

Still Buffering 186: How to Pictures (Live from Brooklyn!)

Published October 27th, 2019

[Listen here on themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

[loud and extended cheering]

Tommy: Hello, everybody! My name is Tommy Smirl.

[audience cheers]

Tommy: You—you may know me as the guy who fired Griffin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Tommy: Thereby launching his career.

[audience cheers]

Tommy: But tonight, I have the honor to introduce my three favorite offspring—well, they're my only offspring. Sydnee Smirl McElroy—

[audience cheers]

Tommy: —Taylor Smirl—

[audience cheers]

Tommy: —and Rileigh Smirl.

[audience cheers]

Tommy: The voices of *Still Buffering*.

[audience cheers]

[theme music plays]

[extended cheering]

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

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Taylor: And I'm Teylor Smirl!

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I feel like I got the definite least amount of applause there, but that was fine.

[single loud cheer]

Raleigh: Alright, guys!

Sydnee: Not the energy to start the show with!

Taylor: Yay, Raleigh!

[audience cheers]

Taylor: Woo!

Raleigh: Thanks, Teylor.

Taylor: You're welcome!

Raleigh: [through laughter] Thank you.

Sydnee: So, uh... Raleigh—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Guys—

Sydnee: —whatcha drinkin'?

Rileigh: This is soda.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Because—

Taylor: Angry soda.

Rileigh: —I'm 19, and there are White Claws backstage, [holding back laughter] and this is torture.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: So many White Claws.

Rileigh: There are so many White Claws!

Taylor: This is going to be a lawless show, I'm so sorry.

Rileigh: And there were none here yesterday, and then I come tonight and it's like, "Ooh, you can't have any of 'em, sorry! You're a baby." [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] You're such a VSCO [pronounced like it rhymes with "disco"].

[pauses]

Rileigh: What?

Sydnee: A VSCO girl.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] How do you know what that means, sister?

Sydnee: I took a quiz on the internet.

Rileigh: [through laughter] Okay. Was it from BuzzFeed?

Sydnee: Ye—yes.

Rileigh: Okay.

Sydnee: You like scrunchies. You have a Hydro Flask. You just—

Raleigh: *You* have a Hydro Flask! You're the reason I got a Hydro Flask!

Taylor: I—

Sydnee: They're really good at keeping water cold for a long time! If you forget them in your car for an entire work day and you come back, they're still cold.

Raleigh: Fair.

Taylor: I'm just so disappointed in what that actually is. Like, you say Hydro Flask, and I'm like, "This is what a bounty hunter carries his future whiskey in!" And it's like, no, it's just a bottle.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: It's just a bottle.

Sydnee: Uh—yeah. So, I did take a quiz to learn what a VSCO—which I initially said V-S-C-O...

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: ... no.

Raleigh: It doesn't stand for anything.

Sydnee: It's VSCO. And then the quiz told me I was an e-girl.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: They know what it means.

Sydnee: Which is another thing. And then—and then the other option was "softgirl..." uh, wh—I didn't know what any of these were.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I had a moment as I took this quiz where I was like, "Here it is. I'm... well, I'm old. I should just quit now. I'll give up the internet. I'll return to Facebook where I belong."

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Who has some great recipes to share?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: I took the quiz as well, and got softgirl.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: We should explain what these are. So, what is a—Taylor.

Taylor: [laughs] I still don't know! It says, "You like lip gloss and peaches." And I'm like, "Those are two things." Like—

Raleigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Bu—ah, but do you like lip gloss and peaches?

Taylor: [stammers] I wouldn't say it's my fruit preference. I like a lot of fruits! I don't know what that has to do with—

Sydnee: Including peaches?

[pauses]

Taylor: Yeah?

Sydnee: And, uh—Raleigh, can you help me with the VSCO—'cause VSCO is a thing! It's, like, a thing now.

Raleigh: Yes. VSCO is a photo sharing website. Like Instagram, but cooler.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I have an Instagram. [holding back laughter] I have posted on it... twice.

Raleigh: Twice.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. And so VSCO is—

Raleigh: Yeah, it's for more, like—

Sydnee: —the same.

Raleigh: —like, photography, I guess? I actually don't have one, but I did take the quiz, and did—it did tell me I'm a VSCO girl.

Sydnee: So, what—what, uh, denotes a VSCO girl?

Raleigh: Uh—so, from what I understand, you like scrunchies and Hydro Flasks, like you said.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Wear oversized t-shirts, um, and you say "And I oop!"

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] Can you help me—

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] And that—and the S-K-S-K-S-K?

Taylor: There are snakes!

Raleigh: [through laughter] Oh no!

[audience laughs]

Taylor: The audience is full of snakes!

Raleigh: It's like that scene from Harry Potter.

Sydnee: You can hear that too, right?

[audience laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] It's Parseltongue!

Sydnee: Okay. [through laughter] I know—I had a moment, there. I'm a Parselmouth.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I knew it. Uh, so what is the sksksksks?

Raleigh: From what I—

Sydnee: Help me.

Raleigh: —from what I understand—

Taylor: Sksksksk.

Raleigh: —and I'm probably—probably wrong, 'cause I've never used it—

Sydnee: Well, you're the youngest one onstage.

Taylor: This is all up to you.

Raleigh: This is on me.

Sydnee: And probably among the youngest in the room, so—

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: —we're gonna defer to you.

Raleigh: Uh... so, as far as I know, it's when you're, like, uh—like a laughter on social media? Like, you're typing? Or like an "Oh my gosh," and instead of, like, keysmashing or "ahaha!" you're like "[quietly] sksksks."

Sydnee: Keysmashing.

Raleigh: Yeah. You all know what keysmashing is, right?

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: Okay, let's assume they didn't "Woo."

Rileigh: [laughs] It's when you just kind of—like, the whole middle row of the keyboard, you just kind of, like, hit 'em all a bunch of times? Like, "Aha! [keysmashes out loud?]"

Sydnee: That's a thing?

Rileigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Is it like button mashing, when you're playing Mortal Kombat? Is it like that?

Rileigh: Yes. Except with, like—

Sydnee: 'Cause that's what *I* did.

Rileigh: —the As and the Ks and the Gs and the Ss—

Sydnee: Oh.

Taylor: What—what does it communicate to the person that receives the key smash?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] I—I usually respond, "Mom, are you having a stroke?"

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Now, Mom I don't think does it intentionally.

Sydnee: [through laughter] "Is this my baby typing?"

Taylor: "Does Cooper have your phone?"

Sydnee: That's the other thing I say.

Rileigh: Cooper does have the phone. That's, like—like, a laughter. You know? Like, a key—

Sydnee: Sksksksks.

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: Well, when you say it like that...

Sydnee: The other one... "And I oop?"

Rileigh: Yeah!

[pauses]

Rileigh: And I oop!

Taylor: How does one oop? Oh.

Sydnee: I mean, I get the face. I see the face. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [quietly] And I oop.

Sydnee: You just keep saying it to define it. That doesn't—

Rileigh: That's—that's, like—that's, like, a definition. That's vibe. Like, "oop!"

Taylor: [snorts]

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: And I oop! [laughs]

Taylor: In what situation would one oop?

[audience laughs]

Rileigh: Like, someone, like, makes a sick burn on someone else and you're like, "And I oop!"

Taylor: "Oop! Oop!"

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: [through laughter] Okay.

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: Well, using other teen terminology to define teen terminology doesn't help old people.

Raleigh: I know "sick burn" is not, like, a cool, hip term that I've just invented in the year 2019! I've heard Sydnee use it!

Sydnee: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Taylor: I believe I now oop!

Sydnee: I think that was an oop!

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: That's a proper oop!

Sydnee: I would like to—I would like to—

Taylor: Ooped!

Sydnee: —before we move on, I would like to take a moment to debate—the—the problem with e-girl, which I got—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —is that when I tried to figure out, like... "Help me. I'm 36. What does this mean for me and my life and how I move forward?"

And it said, "You know, it's, like, in the old days—[laughs quietly] you would be called a goth kid, *or* a ska kid, *or* a scene kid."

[scattered cheers]

Sydnee: Those are all different things, one, and two—okay? What is—and then it said something about winged eyeliner, and I was like, "I don't know what—what does that mean?"

Raleigh: What wing—we have been doing this podcast for, like, four and a half years!

Sydnee: No, I know—I know what winged eyeliner is, but, like—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —what is an e-girl? Because it—this—ska kids, scene kids, goth kids, alternikids, these are—[serious tone] these are different things. Take it... from a kid of the 90s. These are different.

[audience cheers]

Taylor: But—I don't know. I'm just—I'm upset that I *wasn't* one. Like, I was all of those things!

Raleigh: [through laughter] That was my question, is why weren't you an e-girl?

Taylor: I looked back at my answers to this quiz and it's like, well, they asked me to pick what dessert I liked, and I was like, "Berry tart." And they said "What celebrity's cool?" And I said "Zendaya." And they said "How 'bout these colors?" And I said "Turquoise." And they said "You're soft." What?!

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: It was the berry tart.

Taylor: The berry tart!

Sydnee: It was—as far as we can tell—we compared all of our answers, [holding back laughter] and the difference was the berry tart.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: So from this quiz, what we deduced is that if you like berry tarts, you're soft.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] If you like sugar cookies, you're a VSCO girl.

Sydnee: And if you like tiramisu, you're an e-girl.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: So there it is.

Rileigh: It's just that.

Sydnee: Uh, could you help put—so that's what in e-girl is in terms of the past. A softgirl—I don't know... it was something about hair clips and cardigans.

Rileigh: I like both of those things.

Sydnee: What—what do—how do we term... like, what is a VSCO girl, so that we can understand it? So we can connect it?

Rileigh: Have you ever heard the phrase, like, a Tumblr girl?

Taylor: Okay.

Rileigh: From, like, the mid-2010s?

[scattered cheers]

Rileigh: Like, when I was in middle school? And I was like, "I wanna be a Tumblr girl and wear, like, flower crowns and take, like, artsy pictures and play my ukulele."

Sydnee: Ohh, okay. I get—I get it.

Rileigh: I wanted to be that.

Sydnee: So... ya basic.

[audience laughs loudly and applauds]

Sydnee: Is that—

Taylor: That's another oop!

Raleigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Did I get it?

Raleigh: Yeah, you got it. You both got it. You ooped properly, and you read me. Thank you.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I'll be a teen again yet. Uh—[laughs] You know what else VSCO girls like to do, I think, is take pictures... of themselves.

Raleigh: Yeah?

Sydnee: And—

Raleigh: It's a photo sharing website.

Sydnee: —uh-huh. And the funny thing about that is—I've been thinking about this a lot lately, because my daughter, who's five, got—well, actually didn't get—she kind of inherited—

Raleigh: From me.

Sydnee: —from Raleigh, this Polaroid. This is really Charlie, she let me bring it onstage. She said "Please don't break it." She made me, like—

Raleigh: [crosstalk] Charlie.

Sydnee: —like, she made me kneel down and gave me one of these, like... "Don't break my camera."

"Charlie, I won't break it."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Um, but Polaroids are very in, and very cool. And I was thinking, like, "Why?" [holding back laughter] 'Cause phones take such great pictures now. how did we get here? You know? Because—and when you think about it in, like, the grand scheme of, like, teen time, there was probably a time where teens didn't take pictures of each other, because cameras were, like, expensive. And, like, your family had one and made you pose for pictures with your family, but, like, they didn't have one.

Like, I asked our parents and they were like, "We didn't take pictures of things." Until the Polaroid came out, but then things have gotten so much better. And I think, like, the big turning point for us, when I think about, like, "What did I do when I was a kid?" Was the disposable camera. That was, like, the—if you're goin' to King's Island—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —or whatever theme park is close to you, you're gonna get your fanny pack, and you're gonna put the cash that your Mom gave you in it, and your disposable camera.

Raleigh: You've painted such a picture with your words.

Sydnee: I mean, it's true. And then you're gonna take pictures of all your friends, like, on the roller coasters or whatever, and then you're gonna take it home and *never* develop it. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah, no.

[audience laughs and cheers]

Sydnee: Right?

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Is that when teens started taking pictures? And it's the lost era of pictures, because we never developed them.

Taylor: Well, we also had those photo booths at, like, the mall?

Sydnee: Yeah?

Taylor: Like, you would maybe, you know, collect a few of those per, like, friendship?

[audience laughs]

Taylor: Like—

Sydnee: That's—

Taylor: —this is how I prove I have friends. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] "Look at my cork board. There are many mall photos."

Raleigh: Hey, I have a cork board!

Taylor: [simultaneously] "Five people have allowed me in close quarters with them."

Sydnee: That's true! And those are—now that—you know when you go to those now they, like, put borders on your photo?

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: I took one with Charlie once and there was a border that said "Foxy Ladies," but she saw the fox on it and really liked it, [holding back laughter] so now Charlie and I have a picture together that says "Foxy Ladies!"

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Sure.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs] It's pretty good.

Sydnee: I also—I feel like that—you had the disposable camera, and the only other option was if you were, like, *in* to photography.

Taylor: Ah.

Sydnee: Which... and I say this as somebody who went through the phase where I was like... *in* to photography... it was a very teen thing where you were like, "I have a camera."

I either have it 'cause I borrowed it from my parents, or I borrowed it from the photo lab at my high school. [laughs] Either way, I'm *in* to photography, and I'm going to take very artsy pictures now, but this is not my camera, I wouldn't take it to, like, a party, 'cause I'll break it. Or someone will break it.

Taylor: You're also never gonna get enough lighting in a party to make those work. [through laughter] I took photography in high school and that was, like... there was *effort* into getting those pictures to not just be, like, gray blurs.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I was the darkroom assistant in high school! How am I soft?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Wait, wait, wait. What is the—what did you do?

Taylor: I—I hung out in the darkroom and made sure nobody, like, drank chemicals. I don't know.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Wait.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Were you the darkroom *attendant*?

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

Taylor: I don't know. I—

Sydnee: Did you just stand in the corner patiently and hand out mints after people were done?

Taylor: I—I—

Raleigh: Just, like, a towel over one arm. "Need any assistance?"

Taylor: You know what? I think an art teacher, a loving art teacher knew I needed a place to belong, and so—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —she made a position for me.

Raleigh: Aw. That sucks!

Sydnee: You're [?]

Taylor: Yeah, that's the great thing about burning me is I make it worse.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Do you like hangin' out in the darkroom? You do, don't cha. That's fine.

Taylor: Eatin' peaches!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: This is so soft, though. Everything you've said is so soft.

Raleigh: Aww, so soft.

Sydnee: Uh, but then, like—I felt like there was, like, 30 seconds—and not really 30 seconds, but in, like, teen time, it was 30 seconds—where everybody got a digital camera and was like, "This is great!" And then instantly after that, everyone around me had phones. They were like, "[flatly] Why aren't you using your phone?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I was like, "I've got a RAZR."

[scattered laughs]

Sydnee: That was a flip... phone. That was really—

Raleigh: Yeah, I had a—

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Raleigh: —I had a flip phone.

[scattered cheers]

Sydnee: It was really cool. It was cool to have one for—for a minute, and then it wasn't. But there was, like, the digital camera, and then everybody went immediately to phones, and so then phones took over, and so the rise of the Polaroid... confuses me.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: What is the—what is the appeal—is it that it's—well, I mean, they're all instant, so what's the—you like physical objects again? Is that back?

Taylor: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: You like permanence? What?

Raleigh: We love stuff! Uh—well, I mean, like—

Sydnee: I didn't think you did! I thought you liked *experiences*. I didn't think you liked things anymore!

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: I thought that was a whole thing!

Raleigh: Isn't this, like, an experience? Like, you take a picture and you shake it and then you put it up on your wall, on your little Polaroid wall in your room with, like, pictures with your friends?

Sydnee: You know you don't have to shake it.

Raleigh: But, like, that's the fun part. That's the whole, like—[quietly] shake it.

Sydnee: It's the fun part?

Taylor: That's the fun—that's—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: —okay.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Let—let her have it. It's fine. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] I—the—

Raleigh: Why do you wanna ruin my magic?!

Sydnee: No, that's fine! I mean, I have no problem with it. I love—I love to see the Polaroids that Charlie takes. I love to see the world from her perspective, so I'm not throwin' shade on the Polaroid. I'm just confused, because cameras take really—or, I mean, because phones take really good... you know, pictures.

Raleigh: Yeah, but, like—

Sydnee: And also, like, this is really hard to take a selfie with.

Taylor: Syd—

Raleigh: Well, yeah.

Taylor: —I'm gonna call you out, here. We brought back vinyl, okay? So it's like, you can have all the music in the world on this tiny device, *or* spend \$30 for this little disc that you gotta flip halfway through!

Raleigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: That's fair.

Sydnee: That's true. I do have a record player.

Taylor: [through laughter] Yeah you do!

Sydnee: I—I have much vinyl. [through laughter] If you couldn't tell by the corduroy blazer..

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: ... I own a lot of vinyl. I thought I already—I thought that was already pretty obvious.

Raleigh: And *I'm* the VSCO girl? I'm the basic one?!

Sydnee: Hello, everyone. Sorry to interrupt the show, but this is Sydnee, from the future, here to take a quick break to tell you about our sponsors this week on *Still Buffering*. First of all, *Still Buffering* is brought to you in part by Zola. Zola can take the stress out of wedding planning by offering you free wedding websites, your dream wedding registry, affordable save-the-dates and invitation, and easy-to-use planning tools.

The great thing about Zola is they make it easy to personalize your favorite designs so that you can put all your wedding details in there, and it can look like you! It can reflect... you.

Uh, they've got an FAQ section that will help address awkward questions. Things like, "Can I bring my kids?" And I can tell you, as someone with kids, that that is always an awkward question, uh, no matter what end of that you're on. So they

can help you deal with awkward social interactions, which, uh... that's great, for me, and many like me.

You can put your Zola registry on your wedding website so guests can get all the details they need and buy your wedding gift in one convenient and beautiful place! And I can tell you, as somebody who has planned a wedding, that it's incredibly stressful, and I offloaded most of it to my Mom. And my Mom is probably not gonna plan your wedding for you. I don't know. I mean, you can ask her, but I don't know. I don't think she's going to.

So instead, why don't you ask Zola to help you out, and make it a more enjoyable process, so that you can focus on the celebration of love and togetherness that it should be?

So, to start your free wedding website and also get \$50 off your registry on Zola, go the zola.com/stillbuffering. That's zola.com/stillbuffering to start your free wedding website, and \$50 off your registry on Zola.

The other sponsor we wanna tell you about this week is Birchbox. Here's the thing: we all have things in our life that really make us who we are, and sometimes they take time away from taking care of ourselves, you know? We're all really busy.

We're—for me, being a doctor, and a Mom, and a wife, and a podcaster, and... also Sydnee. And, you know, sometimes it's hard to find my Sydnee time. And you can maximize your Sydnee time—well, not your Sydnee time. It's your... you—whatever your name is time—uh, with Birchbox.

Birchbox makes it easy and convenient and fun to discover new products and buy full size versions of the samples you love sent right to your door. They work with over 500 prestige brands that offer something for every hair type, skin concern, lifestyle. All you have to do is fill out your personal profile and they'll send products curated for you to love.

If you're like me, you have difficulty knowing what new products to try, or even exist? Uh, that's—that's a boundary for me, that there are different products for your skin and hair and—that even exist.

Um, and Birchbox can help you out by sending you samples of these things. You try 'em out, you find the ones you love, and you keep using them. And, uh, and

make sure that you get that little bit of Sydnee time, only your time, "insert name here" time, each day.

So, head to birchbox.com/stillbuffering to learn more about Birchbox, and use promo code "stillbuffering" to get \$5 off your own monthly box of you time. That's promo code "stillbuffering" at birchbox.com/stillbuffering for \$5 off your first Birchbox. Birchbox.com/stillbuffering.

Alright! Now, back to the show.

Sydnee: Uh, but how do you take a selfie with this?

Raleigh: I mean, like—I've never taken a selfie with a Polaroid camera before. Like, why are you trying to put selfies on this classic piece of technology?

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: I do think there's a mirror, though. I think there is a selfie mirror on the front of those. They know what generation they're playing to. You have to take it out of the case, but trust me. I have my own. It's pink.

Raleigh: Oh no.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Whoa! And you said you weren't soft!

Sydnee: What, uh—hey, describe your little selfie—your little Polaroid purse. Describe it for us.

Taylor: [hesitantly] It's covered in flamingos?

Sydnee: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: I know. I saw it.

Taylor: Flamingos are kitschy!

[pauses]

Taylor: Okay, alright.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] I saw it in your soft, soft bedroom today.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Mint is not a—it's—okay.

Sydnee: Uh—

Taylor: I have a mint bedroom. It's fine.

Sydnee: I'm trying to get you to talk about selfies with me, Raleigh. Will you talk about selfies?

Raleigh: [through laughter] I'm talking about selfies with you!

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Sydnee, it's a picture you take of yourself.

[audience laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, yeah.

Raleigh: Usually—

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: —usually like this!

[pauses]

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Taylor: It is not that simple.

Sydnee: No. My understanding is that there are rules for selfies, and I am not a person who has taken a lot of selfies.

Raleigh: Yeah, you've taken one, and it's your profile picture on Instagram.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: And you just kind of did—you kind of did this Mom kind of thing where you held it all the way up and you were like—[high pitched hum]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: I took several versions before I picked the right one.

Raleigh: Well, there you go. That's one thing.

Sydnee: Well—

Raleigh: That's a selfie thing.

Sydnee: —I tried to kind of tousle my hair.

Taylor: —I—I looked into some rules.

Raleigh: You did?

Taylor: And one of 'em there was—well, it was a tip, I guess, more. From—from Kylie Jenner? That's—

Raleigh: [through laughter] Oh, good!

Taylor: —is that a VSCO?

Raleigh: [through laughter] Is she—is Kylie Jenner a VSCO?!

Sydnee: Uh... she's her own thing, right?

Raleigh: Yeah. Kylie Jenner's her own thing.

Sydnee: She's her own thing.

Taylor: Well—well she recommended that when she takes a selfie that she takes as many as possible, maybe even 500, and...

Sydnee: That's a lot.

Taylor: ... she'll pick the one, but then even when she picks the one, sometimes she looks back through them and realizes she picked the wrong one, and she regrets it... but that's the only thing she regrets.

That's a quote!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Her and Frank Sinatra, maybe.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Too few to mention.

Taylor: [through laughter] Ah, yes. Topical reference to Frank Sinatra! [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: We do a podcast about teenagers, Sydnee!

Taylor: Did I oop you?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's an oop. [laughs]

Sydnee: The whole thing is I'm the old one. That's the whole thing we sell here.

Raleigh: But you're not *that* old! Frank Sinatra?!

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: One time—one time I had a CD of, um, zodi—[holding back laughter] zodiac-themed songs, one for each sign, and the one for Aries—that's what I am—was "My Way," and so I've just—you know—

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: —felt really connected ever since.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: That's a true story. I didn't make that up.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Uh, so what are the—what are the rules, though? Other rules for selfies? Because I've read that there are lots of things you should follow if you're gonna take a good selfie.

Raleigh: Uh—

Sydnee: And some—some seemed obvious. Like, I read one list and the very first rule was "Don't take bathroom selfies."

Raleigh: Why?

Sydnee: Because you never look cool in front of a toilet.

Raleigh: Now...

Taylor: You—you're about to make an argument pro-toilet. I'm excited.

Sydnee: Here we go.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Buckle in.

Raleigh: How—how cool is the toilet?

Taylor: No, no, no. Okay, no.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: How cool would it have to be?

Taylor: I—I have been to Japan where the toilets—like, they will stand up and give you a gentle hug and kiss you on the forehead—

[audience laughs]

Taylor: —and I still don't wanna picture with it.

Rleigh: Why not?! That's, like, Baymax in the form of a toilet!

Sydnee: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Rleigh: I would *love* a picture with toilet Baymax.

Sydnee: But—if you take a picture with toilet, then it's sort of, like, acknowledging that you used it.

Rleigh: Well, yeah, Sydnee!

Taylor: [laughs]

Rleigh: Everybody does! I'm pretty sure your children own a book called *Everybody Poops*, and that is a fact! You are a physician! You are a medical doctor!

[audience laughs and applauds]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: Not me, no. Mm-mm, no.

Taylor: Is that a great generational jump? Like, those of us who will and will not allow the knowledge of bowel movements?

Rleigh: So we acknowledge that we use the bathroom? I'm okay with that.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Did you just say that?! On—no!

Raleigh: You're like our Mom!

Taylor: [through laughter] Our mother is dying offstage.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [through laughter] I know.

Raleigh: "My girls are talking about poop!"

Sydnee: "[yells] You said the p-word!"

Raleigh: [quietly] I'm sorry Mom!

Taylor: Alright. So, we're gonna agree to disagree on toilets?

Raleigh: I think if it was a really cool toilet I'd be okay with that.

Sydnee: So as—so you can take a bathroom selfie, as long as it is the coolest toilet.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Okay. Alright.

Sydnee: Otherwise, no.

Raleigh: Like, if the toilet's talking to me, I want documentation of that.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Am I—I'm sorry if that's silly, but I don't see a talking toilet very often!

Sydnee: I read some rules about how often you're allowed to post selfies.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: Is there a rule? Like, the list I read said, like, you know, once or twice a month. That seemed very limited. That seemed restrictive.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I felt like you should be able to post more selfies than that.

Raleigh: Well, you gotta have some diversity in your Instagram feed.

[pauses]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: No?

Taylor: Okay. Alright.

Raleigh: No?

Sydnee: Is that why?

Taylor: No, it's—

Sydnee: Like, but you can still post a selfie a day, right?

Raleigh: Well, yeah!

Sydnee: [crosstalk] daily...

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, post whatever you want. Like, I feel like I say that a lot on this podcast. Like, those are the rules, but, like, do whatever you want.

Sydnee: And then—I read, like, though, that you—like, certain hashtags, like #goingtothegym—

Raleigh: No. No.

Sydnee: —or #goodmorning, or—

Raleigh: No. No.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —#GQLOL. That those were not—

Raleigh: Wait, sorry. Sorry. *Sorry*. What?

Taylor: G—GQLOL?

Raleigh: LOL?

Sydnee: Yeah. Like—

Taylor: Do you mean J—

Sydnee: —hashtag #GQ, LOL.

Taylor: J—JK?

Sydnee: You gotta—you gotta think about the way they would, like, say it.

Raleigh: Like the—like the magazine?

Sydnee: Like, "Look at this picture of me, hashtag #GQ, LOL." Like that.

[pauses]

Sydnee: I assume.

Taylor: I don't—

Raleigh: [through laughter] You say like you haven't thought about it.

Sydnee: This is my hypothesis.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: As a scientist, I don't know. I haven't researched it, but this is my guess.

Raleigh: No.

Taylor: So is it you can't do these anymore?

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Hashtags, as far as I'm concerned in the teen scene are out.

Taylor: Aw.

Sydnee: But can we keep—

Raleigh: [through laughter] Controversial, I guess?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: A hot take? I don't know! [through laughter] I'm sorry, guys!

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] What about hashtag #blessed? 'Cause that's all over Facebook.

Raleigh: Well, yeah, you're on *Facebook*, 'cause you're a mom!

Sydnee: I'm assuming hashtag #gratitude went there too.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Yeah, yeah it would!

Taylor: Can we keep hashtag—I know—I know OOTD means outfit of the day, but every time I see it I go "[high pitched voice] Oot too doo!" And it makes me really happy.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: I want that soundbite of you saying that—

Taylor: [high pitched voice] Oot too doo!

Raleigh: —and every time—'cause I do this a lot. If you—like, on Snapchat, I just take pictures of my outfits and, like, post them on Snapchat. Like, a mirror selfie. Like, whatever. [holding back laughter] I want that in the background every time I post one. [high pitched voice] Oot too doo!

Taylor: [through laughter] It's just a good soundin' word!

Sydnee: When we were talking about—before we were talking about the show, we were talking about different selfie rules and different selfie things, our Dad was like—[laughs quietly] "You know, selfies I don't understand are when people post pictures of their food."

[audience laughs loudly]

Sydnee: And we were like...

Rileigh: "Well, Dad..."

Sydnee: "That's not a selfie. That's your food."

Rileigh: "There's one rule of a selfie I think that goes above all of them, and it's in the name, [through laughter] and that's that you have to have *yourself* in it."

Sydnee: [simultaneously] "You gotta have yourself in it."

Taylor: That's valid.

Sydnee: And we all post pictures of food, so—I mean, [through laughter] especially when you go to Bubba Gump—

Rileigh: [laughs loudly]

Sydnee: —Shrimp—

[audience laughs and cheers]

Sydnee: You gotta post pictures of that.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] Bubba Gump's is an experience that we don't discuss.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: And forget about it now.

Taylor: Now, I read that it's important to look natural. Um, but I also got some tips on how to do that.

Raleigh: Okay.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Tips on how to look natural?!

Sydnee: "Here are some tips on how to look natural."

Taylor: 'Cause everybody knows you can't actually just look natural. I have never looked natural a day in my life.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Right now! Uh—s—no! But one of them was—

Raleigh: Oop!

Taylor: —oop! To say "Yes!" in your head when you're taking the picture?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Okay? Now, Taylor. I would posit that when you take selfies and you do this kind of face where you're, like—[pauses] that's like, "Yas."

Taylor: Oh, is that what that is?

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Okay. That's—okay.

Raleigh: That's what you do. That's, like—like, "I'm happy, yay! Yeah!"

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: You—you and Travis both use the same face.

Raleigh: You do. [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: It's the middle sibling thing.

Sydnee: I don't know if that's, like, a middle child thing—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —but, like, you instantly go to the—[pauses] every time you take a picture.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: I just want you to see my molars! I don't know.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: Now, Sydnee, you do the opposite, and you refuse to show teeth.

Taylor: Please tell us why.

Sydnee: I prefer the closed mouth.

Raleigh: Why? Please explain—

Sydnee: Smile.

Raleigh: —because you told us why, [holding back laughter] and I want you to share it with all these people.

Sydnee: Because among some primates, showing your teeth can be a sign of aggression, and you never know—

[audience laughs loudly]

Sydnee: —who's looking at your photos.

Raleigh: What monkeys might be looking for your Instagram feed.

Taylor: Just scrollin' through your Instagram feed.

Sydnee: I am not trying to show aggression!

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: So I'm trying to communicate my feelings accurately.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Taylor: And I am saying clearly, "Hey, monkeys."

[audience laughs]

Taylor: "You lookin' at my Instagram? Look at all these teeth!"

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: "[holding back laughter] I will take your bananas."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: I'm assuming that's what you mean.

Taylor: Yes, that's exactly what I meant.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: [through laughter] I'm sorry, I didn't think you were gonna make a banana joke!

Sydnee: [through laughter] He—he's a monkey.

Raleigh: [wheezes]

Taylor: That's the only way you go with that? Alright.

Sydnee: Uh, the—the other thing about selfies I've never gotten wrong is "Which way are you supposed to look?" Because I feel like—

Raleigh: Okay.

Taylor: At the camera?

Sydnee: —every time I'm in a group of people and they go for a picture, everybody reminds us, like, to look up or look down, and I never get this one right.

Raleigh: Well, Syd—now, I'm gonna do a real pop quiz real quick to test your base level knowledge. If I hold the camera here... are you gonna look up or down?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Well, yeah, but which one is the—the better one?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Is it better to be like—

Raleigh: You mean if I'm holding the camera about your head, is it better to look at the ground? Well, no, 'cause that's not a selfie, 'cause you're not gonna be in it!

Sydnee: No! But, like, where are we supposed to ho—like, is this the more... is this better? Do we want more neck, is what I'm asking, or less?

Raleigh: Well, Tyra always says to, like—like, you know, elongate the neck?

Sydnee: Ahh, the no-neck monster.

Raleigh: Exactly.

Sydnee: I remember Tyra telling me about that.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: You get too high and that's the MySpace. Like, you get, like, up above your head?

Raleigh: That's the selfie you took. That's your profile picture on Instagram. It's all the way up here with both hands.

Taylor: You took a MySpace pic?

Raleigh: [through laughter] Yeah!

Taylor: You *are* an e-girl!

Raleigh: [laughs loudly]

[audience laughs and applauds]

Sydnee: [through laughter] That's my selfie from space.

Raleigh: We have adequately self-identified all of us during the course of this show.

Sydnee: I'm very excited to be taking this selfie up here.

Taylor: Alright. So, do you wanna give us—like, you seem to know, so instead of us guessing wildly at angles and inclusion of teeth, can you just give us a rundown?

Raleigh: Sure. Okay. Is everyone taking notes? Everyone—

Sydnee: [laughs] Raleigh's rules for selfies.

Raleigh: 101. Welcome to my course. Hi, everyone. Um—

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] It's like a TED Talk.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Welcome to my TED Talk. So, first you gotta know your side that you prefer to take a picture on, right? Like, everyone has the side they'd rather take a picture on. And usually when I'm with my friends, I have to fight, like, "No, I wanna be on the right, [sing-song] 'cause that's my good side." You know what I'm sayin'?

I feel... *sooo* bad about myself right now!

[audience cheers]

Rileigh: Talking about all of this, expecting some sort of validation, but everyone's just like, "Wow..."

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: No, no, no! I'm listening! No, I'm so with you here.

Rileigh: So—you have to know your good side.

[scattered cheers]

Taylor: Okay. Alright.

[audience cheers]

Rileigh: Thank you.

[cheering continues]

Rileigh: Thank you.

Taylor: Wooo!

Sydnee: I just thought human beings were largely symmetrical, so I was confused.

Rileigh: Well not—not everyone. Most people don't have a symmetrical face.

Sydnee: Well, I know not perfectly, but, like—ehh, more or less.

Rileigh: Yeah, I mean, we have two eyes and, like, you know, two ears on both sides, but—and two eyebrows, but... um, so then you have to get the lighting right. They have those little rings that you can put on your phones, that's like a ring light? You can get perfect selfie lighting? [holding back laughter] Travis actually got me one for Christmas.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: [through laughter] That is so perfect.

Rileigh: Um... and then I usually go sideways, just because I feel like if you go vertical then it's—I don't know. You get less of—less of, like, the—I don't know. Sideways is just, like—landscape? I don't know. I don't know.

Taylor: Landscape your face. Alright, okay.

Rileigh: And then I always go down. Down.

Sydnee: Down.

Rileigh: Not up? Down.

Sydnee: So we want the neck to com—completely disappear.

Rileigh: Well, no—

Taylor: Necks are out.

Rileigh: —we're not—we're not going—we're not going down—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Necks are out, you heard it here.

Rileigh: —below the face. We're [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: Get rid of the necks.

Rileigh: You're not going underneath, you're just showing adequate—adequate neck.

Sydnee: Adequate neck.

Rileigh: Regular neck. Regleeur neck.

Sydnee: As my daughter would say.

Rileigh: The focus of the face—of a selfie is the face, not the neck.

Sydnee: Right.

Rileigh: Like, your neck is just, like, there. [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: What about the duck lips? Are they—

Raleigh: [emphatically] No.

Sydnee: [quietly] Okay.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: No.

Sydnee: No duck lips.

Raleigh: I mean, like... sometimes I find myself doing that in the mirror when I'm, like, putting on my makeup. You know that face you have when you're, like, trying to make sure everything looks good and you're like... [pauses]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: It's kind of like duck face, I guess.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: Um, but I usually go with, like, the—just a regular—regleeur smile. But I do show teeth, [holding back laughter] 'cause I'm not worried about primates.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: But I don't have the Travis Taylor smile where my mouth is all the way open. Like, a little happy medium!

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: And that—that's it.

Sydnee: And then you go post it on Instagram.

Raleigh: After you take, like, 500.

Taylor: Yeah. Okay.

Sydnee: Right. Or do you do a TikTok?

Raleigh: No.

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: How do you know what TikTok is?!

[audience laughs loudly]

Sydnee: It was in the quiz. I mean—[laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I think TikTok is like a Vine, right?

Raleigh: TikTok is new Vine, I guess.

Sydnee: Right?

Taylor: Alright.

Sydnee: And a Vine is, like—was, like, a GIF [pronounced like "Jif"].

Raleigh: No! No! No!

[audience laughs]

Taylor: Okay. Okay.

Raleigh: No!

Taylor: This is important.

Raleigh: GIF [pronounced with a hard "g"]!

Taylor: You need to help us settle this, because we were talking backstage. Raleigh and I are firmly in the GIF [pronounced with a hard "g"] camp.

[extended cheering and applause]

Rileigh: Thank you.

Sydnee: I don't feel like we even need to ask about GIF [pronounced like "Jif"].

Taylor: Let's go ahead. Let's hear it. Let's—

[extended cheering and applause]

Rileigh: You can't all cheer for both!

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Right there, I had voice for GIF [pronounced like "Jif"].

Taylor: You guys just like clapping for words.

[extended cheering and applause]

Sydnee: Words.

Rileigh: This is like the *Grease*, *Grease 2* debate all over again.

[scattered yelling]

Rileigh: No! *Grease* is better!

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: *Grease* is better!

Sydnee: Speaking of which, if you like *Rocky Horror*, you should really see—

Rileigh: Oh my God!

Taylor: [simultaneously] Oh no!

Sydnee: —the equal, not the sequel, *Shock Treatment*. It's so good.

[audience cheers]

Sydnee: Anyway.

Rileigh: We were trying to prep for this show and Sydnee just insisted on playing us the entire soundtrack to *Shock Treatment* instead of doing whatever we were supposed to be doing.

[scattered cheers]

Rileigh: Um... we've—we've gone over time. That's—

Taylor: Oops!

Rileigh: —that's our.. show!

Sydnee: And—and is that an "And I oop"?

Rileigh: That's—and I oop! We went over time!

[audience cheers and applauds]

Taylor: And we oop! Sksksksks.

Rileigh: And I oop!

Taylor: Snake sounds!

[cheering continues]

Sydnee: Parseltongue for life. [laughs]

Taylor: Sk. Sk. Sk.

Rileigh: I have been asked by the brothers—*My Brother, My Brother, and Me* to say, if you have any questions and you're in the audience for tonight's show, send them to live@mbmbam.com and put the show date and your seat number in the subject line, and then a one sentence question in the body. They asked me to do that. I don't know if I said that right. I'm sorry, Travis, if I did it wrong.

Sydnee: You did good.

Rileigh: I did my best.

Sydnee: You did very well.

Rileigh: Um... thank you to everyone backstage, to our Dad for introducing us, to *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* for letting us open for you guys—

[audience cheers]

Rileigh: —um, to Paul, to King's Theater—

[cheering continues]

Sydnee: Thank you—thank you to Brooklyn for letting us be here!

Rileigh: Brooklyn!

Taylor: Yeah!

[audience cheers loudly and applauds]

Rileigh: That's Taylor, too, I guess.

Sydnee: Taylor's—

Taylor: I mean, I—I live here, so it's—

Sydnee: I know. Well, it's like your—it's your adopted home. You've almost been here longer than you were in, like—

Taylor: Yeah. Other places, yeah.

Sydnee: —your birth home.

Taylor: That's true, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Birth home.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And we've loved it. Taylor—we had a day in Brooklyn with Tey today—

Raleigh: We did.

Sydnee: —and it was beautiful and wonderful and we had a great time, and we're just—we're thrilled to be here.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So, thank you. Thank you.

[audience cheers]

Raleigh: And thank you all for being here! Yeah!

Taylor: Yeah!

[cheering continues]

Taylor: Thank you!

Raleigh: I skipped college for this!

Taylor: Yeah!

[cheering gets louder]

Sydnee: Don't reinforce that!

Taylor: [simultaneously] We're applauding that!

Raleigh: I told my teachers it was for business.

Taylor: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Uh, 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 Taylor Smirl!

Raleigh: I am a teenager...

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

[extended cheering and applause]

[theme music plays]

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Listener Supported.

Amy: Hello, this is Amy Mann.

Ted: And I'm Ted Leo.

Amy: And we have a podcast called *The Art of Process*.

Ted: We've been lucky enough over the past year to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum, to find out how they actually work.

Speaker One: And so I have to write material that makes sense, and makes people laugh. I also have to think about what I'm saying to people.

Speaker Two: If I kick your ass, I'll make you famous.

Speaker Three: The fight to get LGBTQ representation in the show.

Speaker Four: We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

Speaker Five: I really just became a political speech writer by accident.

Speaker Six: Of realizing that I have accidentally, uh, pulled my pants down.
[laughs]

Ted: Listen and subscribe at Maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Speaker Seven: It's like if a guinea pig was complicit in helping the scientist.