it's kind of a testament to... toxic masculinity. And that's a... oof! I'd take that class now!

Sydnee: We connected it—we connected it to, like, The Manchurian Candidate. Like, there was a whole thing. Anyway. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Um, was RateMyProfessor a thing when you all were in college?

Sydnee: Had it... if it wasn't, it was close.

Taylor: 'Cause it was for me, definitely.

Rileigh: Because that is—

Sydnee: We never did it. Let me say this. None of—I don't ever remember doing that with any of my—

Rileigh: Really? Like, using it to look at their ratings, or even rating them yourself?

Sydnee: Mm-mm. No.

Rileigh: See, I always—every time when I'm scheduling, I look at RateMyProfessor. Not that, like... because a lot of times when you're just starting out, you don't really have a choice as to what classes you can take, you just kind

of have to take the ones that fit. Like, you know what classes you're taking, but when it comes to different sections or different professors you just kind of have to take the ones that fit the best.

Sydnee: Right.

Rleigh: But when you start having the options to take ones that you want, or at different times, I always use it to look at which professors have the highest ratings, and then when I finish classes, for teachers that I think were really either, like, super great, or super not, I usually take the time to go make a rating—

Taylor: Ooh!

Rleigh: —for those professors. Just, like—I feel like it's like a service to my fellow college students.

Taylor: Oh, wow!

Rleigh: Like, "Hey, a warning."

Taylor: You're y—

Rleigh: Or, "Hey, you should take this professor for sure!"

Taylor: Hm. You're Yelping your professors.

Rleigh: Well, I feel like RateMyProfessor is one of those things where it's like, you're just looking at someone's name. You've never had this professor before. You could take either class, so... I know it's the same class, but teachers teach them differently, and if one teacher, you know, like, grades super harshly or is super unclear about assignments, or, you know, doesn't teach things you're most interested in and the other teacher is, like, super great, and does interesting stuff—

Sydnee: That's really interesting to think about. Like, I knew ahead of time—like, I intentionally took classes from certain professors without knowing them, because I heard who was, like, "This one's really fun, this one will teach you a lot, this one's really good at this, this one's—" I don't know. Like—

Rleigh: That's just an internet—RateMyProfessor is just an internet version of that.

Sydnee: Yeah, well, that's what I'm wondering. Like, that—I feel like that information was transmitted pretty efficiently even before the internet, which is weird. I'm trying to think about, like, how did that happen?

Taylor: Hm... I—

Raleigh: Well, I mean—

Sydnee: You know what I mean, Tey? I mean, like, do you feel like that osmosis happened ever before?

Taylor: I—I mean... like, it's—that was some of the—I don't know, 'cause I remember using RateMyProfessor to get a better feel for teachers, but I guess it's a bit more like... like, that all kind of came to rise at the same time, though. I mean, you had reviews of restaurants, you had reviews of teachers, you had, like—it just kind of became, like, the... like the underground sort of hit back, of, like, you know, "That's fine, you grade us, but we're gonna grade you."

Like... I don't know.

Raleigh: I mean, I obviously don't trust it for everything. Like, there's a little part on RateMyProfessor where you can put the grade you got in that class, as well as, like, how you're rating your professor. So if I see a bunch of people that, like, did super poorly in the class and are like, "Meh, this class was—was too much homework," or, like, "Mandatory attendance is awful!"

And it's like, "Well, that's not... you know, really a trustworthy review." But if it's someone who, like, did well in the class but is still like, "Hey, maybe not the best, you know, person to teach this," or whatever, then that's something to think about.

Taylor: 'Cause I think I was introduced to it—actually, now that I think about it, it was by a professor who, like, I was friends with on Facebook, who would post some of his funnier reviews on RateMyProfessor.

Raleigh: That's pretty good. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah. It was one of my favorite professors, but he'd get these reviews like, "Too much reading. Too much writing." It's like, "What are you going to college for, buddy?" Like... that's kind of College 101.

Rileigh: Things like that obviously don't deter me. Yeah, they don't deter me from a class, but it's only when, you know...

Sydnee: I always think you should have to—I mean, I can... it's hard, because it's such a double edged sword. As a physician, I can tell you that, um, the—those ratings can be very hard—like, patients can go online and rate their doctor.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And if, for instance in an area like ours, where a lot of conversations are about opioid pain medications, it can be a really tough thing to, like—I mean, I know that your ratings can go down if you don't give out enough of those.

Taylor: Wow.

Sydnee: And, um, I've also seen anti-vaxxers totally destroy doctors online. Like, just *totally* destroy their ratings.

Taylor: I—I hope we're moving past an age when online reviews are considered—I don't know. I feel like in the restaurant industry we are, just because—like, I've seen Yelp weaponized, even with personal vendettas. Like, there was a dude that I worked with whose ex decided to try to get him fired by getting—like, by posting bad Yelp reviews pointing a finger at him—He was a server—and also getting their friends to do the same, and got this kid fired, by posting several Yelp reviews that named him as a bad server.

Sydnee: Oh...

Taylor: And, like, he kind of—like, he knew what was happening. He was like, "No, it doesn't make sense. Like, we break up and then suddenly all this happens? These are all made up things." But... like, it's—I just don't trust—like, that stuff is so easy to manipulate, and, like, even in the RateMyProfessors, like, I would look at them, but a lot of these professors who got the harsh reviews, it's like, "I really liked that class, but yeah, they made you work!"

Like... people don't review the classes very well where you have to do work in them, and that's pretty crappy! Like, it's—

Rileigh: Well, I don't think that's always the case, at least what I've seen. Like, all the classes that I've seen that are harder classes, there are a lot of reviews

that's like, "Yeah, I had a lot of work in this class, a lot of papers to write or a lot of books to read or whatever, but the professor's super great at working with you, or teaches you a lot outside of, you know, just the required material, or is super understanding if you're having issues or whatever, like, willing to help you."

Like, there aren't always people who are just like, "[whiny voice] Yeah, it was too much work, so I hate it!"

Like, there are always those people, but I think it's pretty easy, if you take the time to just read the actual reviews and not just, like, "Oh, well their overall rating is a 2, and half people wouldn't take them again so I'm not gonna take them."

if you take time to actually read the reviews and see, like, "Well, how'd this person do in the class?" How much—what other descriptions they're using—

Sydnee: It probably was easier in some ways before the internet for this one, because, I mean, what I would do is, whoever was telling me yes or no on a professor, it was probably somebody I knew. And so then I could filter their recommendation through my knowledge of them. You know what I mean? And it's a one on one thing, too, and you're a lot more likely to get, like, I think, the whole story that way, as opposed to what somebody is gonna put on the internet.

Taylor: That's still in the hands of the anonymity of the internet. Like, you can still kind of say whatever you want. And, like, I'm sure there are plenty of perfectly good, valid reviews. It's just, from experience of being on the receiving end of that in a professional setting it's like—it's just so easy for people that aren't qualified—I mean, what qualifies somebody as a critic? I don't know, but, like, to have unqualified voices that, if you get enough of 'em, suddenly you're bad at your job... I mean, like you said. Like, if you don't deal out enough opioids, then you're bad at your job? No, I think you're probably good at your job! [laughs]

Raleigh: The only—

Sydnee: People might not be happy. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: The only way I'd say that I feel like something like RateMyProfessor is probably different is in the sense that it's not, like, a bunch of different people from different places there for different reasons, if that makes sense? Like, we're all students at the same college, who are all either probably in the same major, trying to get the same degree... like, to a certain extent, most of us are there to,

like, get through it and help each other out, that are taking the time to write reviews on RateMyProfessor. It's not the same as, like, you know, someone who visits a restaurant once, or goes to a doctor and doesn't get opioids and is like, "Oh, this is awful."

There are always those people who are like, "Oh, I got a bad grade on a test, so I'm gonna give 'em a bad review," but... I don't know. In my experience, the same people that—like, the same professors I hear from from my friends who are like, "No, don't take them," or "Yes, take them," usually if you look on the RateMyProfessor, the same things are usually reflected.

Taylor: Do they still have a little chili pepper to tell you if professor is hot or not? 'Cause that always really bummed me out.

Raleigh: They do not. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Okay. I thought that was real bad.

Raleigh: The only things I remember on there are like general, overall ranking, like, one to five, and then percent of people who reviewed them that would take them again, and then the reviews.

Taylor: I don't think anyone should be weighing in on if they think their professor is hot or not. That's not a thing—

Raleigh: I agree.

Taylor: —that anyone should have out there on the internet against their will.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: And let me just say, I don't let—

Sydnee: Physical appearance should have nothing to do with any of it.

Raleigh: —I don't let RateMyProfessor decide the classes I take, but it just is like a helpful... I don't know. Like, if I'm between two classes and they're equal, but one has, like, a one, and one has a five, and the reviews are pretty consistent... or, you know, most of the time I even check it after I've already signed up for classes,

just so I can know what kind of workload or what kind of professor that the person is.

Sydnee: I never, uh, wanted to look myself up, because I am... as I said, I am a—well, I'm an assistant professor. I'm not a full professor.

Raleigh: Do you think you're on there?

Sydnee: I don't know. I don't—I don't know how often med students do that. Maybe they do.

Taylor: [through laughter] Well, but Syd, you're also a host of several popular podcasts. If you want reviews about you, just—like, they're all over the place! [laughs]

Raleigh: Look on iTunes.

Sydnee: Well, I don't wanna—no, but it's different! It's a different arena, and I don't—I never wanted to know, because I really wanted to, like... I mean, I wanted my students to feel like they got a good experience, but I also—I know there are so many different factors, and, um... I know, like, grades are part of it—although I was never—I was never a very harsh... grader.

Raleigh: You're not on RateMyProfessor.

Sydnee: Good.

Raleigh: I don't know if you like that or not, that you're not on there. [laughs]

Sydnee: I would rather not be. I was never harsh about that stuff, anyway.

Taylor: You weren't before, but now... [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I was always pretty easygoing. I hope—I got good—we get reviews internally, and the reviews I got internally were almost uniformly good.

Raleigh: And that happens, still. Like, we have to fill out the little end of the semester surveys about what we thought about our teachers, but we don't see those. Like, that's not widely distributed information.

Sydnee: Yeah. We got anonymous reviews internally, just from, like, "Here are what all the students rated you, and here are some comments they made," and that kind of thing. And so generally speaking—but it's tough to be on the other side of it, 'cause you're trying so hard to, like, teach, but also be kind of cool and, like, easygoing, so that the learner feels comfortable with you, but not be *too* easygoing, because then you're not being rigorous and actually—they're not gaining knowledge from you, and... man.

It's a tough road to walk, and the hardest was actually one of those outside of class situations, where I was out with one of my colleagues, who was also an assistant professor at the med school, and we were out at a restaurant where there was also alcohol, and we were having dinner and talking, and two shots arrived at our table.

Raleigh: Who—

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: And the waiter said, uh, "They're from... these are from that table over there," and we looked over, and there's a table of our students. And it was a—like, we just sat there, totally frozen, having no idea what to do.

Because, first of all, it's med school, so everyone was an adult. Everyone was of legal age to be drinking and purchasing alcohol, and all that sort of thing. [holding back laughter] But what do you do when you're the teacher, and your student has sent you a shot?! I don't—it—we just—we sat—I mean, literally, like, 20 minutes, looking at each other like... [pauses]

Raleigh: "[quietly] What do we do?"

Sydnee: "Can we do them? Is that bad? Like, and if we do them—"

Raleigh: Is it worse if you don't do them?

Sydnee: "—have we taken—like, is this a—I don't think they were bribing us, but—"

Taylor: [loudly] It's a bribe! [laughs]

Sydney: "But, like, does it look—" [laughs] "Does it *look* that way?"

Raleigh: "Now you have to give us A's!"

Sydney: And these were, like—especially in med school, a lot of times you're not gonna have a student over and over again, so these were past students. We weren't going to have them again. We weren't going to teach them again. But still, I don't know! But, like, I reme—the two of us sitting there, like, agonizing over these little shot glasses like, "[distressed tone] What do we do?! I don't know!"

Taylor: I gotta ask, what was the shot?

[pauses]

Sydney: Uh, tequila.

Taylor: Was it good tequila?

Sydney: No, I think it was just Well.

Taylor: Oh. See, that—hmm. You're gonna send your professor a shot of Well Tequila? Did they not like you?

Sydney: [laughs] Maybe not! Maybe that's what they meant!

Raleigh: Well, they were med students. [laughs]

Taylor: Ah, that's true. They're poor. That's—you know.

Sydney: Maybe that's what it meant!

Taylor: They're deep in debt. They're in med school. That's understandable. I feel like that would be my concern. If you're gonna send your professor a shot, it's gotta be a good one!

Sydney: I think it was their way of saying, "Hey, you two are—we like you two. We're acknowledging you."

Raleigh: "You're cool."

Sydnee: I mean, like, they were all—and they came over and talked to us afterwards. Like, and, you know, just chatted for a minute about how was their year going, now that they were—

Rileigh: They all just sat there at their table silently staring at you both for 20 minutes waiting to see if you'd take the shot or not.

Taylor: Yeahhh.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, you know they were doin' the same thing!

Taylor: Oh, yeah!

Sydnee: 'Cause, like, part of me was like, "I'm cool! I—I'm cool!" And then the other part of me's like, "I don't—I don't know..." And then—and then it becomes this. Then we had this conversation. "Well, should we try to pay them back?"

Taylor: Well, I was gonna say, that'd be the move. You then send them shots, and then you come over and you all do a shot together. *That's* the cool move.

Sydnee: Now—now, see, we had that conversation, though, and then we're buying students alcohol, and we can't do *that*! We're professors!

Taylor: Is that illegal?

Sydnee: This was... well, I don't think it's *illegal*, but it's, like, a professionalism, ethics thing. I mean, I—I don't know. It was funny, 'cause the students came over. We still had not taken the shots, and we were still d—and so we just started debating it with them, and, like, we were all laughing and joking about it, so it turned into a fun, funny moment, and it was all appropriate and above the board, but it was just—it was—we just sat there, 'cause we're both... my colleague who was there with me, we're both pretty, like, "We wanna do things right, we don't wanna get in trouble" kind of people. [laughs] Like, we're not, you know... we're not the type to go out and do shots with students. It was... it was a moral conundrum.

Taylor: What ended up happening?

Sydnee: We eventually took the shots. They promised us they weren't bribing us, and didn't mean anything other than, "Hey, there are two of our professors that

we had in med school out for dinner. We'll get them a shot. It will be funny." That would be it.

Taylor: Okay, alright.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Glad you got the clarification.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: That was probably the best solution. [through laughter] Just have a discussion.

Sydnee: Yeah. It was a fun conversation, and then they—I think they thought we were even nerdier, too, than they thought we were to begin with, so... I don't think we gained any cool points. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah. I think you lost some. But that's alright, you gained some respect points.

Sydnee: There we go.

Raleigh: There you go!

Sydnee: Well, uh... I think that's all I have to say about teachers.

Raleigh: [laughs] I think we are teachered out.

Sydnee: We have—uh, here's what I—can I give a piece of advice?

Raleigh: Sure?

Sydnee: You're probably already learning this, Raleigh, because you are in, uh, college, but if any of our listeners are in high school, I would say that I figured out too late that that thing about teachers, like—it's not just the stuff they have to teach you, because they're math or science or English teacher or whatever. Like, they have all this life experience, and they're teachers, so, like, they're good at sharing it with you. They've been taught how to do that, so their very nature is

their good at sharing that with you, and, um, every time you get a chance to, like, learn a little more, talk a little more, you know, glean a little more from a teacher, I think it's a great opportunity, 'cause they are people outside of, like, the room... that you see them in.

Um, I just—I wish—by the time I realized that, I hadn't taken enough advantage of that. And, like, I tried to go back anytime I had the chance and, like, write emails and letters to past teachers to say, like, "I wanted you to know that you taught me this thing and I always remembered it and it meant a lot to me," and, like, you know. We don't—we don't do that enough with teachers before college, a lot of the time.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: No, that—that's super true, and I think especially, like, for high school teachers. And, I mean, you know, any sort of, like, public school teachers, it's like—they are not getting, like, the best pay for the job they're asked to do, and a lot of times that job can just be so hard. Like, kids are mean, and that's what they have to interact with. Like, appreciate your teachers, especially in high school, especially in middle school, because they are doing a service for our community.

Sydnee: And they're not paid enough for it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And... yep.

Raleigh: Yeah. So be nice to teachers. That's basically—

Sydnee: Thank you, teachers.

Raleigh: —yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Thank you for bein' my only friends!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Me too. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, thank you, listeners. You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. You can go to Maximumfun.org and listen to wonderful podcasts, that will bring you hours of entertainment and joy... and laughs... and... knowledge, perhaps. And... thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl!

Raleigh: I am a teenager..

[theme music begins in background]

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

Raleigh: Only one more year of that.

Taylor: That's it. What are you gonna say?

Raleigh: Oh, no.

Taylor: What are you gonna say?!

Raleigh: I don't know!

[theme music plays]

[wolf howling sound effect and creepy Halloween music play]

April: Hello there, ghouls and gals! It is I: April Wolfe. I'm here to take you through the twisty, sca-a-ary, heart-pounding world of genre cinema, on the exhilarating program known as... [echoing] Switchblade Sisters.

The concept is simple: I invite a female filmmaker on each week, and we discuss their favorite genre film. Listen in closely to hear past guests like the Babadook director, Jennifer Kent, Winter's Bone director, Debra Granik, and so many others, every Thursday on Maximumfun.org.

Tune in, if you dare... Mwa-ha-ha-ha—

[music sound effects suddenly cut off]

It's actually a very thought provoking show that deeply explores the craft and philosophy behind the film-making process, while also examining film through the lens of the female gaze, so, like, you should listen.

[echoing] Switchblade Sisters...

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