

Still Buffering 188: How to Sketch Comedy

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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: Uh, I had a very strange experience, sisters, over the weekend.

Taylor: Oh yeah?

Sydnee: Yes. I found myself in Claire's—

Taylor: Uh-oh.

Sydnee: —I mean, that's not—that's not strange, I guess.

Raleigh: Well... it's not ideal.

Taylor: You escaped, so that's good.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: The—the eternal void that is Claire's.

Sydnee: It is—

Raleigh: The fact that you made it out is strange.

Sydnee: —well, it is strange in the sense that I swear I thought that place was closing, but still it persists. [laughs quietly] Uh—

Raleigh: If you made it out with any less than 20 items, that's strange.

Sydnee: Now, that—that we did do, because we were—we went up to the mall, uh, because they were advertising—man, if this isn't a throwback—they were advertising a family fun day at the mall, so... me and Justin took the kids to the mall. This is, like, so—where are we from? What year is it?

Raleigh: It's eternally, like, 1987 here in Huntington, West Virginia.

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: So we went—there were crafts. There was slime making. We also took the kids on the little train that rides around the mall. They play vari—

Raleigh: I hate that train.

Sydnee: —they play various, uh, techno versions of pop songs, sung by The Chipmunks.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: The whole time.

Taylor: On the train?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Oh, that's nice.

Sydnee: The whole time.

Taylor: You're not allowed on the train, though, if you're an adult without a child, right? I just wanna get that—just, you know, just for my information, I wanna make sure. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: It's the same price no matter how old you are, so... if you want—it's got a coupon for Auntie Anne's, the pretzel shop, on the back.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: I mean, it's four bucks no matter how old you are. I always wanna say, like, "Sir... Sir Dressed-as-a-Conductor—uh, Mr. Conductor, sir—you know I'm not riding this for my enjoyment, right? I am not having *fun* crammed into this tiny train car with my children. You know that, right? Do I really have to pay full price to ride with them, sir?"

Raleigh: It's so small.

Sydnee: It's quite small. For the four of us... it's quite small.

Raleigh: Yeah. And you paid almost 20 dollars for all of you to be in there.

Sydnee: Almost 20 dollars to cram the four of us into this tiny train car and listen to The Chipmunks!

Raleigh: It's not even like they can let you off and, like, take you to the end of the mall you're going to. No, you can make a big circle.

Sydnee: You just make a big circle. He does an extra donut in front of, uh, what used to be Sears.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I guess that's fun?

Taylor: In front of the skeletal remains of Sears?

Sydnee: Yeah, Sears is empty, in case anyone's interested. They really need an anchor down there. It's gonna be bad news for that end of the mall. Justin's very worried about it. [laughs quietly]

Uh, but anyway, I find myself in Claire's because Charlie requested, on her own, with absolutely no prompting from me because I—this was not really a concern of mine—requesting that she be allowed to get her ears pierced.

Taylor: Oh!

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: I—I swore I would never force that upon my children, that if they asked I would be open to it, but I would never suggest or insist or anything. And she was very adamant.

Raleigh: She was.

Sydnee: Her friend at school got her ears pierced. She also wanted her ears pierced.

Raleigh: Oh, that's how it always starts.

Sydnee: Uncle Travis has his ears pierced, why can't she? [sighs] She wanted her ears pierced, so...

Taylor: How did she—how'd she hold up?

Sydnee: Like a champ!

Taylor: Yeah?

Sydnee: Didn't flinch. There was one moment—one moment where—so they do 'em at the same time, which is nice, and—I mean, they're very good there. Like, their technique is very good. Everything is sterile.

I watched everything very closely as they were doing this, uh, to my child. And then, uh, they do it at the same time and I had her look at me. I'm standing right there and I said, "Just look at me. You're gonna be fine. Just look at me."

And I could see one moment right after they pierced her ears where, in her little eyes, I could see, like, this flash of her looking at me like, "*What* the—" [laughs quietly] "Why would you—how could you! [loudly] That hurt!"

And then it was gone, and she was fine. And she is just thrilled. She's telling everyone—a guy came to check out our furnace 'cause I thought I smelled gas and she was like, "Do you wanna see my ears?"

Taylor: [laughs] Well, okay. You know—maybe, though, don't encourage that talk with strangers.

Raleigh: She, uh—after that, wanted to wear my fake nose ring, because she thought it looked better on her.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: After she got her ears pierced—

Taylor: Uh-oh.

Raleigh: —she just wanted all the jewelry.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: She asked me when she could get as many holes in her ears as I have, and I said "Well, let's just—let's just stick with these right now. These are fine."

Taylor: It's a slippery slope. Just—just wait till she gets her first tattoo! If she's got that kind of pain tolerance.

Sydnee: She was so tough, and then she went over—and they have, like, a little special where they have this one area of earrings, and if you get your ears pierced, all of the earrings there are, like, a third of the price of what they normally are.

And so I let her pick out three of the pairs of these little cute, you know—the things she likes. Dolphins and unicorns and pineapples, and they're very cute. And of course, since it's Claire's, we go up to the counter and I'm like, "We'd like—you know, we're paying for the piercing, and then I'd also like these three pairs of earrings."

And the lady went, "Well, it's buy three, get three!" [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Ohh, that's how it starts!

Taylor: And then you never left. [laughs]

Sydnee: Of course!

Raleigh: Then you—then you get three, but then Charlie sees one more she wants, and then you need to get two more to complete that set of three, but then you also get another three—

Sydnee: Three more.

Raleigh: —free ones, and... then you end up with 24 pairs of earrings.

Sydnee: But, uh—but it was very surreal to be in Claire's getting ears pierced, uh, and it was my—my child.

Raleigh: In the year 2019.

Sydnee: Yeah. Some things just never change. I mean, at least in the Huntington mall. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Nothing has ever changed in the Huntington mall. I think it's a weird, like, portal.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Into the past.

Taylor: I wonder if they—I wonder if they just do ear piercings at the Claire's. I remember you had to go to the Piercing Pagoda if you wa—I feel like— isn't that—you had to go to the Piercing Pagoda if you wanted anything different. Claire's was just ears.

Raleigh: I think that's still true. And also, I don't know if the Piercing Pagoda is still there.

Sydnee: It does not exist anymore, no.

Raleigh: Yeah, 'cause there's a piercing place downtown that's connected to a tattoo place that does, like, ear piercings and all the other kinds.

Sydnee: Yeah, I was gonna say—

Raleigh: —or—nose piercings.

Sydnee: —as far as I know, around here, if you wanna get your ears pierced you can go to Claire's. If you want anything else pierced, you have to go to one of the local tattoo shops.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah, okay.

Sydnee: I'm pretty sure.

Taylor: That's—hey, I'm—this is timely. I'm goin' to a local tattoo shop tomorrow to get my, uh—my septum re-pierced.

Raleigh: Ohh.

Taylor: Yeah. I had that for a while and then I... I don't know, I decided I was an adult and shouldn't have one anymore, and then I decided that that was a bad idea. Silly me, gonna get it again!

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Silly me. Yeah, it was a very surreal experience last time I was getting a tattoo. I saw a, uh—like, a 12 year old girl walk in and I was like, "This can't—she can't be here for... for the same thing I'm here for," but she was just coming to get her ears pierced. [laughs]

Sydnee: Well, I was—I was very impressed. My daughter was very tough, and so far she does not regret it. She lets me clean them three times a day like I'm supposed to.

Taylor: That's good.

Raleigh: What a little nerd.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. And she's very excited. They said you have to wait three weeks before you can wear a different pair, so she's counting down the days till she can try on a new pair.

Taylor: Does she already have 'em picked out, the first ones she's gonna put in?

Sydnee: Oh yeah. She's really excited about the pineapples. They are very cute, but I was surprised. I figured that something—rainbows or sparkles or the unicorn—she picked two different kind of unicorn heads.

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: I thought for sure, but nope. Pineapples.

Taylor: Is this—is this goin' back to Travis? She's trying to impress Uncle Trav?

Sydnee: Maybe. It might be. She's very—she is so excited to see Travis this week while we're on tour so that she can show him her ears.

Taylor: Ahh.

Sydnee: So they can be earring buddies. Uh, so in addition to the Huntington mall and getting your ears pierced at Claire's, other things that are eternal, it seems.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um... *Saturday Night Live*.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Did you like that?

Raleigh: Yeah. It was good.

Sydnee: Uh, sketch comedy in general, although it's changed so much because—as I was thinking about this topic and how we'd talk about it, really this is the thought in my head, and then I texted it to both of you, but I wasn't trying to be, like, funny or old intentionally. I really thought, "Well, there must be something on the internet that's sort of like that now."

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "What's the—what's the thing on YouTube that's like that?"

Raleigh: "Yeah, whatever is happening on YouTube that's similar?" Quote from Sydnee McElroy in the year 2019.

Sydnee: Well, I know that there must be things on YouTube that are similar to, like, the—the sketch shows of yore. Uh, SNL most notably, just 'cause it's been around forever and it defies all logic that it continues to exist, but also, like... in our day there was, you know, *All That*, and *Living Color*, and—

Raleigh: *All That* is back.

Sydnee: *All That* is back.

Taylor: Hmm.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: All back.

Sydnee: It was a weird—I watched *All That* with Charlie, and she enjoyed it. It's still a little bit old for her. She's a little young for *All That*. Um, but I was laughing harder than her just because it was... I was having so many moments where I didn't realize I remembered the sketches they were doing, and then it would start and I was like, "[gasps] Vital information!"

So it was kind of fun. Uh, they have not brought back *Round House*, I am sorry to say.

Taylor: I—you know, *Round House* was just ever so slightly before my time. Like, I remember them dancing and singing, and I remember that the set, like, moved. Like, they didn't have, like, separate screenings where they would film. It was all, like, one big set piece that they just kind of moved around on, yeah?

Sydnee: It was round! [laughs]

Taylor: Well, yeah. But—[laughs]

Sydnee: It was the titular round!

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: I think it was, like, a rota—wasn't it, like, a rotating stage?

Taylor: It did! Like, that was the—that was the—

Raleigh: Hamilton?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: This is—this is where Lin got the inspiration for *Hamilton*, I assume.

Taylor: I mean, you know... the idea was good. Uh... yeah. And, like, that's just one of those weird—like, where you're—if you just have such a baby

brain that you don't really process information fully, you just get weird images that get stuck, and I remember them, like, singing some song about... TVs, and then they all had TVs on their head, and they were singing the line "TV head, TV head," over and over again. That is my one association with *Round House*.

Sydnee: I gotta track down some *Round House* now. That's gonna—I bet that's on the internet somewhere, right?

Raleigh: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: Probably?

Raleigh: There was a similar experience for me growing up. There was a show called *The Amanda Show*, that was Amanda Bynes on, uh... I guess—was it Teen Nick back then? I can't remember.

Sydnee: One of the Nickelodeons.

Raleigh: Yeah. And it was Amanda Bynes, but it was also, like, partly fictional? I mean, like, it's obviously all fictional. But partly, like, a fake Amanda Bynes, like, a second Amanda Bynes who owns her own talk show and, like, faux story lines about Amanda Bynes' life in the backgrounds of *The Amanda Show*, but also just the *The Amanda Show*.

Sydnee: Like, uh—like Hannah Montana but more meta.

Raleigh: Yeah, even more meta than Hannah Montana. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Um, and there was dancing lobsters, and that's all I remember.

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: I remember lots of dancing lobsters.

Taylor: *The Amanda Show* got weird.

Raleigh: Yeah, and then Amanda Bynes got weird. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well... yeah.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: You know, I hope that—it seems like she's in a better place now, and that's good for her. Uh, but maybe that was just—like, you know, this pseudo other life. Just some long—some sketch comedy that went on way too long, and...

Raleigh: Yeah. I mean, there was a whole part of that show that she also played a character she was set on—that was, like, obsessed with Amanda. That wanted to meet her.

Sydney: Ohhh, I remember that for some reason.

Raleigh: And had all these, like, schemes to break in and get in the show, but it was all—like, this character was also played by Amanda Bynes.

Sydney: That seems—like, from a—like, from a—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydney: —parent perspective, I, like—if somebody said, like, "We're gonna have your kid do this," I think I would be like, "Ooh... ooh... I don't—I have some concern—"

Raleigh: "Maybe could we think about the implications on the mind of a 16 year old girl?"

Sydney: "Yeah, I have—I have some concerns about this. This does not seem like a healthy, um... mental exercise to put oneself through."

Taylor: Get into the mind of your own stalker, and then write scripts for it.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah. Let's not... hmm. Now, is this—is this what that, um, Miranda Sings is about? Is it like this?

Raleigh: *Sorry?*

Taylor: What?

Raleigh: What? What?

Sydnee: That—the girl with the lipstick—

Raleigh: Miranda Sings, yes.

Taylor: [through laughter] The girl with the lipstick.

Raleigh: Is she a—is she a sketch show?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. Is that a sketch show?

Raleigh: No, she's a—I mean—I mean, I guess in a sense, all YouTube channels that aren't just, like, entirely nonfiction are sketch comedy shows, I guess. Right? To a certain extent, like, all their videos—

Sydnee: I have no familiarity with what she is other—

Raleigh: She is a YouTuber, and she is a real person named Colleen Ballinger who is an actual singer and is amazing and talented, and was just on Broadway, actually.

But she made this fictional character named Miranda Sings that is different, and not her. But Miranda has her own YouTube channel, and Colleen—

Sydnee: Which one is Hannah Montana? [laughs]

Raleigh: Both, and also neither.

Sydnee: Okay.

Raleigh: Miranda Sings has her own Netflix series!

Sydnee: I don't watch it. I—really all I know about her is, like, I know you and some of your friends will sometimes, like, joke about it on social media, and—

Raleigh: Yeah. I had a Miranda Sings-themed surprise party.

Sydnee: Right. And—and the lipstick.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: This is really all I know. This is as far as my knowledge of—

Raleigh: I mean, like, she goes on tour and does, like, Colleen performances where she sings real. Like, beautifully, but also switches into Miranda and does Miranda.

No, that is not sketch—I mean, I guess if you wanna say that any, like, comedy YouTube channel... *could* be.

Sydnee: It's—all comedy's sketch comedy now.

Raleigh: It's all sketch comedy, I guess? Except for, like, vlog and beauty channels.

Taylor: Well, it—

Raleigh: I mean, you have, like... man, you have, like, David Dobrik's vlogs where it's just, like—he puts up a four minute vlog twice a week that's just a bunch of clips of him with his friends and they're all, like, real people, and it's a vlog, so it's like, you know, actual life. But also, he puts together a bunch of, like, bits and characters and splices it all together. Is that the most modern new sketch comedy show? I'm having an epiphany.

Taylor: It's kind of just the, like—the amalgamation of it. Because, like, you know, you used to—when you would watch something like, uh, *Saturday*

Night Live or *Round House* or whatever, you kind of, like—there was, like, the sketches that you just kind of sat through 'cause, like, "Well, this isn't funny, but... maybe something funny will come along."

And then some *would* be funny, and that was just kind of it. But now with the internet it's like, you just kind of bop around to the stuff that other people have already told you is funny. I mean...

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Like, you don't—and it's a—it's an amalgamation of YouTube channels and BuzzFeed skits and Funny or Die skits and College Humor skits and Vine compilations. Like, there's a lot of funny, like, sketch comedy out there, but it's not all being made and produced by, like, one unified group. It's just... you kind of make your own sketch comedy show [through laughter] on the internet.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Sydnee: That's—you know, it's weird, 'cause when we talk about that kind of thing, it makes sense to me that with more and more people producing, um... whatever you wanna call it—I mean, art? [laughs quietly] Is that what—

Raleigh: [quietly] Art.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I—

Taylor: Sure.

Sydnee: Is that what we're doing?

Raleigh: Miranda Sings is art. This is art.

Taylor: Yeah, this art.

Sydnee: Well, media entertainment—with more and more people producing entertainment, how about that.

Raleigh: Content.

Sydnee: Con—content. [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: We're content creators.

Taylor: You're gonna get Scorsese on us. We're not art. [through laughter] We're—we're popcorn.

Sydnee: [laughs] Hey. Uh, with more and more people producing entertainment, content, uh, it doesn't surprise me that you would find, like, your niche. Like, that that would be where people would gravitate, because then you find, like, humor for everybody, because everybody has, like... I don't know. While we can agree that, like... a rubber chicken is always funny, right? [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm?

Taylor: Yeah, we can agree on that.

Sydnee: We can all agree on—exactly. But, like, perhaps we all have different ideas about the funniest use of said rubber chicken, and you can find something on the internet that will, you know, cater to whatever your particular brand of rubber chicken humor is.

Raleigh: What's everyone's favorite use of rubber chicken? I like the idea of using it like a whoopee cushion and making a little, like, squawk noise when someone sits on it. Like a confusing whoopee cushion.

Sydnee: Uh, this is sort of—this is sort of an answer. Charlie has a bracelet that has some sort of character from something on it that is not a rubber chicken, but Cooper thinks it's a rubber chicken, and so she carries it around—

Raleigh: And just says, "Rubber chicken!" [laughs]

Sydnee: —and holds it up and says, "Rubber chicken" a lot, yes.

Raleigh: That's good.

Sydnee: And calls it her rubber chicken, so that is my favorite, uh, comedic use of rubber chicken.

Taylor: That's good.

Raleigh: Teylor?

Taylor: Uh, you know, I don't know. I don't—I don't think I've seen it, but I feel like I—I like absurd comedy, so if somebody ever just, like, made very straightforward, melancholy vlogs, but instead of themselves they subbed in a rubber chicken and just went with it straight—

Raleigh: [gasps]

Taylor: —I'd—I'd be into that. [laughs]

Sydnee: You should do that now.

Raleigh: Wait.

Sydnee: 'Cause someone's gonna do it.

Raleigh: Someone's gonna do it. I need an ASMR channel that's, like, someone actually doing ASMR, but instead of them on the camera it's just a rubber chicken. Like, it's their voice, you know, but—I don't—I don't watch ASMR videos. [crosstalk]—

Sydnee: I don't want the rubber chicken to move or anything either. Just, like, a—a completely still rubber chicken.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Rubber chicken.

Sydnee: Close up.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] But very close to the camera.

Sydnee: Yeah, very close to the camera.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: That—

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: —that'd be one of those viddies that would border on, like, "Is this somebody who's got a really funny sense of humor, [sing-song] or is this a serial killer?" Which a lot of YouTube plays that game. [laughs]

Raleigh: That's—that's—you know? Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Do you all—this is kind of off topic, but I feel the need to bring this up. Do you all remember on the Burger King website when there used to be a guy in a chicken suit on there that you could type commands—

Sydnee: Uh-huh.

Raleigh: —and he would do whatever you told him to do?

Sydnee: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Raleigh: It was subservient chicken! Why was that a thing on the internet?!

Sydnee: How long—that was a while ago.

Raleigh: Oh, that was a while ago! That was, like, a—a buried memory that just resurfaced in my head. Oh my God.

Sydnee: I feel like—I feel like there had to be a moment for so many things, like, early in the days of the internet, where somebody was like, "Oh, this would be funny." And then as soon as they do it they go, "Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no!" [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "Wait! Oh no!"

Raleigh: "No, no, no."

Sydnee: "I didn't really think about the repercussions! Culture lag, culture lag! I take it back, I take it back!" [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: He is a lot more terrifying than I remember. Wait—

Sydnee: Yeah. That was—

Raleigh: —he's back?!

Sydnee: Don't do that...

Taylor: Oh, no...

Raleigh: On the Burger King website it just says, "He rose to fame. [snorts] He fell from grace. The subservient chicken is back, and now he's doing it *his* way." [muffled laughter]

Taylor: What is—what is—

Raleigh: That's scary!

Taylor: —this redemption arc?

Raleigh: He's coming to murder us!

Taylor: Yeah, that's—that's not a—that's a threat! That's uh—not a promise!

Raleigh: He's coming to hurt us for all the things we made him do! If you ever typed anything that was too, like, inappropriate, he would just get really close to the camera and wiggle his finger like, "No, no, no!" He's back, and he's scary.

Sydnee: That's such a bad idea. That—that one—that one baffles me, how there was no one in the room at Burger King who went, "Um... I—I actually have... some concerns."

Taylor: I—

Raleigh: I'm just... oh my God.

Taylor: I'm really into this, this horror movie you've proposed. Some sort of, like, die in seven days situation—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm!

Taylor: —if you ever made the chicken man do things that he didn't wanna do, [menacing voice] he'll come make *you* do things that *you* don't want to do!

Sydnee: Ooh...

Raleigh: Ohh!

Sydnee: Next Halloween.

Raleigh: Oh my God, wait! I'm gonna write this.

Taylor: That would be terrifying!

Sydnee: Let's make this horror movie.

Taylor: Like—

Sydnee: It would be the scariest...

Raleigh: I've been having the worst writer's block—

Taylor: There you go.

Raleigh: —and I have to turn in a seven page fiction story in my creative writing class tomorrow. This is what I'm gonna write about! [laughs]

Taylor: I mean—

Sydnee: This would be horrifying.

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: Like, sometimes I have a weird way of coping when—sometimes I'll get freaked out at night, like, 'cause I live alone, and I'll just, like, kind of think about, "What's the scariest thing that I could see at my window? And I bet it's not that scary."

But there it is. There's that.

Raleigh: If you—I—

Taylor: [through laughter] There's a—a man in a chick—

Sydnee: The chicken man.

Taylor: —a chicken—

Raleigh: I don't remember—

Sydnee: And he's right outside your window and he's wagging his finger back and forth—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Wagging his finger.

Sydnee: —like that. "No, no, no."

Taylor: Oh no. Ohhh, no.

Raleigh: I don't remember him being this terrifying. I need you all—I need you all to look him up again and look at him, because I don't remember him *looking... this* horrifying. I'm just—do you remember him looking that... terri—just in someone's living room, too. Like, the videos were just filmed in someone's living room.

Sydnee: Yeah. They were—it—the—the low quality of the set definitely made it more terrifying.

Raleigh: Wait—it's horrifying. Wait, I'm reading an article about it from 2014, and now there are security camera pictures of the subservient chicken, just, like—

Sydnee: I can't.

Raleigh: —like, in real life? Just, like, standing outside in the dark by someone's car? Is this real? Was he a serial killer? Is that why he went away?

Sydnee: I—

Raleigh: I need—I need explanations, and I need to stop thinking about it all at the same time.

Taylor: I mean...

Sydnee: Alright.

Taylor: I—yeah, I'm—I—I like absurdist advertising a lot, but this is maybe a step too far. [laughs]

Sydnee: I—I say this is too far. Too far, Burger King!

Raleigh: Too far.

Sydnee: Too far!

Raleigh: Also, it was—

Sydnee: King of Burgers!

Raleigh: —it was 2004. Did we have nothing better to do in 2004?

Taylor: Oh, I don't—I don't think this is a matter of nothing better to do.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I think this was something that... had—had to be done. [laughs]

Raleigh: Because I remember—I—

Sydnee: There were a lot of bad ideas back then, guys.

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: I remember Justin showing this to me and just spending, like, hours in our living room at our old house just typing different things in to tell the subservient chicken to do.

Taylor: I—i—see, he had to tell *you* about it, 'cause he had to pass on the curse.

Raleigh: He did.

Taylor: And now you're telling—[gasps] now you're telling everyone! Oh no!

Raleigh: Everyone!

Taylor: Everyone, stop listening! Don't Google it! Stop it!

Raleigh: Don't Google it! Don't look at him!

Sydnee: Oh no!

Raleigh: There's one picture of him that he's just staring right at the camera and he's so close and I hate it.

Sydnee: Oh, this is the—this is our version of *It Follows*.

Raleigh: Yeah, it's the subservient chicken!

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Uh, so I'll let you all quickly tell a friend about the subservient chicken—

Raleigh: I can't stop thinking about him.

Sydnee: —uh, so you can pass the curse along to someone else. Um, but in the meantime...

Raleigh: Let's go to the group message, I guess...

Raleigh: Uh, I have a sponsor [holding back laughter] I wanna tell you all about this week. God, I need to get my head off the subservient chicken. Um, and that's ModCloth.

This week, *Still Buffering* is supported in part by ModCloth. We told you about ModCloth before. We love ModCloth. Um, they design vintage-inspired apporable—a—[snorts] apporable?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Let me try again.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [speaking carefully] They design vintage-inspired apparel.

Sydnee: There you go.

Raleigh: Made relevant for right now. Crafted by a team of in-house designers, signature styles include bright, hand-drawn prints and an inclusive size range that celebrate all people.

You'll find quality pieces that are versatile enough to wear to work or [conspiratorial tone] on the weekend when you party!

Um... you can RSVP "Yes" to all the holiday parties this season, because ModCloth has party-perfect looks for every event. From velvet to tulle and all of those holiday fabrics and textures in between, you'll find the dress of your dreams.

And if you're feeling gifty but you don't know what to give to someone, they have a gift guide where you can find something for everyone on your Christmas list or holiday list or whatever you celebrate. Your Candelights list.

Sydnee: There you go.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ModCloth is the kind of site where, like—for instance, I was thinking, "I should own more corduroy—"

Taylor: [snorts]

Sydnee: —and so I went and ty—[laughs] typed "corduroy" in—[through laughter] into ModCloth's search bar—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —and I got so many great results. [laughs]

Raleigh: I had—

Sydnee: And there is more corduroy in my wardrobe now! [laughs] If that gives you a clue.

Raleigh: I had, uh, an overwhelming urge to own a plaid skirt.

Taylor: Mm.

Raleigh: And I looked on ModCloth and found a very good wool plaid skirt. That's where I go for those. For my plaid skirts and my corduroy.

Sydnee: 'Tis the season.

Raleigh: 'Tis the season. Um, and they believe fashion should celebrate everyone, and that's why they include a size range from 00 to 28, and their team of Mod stylists are available on hand to help you with complimentary sizing and styling help.

So, Taylor, if our listeners wanna check out ModCloth, what should they do?

Taylor: Uh...

[extended pause]

Well, yes—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] They should hurry!

Taylor: —[through laughter] you should—sorry! *I* should hurry!

Raleigh: Think fast!

Taylor: They should hurry! We all should hurry! Uh, 'cause this offer is only valid for a limited time. You can get 15% off your purchase of \$100 or more if you go to modcloth.com and enter code "buffering" at checkout. That's M-O-D-C-L-O-T-H.com, use code "buffering" at checkout, and you can get 15% off your purchase of 100 bucks or more. So... hurry!

Raleigh: [urgently] Hurry!

Sydnee: Now, uh, we are hittin' the road tomorrow on tour again.

Raleigh: Well, *we're* not.

Sydnee: Well, *we're* not. Sorry.

Raleigh: *You* are.

Sydnee: *I* am. Me and the f—me and my n—sm—nuclear—

Raleigh: You—were you gonna say your family?

Taylor: Ooh.

Sydnee: Well, I meant my—

Raleigh: Sorry—excuse me?

Sydnee: —my children... and my husband.

Taylor: Have fun with your *other* podcast and your *other* family.

Raleigh: Your *other* family.

Sydnee: My other fa—they're your *nieces*! And your brother-in-law!

Raleigh: Yeah. Your *family*. What about *us*?

Sydnee: And your mother! Anyway—[laughs quietly] when you're hittin' the road, you gotta have a great suitcase. Uh, and we will. We will be taking our Away suitcase with us.

Away has a whole range of suitcases and bags that were created to solve real travel problems so that all you have to think about when you're headed out next is, whatcha gonna put in there? You don't have to worry about what

suitcase you're bringing. Um, 'cause you know you're bringing a quality bag that will match whatever your travel style is.

They have an array of colors, two different sizes, two different materials, a strong yet flexible polycarbonate, and an anodized aluminum.

They're carry-ons, feature four 360 spinner wheels, a TSA-approved combinations lock, and optional ejectable battery. And the suitcases are designed to last a lifetime.

But, if any part does break, Away's standout customer service team will arrange to have it fixed or replaced ASAP.

Um, we can attest to Away bags. We all own an Away bag now.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I believe. Yep, we all use either their suitcase, their carry-on, one of their bags. We—we love 'em.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: They're great products, and if you're somebody who travels a lot and you're looking for a suitcase that will go the distance... like, literally...

Raleigh: Wow.

Sydnee: ... to your destination. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: That was... so great. I just couldn't even think to laugh. It just—

Sydnee: And home again.

Raleigh: —think about it.

Sydnee: Uh, well, go—well, go *Away* and come back!

Raleigh: Yep.

Sydnee: No, I'm gonna keep workin' on it. Don't worry, Away. I'll have a—
[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah, keep—keep workshoppin' it.

Sydnee: I'll have a new slogan for you soon. Let me just—[laughs] go back to the drawing board for a bit.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Anyway, Teylor. [through laughter] If our listeners want to check out an Away bag, what should they do?

Teylor: Well, you can get 20 bucks off a suitcase if you visit awaytravel.com/buffering and use promo code "buffering" during checkout. That's \$20 off a suitcase by going to awaytravel.com/buffering and use promo code "buffering" at checkout.

Raleigh: Also, I wanna add an important part to the group message this week that I don't wanna save to the end of the podcast, because I want everyone to listen, and sometimes I stop listening to podcasts right at the end, but I want it to be in the middle, 'cause then everyone's gonna hear it.

Uh, it's Candlenights season, and that means it's time for the Candlenights Stars campaign.

Sydnee: Yes!

Raleigh: Um, if you go to GoFundMe and check out Candlenights Stars 2019—it's under my name, it's under that name, it is also on all of the McElroy Family and *Still Buffering* and my personal social media. Um, we're raising money for a 24 hour rape crisis center in Huntington that I volunteer for. It's super great, provides a lot of advocate services for victims in our area, and I wanna help 'em out.

Sydnee: They're called Contact.

Raleigh: Yes. So, uh, go check out that campaign! It runs all the way through the day of the show in December, so you have time.

Sydnee: If you can, donate, and you'll get your star on our—get your name *on* a star.

Raleigh: On our stage!

Sydnee: On our stage!

Raleigh: Just, like, \$5, or whatever you can donate. So go check that out, also! That's—you know. Add that to the group message until Candenights.

Sydnee: That's a good idea.

Raleigh: Thank you, Sydnee, my sister.

Sydnee: Good idea.

Raleigh: Um—

Sydnee: [simultaneously] Uh—go.

Raleigh: —so, the chicken. [laughs]

Sydnee: No, I can't talk about the chicken anymore. The chicken is—the chicken is gone, um, hopefully, and will not be here.

Raleigh: He'll be in my nightmares.

Taylor: Moving beyond the chicken. We talk about it this much, we've summoned it—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] [quietly] I can never move beyond the chicken.

Taylor: —on some level, and that's bad.

Sydnee: Yeah. So—

Rileigh: Of all the—of all the tangents that are off topic that we've had on this show, I think this is the worst, and I would like to take a minute to apologize to all of our listeners, to the Maximum Fun Network, to my sisters—

Sydnee: If we have passed the curse of the subservient chicken on to you, that was unintentional, but then also I'm glad I don't have it anymore.

Rileigh: Yeah, me too. I guess I'm okay with that.

Sydnee: And please pass it on quickly.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um...

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Preferably to someone—you know.

Taylor: Tell your friends to listen to *Still Buffering*, is what we're saying.

Rileigh: [laughs loudly]

Sydnee: So we can give them the curse, too.

Rileigh: [simultaneously] That's *our* marketing campaign!

Sydnee: Uh, no. What I was go—[laughs quietly] what I was gonna say is, uh, with—with all this—with all these kind of, like, little niche things that people can find and watch and enjoy that suits their sense of humor, I think it's interesting that we still have *Saturday Night Live* on the air. Um, because all these other sketch comedy shows that we're mentioning have gone away. With—*All That* has come back. I guess it went—went away and then reinvented itself and has returned.

But, like... you know. *Mad TV* and *In Living Color* and all that. They're—they are no—no more. Um—

Raleigh: But SNL's been around for a long time.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: A long time.

Sydnee: And it's—and it's funny, because it really, like... it—for me, it waxes and wanes. There are times where, like, it really tickles my funny bone—

Raleigh: [snorts] You sound like you're 80 years old.

Sydnee: Um... I—[through laughter] I know. It—back in the—back in the 90s—and I think everybody feels this way about, like, a c—like, the... I feel like that since it's been around, people will connect to SNL for a brief period of time, really love it, and then forever talk about whatever that cast—

Raleigh: Era, yes.

Sydnee: —and that era was as, like, the best time. Like, the golden years of SNL.

Raleigh: I mean... I think there definitely was a peak of SNL, though.

Taylor: See, but I think that that's just 'cause—I know that I have one in my—in my head, but then I feel like our parents talked about, right before we were aware of it, was their period of—maybe it's just when you're kind of in line with the cast, and so you get the jokes the most.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that's true.

Raleigh: Yeah. Since—I mean, I will say, I don't watch it now, when it's on TV. I mean, most Saturday Nights at 11:30—one, I don't... have cable. So I don't watch cable TV.

Sydnee: Right.

Raleigh: But also, like, I'm not watching TV on Saturday nights? And then if there's, like, a really funny sketch, I'll see a tweet about it or something, so I'll go and look it up on YouTube and watch it the next day. But usually it ends up being probably a total of, like, 15 or 20 minutes from the entire episode. Um—

Sydnee: We, uh—we don't watch it when it airs, 'cause we're not up that late.

Raleigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: Um... we go to bed before then. But we—

Raleigh: Go to bed by 11:30. I'm starting tonight.

Sydnee: —we do DVR it. Um, 'cause we do have cable, and then we watch it later, 'cause that's how... old... we are. Um, and then we can fast forward—

Raleigh: You were gonna say that's how old works.

Sydnee: —through the commercials, and if we do not enjoy the musical artist.

Taylor: It—it is—

Raleigh: I will say—yeah.

Taylor: [stammers] Like, that—that time slot—I do wanna, like, think for a bit. Like, what are they—who are they trying to—I mean, obviously they're reaching lots of people but, like, Saturday night—it starts, what? At 11:30?

Raleigh: 11:30.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah? Uh, like, that is a very specific crowd. Like, not young enough that you'd be out on a Saturday night, but no so—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —not so old that you wanna be in bed. [laughs]

Raleigh: So sometime— or somewhere in between my age and Sydnee's age.

Sydnee: Well, but that's—but that is—that does explain a little bit, though, why it might connect to a teenager. Because if you're 16—

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: —you—your parents might not—

Raleigh: You have a curfew.

Sydnee: —I mean, you may be old enough that you don't have a bedtime anymore so you can stay up late, but you also can't be out that late.

Raleigh: Well, yeah.

Sydnee: So, I—I mean, that makes sense, 'cause when I think about, like, my era of SNL, I'm thinkin' about my teen years. Unintentionally, I mean.

Taylor: No, that's true. I guess the people that are closest to our age range are the people that are on SNL, like, now, and in the past, like, five years.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And I haven't watched it then, but I remember watching it when it was, like, Mike Myers and, like, Cheri Oteri and, like—

Sydnee: Will Ferrell, and... yeah. Chris Farley.

Raleigh: I will say, that was probably my peak of SNL watching was in, like, high school. But I don't—I wasn't old enough yet—I mean, some jokes I'm *still* not old enough to, like, fully get the references sometimes.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: You know what I mean? Like, I—it's just, like—

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

Raleigh: There are a lot of references they still make that, like—that I just—

Sydnee: That are older.

Raleigh: —yeah.

Sydnee: Well, we've talked about that before. Justin and I have talked about, like, uh—they used to do a sketch a lot that was a play on *The Lawrence Welk Show*... yeah. Which was, like, an old variety show.

Raleigh: Yeah, I have—

Sydnee: And, like, we've talked about—I get what they're doing here, because I understand that that existed, but who is this joke for?

Raleigh: [quietly] Our parents?

Sydnee: Although it is a funny sketch. But really, like, who—[through laughter] who are these jokes for?

No, I think that's true. But, like, sometimes it's so on. Like, I remember, um... they did—do you remember the Stevie Nicks fajita roundup commercial they did

Taylor: Yeah—wait, who?

Sydnee: Where Ste—

Taylor: Who played Stevie Nicks? Was it...?

Sydnee: [sighs] I don't... I don't remember. But Stevie Nicks owned a fajita restaurant—

Taylor: Was it Xena?

Sydnee: —and it was—was it? Maybe?

Taylor: Am I—is this a false memory?

Sydnee: It was so funny! But it—

Taylor: [through laughter] Did Xena play Stevie Nicks in this? Who was Stevie Nicks in that?

Sydnee: I hope so! I hope so! Uh, but it was so, like—like, I don't—I guess I get this? Is this for my mom? [laughs] This is for my mom, except mom was upset 'cause, like, they were kind of teasing Stevie Nicks.

Raleigh: Lucy—

Sydnee: Lucy Lawless?

Raleigh: —Lawless.

Sydnee: Yeah, that's Xena.

Taylor: It was Lucy Lawless? Okay, got it. That's—yeah, okay.

Sydnee: You know her from *Parks and Rec*.

Raleigh: Who is she?

Sydnee: Ron's wife.

Raleigh: Oh! Yeah. Megan—wait.

Sydnee: No, not in real life. On the show.

Raleigh: Oh. Oh, okay.

Sydnee: Who he ends up with, yeah.

Raleigh: Yes, the one he ends up with. Yes, I do know her. Okay.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Sorry. That was... [holding back laughter] off topic conversation. Um—

Sydnee: I span all decades!

Raleigh: Sydnee knows.

Sydnee: Of Lucy Lawless!

Raleigh: All.

Sydnee: I know who she is!

Taylor: Also from the last season of *Salem*, and *Ash vs. the Evil Dead*.

Sydnee: And, uh, *Battlestar Galactica*. I... love Lucy Lawless. [laughs]

Raleigh: Alright.

Taylor: Everybody should love Lucy Lawless.

Sydnee: I—I, uh, have a long-standing crush on Lucy Lawless, there it is. Many years, and many characters. [laughs]

Taylor: You're saying that like that's not every... everybody. I'm sorry, I don't—yeah, no, everybody.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Everybody.

Sydnee: Everybody.

Taylor: That's just a universal yeah. Universal yes.

Sydnee: Uh—but yeah, and—but this, it—I think this makes sense now that—because I used to stay up late to watch SNL after the Marshal games.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Because I wasn't allowed to go out—these were the college football games. I wasn't allowed to go out after the college football games 'cause I was too young, but I didn't wanna go to bed yet. And that's my memory, is watching it on my tiny little TV in my bedroom that only got the networks, so I could watch SNL and, like, the news, and that was it. [laughs]

And I remember watching SNL on my own there, because that was—what else was I gonna do? I didn't wanna go to bed. Um, that's really funny, and that probably is why, in high school, everybody was doin' Chris Farley—the—when he was Matt Foley, talkin' about livin' in a van down by the river.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Everybody was trying to reenact that. Everybody was doin' Will Ferrell and Cheri Oteri as the cheerleaders, the Spartan cheerleaders.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Sydnee: Molly Shannon as Mary Catherine Gallagher.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Everybody was, like, doing their own impressions of that, and, like, it was—it was huge. Um, but that's my—and that's what I connect to. That's what—all the Adam Sandler songs?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Those were—

Raleigh: That Thanksgiving one I still see pop up on my Facebook and my Instagram, my Twitter, everything.

Sydnee: Those were some of the first songs... [holding back laughter] that I went and stole on Napster.

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: [through laughter] Some of the first songs that I stole from the internet-

Raleigh: That is—

Sydnee: —were Adam Sandler songs! Were the Hanukkah songs and the Thanksgiving song—[laughs]

Taylor: I—oh yeah.

Raleigh: The sentence you just spoke is the most dated thing.

Taylor: I remember seeing those—

Raleigh: Like, those—[laughs]

Taylor: —on our—our—our desktop, because you would download them to the desktop. [laughs]

Sydnee: On our Winamp! [laughs]

Raleigh: Those things that say, like—to—

Taylor: That would make me angry, 'cause I'd have all my cool anime music, like, keyed up in my skin—

Raleigh: Nerd!

Taylor: —my skinned Winamp, and then suddenly Adam Sandler—

Sydnee: [through laughter] Your *Neon Genesis Evangelion* skinned Wina—Winamp, and I have the Hanukkah songs on there.

Taylor: Oh, it just totally threw off my mood while I write this fanfic!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Like those tweets that say, "Tell your age without giving your age?"

Taylor: I am Winamp years old. [laughs]

Raleigh: That. [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs] I am "The first songs I stole on Napster were Adam Sandler's—"

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: "—Hanukkah songs" old. [laughs]

Raleigh: Gah—[laughs]

Taylor: But—you know, there is one—now that you're saying this, it reminds me of something, 'cause I remember watching it as, like, a preteen and a teen, and there was something that felt a little bit, like... I don't know, like, subversive? Like, it felt like it was something that maybe I wasn't supposed to watch, or—'cause there was the live aspect.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's the thing about SNL that kind of—I mean, the—and the—other of these shows were live as well, but, like, it's that—maybe they would goof. Maybe they'd say something inappropriate.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Maybe something would go wrong.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, there was that kind of dangerous aspect to it that was really exciting, and it kind of, like—you know, everybody that was gonna watch it was watching it right then when it was happening, across the country, and that made it a bit more of an event that felt like you're part of something, and it's also part of something that who knows what's gonna happen?

Sydnee: I think that's true. I think that's definitely true, 'cause I always love the ones where people start laughing.

Raleigh: Like the, uh—the ones with Amy Poelher—is it Amy Poelher? The—who are the ones that do Weekend Update? They're the couple that do all the songs, but they write them as they're singing them?

Sydnee: Oh, um... yeah, with, uh—

Raleigh: Is that Kristen Wig?

Sydnee: Um, it's Kristen Wig and, um... uh—

Raleigh: This is the worst thing for anyone to be listening to right now, ever. [through laughter] Just us trying to remember SNL's actors names.

Sydnee: Parnell, right? No, no. Not Parnell. No, it's, uh...

Raleigh: I—that one—that one always got me, just because—while you're figuring it out, I'll just keep talking so people don't have to listen to this... nightmare.

Taylor: Yeah, that's great.

Raleigh: Um... [laughs] uh, those always got me because they always broke each other. Like, they always made each other laugh, because they were just coming up with what they were saying as they were saying it. I think that was always the best part of SNL for me is when you found the sketches that were so funny that even the actors were breaking and making each other laugh? That always—that always got me.

Taylor: Oh, yeah.

Sydnee: Those were always my favorite, too.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: There was that—that, uh—that song. It was written for some sort of, like... like, anniversary celebration for SNL where they—it was—Andy Samberg wrote—or was one of the singers the and then you break? Did either of you see that?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Oh, yeah.

Taylor: It was so good. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It was Fred Armisen, and we're all ridiculous—

Raleigh: Yes it was!

Sydnee: —for not being able to remember Fred Armisen.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: *Portlandia* Fred Armisen, super talented Fred Armisen. Yes.

Raleigh: How did I not remember?

Sydnee: I know!

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And I'm sitting—that was—I was sitting here going, "*Portlandia*. It's *Portlandia*." Like that means anything. Um, yeah, no. I—I—those were great.

Raleigh: I will say, though, there was this—going back to, like, it spanning generations—there was this time I went through in high school, I think—like, freshman year—when they first put SNL on Netflix. I don't even think it's on Netflix anymore, but it was on Netflix for a minute.

And I would go back, and I wouldn't even watch the recent ones. I would only watch the years that had, like, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poelher—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: —Kristen Wig. Like, all of those people. Bill Hader and Fred Armisen. Like, I would just watch those seasons of SNL, and then it was like for some reason I thought my personality trait in high school was, like, "I know, uh, niche, uh, early 2000s SNL references and characters."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Like, that was my whole thing! [laughs]

Taylor: Well, that's... huh.

Raleigh: And yes, they are still funny, and I still find myself—

Sydnee: That's quite a thing! [laughs]

Raleigh: —I find myself going back to watch them sometimes. Just certain ones but, like—

Sydnee: I have no doubt.

Raleigh: It's just, like, the kind of show that you can go back and look from seasons 20 years ago and be like, "This is... good." But also, maybe not, sometimes.

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: No, I—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —well, I mean, I—I don't think—I don't think that we're, like, groundbreaking by saying SNL has had highly problematic moments, and continues to, frankly.

Raleigh: Right. Well—

Sydnee: So I'm not—I'm not sitting here saying, like, "No, it's perfect."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think SNL apparently has a broad appeal.

Raleigh: Yeah. And, I mean, they've always done, like—their favorites of mine now are their political cold opens with, like, you know, Alec Baldwin as Trump and Kate McKinnon as Elizabeth Warren and Hillary Clinton. Those are my favorites, but also, I can't go back and watch—like, they've always done political sketches, and I can't watch them from, like, the early 2000s, because I have no actual real-world context for any of the political happenings of that time period.

Sydnee: That must be pretty bizarre.

Raleigh: Yeah. So, like, I vaguely understand, like, when someone was president, and know the broad strokes of, like, their administration and their scandals and stuff. But, like, when they're making very, like, specific references—like, I imagine people watching the SNL sketches of politics now in 20 years, like... "What—these people are made up! This can't be real!"
[laughs]

Sydnee: Can you imagine, Teylor, her watching Dana Carvey saying "Read my lips" over and over again with no context? [laughs]

Teylor: 'Cause I even remember going through that with, like—'cause Mom and Dad would always be like "Oh—" like, "SNL isn't what it used to be. The golden age was great, you know, like Gilda Radner and Chevy Chase," and going back and seeing, like, some of, like, the Gerald Ford sketches. And it's like, "Well, I wasn't a particularly good student of history. I don't really know much about Gerald Ford, but SNL's re—"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Teylor: "—the one thing that I remember [through laughter] is the one thing that SNL taught me. He falls down!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's—that's all I knew about Gerald Ford. Although, to be fair—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Teylor: [through laughter] That also comes from the Animaniacs.

Raleigh: Animaniacs, "[singing] Gerald Ford fell down a lot." That's the only thing I know about Gerald Ford! [laughs]

Teylor: That's the only thing apparently any one knew! [laughs]

Sydnee: No, it's true! But that—which is scary. You have to think about—'cause, like, that—my—George W. Bush, in my head, is Will Ferrell as George W. Bush.

Taylor: Yes.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: 95% of the time. And that—I mean, like, that really shaped my perception of his presidency, for better or for worse. 'Cause he—I mean, he plays him like he's not very bright, but he also plays him like he's kind of a lovable, um... like, childlike, not very bright guy.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: As opposed to, like, a very bad president who did bad things.
[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Well, and I think that kind of gets into some of the dangers of, like, political humor to begin with, is it's—when you're making fun somebody, are you also humanizing by proxy? And... hey, we—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: —we've learned the downside of *that* in recent years, maybe.

Raleigh: Yeah. Have you—aw, man. Have you seen those videos where they hold up, like, an SNL character—like Alec Baldwin as Trump, but then a real picture of Trump—not that example but, like, asking people which one is the real one, and people don't know which one is the real one and which one's the SNL character!

Sydnee: This is—this is the one thing I will say. I always used to love the political stuff on SNL. I watched for it. I used to love the, uh—Dana Carvey did Bill Clinton. No, no Dana Carvey. Dana Carvey did George Bush and, um—um... this is—horrible for everybody.

Raleigh: This is the worst piece of audio we have ever made as an episode—

Taylor: Okay, that's—that's a little extreme. Remember that good—good old chicken bit a minute ago? That, uh—that spooky, spooky chicken bit?

Raleigh: That just had a curse in it.

Taylor: Huh?

Raleigh: That was just a curse.

Taylor: Oh, I thought you said—I was like, "No, I said good ol'." I almost said something else.

Raleigh: [laughs] "That had a curse in it, Taylor."

Sydnee: Darrel Hammond—

Taylor: I didn't say a bad word.

Sydnee: —played Bill Clinton.

Taylor: There you go, yeah.

Sydnee: There was a D there, it threw me off. Darrell Hammond played Bill Clinton. Those were great. Um, I—I enjoy Kate McKinnon very much as Elizabeth Warren. I liked her a lot as Hillary. Uh, Tina Fey as, you know—

Raleigh: Sarah Palin.

Sydnee: —yeah, that was great!

Raleigh: Yes, that is amazing.

Sydnee: Those were great! Amy Poelher was a great Hillary Clinton, too.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, so, like—I mean, these were great. I enjoy a lot of the political stuff. I cannot watch Alec Baldwin as Trump. I can't do it. I can't find anything that has to do with Donald Trump funny anymore.

Taylor: Well, he's already a poorly written SNL sketch in human form.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Like, that's already—it's like, nobody's laughing. It's just kind of ridiculous. Like, that's just... that's just—Alec Baldwin does a great job, and I feel like he plays the character with a lot of hate, which I respect. [through laughter] But, like—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: —it's just—yeah.

Raleigh: Like...

Sydnee: I—I can't laugh at it, though. And, like, there are moments—I used to try to watch it, and I would—I'd get angry because I'd think, "Yeah, it's true. Uh-huh, it's true." And then I would just go, "I can't w—I don't need this. I don't wanna let Trump into my head." [laughs]

Raleigh: I will say, though, the Melissa McCarthy sketches as Shaun Spicer—

Sydnee: [laughs] With the podium.

Raleigh: —are in, like, a playlist—with the podium—are on a playlist on my YouTube channel that's private, just called, like, "When I need to laugh." And I just start with those every time I need something to laugh at, because they're *so* good. They're *so* funny.

Taylor: Well, and—and I also think that—that, um... that—whoever—because we were talking before—we were saying, like, sometimes—SNL, like, obviously—it seems like very liberal, but sometimes it feels like they've kind of gotta, like, make it applicable for everybody.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: And maybe sometimes that's where it sort of loses some of us. But I do think whoever allowed the Hillary Clinton post-election sketch of Kate McKinnon singing "Hallelujah" after the death of Leonard Cohen—

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: —and just that—like, to this day, that makes me just cry. Like—

Sydnee: It—me too. I actually—I can't think—I can't think about it too much, or I'll start crying.

Taylor: But it was beautiful!

Sydnee: It—for—for months after the election, every time, like, I would think about that, I would start crying again.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: And that's—they took their—their, you know—they took their platform and did something—I mean, that—that felt like that's what—a lot of people aren't gonna like this, and a lot of people aren't gonna get this, and just kind of requires a very specific viewpoint and a knowledge of a certain amount of pop culture that's going on, but it—for the people that get it, that was for us, and that felt very special.

Sydnee: And they do—like, I think it's funny, 'cause you see the push and pull. There are moments on SNL where they are so, uh, connected with, like, the now. Um, you can tell there are voices there, uh, among, like, writers and cast members and people who are making decisions who know what's going on.

Like, I—specifically, sometimes when they talk about podcasts, it's so on the nose. When they did that spoof of *Serial*—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —about Santa.

Raleigh: It was so good.

Sydnee: It was so good. Um—you know, like, sometimes they really, really... nail it.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um... but, uh, yeah. I think there probably is another pull to say, like, "Hey, but remember. Those people's parents are still watching."

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Right.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] There's somebody in the room goin' "Hey, remember, the boomers are still watching." [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. That's true.

Sydnee: So I think—but I think that's tough to try to cater to everybody. It's interesting, though—I—I still will say that while there are some episodes that I just—they don't do it for me, um, I usually at least check it out and—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —there's usually a joke or two, an update that'll make me laugh, and, um... sometimes, like—I had not really listened to Chance the Rapper until then, and then we went and downloaded a bunch of music, 'cause it was really good.

Raleigh: Yeah, he's one of my favorites. I loved his episode. I did watch that one in its entirety, because it was him.

Sydnee: It was very funny.

Raleigh: It was very funny.

Sydnee: He's very—he's very talented.

Raleigh: He's very funny.

Sydnee: Not just, like, as a, you know, as a musical artist. Like, he's very funny.

Raleigh: Yeah, he is.

Sydnee: He's very talented.

Raleigh: He's great.

Sydnee: Um... but anyway, that—yeah. So, I don't know. It persists. Strangely, it—man, it shouldn't.

Raleigh: But it does. It always will. It is eternal.

Taylor: Well, there's—I think it's the same, like, with *The Simpsons*. There just people that that is their ritual. They watch this on this night, and that is their thing, and they do it with their family or they do it with their friends and that's what they do. And it's—everybody needs something like that. And it's great if it's, you know, enjoyable content, even some of the time.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Every once in a while they're gonna have Wells for Boys.
[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: If you haven't seen that sketch, please go watch Wells for Boys.

Taylor: I—I—so many people sent me that moment of, uh, Kate McKinnon as Elizabeth Warren taking her wig off with the rose petals in parody of Sasha Velour and I'm like, "This is... this is—"

Raleigh: Amazing.

Taylor: "—someone so specific, and I feel like this is made for *me!*" [laughs]

Raleigh: So niche. Yes. When I saw it, I had this moment where I was like, "Someone photoshopped this. This can't be real. This can't be a thing that they actually put on TV. Not enough people could've gotten this."

Taylor: Like—like Kate McKinnon, who I love, as Elizabeth Warren, who I love, imitating Sasha Velour, who I love. Like, just—okay, thank you! [laughs]

Sydney: Uh, and I should say, in the realm of new sketch comedy shows, since we talked so much about, like, YouTube and the internet end of that *I Think You Should Leave...* there's some stuff on there that's really funny. That's a show.

Raleigh: Oh, okay. I thought you were telling me to leave.

Sydney: No.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydney: There's a sketch about new car ideas. Hasn't Justin made you watch it?

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Oh, we've all been made to watch that, but it's great. [laughs]

Raleigh: And Charlie [holding back laughter] likes to tell people.

Sydney: Yeah. [laughs quietly] "You have no good car ideas!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: Anyway. It's not always—

Raleigh: Watching Charlie whisper that to Griffin was one of the best things.

Sydnee: —it's not always my sense of humor but, um, I—

Raleigh: It's good.

Sydnee: —it's—yeah. There are moments that are very funny. Justin— Justin likes it all, so if you think the stuff Justin likes is funny, there you go. [through laughter] If you know the stuff my husband, likes, you'll like it.

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: There's my endorsement. Uh, well, okay. Thank you.

Raleigh: [snorts]

Sydnee: Thank you both.

Taylor: Our—okay! This [crosstalk]—

Raleigh: You're welcome.

Taylor: —okay. Thank you. [laughs]

Raleigh: This has been a podcast.

Sydnee: There. We did a good job, um, with a podcasting. [laughs quietly] And, uh, we've passed on the curse of the chicken, and... we've all admitted to—

Raleigh: That was really the whole hidden purpose of this podcast from the beginning. It only take us 187 episodes, but we made it here.

Sydnee: We've all admitted to continuing to watch SNL, so, um, if that makes you feel better about secretly watching SNL sometimes, 'cause... probably most of us do. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: There you go.

Raleigh: At least one sketch every once in a while.

Sydnee: Every once in a while. Uh, thank you, listeners. You should check out Maximumfun.org for a lot of wonderful podcasts you would enjoy, and, uh, you should tweet at as @stillbuff, and you should email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. And, uh... is that it? Is that everything?

Raleigh: [quietly] Thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song "Baby You Change Your Mind."

Sydnee: Whoa. Whoa. Stealin' my job!

Raleigh: You asked if that was it!

Sydnee: Well, I was gonna do that last! I didn't know if there was anything else.

Raleigh: I thought you were forgetting.

Taylor: Wow...

Sydnee: Man.

Raleigh: I'm sorry.

Sydnee: Well, I am gettin' old.

Raleigh: Do you wanna say you're a teenager? Do you wanna steal my job?

Sydnee: No. No, I'm okay.

Raleigh: Okay. 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: [holding back laughter] I am a teenager...

Sydnee and Taylor: [very out of sync] And I... was... too.

[theme music begins in the background]

Sydnee: So... is it—the curse is gone?

Raleigh: The curse is gone. We did it.

Sydnee: Did we pass it on?

Raleigh: Now we never have to do this show again, 'cause it's gone.

Taylor: You know, we had a long moral quandary of if we should do it or not, but I'm glad we did.

[theme music plays]

Lisa: Hey, if you like your podcast to be focused and well-researched, and your podcast hosts to be uncharismatic, unhorny strangers who have no interest in horses, then this is not the podcast for you!

Emily: Yeah, and what's your deal?

Lisa: [laughs]

Emily: I'm Emily.

Lisa: I'm Lisa.

Emily: Our show's called *Baby Geniuses!*

Lisa: And its hosts are horny, adult idiots. We discover weird Wikipedia pages every episode.

Emily: We discuss institutional misogyny!

Lisa: We ask each other the dumbest questions, and our listeners won't stop sending us pictures of their butts!

Emily: We haven't asked them to stop, but they also aren't stopping.

Lisa: Join us on *Baby Geniuses!*

Emily: Every other week on MaximumFun.org.

[music plays]

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