

## Still Buffering 184: How to Sweepstakes

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[theme music plays]

**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 Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** Well, sisters, it's great to be with you this week. Listeners, you don't know this but Taylor's very spooky right now.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes, it's very scoop—spooky to look at. Scoopy. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I'm—I'm really sorry about that. It's—you know, it's just—I'm recording a spooky Neat! episode later. Like, the video part, so I, like, was waiting for us to get started with the podcast, but needed to put my makeup on. It just—you're just recording with a ghoul!

**Sydnee:** You're terrifying right now.

**Raleigh:** [quietly] It is very spooky.

**Taylor:** [growls?] [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's very unsettling. I don't know if I'm gonna make it through the entire show.

**Raleigh:** I might have to run away.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Taylor:** [laughs] Just—just keep laughing, like, close up to the camera. Ha ha ha!

**Raleigh:** Oh no! [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** It is a good effect.

**Sydnee:** You should've just gotten on Skype and when we were like, "Whoa, Tey!"

**Raleigh:** Just not said anything about it.

**Sydnee:** Just been, like, "What?"

**Raleigh:** "What are you talkin' about?"

**Sydnee:** "I don't know what you mean."

**Taylor:** I—I didn't wanna do that to you, because I love you both and I just didn't... the initial reaction was enough and I'm like, "I don't wanna scare them."  
[laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was scary!

**Taylor:** I scare myself looking at my lil picture! I'm like, "Oh, this is what I'd look like if I was a possessed zombie."

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Uh, speaking of—speaking of troubling experiences, um—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I laughed because I know what you're gonna—[laughs] gonna say.

**Taylor:** This transition though! Okay.

**Sydnee:** Raleigh, uh, had a tailgate party. Well, she didn't, like, host it.

**Raleigh:** I didn't host it.

**Sydnee:** But her—her group, her—her... gang—

**Rileigh:** Nope!

**Sydnee:** —her posse, her...

**Taylor:** Do you—do you have a gang, a posse or—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] My scholarship program. [snorts]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh, okay.

**Rileigh:** Not—

**Taylor:** Your scholarship posse.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Her troupe. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** My troupe, I guess?

**Sydnee:** Uh—oh, your, um... squad.

**Rileigh:** My society?

**Sydnee:** Squad, right?

**Rileigh:** My squad.

**Sydnee:** That's—.

**Taylor:** Squad? [pronounced as if it rhymes with "bad"]

**Sydnee:** [vocal fry] Squaaad.

**Taylor:** Squad.

**Rileigh:** Squad.

**Sydnee:** [vocal fry] Squaaad.

**Taylor:** Squid.

**Sydnee:** They, uh—they had a tailgate at the high—at the college, not high school. That'd be weird.

**Raleigh:** I'm not in high school anymore, Syd.

**Sydnee:** Not—no—no, that would be a weird one. Um—[laughs] my coll—the college students—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] You alright—you alright tonight, Syd?

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] It's so late. And I got up—

**Raleigh:** It's not even 8 o' clock yet.

**Sydnee:** —I got up really early. The college students had a tailgate at a high school football game. It was really weird! No.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was at the college football game, 'cause that makes more sense. And I went to it.

**Raleigh:** You did.

**Sydnee:** Yes. I haven't been to a tailgate in so long.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. It was—it was a lot of—

**Taylor:** That's—

**Raleigh:** —they had made, like, hibachi-style food, like fried rice and shrimp and salmon and—

**Sydnee:** They, uh—they, like, fried donuts?

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Krispy Kreme donuts.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, they took Krispy Kreme donuts and then stuck 'em on a big griddle thing and, like—

**Rileigh:** With butter.

**Sydnee:** —with tons of butter.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Um...

**Rileigh:** Very good.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, it was good. The tailgate food, the, uh—the beer selection was, um, bad? But, like, I guess I should've seen that coming.

**Rileigh:** Guess you probably should've seen that coming.

**Taylor:** Wait—were you really going to, like, a tailgate for, like, a *good* craft beer option?

[pauses]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I thought—I mean... [sighs]

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] It'd been a while since Sydnee'd been to a college tailgate. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I opened up the cooler and I was like—

**Taylor:** You should be happy—

**Sydnee:** "—Miller?" [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Look, if all of the alcohol wasn't in jello form, that's a win.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it wasn't in j—I would've taken a jello shot, honestly!

**Raleigh:** You would've take a Claw!

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] It—I would've taken a Claw! There were no Claws.

**Taylor:** Oh, man. What was—

**Raleigh:** There were no Claws.

**Taylor:** —uh—oh, E. Warren said what kind of—her favorite beer, what was it? It was Michelob Ultra?

**Sydnee:** Oh...

**Taylor:** And I was like, "I support... I support you in so many ways, but whaaat?!"

**Sydnee:** Don't...

**Raleigh:** No...

**Sydnee:** No...

**Raleigh:** No... [laughs]

**Sydnee:** If I—

**Taylor:** *That's* a tailgate beer.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, yes. Liz, listen. I know you must listen to our podcast, Liz.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um... I love you, but please, let me—let me introduce you to some other beers. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I have a wide selection you may enjoy.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You can—you can pick. Um, I'll still vote for you, but please, could you... try some new beers? But anyway—

**Taylor:** Can you please just spam Elizabeth Warren—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —with your beer recommendations for the next week? 'Cause I would love that. Personally.

**Sydnee:** Just—very kindly and gently, here are some better beer recommendations.

**Taylor:** Yeah. Sorry, go ahead. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, but while we were at the tailgate, the weirdest thing happened.

**Rileigh:** Yes. They... filmed—they didn't, actually—but they filmed what seemed to have been *Bring It On 3* in front of... our tailgate.

**Sydnee:** I looked up, and there were cheerleaders. Like, the—the—

**Rileigh:** The opposing team's cheerleaders.

**Sydnee:** —yeah, that were, like, infiltrating our tailgate, which is fine. Like, that's—

**Rileigh:** There were some supporters at the tailgate next to ours that were there for the rival, and they were doin' their cheers, and they're from Ohio so they were doin' the whole "O-H-I-O" thing. Like, okay, I get it.

**Sydnee:** That's all nice, and, like—and there's do—there's plenty of donuts to go around. I don't—you know, you can be from the other team. But then—

**Raleigh:** But then the Marshall cheerleaders showed up—

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** —and they were also doing cheers, but they were right there next to them. And then it—

**Sydnee:** Then they, like, squared off.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. They, like, did cheers back and forth, right in front of our tailgate. Like, one would do a cheer, then the other did a cheer.

**Sydnee:** And this was, like—okay. You have to understand—I know you're like, "It's a football game. Why is this so weird?" Well, it's—so, the parking lot is giant.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** People are tailgating *everywhere*.

**Raleigh:** Everywhere.

**Sydnee:** They're—and they're not just tailgating in, like, the parking lot of the football stadium. All of the local parking lots—

**Raleigh:** All of the parking lots.

**Sydnee:** —convert to tailgating. Like, half the city is tailgating space during a football game, here in Huntington.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, it just—it—that's the way it works. So, like, there were so many places with so many excited fans... that they could've been—

**Raleigh:** They picked the nerd tailgate!

**Sydnee:** Yeah! They picked the nerd tailgate, where we're all standing there going, "[softly] What is happening?"



**Rileigh:** No one is cheering along with them—

**Taylor:** Were you being *trolled*?

**Rileigh:** No! It was—it seemed very genuine.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** It seemed like there were genuinely having a cheer battle.

**Sydney:** It was! It was a—it was a cheer-off! It was a—

**Rileigh:** And I think we lost, because the other team had megaphones.

**Sydney:** Yes.

**Rileigh:** And we didn't.

**Taylor:** But this doesn't—like, an actual short film?

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, this is a thing that's gonna be out there one day?

**Rileigh:** I wish.

**Taylor:** I just wanna know so I can, like, find it so I can see you all in the background bein' like, "What?"

**Sydney:** [through laughter] We—

**Rileigh:** I mean, I took a video on my phone. Just, like—I don't—I don't know what's happening. [laughs]

**Sydney:** It—I mean, it really did. It was, like, a bunch of uncomfortable-looking nerds standing there going, "Are they... upset?"

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** "Do we need to participate?"

**Rileigh:** We just couldn't figure out—are they actually mad? Are they actually fighting? Is this a fun thing?

**Taylor:** Did you offer them some dip? Like—just, like, "Hey, don't fight about it. Look, there's enough for all of us!"

**Sydnee:** Uh, I think donuts were being offered.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The donut tray guy was offering donuts far and wide.

**Rileigh:** There was donut tray guy. To everyone.

**Sydnee:** To all—all cheerleaders are welcome to eat these donuts! Uh, you may—you may resume cheering elsewhere! [laughs] Take it—

**Taylor:** So what—what happened to the losing team? Did they, like, wail in shame and—and—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —what ha—what happened?

**Rileigh:** They all still—

**Sydnee:** Their ponytails were chopped off. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh no!

**Sydnee:** They rent their pom-poms. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** No. They all still very—

**Sydnee:** They left in shame.

**Rileigh:** —they all still had very high ponies. They had bows. They had pom-poms, and then they all took one big group cheerleader picture.

**Taylor:** I need so much more information about this that I don't think either of you have, and I understand that, but *what?!*

**Raleigh:** It was like—it was like they were making the rounds, which I didn't know they did. But it's like the cheerleaders from both teams make the rounds around the tailgates and, like, find the tailgates that are for them and cheer with them, like, take pictures or whatever.

But they both were on their paths, and this is the first time they had ever met each other in person. They're like, "Well, I—I don't know how to communicate with another cheerleader besides with cheers, so I guess this is what we have to do!"

**Sydney:** Ahhh. It was like—we were witnessing, like, roaming, wild bands of cheerleaders—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** —out in the jungle, and they encountered each other, and these were their, like...

**Raleigh:** These are their stories.

**Sydney:** They—[laughs] this is how they interact!

**Raleigh:** [softly makes the Law and Order "dun dun" sound effect][laughs]

**Taylor:** And you didn't lend them your power! You—you abstained, and that's why they lost!

**Raleigh:** [loudly] 'Cause they came to the *nerd* tailgate!

**Sydney:** And, I mean, of course, like, because we are the nerd tailgate, like, I'm standin' there like, "[singing and snapping] Boy, boy, crazy boy—"

**Raleigh:** [laughs] We were like, "Who are the Sharks and who are the Jets?!"

**Sydney:** "[singing and snapping] Stay cool, boy!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "When are they gonna start snapping?"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Oh, no! Wow!

**Sydnee:** And I was not the only one making a musical joke. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** There were many.

**Sydnee:** There were many.

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** Anyway...

**Taylor:** You just need to have a little sign up outside of your tailgate next time. Like, "Don't have your cheer battle here! We're—not gonna do anything. We are—"

**Sydnee:** "We will—I guarantee you, it's not out of malice. We don't know the appropriate thing to do in this situation?"

**Raleigh:** I have never been so close to a cheerleader in my *whole* life.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "We will stand here awkwardly, unsure of how to... appreciate? Participate? Support?"

**Raleigh:** "And we'll, like, kind of—"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "—kind of yell along—"

**Taylor:** [strained and high pitched] It's like—

**Raleigh:** "—like, when you say the name of the school. Like, we know that one!"

**Sydnee:** The need to—

**Taylor:** It's like when a safari encounters a giraffe in the wild—

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** —and everybody just kind of, like, "I love it! It's beautiful! But don't get too close, ahhh!" Like, you're just like, leaning away, like, "Oh no! It's a cheerleader!"

**Raleigh:** "Don't get too close!"

**Sydnee:** We're all just standing there going, "Just do the 'We are,' we know that one! Just do the—" they didn't do the "We are!" I don't know what to do! [laughs]

**Taylor:** [softly] Wow...

**Raleigh:** And then some rando woman tried to start the "We are" [laughs] and no one joined. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** We all were in shock.

**Sydnee:** Anyway...

**Taylor:** Well, this sounds like a—that just sounds like a... I don't know! That's awkward! That's just a straight up—just a awkward episode. Well, alright.

**Raleigh:** Then we lost the football game.

**Taylor:** Oh. Well—

**Raleigh:** By a lot.

**Sydnee:** Oh, man.

**Taylor:** Because you didn't help your cheerleaders.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** I think it was our fault. Man, we got smushed.

**Raleigh:** [holding back laughter] Got smooshed.

**Sydnee:** We got flattened.

**Taylor:** [laughs] You—you didn't compete—you didn't complete the cheerleader ritual of support! That's why! You get smooshed when you don't do that!

**Raleigh:** "Hi, welcome to this week's *football* episode of Still Buffering, I guess!"

**Taylor:** Cheerleaders are the—the—the-witchy coven that protects the football players wins. That's what they do.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** They chant—

**Raleigh:** Is that what they do?

**Taylor:** —yeah! They have—they have, like—

**Raleigh:** I would've become a cheerleader if I'da known that.

**Taylor:** —ritualistic garb. They do chants. They invoke energy from other people. You did not support—[laughs] the—the coven of cheerleaders of your team! You deserve the L.

**Sydnee:** We let 'em down.

**Raleigh:** We did.

**Sydnee:** It was all on the Yaegers.

**Raleigh:** [through a yawn] All of us.

**Sydnee:** The Yaegers let 'em all down. Um—

**Raleigh:** The nerds apologize.

**Taylor:** Support your Wiccan cheerleaders in the future, please.

**Sydnee:** Chuck—Chuck Yaeger would be so disappointed.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Chuck Yaeger would be so disappointed.

**Sydnee:** He'd be so disappointed. You were—you were not—what is it? Excellent? Something about excellence?

**Raleigh:** [sighs] I don't know.

**Sydnee:** That's your motto? I forget.

**Raleigh:** I guess? I don't know.

**Sydnee:** Something about excellence. Anyway—[laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly] Something about excellence. Let's move on!

**Sydnee:** Uh, so, I—you know what would be a great opportunity for me to suggest... great beers to Elizabeth Warren?

**Raleigh:** What?

**Sydnee:** If I won that *contest*... uh, that she has where if you enter and, I don't know, maybe donate to the campaign probably, I assume probably that's—

**Taylor:** You don't have—it doesn't cost anything, no.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Taylor:** Nope. Nope.

**Sydnee:** You don't have to donate. Never mind. Misinformation.

**Raleigh:** Sydnee just did anyways. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Didn't mean to spread—I—I did donate, but you don't have to! But you can enter to win, like, "Have a beer with Liz Warren." I need to enter that contest, and then if I win I can be, like, "But I—I get to pick the beers." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "I pick the beer!"

**Taylor:** [laughs] "I get to order!"

**Sydnee:** "[through laughter] I have *one* stipulation!" Um... so I—

**Taylor:** Would you *really* face-to-face with Liz Warren be like, "I... am choosing your beer." Would you?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** No.

**Taylor:** I wanna—

**Sydnee:** No, of course not!

**Raleigh:** Sydnee would drink a Mic Ultra.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I—now, I don't know that I could go that far.

**Raleigh:** You would! If she—if Elizabeth—

**Sydnee:** I am what I am. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —hey, if Elizabeth Warren handed you a beer, you would drink it.

**Sydnee:** Well...

**Taylor:** Yeah, I'll—I'll drink a Michelob Ultra for Liz Warren.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] I think—listen. I think Elizabeth Warren seems like the—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I—yes, but I think Elizabeth Warren seems like the kind of person that would ask me what kind of beer I like first.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.



**Taylor:** I think that's true. I—I do hope that it could be a pop—Raleigh, will you please start the college drinking game of—well, no, you're underage—but when you're old enough—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —of, uh, drink a Michelob Ultra for Liz Warren.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** A YouTube challenge, even. Let's do that. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah. We'll just watch, like, old DNC debates, like, primary debates—

**Sydney:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —every time she speaks.

**Taylor:** [laughs] [stammers] Mic Ultra, yep.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Sydney:** Um, so, contests.

**Raleigh:** Yes. [laughs quietly]

**Sydney:** Uh—that's—I did the whole transition and then nobody took the bait, so there we are.

**Raleigh:** I didn't—I didn't know we were gonna make it clear it was a transition. I thought we were just gonna make it smooth this time and not bring attention to it.

**Sydney:** When you're a child, when you're young—

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydney:** —at heart, or in—of age—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydney:** —of—

**Rileigh:** What is wrong with you tonight?! [through laughter] I don't understand what happened to my sister!

**Sydnee:** —you don't have money for things—

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] My intelligent, articulate, eloquent sister!

**Taylor:** "When you are babby, sometimes contest."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Yes. That's the thing!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That was it, Tey! Good job! [laughs] That was—

**Taylor:** You're welcome. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I am on a hospital service. I have been getting up so early—

**Taylor:** [gasping laughter]

**Sydnee:** —my baby doesn't sleep at night, I don't think I've slept in two weeks.  
[sighs heavily]

**Taylor:** Alright. Okay.

**Sydnee:** Anyway. I apologize.

**Taylor:** So—[through a yawn] that's alright.

**Sydnee:** But yes. Contests.

**Rileigh:** So, 'bappy' contests. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I—I was not, um... it's funny, 'cause as we started talking about, like, "Oh, we should talk about, like, enter-to-win things and sweepstakes things and all that stuff. Like, back in our day, Super Toy Run adjacent type things."

And I was like, "Well, you know, that's a cool idea. I didn't enter a lot myself. I was aware of 'em, but I didn't enter a lot."

And Rileigh was like, "Oh, I was always—"

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um...

**Sydnee:** Apparently—apparently our youngest sister was super into these things.

**Rileigh:** Yeah...

**Taylor:** I didn't know that was even a thing in your generation! Tell me more!

**Rileigh:** Oh yeah, they had, like—there was one I remember was very popular, because no one was really sure if anyone ever won it or not. It was, like, a Danimals contest where if you—

**Taylor:** What?!

**Rileigh:** —you bought, like, little Danimals, and then if you got a certain one and, like, entered the code online, then you got to win a trip to go hang out with Zack and Cody. Um... and I remember I never really liked Danimals that much, 'cause I never really liked yogurt or anything adjacent to yogurt, but that was the one time where I was like—really wanted Mom and Dad to gimme a lot of Danimals so I could win to go see Zack and Cody and hang out with them.

**Sydnee:** Those, uh—those—so Danimals are Bongos, is what we call them in this house.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Because they have a monkey named Bongo on them.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** And they—

**Rileigh:** Like, the little yogurt drinks.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, they—they still do a contest like that. Obviously it's not to meet Zack and Cody.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** No, Zack and Cody kind of... broke the band up.

**Taylor:** I love the idea that they would buy, like—like, they would agree to a 30 year contract for that.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, "Ughhh."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "We still have to meet children!"

**Rileigh:** "Every year for the rest of our lives, we will continue to take money from Danimals, and we will, in return, meet one child every year."

**Taylor:** [through laughter] And, like, the kid doesn't even understand—like, "I don't know who these people—who are those old men?! Like, what am I doing?!"

**Sydnee:** "I don't *wanna* meet Zack and Cody, mommy! I don't wanna met 'em!"

**Taylor:** "[through laughter] I just wanted to eat my yogurt! What?!"

**Sydnee:** Uh, they do it, though—now it's if you get a golden Bongo—

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Oh no... [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] So it's Willy Wonka.

**Sydnee:** I know! That's—every time—

**Taylor:** "[to the tune of "I've Got a Golden Ticket"] I've got a golden Bongo!"

**Sydnee:** That's exact—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —do you know how many times I have stood in Kroger and s—sung that? 'Cause Charlie's like, "Can we get Bongos to see if I get a golden one?" And I have to be like, "Well, of course! [to the tune of "I've Got a Golden Ticket"] I've got a golden Bongo!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [squawks]

**Sydnee:** And if you get a golden Bongo—

**Raleigh:** You get to meet Zack and Cody.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] "[to the tune of "I've Got a Golden Ticket"] you get a trip to Disney—"

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Taylor:** Oh, now it's a trip to Disney!

**Sydnee:** [singing] Disney World!

**Taylor:** Uhh... hey, Zack and Cody. That's called an upgrade. Sorry! [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Now, I will say, when I was younger, I would've rather hung out with Zack and Cody for a day.

**Taylor:** Uhh...

**Sydnee:** Than a trip to Disney World?!

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** No... No. No... I—

**Raleigh:** They promised to take you on set of Zack and Cody, and take their picture with you, and hang out with you, and sign stuff for you... I would've lost my mind.

**Sydnee:** I—do you think contests like that—'cause, like, I guess—it's a drinkable yogurt is what we're talking about, in case you're not familiar with the Danimal—

**Raleigh:** Which is why I hate it, 'cause just *listen* to that phrase you just said.

**Sydnee:** I know. I don't—I think they're ki—I mean, like, I've tasted 'em. They don't taste bad, but, like, the—the idea of drinking the yogurt as opposed to just, like—I'd rather eat yogurt. It's weird for me. But kids love that kind of thing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, they love weird stuff like that. Um... I wonder if that kind of idea with food is going away—has gone away? I don't see that as much anymore, because it's—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —it's kinda wack.

**Taylor:** Just, like, if you don't need a utensil to consume it, it just comes in a tube. Like, yeah, I—that's fine.

**Sydnee:** Like Gogurt.

**Raleigh:** Like Gogurt.

**Taylor:** Yeah. That's totally cool to go away forever.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] To incentivize kids to, like, get these treats and eat them as fast as possible so your parents have to buy more so you can hopefully get the one that wins the contest is not a healthy... [pauses] thing.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, for sure.

**Taylor:** You know there's some kid out there just pounding, like, Danimals. Just like, "I've gotta win! I gotta win!" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I don't—I would never suggest that a food product could give you diarrhea—

**Raleigh:** [gasping laughter]

**Sydnee:** —but I would think that if you drank enough—

**Raleigh:** Wait, I don't—this is—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Hold on. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Your—

**Raleigh:** Stop the podcast.

**Taylor:** —your GI tract is *so full* of healthy flora that it's just, like, *sha-woop!* It's a slippery slide. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I just—you all are on the same wavelength right now on this wild journey that I did not think any of these sentences were going to go on, and I just can't—I need a minute to follow where you all are going, [through laughter] 'cause this is not where I—since when is this a poop podcast?!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Since when are those the jokes we make?! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I'm just saying that—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] Oops, it's poops!

**Sydnee:** —you gotta be careful with your probiotics! You can't over—*over* colonize—

**Raleigh:** We—we, like, hit this—

**Sydnee:** —your colon!

**Rileigh:** —we hit this window in between, like, late night recording and middle of the day recording, where both are usually pretty good. It's, like, middle of the evening, and you p—like, I don't understand what's happening. Teylor—

**Teylor:** I think this is—

**Rileigh:** —has spooky makeup on, Sydnee can't form sentences—

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Teylor:** Look, I think—

**Rileigh:** —Sydnee's talking about diarrhea and *never* talks about poop. [laughs breathlessly]

**Teylor:** All I'm gonna say is, we're worried about—like, Rileigh, when you turn 20, this is not—our tagline is no longer "I am a teenager, and I was too." "So maybe don't over-colonize your colon" is a good follow up! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** This has been Still Buffering, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages! Don't over-colonize your colon! See ya next week.

**Teylor:** [laughs] I think that has a good sound it.

**Sydnee:** "I'm not a teenager, and I must poo."

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Teylor:** [laughs] Oh, nooo!

**Rileigh:** Oh no. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh no. I just need—

**Teylor:** [through laughter] Oh, niche poo podcast, it's a pocaust!



**Sydnee:** I'm just sayin'—

**Rileigh:** Oh nooo!

**Sydnee:** —I wouldn't pound a whole, like, six pack of Danimals in one sitting.

**Taylor:** Okay. Fair.

**Sydnee:** That's all I'm saying.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Rileigh:** You know someone has.

**Sydnee:** I'm sure. It's been a kid who's like, "Mom! We're outta Bongos! I know you just bought 'em!"

**Rileigh:** "I need more!"

**Sydnee:** "But we need more!"

**Rileigh:** In the store on the way to the checkout. Like, "Mom, we gotta go get another pack! None of 'em were golden and I already ate all of 'em." [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** Uh, I—uh—[laughs] I don't remember a lot of—I'm sure there were, like, endless food-centric sweepstakes.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There had to have been. The one that I—and it wasn't a sweepstakes or an enter-to-win, but it was like a food-incentive contest sort of thing, was, like, the reading thing?

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** The Pizza Hut, uh, Books—I don't remember what it was called. You read enough books [holding back laughter] and you prove it Pizza Hut, then they give you a pizza.

**Rileigh:** Or, like, you prove your grades with your report card to Billy Bob's and they give you a few free tokens.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** See, I think those at least are good, 'cause it's like—okay, like, you get good grades, you get a pizza. Like, that's—that's good, right? We're—

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** —incentivizing reading. That's always really important. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I guess... I mean, you read a bunch of books and they're like, "Here's this small... pizza for you." It was a personal pan. "So, here's this tiny pizza in exchange for all those books." [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** I mean, I think if you can turn knowledge into pizza, then that's still always working in your favor.

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

**Rileigh:** See, ours was just if you got enough accelerated reader points, you got to go to the skating rink for a day, and I hated skating, so I read the books [through laughter] but I just skipped school the day they went to go roller skating.

**Taylor:** Ohh, I remember those too! We had the same thing. Like, the—the—like, the roller parties if you read enough and didn't have violations. It was like, that's a punishment for me.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, really. I hate skating. Why you would do this to me?

**Taylor:** [laughs] Because I sit still and very safely read books, you're gonna make me weaponize myself to myself on wheels and spin around among social occurrences? No! That's a nightmare! That's why I read books!

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Please, no!

**Sydnee:** Don't you know I come from the Smirl clan? We are the people of the weak ankles!

**Rileigh:** We all have weak ankles!

**Taylor:** Small chicken ankles.

**Raleigh:** I said that to my roommates the other night and she said, "Why do you talk like your an 80-year-old woman?" [snorts]

**Sydnee:** We do have weak—

**Raleigh:** And I said, "[loudly] I *do* have weak ankles!"

**Sydnee:** We have weak ankles!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And flat-ish feet!

**Taylor:** Have you heard of the Achilles Heel? This is the Smirl Ankle.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's quite weak, and we're bad at skating.

**Taylor:** It's made of hollow reeds. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And skiing and snowboarding and ice skating...

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** All of them.

**Sydnee:** Um... we've barely even scratched the surface of fun sweepstakes, but before we talk about any more...

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

Uh, sisters, this week Still Buffering is supported in part by HelloFresh. We've talked about HelloFresh before, but I wanna talk about 'em again.

**Sydnee:** Yum!

**Raleigh:** Because del—exactly—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** —Sydnee. Delicious. Right. My—again, my articulate sister.

**Sydnee:** Yum!

**Raleigh:** Uh—[laughs quietly] HelloFresh gives you everything that you need to get a wow-worthy dinner, from step-by-step ingredients to pre-measured ingredients. Sorry, [through laughter] step-by-step recipes and pre-measured ingredients! It's like, "Let me teach you how to use celery."

Uh—[laughs] on the table and just, like, 30 minutes, which is amazing. Not everyone has time to sit down and, you know, make a dinner that takes a long time, and this one only takes 30 minutes for your whole fam.

Uh, and there's something for everyone! Family recipes to calorie smart and vegetarian, and fun menu series like Hall of Fame and craft burgers. If you want, you know, something a lil fancier. Uh, and you can add extra meals to your weekly order as well as yummy add-ons like garlic bread and cookie dough. I would—

**Sydnee:** Please bake—

**Raleigh:** —eat the heck out of garlic bread and cookie dough.

**Sydnee:** —please bake the cookie dough—

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** —into cookies before you eat it.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Right.

**Sydnee:** That was my PSA. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Guess that's what you're supposed to do.

**Taylor:** Okay. Now—now—yep.

**Raleigh:** It's not fun—it's not fun, though.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Um, Teylor, so if our listeners wanna check out HelloFresh, what should they do?

**Teylor:** Well, you can get a total of \$80 off in your first month, so that's \$20 off your first four boxes if you visit [hellofresh.com/stillbuffering80](https://hellofresh.com/stillbuffering80), and enter promo code "stillbuffering80." That's [hellofresh.com/stillbuffering80](https://hellofresh.com/stillbuffering80). That promo code, again, is "stillbuffering80" and you can get 80 bucks off your first month, off your first four boxes. Do it and have some good food! And cook your cookie dough.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, Still Buffering is also supported this week by Dashlane. Now, I got a lotta irons in the fire. And I got a lotta passwords in my... computer.

**Rileigh:** Okay?

**Sydnee:** I got a lotta, like, secret data that I don't want anybody else to access, and the best way to do that is with a super secure password! And the problem for me is that I'm not gonna remember what password goes with what thing, and I also have a lot of trouble coming up with the things they need—all they, like—they need the numbers, and they need the characters, and they need the capital letters, and you gotta remember where you put 'em all, and I am bad at that. And as a result, I have been guilty, in the past, of not properly securing my data.

I mean, I've never had, like, a breach. But, you know, it could've happened.

**Rileigh:** It probably should've happened to you by this point. I'm surprised it hasn't.

**Teylor:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** It should've! I mean, I was one of those, use the same—

**Rileigh:** Just based off of how [through laughter] weak your—and typical your passwords were. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And I used the same one for everything. Uh—

**Taylor:** Don't say that out loud!

**Sydnee:** Well, not anymore!

**Raleigh:** Not anymore. Because...

**Sydnee:** Because of Dashlane.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Uh, it is a password management app that solves all your "How to Password" problems by keeping all your online information safe, secure, encrypted, and easy to access. They will generate—Dashlane will generate passwords for you that are ultra secure, and they will also *remember* them in a secret password vault that only you can unlock.

Uh, and they will seamlessly auto fill all your login information, syncing automatically across all your devices, and even store payment details. So you don't have remember this stuff, you don't have to worry. You can use the really secure passwords and know that Dashlane's gonna take care of it for you.

And, if you wanna try Dashlane, Taylor, where should you go?

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

**Sydnee:** So, Taylor, you mentioned, when we were reminiscing about sweepstakes of yore, one that you—they only one you participated in. um, and I had forgotten about this, but please, please refresh our memories.

**Taylor:** Well, uh, during spooey time, which we're in, Nickelodeon had a televised sweepstakes, which was... [softly] oh, gosh.

So, basically, you would enter and you would give them your name and your phone number, and they would randomly call people, and if you answered the phone with "Nick or treat," you would win—I think the top prize was a copy of 13 Dead End Drive?

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Uh, the board game?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's a *great* prize!

**Taylor:** It was a great prize! It was a really cool game! Uh, it's—I don't know, you just move around a game board and try to kill each other. Uh... but—

**Sydnee:** We have a copy now!

**Taylor:** Really?

**Sydnee:** We play it with Charlie and she loves it.

**Taylor:** Oh. You spend so much time just setting up the traps in that game, but it's still a quality game.

**Raleigh:** Like Mousetrap.

**Sydnee:** Like Mousetrap, yeah.

**Taylor:** It's like a better designed Mousetrap, 'cause nobody could get the traps in Mousetrap to work.

**Raleigh:** That's true.

**Sydnee:** It's like Mousetrap, but with the thing that Mousetrap was always lacking.

**Taylor:** Uh—

**Sydnee:** Murder.

**Raleigh:** Murder—[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** And fancy mustaches. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Murder and fancy mustaches!

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Yes. That's—

**Raleigh:** What everything is always lacking.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah! [through laughter] Everything—everything is better with that. Uh, but the—the problem was, was that meant that every time somebody called the house in October, I had to run to the phone and say "Nick or treat!" [laughs] and they're like, "Uh, is... is Tom there? Is Mary there? Hello?"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Like, "Oh! Oh." It was, like, I think a Nickelodeon campaign to make children, like, be able to have phone conversational skills? I don't know.

**Raleigh:** That's why no one answers the phone anymore! That's why no one wants to talk on the phone!

**Taylor:** That—that sweepstakes would never work in modern day.

**Raleigh:** Like, "Let me give us all trust issues."

**Sydnee:** No. No it wouldn't. And you know what's funny? The only reason it's as fun as it was—the reason the stakes were higher is *because* we didn't have cell phones, and so you *were* having to answer the same phone upon which people were gonna call your parents—

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** —with "Nick or treat." It wouldn't have been as funny in a cell phone age because, you know, I mean, who cares? Like, you answer "Nick or treat," and then your friends like, "What?" And you're like, "Oh, I'm just—you know, I'm just trying to win... [through laughter] a copy of 13 Dead End Drive. It's no big deal."

**Taylor:** And it wasn't like a—yeah, 'cause that's the thing! We're not gonna—we're gonna give you, like, \$10,000. We're giving you a board game that costs 13.99 at your, like—



**Rileigh:** That you could go to Target right now and buy.

**Taylor:** [laughs] But you could get one for free! I just think—I just am really sad that the idea that there was some kid out there whose parent answered the phone and they were like, "Hello, this is the blah blah blah residence." They're like, "Oh, this was Nickelodeon, trying to award your child... with—with the honor of a free copy of a board game, but you didn't say the right words!"

And that kid and that parent probably have issues to this day.

**Rileigh:** They never spoke again.

**Taylor:** No! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Oh man. Can you imagine how mad you would've been?

**Taylor:** Oh, I—I would've been furious!

**Rileigh:** Oh man.

**Sydnee:** "We got the weirdest call, Taylor!" [laughs quietly] "It was from—"

**Rileigh:** "It was this person saying they were... *Nickelodeon*?"

**Sydnee:** "It was so strange."

**Rileigh:** "Wanting to give you a board game?"

**Taylor:** I just would've gone upstairs, I would've packed a suitcase, and I would've walked out the door. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** "Taylor, is this one of your anime things?"

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** If I can't Nick or treat here, I cannot exist.

**Rileigh:** Uh, you know, I am realizing as we're talking about this something that I think is maybe the modern day equivalent for us older teens and young adults

that I didn't even think about, and that's YouTubers and Instagrammers, like, influencers who are popular, who do giveaways.

**Sydnee:** Hm.

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

**Raleigh:** Where you like, um... actually I just entered one recently. I didn't win. But I watch this guy on YouTube, his name is Brad Mondo and he does, like, hair—he's a hairstylist and he does "hairstylist reacts" videos, but he also does, like, how to take care of your hair and all that kind of stuff.

And he had a giveaway where if you, like, posted about him and watching his videos or whatever, like, shared one of his videos, then he would pick one person to fly out to his hairstyling studio and give them a makeover for free, and make a video with you and, like, do your hair and everything.

Um, but there are also YouTubers who, like, every back-to-school season there are a bunch who give away laptops or school supplies.

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

**Raleigh:** There's one YouTuber I watch actually does a tuition giveaway every year where she pays someone's tuition once a year—

**Sydnee:** Wow.

**Taylor:** Oh, wow.

**Raleigh:** —which is pretty cool. Um, but yeah. I guess that's kind of the same thing. They're always like, "Share my video," or "Share my post," or "Subscribe to my YouTube channel, and if you do, then maybe you'll win!"

But those are ones you know people actually win. The ones when I was younger and it was like, "Did anyone ever *win* a trip to see Zack and Cody?" I don't know if anyone ever won that.

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, that was like—that sort of plays into, like, McDonald's Monopoly, right?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like, nobody ever won that—

**Taylor:** Nope.

**Sydnee:** -'cause that person was, like, stealing all the pieces or whatever, right?

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Isn't that that story?

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's what you always kind of suspected with the McDonald's Monopoly.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, nobody's winning.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Nobody—there's no way anybody's winning this.

**Taylor:** Yeah...

**Rileigh:** Like when you order a large coffee at Dunkin and you peel off the little tab and sometimes you get a free coffee, but most of the time you don't.

**Sydnee:** Hmm. Uh, the—the best—the thing that I never—I don't even know if I knew how to enter, 'cause we didn't have—I guess we had a KB Toys... but anyway—

**Rileigh:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** —the Super Toy Run. That was Toys "R" Us. Toys "R" Us Super Toy Run.

**Rileigh:** I've heard about this, yeah.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah!

**Sydnee:** That was the—that was the best one.

**Taylor:** What was what? What was—what was the time limit on that?

**Sydnee:** It was just, like, two minutes?

**Raleigh:** That's what I was gonna say, a minute or two minutes.

**Sydnee:** Wasn't it?

**Taylor:** Was it really that little? Like, a minute? Like, what can you do in a minute?

**Sydnee:** I thought it was, like, two.

**Taylor:** It's gotta be a couple minutes at least.

**Sydnee:** Uh, but—but the... it was the Toys "R" Us Super Toy Run. They give you a very small amount of time, and then you run around the store and get as many toys as you could. And I'm sure there was a way to enter this contest, probably in the store—I don't think we got a Toys "R" Us until I was older. All we had was the KB Toys. I don't think we had the... and we had Children's Palace. That was a beautiful toy store.

**Raleigh:** Man, I just found a great article. Just entitled, "I got four bikes," and then the subtitle is, "Two Nickelodeon Super Toy Run winners reminisce 20 years later." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I mean, I guess—

**Sydnee:** KB *did!* KB did sponsor it!

**Taylor:** I was gonna say, KB Toys definitely did one. I remember that.

**Sydnee:** Ahh, okay, good. I thought I was—I thought that I was making stuff up.

**Taylor:** No.

**Sydnee:** KB did definitely do that—

**Raleigh:** It's five minutes.

**Sydnee:** —as well as Toys "R" Us [crosstalk]—

**Taylor:** Okay, 'cause that's the thing—

**Sydnee:** —oh, it is five minutes.

**Taylor:** —'cause it d—but the thing there is is that KB Toys is—our KB Toys was small. The Toys "R" Us is big, and I definitely remember, like, as a child, walking around the KB Toys and plotting my course. Like, "But where would *I* go? What would *I* do? What would *I* take from first if I got five minutes here?"

**Sydnee:** Sometimes you would see kids in, like, the commercials for it grabbing giant stuffed animals, and I always like, "Why?"

**Taylor:** Right?

**Sydnee:** "What are you even—[flatly] why?"

**Raleigh:** Oh man! They—there was one year where they sent the winner to Hawaii to do the Super Toy Run that every other year they sent them to the Mall of America?

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** Wow. I just—I wanna know, like—'cause that four bikes thing makes me think that some kid was like, "Look, if I'm gonna win this, what I'm gonna do is get just the most expensive stuff... and sell it."

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] "And sell it."

**Taylor:** Yeah. Like, "I'm not—I'm not gonna try to—no. This is about money, 'cause that's gonna equal enough to buy way more stuff."

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] What I love though is that this is like, pre-internet, so if you're a kid and you're thinking, like, "I'm gonna sell it. I'm gonna get—I'm gonna get four bikes, and I'm gonna sell three bikes." You're, like, taking an ad out in the classifieds?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** "I got three bikes!"

**Sydnee:** Or to your friends? [laughs] Like, at school? Like, you're gonna go around and hand out your, like, homemade business card. Like, "They—[through laughter] they call me Three Bike Steve. 'Cause I got three bikes to sell."

**Taylor:** [laughs] Like—

**Sydnee:** "Who wants a bike?"

**Taylor:** What about like, the down—like, the letdown of the people running the KB Toy Run when that kid just walks over to, like, that expensive toy, that one, and just puts, like, 20 in the cart and is like, "Ha ha, resell value!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** This is—okay, wait. This is too accurate to what I'm reading. This is something our Dad would say. This one kid is saying that they were looking at the toys ahead of time when they had to do, like, some commercial filming and stuff, and his Dad said, "You should get this giant Barney plush doll that was four feet tall, and that's the only toy you should get, 'cause you won't be able to carry anything else."

And he said, "Why?"

And he said, "[through laughter] Because it's \$500, so you should just get that!"

[through laughter] It's like, why? So you can just sell the one giant Barney plush doll?

**Taylor:** For \$450, and you make \$450!

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Oh... that's more of the Supermarket Sweep approach to the Super Toy Run.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Where it's like you just run to the aisle with the giant hams. [laughs]

**Taylor:** And that's apparently coming back though, right?

**Sydnee:** [deep voice] Yes.

**Taylor:** I was watching, like—I don't know where I went on, like, an internet trawl where I was just watching videos of Supermarket Sweep. And I don't know what it says—like, the things that people always go for are like, ham and diapers. Like, that's—that's what you gotta get if you wanna make that money, ham and diapers! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** The giant hams, the giant fancy cheeses. And also, like, the giant salamis. Like, the huge—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —tubes of meat. Lots of—lots of giant meat. Um...

**Taylor:** That was a dream. Like, the idea of just running through a supermarket being like, [gasps] like, "It's all mine!"

**Sydnee:** You know what they didn't go for? And, like—now, granted, this was, like, supermarkets, so it was a lot more food. It was, like, pre, uh, megamart, has all of the other products that—you know, like food-adjacent kind of things. But, like, now, I would go for the razors.

**Taylor:** Oh, razors are expensive.

**Sydnee:** *Crazy* expensive.

**Raleigh:** They are expensive.

**Sydnee:** I would just, like, clear the—the Venus section. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah... well, I think any sort of—honestly, any women-focused products. Like, "Aha, female upcharge, workin' in my favor, finally!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I found the box—I'd seen it on the internet, and I didn't think it—this is a slight, uh, tangent. I saw this on a post on the internet and I didn't believe it. There was a green box that said "Laxative" and it was—I don't remember like, 2.99. And then there was a pink box that said "Women's Laxative," and it was, like, 4.99. And they were comparing the ingredients, and it was identical.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** It was identical.

**Taylor:** Yeah, I believe that. I believe that. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I found it, and it's true.

**Raleigh:** Really?

**Sydnee:** I found it. I swear to you. We were at the store and I saw the two boxes and I was like, "I have to price compare and ingredient compare. This can't be—" it's totally true.

**Taylor:** Wow.

**Raleigh:** So—

**Sydnee:** Same number pills, same dose, same everything. Pink box, "Women's Laxative." And I'm gonna tell ya—

**Taylor:** Pink tax!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** A laxative—we're talking about poop again! It's gonna—

**Raleigh:** Sydnee, what's wrong with you?

**Sydnee:** —a laxative is gonna make you poop, whether the box is pink or green.



**Rileigh:** Um, back to—away from poop—

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —I'm—okay. So—

**Taylor:** Back to away from poop. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —I—my thinking with these types of things was always, like—there was one winner because they didn't want to spend a ton of money on it. Or, like, the Super Toy Run, things like that, it was probably like—there were a lot of rules, right? 'Cause they didn't wanna just give away toys.

And I was not familiar with this until we talked about it, so I have been reading about it as we've been talking. And they told these kids, they interviewed two of them that one, anything that fell on the floor was as good as being in a cart, so if you knocked it on to the floor you got the take it.

You told them ahead of time how many carts you wanted everywhere, and as soon as you filled up another one they would bring you another one, so you could have as many carts as you wanted. And the reason this guy got four bikes was because they just had the names of the things on big cardboard tags, because one kid couldn't carry a bike by himself, so you could just grab all the cardboard tags for the big items that you couldn't carry, and he just put four of the big cardboard tags in one buggy, [through laughter] and they were all for bikes!

**Taylor:** But wait, if it—if whatever falls on the floor is your, I feel like I just would've said, "Forget this cart!" And just run down the aisles with my arms out, [through laughter] just knocking everything off [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Right! Just knocking everything down!

**Taylor:** "[through laughter] I'm beating the system!"

**Sydnee:** Like that part—that part in Frozen when Elsa's singing "Let it Go—"

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** —and she goes running—

**Rileigh:** And the ice stairs just form around her.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] Everything's falling on the ground!

**Sydnee:** [crosstalk] [singing] One with the wind and sky!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Just knocking toys and shelves around me.

**Taylor:** [through laughter] I wish that video existed of just a kid in the 90's—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —just, like, running through, like, "Yes, everything that touches the ground is mine!"

**Rileigh:** They have videos of these kids during their Super Toy Run on YouTube! You can watch their full thing!

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] Just running down the aisle, knocking—" [shouts] I will live forever!"

**Taylor:** It's like, you don't need a cart for that! Just anarchy!

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Can you imagine—oh my gosh. The feeling those kids—like, the jealousy from the kids in their classes at school.

**Sydnee:** There's gotta be nothin' like that, man.

**Taylor:** I'm—I'm a—I mean, how do you—how do you live a better life than that moment, though? Like, you have that and you're like, "Well..."

**Rileigh:** You peaked right then. That's it.

**Taylor:** That's your—that's it! Like, "I am on camera just—"

**Rileigh:** That's true. [through laughter] Life is downhill from there.

**Taylor:** "—stealing rampantly." [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, really! It is just filmed, legal thievery.

**Sydnee:** Uh... you know, that—I don't know why I never entered that, 'cause I would never have entered any of the, like, contests or sweepstakes where you could, like, meet celebrities? That would've totally freaked me out.

**Raleigh:** Oh, I would've done—I mean, I did that.

**Sydnee:** I mean, I would—I would to—like, I haven't entered that thing to have a beer with Liz Warren but, like, I would do that. Um, but, like, I don't—as a kid, like, celebrities, I wouldn't have known—and I *knew*, like, I wouldn't have known what to say.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I would've, like, stood there with, like, the New Kids on the Block going, like, "[shaky high pitched voice] Uh..."

**Raleigh:** "[shaky high pitched voice] Uh..."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "This is weird! I'm seven!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Taylor:** "[through laughter] This is weird—"

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I mean, that would've been it, right?

**Raleigh:** "This is weird, I'm seven."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] "Why did I even enter this contest? This seems very strange!"

**Taylor:** Just crying and being very self aware. And the New Kids on the Block are just like, "Man... why'd you get us this bogus kid?"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I feel like most of them—

**Sydnee:** "Why are we meeting a seven-year-old?!"

**Raleigh:** Most of them, they were like, you had to be 13, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, probably.

**Raleigh:** Or something like that. 12? But, I mean, how would they have known? So you sign up and then you're like, "Yeah, I'm secretly—I'm eight, but I'm 13."

**Taylor:** "I have an ID."

**Raleigh:** And then you show up—

**Taylor:** 13.

**Raleigh:** —and they're just like, "Why is this... *child* here?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Why is this eight-year-old here?"

**Sydnee:** The—the closest I ever came—I was asking mom. I was like, "Do you remember me ever entering any of these contests?" She was like, "Nah, you were never into that. But, um, [holding back laughter] you did order sea monkeys from a comic book once." [laughs]

**Taylor:** You got to meet those sea monkeys!

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's the same thing.

**Sydnee:** I did! I—I had those sea monkeys in my room forever. Those things don't die.

**Taylor:** They are—

**Raleigh:** What are they?

**Taylor:** —shrimp?

**Sydnee:** Brine shrimp.

**Raleigh:** Ohh. See, I never knew what they were.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** That's a—

**Sydnee:** They were there for a long—I mean, I assume they do die, but they were there for a long time.

**Taylor:** Oh no, they definitely died, Syd. I remember your dead sea monkeys.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** 'Cause they just continued to sit in your windowsill long after they were dead.

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] So maybe they actually—

**Raleigh:** They're still in Sydnee's new home that she just moved into a week ago. [through laughter] She has moved the dead sea monkeys in—[laughs]

**Sydnee:** Maybe they, uh—maybe they actually did die really quickly—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —and I just didn't notice. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Maybe that's what my—my little kid brain didn't know.

**Taylor:** I remember, like, looking in horror at your dead sea monkeys with, like, a thin, green layer of filth on the top of their water. Like, "Well... that's... they're dead."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Delightful.

**Taylor:** It's gonna keep happening.

**Raleigh:** Delicious.

**Sydnee:** I—I never got any more.

**Taylor:** That's good! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, that's probably for the best.

**Taylor:** You—I—I'm glad that you can raise children, but never have another sea monkey again, please.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, I'm good with kids, but not with sea monkeys or plants.

**Taylor:** I don't know what that—

**Sydnee:** Don't give me plants. If I ever won a plant in a sweepstake I would hand that right over to somebody else.

**Raleigh:** Yeah...

**Sydnee:** If I—I've been the person at, like, um, events where they'll have, like, a centerpiece on the table, and then they tell you, like, "Look under—" have you ever been to one of those? And then you, like, look under your plate or your napkin, and whoever has, like, the colored dot gets the centerpiece?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Have you ever been to events like this? These exist.

**Raleigh:** Somethin' like that. Like, something under your chair or something? Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I found this theme at, like, banquet type things, and I—when I have won the centerpiece, I have said, "Please, someone—please dear God—"

**Raleigh:** "Please take it."

**Sydnee:** "—someone take that, please."

**Rileigh:** Now—

**Sydnee:** "—I do not want—I will kill that plant."

**Rileigh:** —I have just remembered. I did win a contest last year. I entered some online contest that was like, "Enter to win a free... closet and style makeover," from some... I don't know. Some makeo—makeup—clothes brand or whatever. And, uh, I entered online thinking, like, "Well, I'm not gonna win," 'cause that's usually what happens, right? Like, you click on something online, you put in your email, and it's like, "I'm never gonna hear about this thing again, but might as well."

**Sydnee:** Sure. I mean, statistically, most of us don't win. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** Right. R—[laughs quietly] Thank you, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Um... but then I got a text, like, two weeks later that was like, "Hi, I'm blah blah blah, I'm from this... company, and you've won a free makeover! Where are you located, and where can I meet you to give you your makeover?" And I got too scared. [through laughter] I never responded.

**Sydnee:** I would be too scared, too. I don't think I would—

**Rileigh:** I got too scared!

**Sydnee:** —yeah. I don't think I would respond to that. I—I have entered a contest... I don't even know that I'll follow through—I—I won't win, but even if I did I don't know that I'd follow through. Uh, Le Crueset has new Star Wars themed cookware, and you have to enter to win the *chance to buy*—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] To buy it.

**Sydnee:** —uh, their Tattooine-themed Dutch oven.

**Taylor:** Wow...

**Sydnee:** And they're—they're only gonna sell nine of them, but you have to, like, win the chance *to buy it*, not to win one.

**Raleigh:** To buy it.

**Sydnee:** They're not free.

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** But they're crazy expensive, and I don't—I don't know that I would actually follow through with purchasing it, 'cause it just seems like too...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, that's a lot of money to spend, and I don't know that we can afford... a Dutch oven that's quite [holding back laughter] that pricey.

**Taylor:** I don't—but I—

**Sydnee:** I just wanna know if I *can*. Like, I just wanna know if I win the chance.

**Raleigh:** You want someone to tell you that you could buy it if you wanted to.

**Sydnee:** I just wanna be able to say, "I was—I could've been one of the nine people who own that, but then I decided it was too expensive, and so I passed it on to the next person."

**Raleigh:** But now—you know, anyone could say that.

**Taylor:** But I wanna know, like, the cross section of people that want a high quality Dutch oven and like Star Wars.

**Raleigh:** Mm.

**Sydnee:** Probably higher than you would expect.

**Taylor:** That's fair. Everybody likes Star Wars, and most people like a quality Dutch oven! [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** It's a really beautiful Dutch oven.



**Taylor:** Oh, I have looked at many a Le Crueset Dutch oven, and I have coveted. I don't think I would covet one more than a Star Wars one, but—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I—

**Raleigh:** [softly] I have coveted—[laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** —that was the first thing I checked. I was like—I looked at, uh, if you get chosen and then you decide, "Why did I sign up for this? This is way too expensive," can you just say "pass?" And yes. Then they're just like—then they just go on to the next person.

**Raleigh:** That's good that they don't force you to pay for it.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** No, they—[laughs quietly] Well, I mean, I don't know if this is like an auction situation.

**Taylor:** That's a good way of gettin' money, though. Like, "Ha ha! Now we have a whole bevy of people that are willing to buy this." That's a—that's the thing is that actually all of you are told that you win, um, and they—that's—

**Sydnee:** [gasping laughter] And you—[laughs] "I have one of *nine*," and then you realize it's like, "No, we made, like... 900,000 of these suckers. Like..."  
[laughs]

**Taylor:** "We—we took *all* of your money for this."

**Sydnee:** "Everybody got one."

**Taylor:** "Every single one of you paid. It's great." That's a great way to sell things! Like, "I have one mojito! All of you pay for it, and maybe one of you will get to get it!" It's like, nope! All of you? I'll take all your money.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] Uh, I've only experienced this contest thing through my children once so far. Uh, Charlie got a Highlights magazine—

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** [gasps?]

**Sydnee:** —um... a family member signed her up for it. It was very sweet, and she likes Highlights, and it was cool to get. You know, you get a magazine and it's got your name on it. That's pretty exciting for a little kid. And so, in it it had, like, these scratch-off things? And then if you scratched off 3 B's you get to, like, cut them out and then glue 'em to a little card and mail 'em back in, and then you would win—and then you would, like, get a tote bag or something.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And so my theory is that everybody had 3 B's on there.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Because we did.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, the first time. And so we did the whole thing. She was so excited. She won. She won the tote bag. But the thing is, like, in order to get the tote bag you have to sign up for, like, more Highlights? And, like, a book program and all this? But, like, the kid—Charlie can't read, so she doesn't know. She just thinks she's winning a tote bag, but in reality I had to sign up for, like, [through laughter] all this other stuff to be delivered to the house so that my kid could think she won a tote bag!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And it got me thinking, like, "Is this all... this was all the contest, right? Like, they were all like this. We just didn't know."

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** We were just getting these free tote bags, but really our parents were... getting Highlights for the next 50 years.

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Ri—right.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I think that's the only reason that Highlights still exists!

**Raleigh:** That's fair.

**Sydnee:** Our Dad won a contest once.

**Raleigh:** Oh no, Sydnee, no!

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Ohhh, oh, he did!

**Raleigh:** Sydnee!

**Taylor:** He did!

**Raleigh:** You tainted the podcast! You ruined it! We can never make another episode. I'm sorry, Sydnee. I—this time period—

**Taylor:** What?!

**Raleigh:** —if we ever make another episode between the hours of—what? 7 and 9 o' clock, you—I don't know who you are. [laughs] You are not my sister.

**Taylor:** Oh, wait. I was gonna say a different contest. I realize you're referencing *the* contest, but there's also the *other* contest. Our Dad won stuff often!

**Raleigh:** What was the other one?

**Taylor:** The Aerosmith signed guitar!

**Raleigh:** Ohh.

**Taylor:** Our Dad has a guitar signed by Aerosmith.

**Raleigh:** And he says he's just keeping it until he can sell it for more money, right?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um...

**Sydnee:** He also won—

**Rileigh:** No. That is—[groans] oh, God...

**Sydnee:** —when he was a small child, he won a—he got to ride in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade—

**Rileigh:** [distantly] I'm leaving the podcast!

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] [singing quietly] Macy's Day Parade...

**Sydnee:** —with Ronald McDonald and Soupy Sales. He was dressed as a small French boy.

**Taylor:** [singing] Daddy's there, and he's a small French boy... [through laughter] This reminds me of a Green Day song.

**Rileigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** He got bored. It was a contest at McDonald's, right?

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** It was a McDonald's contest, and he won it. First prize was... something better. This was second prize.

**Rileigh:** I think first—if I remember correctly—I was getting this confused with the Super Toy Run, because first and second—he said, like, first place got 10 minutes in the Toys "R" Us store in New York to grab whatever you could carry. And second place was, like—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I think it was a similar idea.

**Rileigh:** —5 minutes in the Toys "R" Us toy store in New York, and you could grab whatever you could carry.

**Sydnee:** Oh, was he third place?

**Rileigh:** And he was *third* place, which was... a ride in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Be a little French boy in the Macy's Day Parade. Okay.

**Rileigh:** [quietly] Oh my God...

**Sydnee:** And he was throwing things off the float that he found, like loose nuts and stuff.

**Rileigh:** Instead of throwing candy, he was throwing—according to him. There is no evidence of this—he was throwing, like, you know, screws and bolts and stuff at people.

**Sydnee:** In the crowd, and, uh, according to him, a New York City police officer jerked him off the float and said, "Listen, kid. You do that one more time and..." I don't know. What is it? "I'm gonna kick your butt," or "I'm gonna take you to jail—"

**Taylor:** "I'm gonna—"

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —or "You're outta here." I—it changes.

**Rileigh:** It's different every time.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um—yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's what he says.

**Rileigh:** I've tried so hard with the advent of the internet to find some sort of old video or picture proof somewhere back in old archives. I can't find it anywhere. I've tried so hard.

**Sydnee:** Listeners, if you ever find a picture of Tommy Smirl—

**Rileigh:** [desperately] Please!

**Sydnee:** —[laughs quietly] on a—on a float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade [crosstalk]—

**Rileigh:** Because I'm still not convinced that it happened!

**Sydnee:** We would love to see that.

**Taylor:** And if you were ever hit by a nut or a screw while viewing the Macy's Day Parade at, uh... in New York City—

**Rileigh:** Probably what, like—

**Sydnee:** Then this story has been fictional. Please don't sue our Dad.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** —the late 60's?

**Taylor:** He was a child.

**Sydnee:** Please don't sue my Daddy. [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** He was a little, little boy. He was a little ol' French boy.

**Rileigh:** Our Daddy was so small.

**Sydnee:** The statute of limitations has probably past on that. [laughs]

**Taylor:** A little small boy, making bad choices.

**Sydnee:** I am very—I apologize on behalf of my small, French Daddy.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [laughs] Ew. [laughs]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** This has been Still Buffering. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay. On that note—

**Taylor:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** Thank you, sisters.

**Taylor:** I guess.

**Sydnee:** Spooky and not spooky sister.

**Taylor:** Ooh!

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Spooky and 'regleeur.' [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I'm—I still try to be spooky... [quietly] I got a sweater on...

**Taylor:** Are—are sweaters— spooky?

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] I got my—my big Doc Martens on.

**Taylor:** "[witch voice] You cannot see my limbs! Who knows if I have them!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "Hmmm, spooky!"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Um... alright, spooky and sweater.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's our names. Spooky, Sweater, and Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** I've been Spooky Sweater.

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you, listeners. Go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org). There are so many podcasts there. Just, like, beaucoup podcasts that you would enjoy. You should listen to them.

You should email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org) if you have thoughts or suggestions or questions or comments or topics or... pictures of our Dad in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**Taylor:** Committing crimes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Or—

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Committing crimes!

**Sydnee:** —better yet, tweet that at us—

**Raleigh:** @stillbuff.

**Sydnee:** @stillbuff, please, so we can see it. Uh, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

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

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

**Raleigh:** I am a teenager..

[theme music begins in background]

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

**Raleigh:** I can't believe you tainted our podcast with the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade story.



**Sydnee:** [sing-song] Over-colonize your colon...

**Taylor:** [laughs]

[theme music plays]

**Speaker One:** Ah, there's nothing quite like sailing in the calm international waters on my ship, the SS Biopic.

**Speaker Two:** Avast! It's actually pronounced "Bio-pick."

**Speaker One:** No, ya dingus! It's "Bi-ah-pick!"

**Speaker Two:** Who the hell says that? It's "Bio-pick," it comes from the words biology and—

**Speaker One:** It's the words for biography and picture!

**Speaker Two:** If you—

**Dave:** All right, that is enough. Ahoy, I'm Dave Holmes. I'm the host of a newly rebooted podcast, formerly known as *International Waters*, designed to resolve petty but persistent arguments like this. How? By pitting two teams of opinionated comedians against each other with trivia and improv games, of course! Winner takes home the right to be right.

**Speaker One:** What podcast be this?

**Dave:** It's called *Troubled Waters*, where we disagree to disagree!

[chord]

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