

## Still Buffering 190: How to TikTok

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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, sisters, it's a very exciting weekend. In this household, anyway.

**Taylor:** Oh yeah?

**Raleigh:** [singing] Into the unknowown! [laughs quietly] [singing louder] Into the unknowown!

**Sydnee:** Hey, you started it. I'm just gonna let you keep going.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's all I know.

**Taylor:** Gettin' those... Brendon Urie notes, there.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, that's right: *Frozen 2*, out in theaters. We're seein' it tomorrow. Already got our tickets.

**Taylor:** Nice.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I'm so excited. I may be more excited than Charlie.

**Raleigh:** I think you are.

**Taylor:** I—you really seem to be very excited about this. You were just excited about the song they released. Like...

**Sydnee:** It's a *really* good song, though!

**Raleigh:** It's really good.

**Sydnee:** It's so good. Have you—did you read the lyrics? Did you, like, really get into it?

**Taylor:** Yes. I have read the lyrics. I have listened to the song. I have added it on to—

**Raleigh:** There's a lot going on there.

**Taylor:** Yeah. It's on one of my inspirational running playlists for when I run.

**Raleigh:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Ooh! That's a good one.

**Taylor:** It's a good running song. I mean, I'm not going into the unknown. I'm just going in a little circle, but still. It's—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —it makes you feel nice. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** "I'm going into the very well known." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That is exactly the response that, uh, both my children have to it. When we turn it on, they both start running around the playroom.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Just, like, running in big circles with their arms out. Just running.

**Taylor:** It kind of inspires that feeling in you.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's—they had me at the line, "Some look for trouble while others don't." I was like, "Oh, I look for trouble. What's Elsa gettin' into?"

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "I'm in. I'm along for the ride. Let's go, Elsa!"

**Raleigh:** Charlie wanted to turn it on right before we came down to record and Sydnee heard that line and said, "I, too, look for trouble."

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's true. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yes you do, Syd.

**Sydnee:** I cannot be still. On my little mound of dirt. It's—uh, it—I thought that was a good way to also mention that Disney Plus is out.

**Raleigh:** Disney Plus *is* out.

**Sydnee:** Speaking of Disney.

**Taylor:** Oh yes.

**Raleigh:** Oh man.

**Taylor:** We got—we got—everybody on the internet's talkin' about Baby Yoda.

**Sydnee:** That's right!

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I don't think it's Baby Yoda, but it might—who knows. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Is it not Baby Yoda?

**Taylor:** It's not Baby Yoda.

**Sydnee:** Oh, I thought it was Baby Yoda!

**Taylor:** I think people are just callin' it Baby Yoda 'cause it's a Yoda—it's a Yoda.

**Rileigh:** Wait. [pauses] Oh.

**Sydnee:** It's not *the* Yoda?

**Rileigh:** But it's not—yeah.

**Taylor:** I think the timeline doesn't add up that it's Baby Yoda.

**Sydnee:** Justin said he was 50. [pauses] But that's what a 50 year old Yoda looks like.

**Rileigh:** 'Cause then I saw a tweet with Paul Rudd and Baby Yoda and said, "Look, they're both 50." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Was he joking? Was he—

**Taylor:** Maybe—maybe it's that. Maybe that's—'cause I was like, "Well, it's a baby, so it can't be—it doesn't make sense for Yoda to be that young," but maybe that's—maybe those—they—the Yodas just age really—I just like that everyone's getting mad that we're using Yoda to define the species. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I don't know. I—Justin may've been messing with me, but if he is 50 and Yodas are—yeah. I don't know what the species—but if Yodas are—

**Taylor:** They're just itty bitty babies for, like, 100 years.

**Sydnee:** That... as a—as a parent of—of former and current babies, *wow* that's not fair.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's a—that's a long time to breastfeed, if you so choose to breastfeed. That's a long time!

**Taylor:** Oh no, Syd, no! Didn't need that visual! [groans]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying!

**Raleigh:** I could've done without that.

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying!

**Taylor:** Okay...

**Raleigh:** I have spent my Disney Plus time, um, watching *Hannah Montana* and *Lizzie McGuire* and *That's So Raven* and *Suite Life of Zack and Cody*.

**Taylor:** Hm.

**Raleigh:** One of my roommates came into my room and said, "Are you watching *Hannah Montana*?"

And I said, "Why aren't you watching *Hannah Montana*?"

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Because yes, in fact, I was.

**Sydnee:** Now, you know that, um, it was really hard for 'em to find the two different actresses... to play both *Hannah Montana* and Miley Cyrus in that, because they had to look enough alike—

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

**Sydnee:** —but, you know. But they are two different—

**Raleigh:** Hey, hey Syd?

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Did you know that they're really the same person?

**Sydnee:** What?!

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** We used to pretend—do you remember when we used to pretend—

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** —not to know that and it would drive you up the wall?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Like, "Guys! No! It's obvious! She—you just watched her take the wig off!"

**Sydnee:** Little baby Raleigh would get so upset when Justin and I would be like, "No, Raleigh. That's not Miley Cyrus. That Hannah Montana, obviously." [laughs quietly] Uh, we—

**Raleigh:** I was—

**Sydnee:** —we have used Disney Plus so far to watch a lot of *Rescue Rangers*.

**Taylor:** That's excellent. That is a good use of your subscription.

**Raleigh:** A great choice.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Yes. Uh, Charlie loves it. The—she's really into the theme song. We listen to that a lot. But also the show.

**Taylor:** Does she—is she favoriting any of the characters yet? It's probably Gadget, right?

**Sydnee:** Ga—

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** —Gadget. Of course Gadget.

**Taylor:** Alright. That's—Gadget's a good role model.

**Sydnee:** The only criticism I'll throw at Disney Plus is we couldn't find *Descendants 3* on there. We found *Descendants 1* and *2*, but *Descendants 3* was not there. It is available through the Disney Now app, which we already had.

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** And I found that very strange.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I—I tried to go back through, like, the Marvel timeline, but there's a lot of gaps, 'cause they have some cross contracts still, like, with Netflix and stuff.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:** So you kinda gotta jump around still, but it's pretty much all there.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I—I—I also watched, uh, *Ratatouille*, and I think in—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] —in my—in my old age, I've realized, "What Disney princess am I? Oh, the rat. I'm Remy."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's not a story about love interests. It's just like, "Oh, you know, I kind of just wanna work in a restaurant and get some respect." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That's a good one. I—man, I became obsessed with trying to find and eat ratatouille after that.

**Taylor:** Yeah?

**Sydnee:** Not the... rat. Like, the dish.

**Taylor:** No. His name isn't Ratatouille.

**Raleigh:** Hey—

**Taylor:** His name is Remy.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** His name is Ratatouille!

**Taylor:** [through laughter] That's not his name!

**Sydnee:** [laughs] You know how that—

**Raleigh:** Ratatouille. Remy III.

**Sydnee:** —you know how that rat named Ratatouille makes ratatouille in that movie *Ratatouille*?

**Raleigh:** Sydnee—

**Taylor:** That is not the movie at all. You are... it's about so much more than that. Uh, well—

**Raleigh:** —you... you really wanted to find ratatouille after that animated Pixar film came out, but that was—you were a full adult when that movie came out.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, well, I'd never had ratatouille, and so then I ate it, and it's really good.

**Taylor:** Well, but—uh, interesting fact—

**Raleigh:** [laughs quietly]



**Taylor:** —the ratatouille that they make in that movie—Thomas Keller actually was a big, like—like, important part of the development of that movie. Like, he, like, was kind of their go-to guy for any kitchen questions. And the recipe that's in that movie, the finely sliced ratatouille, is actually not... really ratatouille. It's, like, a... it's, like, a different take on it from, like, a different culture. It's the one that *he* uses.

**Raleigh:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** Um—

**Sydney:** Hmm.

**Taylor:** —but you can actually get Thomas Keller's ratatouille recipe from the movie and make it.

**Sydney:** Oh!

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** That's interesting.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydney:** And I will say, the ratatouille I ate didn't look like that, but it did taste very good.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Did Ratatouille make it?

**Sydney:** Oh, I'll never know. I wasn't back in the kitchen.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I was reminded in my Disney Plus watching of the time—we have talked about on this show before, but just in case anyone hasn't heard that Justin told me he got a Mitchel Musso autograph for me, but really he just signed a piece of paper.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** First time Oliver came on screen I said, "Man, the betrayal."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's so terrible.

**Taylor:** So sad—

**Raleigh:** I prized that piece of paper so—so highly.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so, speaking of the internet... [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** Oh, always.

**Sydnee:** Is that where—that—it's an app, so that's the internet, right? I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Sure, yeah. Everything's on the internet now.

**Sydnee:** Everything's internet now.

**Raleigh:** Everything's internet.

**Sydnee:** TV and phone became internet. I'm still—

**Raleigh:** TV plus phone make internet.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Right? Don't understand.

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I don't know. I don't know!

**Raleigh:** What internet? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's why—when Disney—when Disney Plus first came out—do you know how sad it is that I said—Justin was still out of town, but I was home, and I

was like, "Oh, I should probably get it. Like, we should get it, right?" And Justin was like, "Yeah, just get it." And I was like, "Wh—where?"

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Sydnee:** "How?"

**Raleigh:** The internet!

**Sydnee:** And *Mom* said, "It's just an app you get, honey. On your Apple TV."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** *Mom!* [pauses] Told me how to get it.

**Taylor:** Well, but that's just because—

**Sydnee:** How sad...

**Taylor:** —well, because—

**Sydnee:** ... am I?

**Taylor:** —no, it's in—in *Mom's* household, she has to be the techno girl, 'cause the other person—the other option is *Dad*. But—

**Raleigh:** Yeah, ever since I moved out, *Mom* has become the technologically savvy one of the home. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You—you live with *Justin*, and he's a techno boy from way back, so you—you know. You just—he does that stuff for you.

**Sydnee:** That's true. Yeah, *Dad* still prints things out off the internet and brings them to me in print form.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** To show me. I'm like, "What—wh—uh, what is this? [holding back laughter] What am I holding?"

**Raleigh:** I, um—

**Sydnee:** "Has this been... *printed*? Is this—"

**Raleigh:** —I got—[laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** "—just a link? There's the—this is off the internet!"

**Raleigh:** It's a link on a piece of paper! [laughs] I—I, uh—I got Disney Plus the day after it came out, because I really wanted to start watching it. And I sent Mom and Dad my email and password, just like, "Hey, you can have four screens, port four profiles."

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** "And I only have one, so here's my login if you all wanna get it on the Apple TV."

**Sydnee:** Disney's gonna getcha now that you just admitted this, but go ahead.

**Taylor:** Oh, no!

**Raleigh:** Shhh. It's my family. Disney's all about family.

**Sydnee:** Disney's gonna get [crosstalk]—

**Taylor:** They're listening. No, they're—no.

**Sydnee:** They're listening.

**Raleigh:** They're always listening.

**Taylor:** They're all about that family *money*.

**Sydnee:** [quietly] You're doomed.

**Raleigh:** Um, but they, uh—

**Taylor:** Sorry, Mr. Mouse.

**Rileigh:** —Dad just—[holding back laughter] Da—I'm sorry, Mickey. Um, Dad just responded with a TY. Like a cool abbreviation for "Thanks," "Thank you."

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh?

**Rileigh:** And Mom said, "Oh, cool! Can we see our reservations and ride plans and trips on there?"

**Sydnee:** To Disney? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** And I said, "Do you think this is about our upcoming trip to Disney?" And she said, "Yes, is this your login to see our Fast Passes and lunch and dinner reservations?"

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** [holding back laughter] And I said, "This is a streaming service for all things Disney."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "[through laughter] This has nothing to do with Disney World!"

And Dad just said, "K." [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** He's just—

**Sydnee:** This is Dad's way of saying, "I don't understand any of the words that I can barely read on my phone screen. I'll just say "K."

**Rileigh:** "K." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Mary will explain it to me later."

**Rileigh:** And then I did go home later that day and try to explain it to them again, and that was when Dad finally went, "Ohhh."

**Sydnee:** "Ohhh."

**Rileigh:** [laughs] "Okay."

**Sydnee:** Uh, so... there's another thing on the internet that I don't know—I don't understand about, but you told me you would explain to me in this episode.

**Rileigh:** Yes, and I am obsessed with it and I love it and I've spent probably a full 24 hours in the past 48 hours watching... TikToks. TikTok.

**Sydnee:** Now, I feel like—

**Rileigh:** Is what I'm talking about.

**Sydnee:** —no—this—no shade, but, like, I feel like you're not exactly, like, on the cutting edge of this one.

**Taylor:** No.

**Rileigh:** I'm not.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** I'm definitely not. I will—it's weird for me, because I think TikTok is the first, like, big deal thing on the internet that has not been initiated by my age gener—like, my age group, within my generation.

**Taylor:** Oh no.

**Rileigh:** Like, it's definitely, like, the—the ones below us. The—

**Sydnee:** It's younger?

**Rileigh:** It's younger. Like the ones that are, like, going through high school now, like the ninth and tenth graders. The—the new teens. The fresh teens.

**Sydnee:** New teens.

**Raleigh:** The new teens. This is like—this is their thing that they started.

**Sydnee:** Hmm.

**Raleigh:** And I'm old getting in on it, and it feels weird.

**Taylor:** See, that—

**Sydnee:** I felt that way with Facebook.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Syd, no. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's sayin'—that's sayin' something.

**Sydnee:** It's true!

**Taylor:** Syd, we got Facebook in college.

**Raleigh:** You know that "age yourself" thing we talked about last time? [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I got Facebook in medical school.

**Taylor:** Okay. Well...

**Sydnee:** And I had to have it, like, explained to me by younger medical students. Like, ones who were in their earlier years than me.

**Taylor:** You just chose to get old fast. I think the first that made me feel that was—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —sorry.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Or maybe I've been an adult baby longer. I'll take either way. Maybe both! Maybe both. Uh—

**Raleigh:** Por que no dos?

**Taylor:** But, you know. Uh, 'cause Snapchat was the first one for me that I was like, I just can't. I can't get on—that's it. That's where I stop being cool.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Well, everyone equates—

**Sydnee:** I'm a Luddite now.

**Taylor:** [laughs] I'm—I'm going to go live among the grass and throw away all of my technology.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I've seen TikTok equated a lot to the new Vine.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um, and Vine was very much my generation, my age. Like, when Vine was becoming popular, I, like, tried to make 'em with my friends, and we would, you know, try to go viral. We never did, but we'd sit there together and, like, try to recreate them or show each other the funniest ones.

That was definitely my generation thing. But then Vine died, and we all mourned its loss, and all just made compilations of Vines on YouTube to go back and watch again.

**Sydnee:** Why did Vine die? Do you know?

**Raleigh:** They... ran out of money, right?



**Sydnee:** But, like, why does TikTok live and Vine does not?

**Rleigh:** Well, I don't know. I will be—I will say, though, Vine was around for a while. So, like, Vine had some life, there. I don't know how long TikTok has been around.

**Sydnee:** It seems weird—like, I guess—and this probably just reflects my lack of understanding about, like, the financial side of this stuff, the business side of it. But, like, obviously people wanted something that had a bunch of very short videos.

**Rleigh:** [simultaneously] Short videos, mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That, you know, you could up—anybody could upload, and you could scan through and look at. Obviously that was desired, because TikTok is popular.

**Rleigh:** If I were taking an educated guess, part of it is that around the same time, Instagram started letting you upload videos, because for a long time, Instagram was just pictures. Then Instagram started letting you upload videos, so people could put videos on Instagram, which had more people on it than Vine.

**Sydnee:** Is that—that's what your story is, right?

**Rleigh:** Well, you also can just post videos, like, on your feed.

**Sydnee:** Ohh, okay. That's not your story.

**Rleigh:** That's not your story. You can post pictures on your story. Your story is the Snapchat thing that they stole from Snapchat, that goes away after 24 hours.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Rleigh:** That's your story.

**Sydnee:** That's your story. Facebook has a story, too.

**Rleigh:** Facebook also has a story. This all came from Snapchat.

**Sydnee:** Ah.

**Raleigh:** There's a big—a big dichotomy, here.

**Sydnee:** I didn't know—I was trying to—I found an article that I thought was relevant about, um... immigration—

**Raleigh:** [holding back laughter] Uh-huh?

**Sydnee:** —that I wanted to share on Facebook with people, the way you do. And it kept trying to make me put it in a story, and I kept trying to tell Facebook, "I don't wanna put this in a story. I just wanna—"

**Raleigh:** She wants a regleeur post.

**Sydnee:** "I just wanna post this article about immigration so that other people that I'm friends with on Facebook can also look at it and be outraged," and I couldn't—like, it just wouldn't let me do it. It kept trying to put it in a story, and I don't have any stories.

**Taylor:** Okay, 'cause you—so you didn't publish, like, five stories by accident that was just a link to an article?

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** That's... that's some boomer stuff, Syd!

**Raleigh:** That is some boomer stuff.

**Sydnee:** Did you see Dad—I know this is not about TikTok, but this is about Facebook. Our—our—I love you, Dad, if you're listening. Dad took this challenge—

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** —on Facebook about, like, shows you've been in for, like, theater people, to post, like, a picture each day about a show that you were in or a part you did that was meaningful. And every day—

**Raleigh:** [muffled laughter]

**Sydnee:** —he puts up two Facebook posts. The first is a copy and paste of, like, the challenge—

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] Of the challenge.

**Sydnee:** —in it's own post—

**Raleigh:** With no caption.

**Sydnee:** —with no caption, with no nothing. And then the second is the picture that he's posting, with n—with no explanation. [through laughter] They're two separate posts!

**Raleigh:** The best thing—the best part of this whole story, though—

**Sydnee:** Every day for ten days!

**Raleigh:** —is our Dad has had Facebook now for probably, what, two years?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** And he discovered right before doing this challenge that the whole time he has had Facebook, [holding back laughter] his privacy settings have made it so no one can see his posts on Facebook except for Mom! [through laughter] So he's been posting stuff on Facebook for two years, and no one's been able to see it except for Mom! He was always like, "I wondered why I didn't get any likes or comments!"

**Taylor:** Well...

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I felt so bad for him! He really—he's just been direct messaging Mom—

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] On his Facebook feed.

**Sydnee:** —on Facebook.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** On his feed! I don't—

**Raleigh:** God, it's the best thing, and I love it.

**Sydnee:** Poor guy.

**Raleigh:** I love it so much.

**Taylor:** At least he has it figured out now.

**Raleigh:** [snorts] He does. I guess Mom fixed it—

**Sydnee:** Yeah, Mom fixed it for him.

**Raleigh:** —'cause there's no way he figured that out himself.

**Sydnee:** No. He—he fixed it, and then I... and then I—[laughs quietly] I liked his posts. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Yeah, make sure to like them now. 'Cause he got—he was real upset about that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I just wanna know why Facebook thinks it needs to tell me every time somebody updates their story.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** 'Cause boy, if Instagram did that, that would suck. But Facebook is like, "Hey, remember this person that you went to the seventh grade with? Well, they've added to their story."

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "Oh, thank you. [laughs quietly] I don't need to know that."

**Raleigh:** "I do not—I do not care."

**Sydnee:** I—I don't know that I've ever seen that on Facebook, which makes me think I'm so old that none of the people I'm friends with do stories on Facebook.

**Taylor:** Maybe so.

**Sydnee:** Is that possible.

**Raleigh:** Maybe?

**Sydnee:** I'm friends with some pretty cool people. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Alright. Well...

**Taylor:** Eh...

**Raleigh:** Um... TikTok. So, I think that Vine went away because Instagram started making videos, and also people on Vine were making a ton of money off of Vine. The most popular people on Vine were making so much money.

**Sydnee:** How? Help me here.

**Raleigh:** Ads. Sponsored posts.

**Sydnee:** Okay, so their ads?

**Raleigh:** They would do sponsored Vines that would advertise for a—like, have you—

**Sydnee:** They were, like, six seconds or eight seconds long or something, right?

**Raleigh:** Yeah. You know—

**Sydnee:** How long were they?

**Raleigh:** Six seconds.

**Sydnee:** Six seconds.

**Raleigh:** You know Liza Koshy?

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** Cohost of *Double Dare*.

**Sydnee:** Ah! Yes.

**Raleigh:** YouTube star.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** She started on Vine, was very, very popular on Vine. Vine died, moved to YouTube, was immediately popular on YouTube because she was already popular on Vine.

**Sydnee:** But how do you... how do you do an ad for something in six seconds?

**Raleigh:** You gotta be creative. That's why they made so much money! 'Cause it's like an ad that people are... they're not forced to watch it, but it's so quick that if they're scrolling on Liza Koshy's feed and it's one of her six second videos, like, it's right there. You watch the whole thing.

Usually it was some short video about the product, and then in the caption it was like, "This is the new... blah blah blah blah blah. Flavor of M&Ms."

**Taylor:** Just...

**Raleigh:** Tagging M&Ms.

**Taylor:** ... just for the—for the—fa—the facts right, because I know people will be quick to let us know. Uh, it is other competing services, but also Vine was owned by Twitter, and so Twitter was just kind of like—

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Taylor:** —"Why don't you just be on Twitter?" So they left. For a while you could post through Vine directly to Twitter, and then they ultimately just discontinued it, for reasons like you said.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Taylor:** They were—everybody was leaving for competing platforms, and also it was under Twitter's umbrella, so.

**Raleigh:** Okay. I did not know that.

**Sydnee:** That's interesting. No, I didn't know any of that. I didn't—I also didn't know that they did ads on—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —that you did ads on there. I mean, I feel like in six seconds the best you could do is like, hold up a Diet Dr. Pepper and smile.

[pauses]

**Raleigh:** You can do a lot more with six seconds if you're a professional Viner.

**Sydnee:** Which would only be a good ad if it was supposed to be an ad for Diet Dr. Pepper. [laughs quietly] If it was supposed to be an ad for M&Ms, that would be a *terrible* ad.

**Raleigh:** Well, yeah! [through laughter] That *would* be terrible!

**Taylor:** Wow, Syd. You gotta—you gotta keen eye for advertising there, kid!  
[laughs]

**Raleigh:** Really—really puttin' it together, there!

**Sydnee:** I'm really—I'm really a *mad* man, aren't I?

**Taylor:** Oh no!

**Raleigh:** Oh...

**Sydnee:** You know.

**Raleigh:** Oh.

**Sydnee:** Like the show!

**Raleigh:** Like the show, mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like the show. 'Cause, like, the...

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Taylor:** No, we—no, we—yeah, we [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** Mad—with the—

**Raleigh:** Mad Men, yep. You're gonna keep going.

**Sydnee:** —Madison Avenue.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Ads, also, and...

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** [quietly] John Hamm.

**Raleigh:** You got it. Are you—are you good?

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] I'm good.

**Raleigh:** Did you piece it together? Okay.

**Sydnee:** Boy, that was a great show, huh?

**Raleigh:** [through laughter] Yeah, okay. Um... but I have only been aware of TikTok for the past *maybe*... less than a year. Like, nine or ten months? I don't know if it's been around longer than that. I will look to see how long it's been around, but...

**Sydnee:** I became aware of it a few months ago when Justin made me watch a string of videos of people's jobs.

**Raleigh:** Uh-huh?



**Sydnee:** Like, people showing their workplace. Like, a lot of, like, factory kind of industrial kind of things were in there?

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. He showed me a string of them and I went, "Why are people... what is the thing, now? What am I looking at?"

And then he—he shook his head in that way that says, "[sighs] You never know what's going on."

And so I didn't—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [through laughter] I didn't—I don't know.

**Taylor:** That's not much—I was introduced to it via cosplay, and I would see other cosplayers posting TikToks and be like, "Oh, I'm too old for that."

Then I was with a group, like, in a cosplay group and they wanted to make TikTok videos, and I felt like I didn't get a choice in this, so it doesn't count. [laughs] Like... there were bi—there are some TikTok videos out there that I have begrudgingly appeared in, but I'll never give you information on how to find them.

**Sydnee:** So it's just your story, then. It's the same thing?

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Taylor:** No. I mean, you make a little video and it's got music and you can—I don't know. You can, like, record it one second at a time so you can do, like, jump around stuff as far as, like...

**Sydnee:** Oh, that's how those people, like, make themselves be still but then, like, walk out of their bodies.

**Raleigh:** There are a lot of, like, effects and filters on TikTok to, like, distort the image or, like, add a certain filter on your video. Like the ghost thing where you

can pause in one place and then it'll be, like, a shadow—or, like, a picture of you still there, but then move. There are a lot of things like that on TikTok.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. So it looks like you're leaving your body. I've seen those.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, to—to, uh... to make your videos look cooler. But—

**Sydnee:** Is there a length limit?

**Raleigh:** A minute, I think? 60 seconds is the longest? Um, but it's all videos. And the big thing about TikTok is every video has, like, a sound in it. Obviously, like, your sound, which is either what you're recording directly through your phone, or you can pick a sound that's on TikTok that's, like, a song that's popular on TikTok, a soundbite.

There are some from, like, *The Adventure Zone* on TikTok where it's just, like, a minute long, like, bit of their conversation that people wanna, like, lip sync to or make a little funny bit out of.

And you can share these sounds, and then make your videos out of other people's sounds, if that makes sense. Like, if I see a funny video on TikTok, I can take the sound from the video and make my own.

So I can, like, do the same dance that someone is doing, because it's to the same bit of the music, or I can lip sync to the same scene from a movie or TV show or whatever.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And it's to the same music. So that's one of the bigger things is, like, you share all the sounds. Um, and they're all a minute, and they're all videos. And it's still got likes and comments, follows—

**Sydnee:** [uncertainly] Do you make friends on there?

**Taylor:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, you can follow people and have friends.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** There are direct messages.

**Taylor:** You can have friends anywhere, Syd!

**Raleigh:** You can have friends anywhere you want, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** I just—I'm trying to under—[laughs quietly] you know, like—

**Taylor:** "[mockingly] Can you make friends there?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I'm just trying to figure out how to make some friends.

**Raleigh:** I...

**Sydnee:** Is this a place I can make friends?

**Taylor:** "Go to the other apps where—how bout this one?" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I tell ya, it's not a—it's—you know, Facebook these days—it's just like, uh... I don't know, man. It's just... I feel like I don't really belong there.

**Taylor:** Is there, like, a—like, a Me and My—Me and My Baby app? Where you can just, like, meet up with other parents that just, like—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —your kids can hang out and play and then, like, you can also make sure that you and the parents are gonna be friends too. Like, that'd be a—I bet that's out there.

**Sydnee:** It need—there needs to be a matchmaking service like that, to match you with other parents so—like, our kids are approximately the same age and might wanna play together, and also, like... are you... are you cool? [laughs quietly]

I don't mean cool like *cool*, 'cause I'm not *cool*. You know what I mean.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Like...

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** You know? 'Cause you just never know. That's a tricky thing 'cause, like, what if they show up in a MAGA hat and then you're like, "Aw, man."

**Taylor:** Oh no. There's gotta be, like, a set—like, a compatibility ranking for both you and the baby. Like, "Oh, man, this—this, uh—this baby looks great, but this parent sucks. Sorry. Not—not playin' with you." [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah. "This just isn't gonna work. I'm sorry. It's not you, it's me. Well... it's you, but I'm gonna say it's me, 'cause that's the nicer thing?"

**Taylor:** But at least it's not your baby, right? That'd be upsetting.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's not your baby. It's you.

**Taylor:** Your baby is fine. You'll probably make it suck, but it's fine right now.

**Sydnee:** Or maybe it'll rebel and turn out awesome, in which case, like, it can come hang out with me.

**Raleigh:** I was gonna say, it can come live with me.

**Sydnee:** And my kid. Uh, so TikTok does not have that service, I—I—

**Raleigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** You can follow people and have people follow you, though.

**Sydnee:** Uh, wh—

**Raleigh:** Much like Twitter and Instagram.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** So...

**Raleigh:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** Now, are people doing ads on *it*?

**Raleigh:** Yes. [pauses] Yes. There is both ads by companies that will make, like, a TikTok to—to promote their product, and also sponsored TikToks.

**Sydnee:** I bet those are cool.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, they're *so* cool.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** They're the coolest, because you don't have to watch them. You can just scroll right past 'em. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I gotta get on there and go check out, like, the Subaru TikTok.

**Taylor:** Well, Instagram does that too.

**Sydnee:** Right up my alley.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Instagram does do that too.

**Sydnee:** Oh, do they?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like, the forest videos. Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Like, companies... yeah. Companies'll have just... videos on Instagram, pictures, sponsor their clothes or whatever.

**Sydnee:** I guess that makes sense.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I guess I just don't look at Instagram enough to know that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I really just look for your all's pictures and like them.

**Raleigh:** That's what I was gonna say. I feel like you just get on there to look for, like, the three people that you know in real life and like their pictures and then... that's it.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I—I mean, that's—[laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's it. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's it. I don't ever have—I mean, like—the only thing I take pictures of are my children, and I'm not gonna put them on the internet, so... now what?

**Raleigh:** Why don't you put pictures of me or Teylor on the internet?

**Sydnee:** Well...

**Raleigh:** Or yourself?

**Sydnee:** Do you want me to take a picture of you right now and put it on the internet?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Teylor:** [quietly] I don't—

**Raleigh:** [laughs loudly] She's doing it.

**Sydnee:** Hold on. I gotta open this.

**Rileigh:** Are you really gonna post on Instagram?

**Sydnee:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] Why are you posting on Instagram? You never post on Instagram.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause that's where the kids are.

**Taylor:** Well now I feel left out!

**Rileigh:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** [singing] Where the kids are...

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] So you're—you're gonna finally—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] You have to take—you can post two pictures at once, Sydnee.

**Sydnee:** I can post two pictures at the same time?

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I feel like it—

**Rileigh:** [laughs] This is a—this is great audio content for our listeners right now, as Sydnee is taking an Instagram to post of us.

**Taylor:** I mean, you're in—you're gonna have to show her how to do that, but don't do it now, 'cause that's gonna be a sec.

**Rileigh:** No, I w—that would be miserable.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, I don't how to—I don't know when the last time I posted a *single* picture on Instagram was, in all honesty.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] I don't think— it's been a very long time.

**Raleigh:** [laughs] I think it was maybe the last time we recorded together at the beach?

**Sydnee:** Have you—

**Raleigh:** Two years ago.

**Sydnee:** —have you unfollowed me?

**Raleigh:** I still follow you.

**Sydnee:** Because I don't post? [pauses] Okay. I've got those pictures now.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] I don't think anybody unfollows somebody 'cause they don't post.

I think you unfollow people 'cause they post a *whole, whole lot*. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** *Exactly.*

**Sydnee:** Hmm!

**Raleigh:** Yes. [laughs]

**Taylor:** You know, that's like—that's like somebody—"Oh, you leave this conversation, you haven't said anything." Like, that's not how it works. It's like, "Oh, you're shouting in the corner nonstop! You have to go!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** "That is—that is the third picture of a bowl of cereal this week! Leave!"

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I never unfollow people on anything for that kind of thing. It's usually just, like, "Ohh, I don't need that."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "I don't need those opinions in my life, and I don't wanna unfriend, you, 'cause that seems mean. I'll just unfollow so that I don't have to know you said it."



**Rileigh:** That's the nice thing about Instagram. It's a lot rarer that you find those kinds of posts.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah?

**Rileigh:** Um... so, TikTok, I have found, there are a few things that are very popular.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** One is just... uh, attractive young people lip syncing very casually to songs. And smiling.

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] Okay?

**Rileigh:** That's—

**Sydnee:** And smiling?

**Rileigh:** —and smiling while they—

**Sydnee:** The smiling is a key part?

**Rileigh:** —they smile and they—they lip sync, and it's not like they're actually, like, full-on lip syncing. It's just very, like, low key.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Rileigh:** And that's it.

**Sydnee:** This is just a real low key. lip sync I'm doing right now.

**Rileigh:** It's a low key. lip sync. Yes.

**Taylor:** How is that popular? I mean, I understand that attractive people are popular, but—

**Rileigh:** It—that's it. [laughs]

**Taylor:** Oh—it's just that? Okay.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um—

**Taylor:** [through laughter] You know, I used to just, like, look at hot people on the internet, but now I can watch hot people move their mouth on the internet! Is that—

**Rileigh:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** I don't—

**Rileigh:** And most of them are either my age or younger than me, probably.

**Taylor:** Oh, no. No.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Um—

**Sydnee:** This does not seem like a world in which I belong.

**Taylor:** No!

**Rileigh:** [laughs] No. Um, also popular, dancing.

**Taylor:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** Which I actually do enjoy, because you can, like, pick a little clip of a song, make up a fun little fast dance to it—it's only, like, 30, 45 seconds. Um, and then people start, like, recreating the same dance.

**Sydnee:** Why?

**Rileigh:** It's like a little—like, a mini challenge?

**Taylor:** Because this is how we bond in our world today.

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] It's a challenge?

**Rileigh:** Kind of? Yeah.

**Taylor:** I jumped around with my hands in my pants. Now *you* jump around with your hands in your pants!

**Rileigh:** [laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** Ohh, that's how you make friends!

**Rileigh:** I'm gonna—I'm gonna take that audio clip of you saying that and I'm gonna make a TikTok out of it.

**Taylor:** [laughing]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** Yes. [laughs] I'll get my roommate to do it with me. [through laughter] I jump around with my hands in my pants! Now *you* jump around with your hands in your pants!

**Taylor:** Hands in your pants! Hands in my pants! Hands in your pants!

**Sydnee:** But, like, I—what is—

**Rileigh:** [through laughter] It's gonna be such a good TikTok.

**Sydnee:** —what does it lead to? Does it lead to, like, meaningful bonding? On a—

**Rileigh:** Views.

**Sydnee:** —of humanity?

**Rileigh:** Views.

**Sydnee:** Well, what do the views lead to? I mean—

**Rileigh:** TikTok fame.

**Sydnee:** —'cause they don't lead to money unless there's ads, right?

**Rileigh:** [loudly] TikTok fame!

**Sydnee:** That's the only way you make money, is that right?

**Rileigh:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Rileigh:** Um, no. It's TikTok popularity.

**Taylor:** I—I like how you were hoping for some world peace there at the end, though, Syd. That was...

**Rileigh:** Nope.

**Taylor:** One of these apps will figure it out.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Well, I'm not bankin' on Facebook, let me just tell you that. And Twitter is... [sighs] Twitter.

**Rileigh:** Oh, Twitter.

**Taylor:** Oh...

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I—you should hear—sometimes I'll try to describe some of this stuff—you think I'm out of touch? Try to describe this stuff to a room full of doctors.

**Rileigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Every once in a while I'll mention some of these things to a room full of my colleagues, and they look at me like this is a—I'm from another planet.

And I was sayin', like, "Man, there's this one person on Twitter who just, like—I don't even know why they follow me! They just follow me so they can say mean things to me. And it's just like—man, every time! Why you gotta say mean things to me? Like, what's the deal?"

And they were like, "How did they—how do they do that? How did they—"

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] "How did they find you?"

**Sydnee:** "Why? Well—but what does it look like? How does that... *why?* Do they know you? Have you tried to talk to them?"

**Taylor:** "Have you asked them to stop?"

**Sydnee:** Like, no!

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Have you said, "Please stop."

**Taylor:** There's no logic in Twitter.

**Sydnee:** No. It's like, I don't... I was like, "I don't know! Just trolls, you know?" And they're like, "What?"

**Taylor:** I won't—

**Sydnee:** Like, "I—"

**Taylor:** —I won't give them a name, but I think—I've noticed this one person that likes to say mean things to you that also says mean things to me, so I wonder if it's the same—I think it's the same person.

**Sydnee:** I think it is!

**Raleigh:** Probably me too. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, and, like, usually—usually when that happens it's not somebody who follows you. It's, like, you—you tweeted about something that was, like, political, or that—

**Taylor:** You used, like, a hashtag, or—

**Sydnee:** —you know, people have a lot of opinions on. Exactly, and so, like, you expect that some people are just gonna come at you or, like, bots are gonna get you or whatever. But, like, somebody that, like, follows you that just wants to see the things you say so they can, like... it's a hate follow I guess, right?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Like, that's what that is?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I don't think—I mean, maybe this is just me, but it makes me feel *extremely* powerful that someone devotes effort of their day to, like... to—to post stupid stuff on anything that I post. It's like, "Wow, I matter so much to you! Thank you!" [laughs] "You mean nothing to me, and yet I matter so much to you! Thank you!" Makes me feel good.

**Sydnee:** It's—I know what you mean. Yeah, I mean, it doesn't, like—I ponder it occasionally. I can't say that it, like, really gets me too far down. Um, it is confusing. It is confusing to me. Sometimes it's a little scary, but—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —uh, I just don't—I don't do that. Like, if there's somebody out there sayin' stuff that I find really abhorrent, I don't—I just—I mean...

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Like, I know those people exist. I'm not sticking my head in the sand. I'm not naive. I just don't wanna, like—I don't wanna let it into my every moment of every day, you know?

**Taylor:** Well yeah. I don't think my tweet is gonna change anybody's awful opinion, so I just keep my tweets to myself. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Right. And I'm not gonna follow you, and I'm just gonna kind of like, "I'mma look—I'mma look elsewhere. I'mma look in a different direction."

**Raleigh:** So, I hear what you all are saying, and here's where I think TikTok comes in.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** [snorts] Hear me out.

**Taylor:** This is the pitch, okay.

**Raleigh:** This is the pitch for TikTok, and why it's my new favorite social media platform, and why my new goal in life has nothing to do with academics or law school or anything but TikTok, and—

**Taylor:** Ooh, wait—wait a second—

**Raleigh:** —being TikTok famous. Yes.

**Taylor:** You got a lot of majors going on. Is one of the TikTok now?

**Raleigh:** One of them is now TikTok. I am a quadruple major.

**Sydney:** [warily] Uh-huh, okay.

**Raleigh:** In political science, creative writing, literary studies, and TikTok... studies. Um...

**Sydney:** Don't tell our parents this.

**Raleigh:** They'll listen.

**Taylor:** They won't know what any of those words mean, so you're fine.

**Raleigh:** It's okay. I'll just keep the other three, and then it's fine. Um... no. Okay, so when you're scrolling through your TikTok feed, you can see on the little side in the corner the number of likes and the number of comments something has, but the comments aren't right there underneath of it. You have to actively go seek out the comments—

**Taylor:** Oh, that's nice.

**Raleigh:** —to be able to see the comments on a TikTok.

**Taylor:** That's nice.

**Sydney:** Oh, that is nice, yeah.

**Rileigh:** And, like, on your feed you're not also—you're not seeing the person's profile that it's on. It's, like, you can look at the For You page, which is like a personalized, like, explore page, almost. Like, here's a bunch of popular TikToks right now that we think you'll like. That's pretty much what I scroll through.

Um, and it's just like you're just scrolling through the videos, so you're not looking at someone's, like, profile. You're not looking at anything other than the video, and the number of likes is there in the corner, but you have to go look for the comments, and I think that's nice, because from what I found, at least, my experience on TikTok has just been, "Here's a bunch of people doing similar challenges and dances, and lip syncing to the same songs."

And it's all kind of enjoyable, and I haven't seen anything negative. I haven't seen people being mean to each other.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** There's this feature called a duet where you can take someone else's TikTok and make one right next to them, so theirs is in the screen with you. So you can, like, either do a reaction to them or, like, join in on them or something they're doing. Like, do some cool, like, screen effects of two people on the screen next to each other.

So, like you can join with people and bond over the internet.

**Sydnee:** Hmm!

**Rileigh:** Make duets and use the same sounds and learn dances and—

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Taylor:** People aren't mean to each other on those, are they? I feel like that could be an invitation for that.

**Rileigh:** No! I mean... well, I'm sure that that has existed, but the only two feeds you can look at on TikTok are either people you follow—you can search for people specifically, or you can look at the For You page and, like, the popular trending hashtags.



**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** So, like, if you're just a random person out there making TikToks that—you don't have any followers and no one is—you're not following anyone, like, no one's gonna see your TikToks. Pretty much people only see them if, like, you're hashtagging them like crazy and people follow you and people like what you're making, or if you search someone out specifically, to look for them.

**Sydnee:** So, like, you can tell your friends. Like, "I'm on TikTok. Follow me."

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Like, I have made a few TikToks with my friends and they have, like, 20 views, because the only people I've sent the link to are my friends. And they are out there on TikTok, they are not private.

Now people will find them, I assume, that I've mentioned them on this podcast, but, like, no one else has just randomly found them except for some bots [holding back laughter] that—that will scroll videos and just comment, like, "Great work! Love this!" But they're all just robots on TikTok.

**Taylor:** Aww!

**Sydnee:** Aww!

**Raleigh:** Like, "Wow, this is my favorite video!"

**Taylor:** I like—

**Sydnee:** But positive robots?

**Raleigh:** But they're positive! The only comments I have on my TikToks—

**Sydnee:** Who built those bots?

**Raleigh:** —are—

**Sydnee:** Where do those bots—I love this. Where do these bots come from?

**Raleigh:** Someone said, "This is awesome XD" and someone said, "My 'favritie' video ever!" They're both bots. They're both fake.

**Taylor:** I know that it's, like, a little computer programmy thing, but what I wanna believe it's like WALL-E out there. Like, "[beeps] [cute robot voice] I love this!"

[through laughter] Like—just, like, a cute little robot that's like, "[cute robot voice] Oh, I really enjoy TikTok these days. Beep boop!"

**Sydnee:** "[cute robot/Stitch voice] Thank you, humans, for making these videos!"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That would be great! I like—I like the idea of positive bots.

**Raleigh:** Yeah! Like—

**Sydnee:** This is the first time, like—all of a sudden—I've always seen—you hear the word "bots" and you're like, "Bots..."

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And then you—I hear that and I'm like, "Aww!"

**Taylor:** I wish I had bot programming skills just so I could use them for good. Like, just make a bot that finds people's, like, profile pictures and says "Wow, you look great!" [through laughter] Like, just a—

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "Cool shirt!"

**Taylor:** "Nice hair today!"

**Raleigh:** [clears throat] Um... and again, like, I'm sure—I don't want people, like, coming at me on Twitter and saying, like, "Oh, well I had this bad experience on TikTok." And, like, you know, that's not—TikTok's not a great, positive place. There are bad experiences on all places of the internet.

**Sydnee:** All social media can be used for evil.

**Rileigh:** All social media is used for evil in some way.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And used to make people feel bad in some way. I am just saying, in my experience and everyone I know that has TikTok and has posted TikToks, it's very, like... unless your TikTok blows up and goes super viral, the people that see it are the people that you know that follow you, and most of the time the people that follow you are people that you know in real life, unless, again, like, something blows up, you go viral or whatever.

**Sydnee:** The—well, and I mean, I think the premise of this is we're comparing it to other social media platforms.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** It's not in compared to the idea of no social media.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Which is—there is a compelling case to be made for that.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** I—I—

**Rileigh:** I am arguing—yeah.

**Sydnee:** —I am not particularly—like, that is not the road I wanna go down.

**Rileigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Like, I still like to engage with social media to some extent, but that's cool if you don't, also.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Yes. I am arguing for—yes. TikTok over other social medias, not TikTok as opposed to no social media. I'm not saying it is better than no social media. Um... But I like it better than Instagram and Twitter, honestly,

because it's just like... you could scroll through for hours and find just a few good TikToks that just make you laugh so hard!

And then you send them to all your friends, then you all bond and you laugh over together. Or you find one that's funny and you want to recreate it with your friends, like the ones where you stick your legs and your arms through the arm holes of your hoodie.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And you pull it down over your whole body and then you walk around like a little crab person with the hood pulled over your head, and then you knock your friends over and make 'em roll around, like, on their backs like a turtle, 'cause they can't get up. It's very fun.

**Sydnee:** Did the bots like that?

**Raleigh:** The bots did like that. That was the TikTok I made. That was my first TikTok, and it got all the comments from the bots that said it was their 'favritie' video ever.

**Taylor:** Robots just love those little human crab people.

**Raleigh:** They do!

**Sydnee:** I'm so glad to hear that there are some nice robots out there.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** But I—I get what you're saying, though, 'cause it does seem like... like, as you kind of move down from, like, Facebook, which is like people can post paragraphs and articles and rants and then you have to just see it all out there, everybody's responses. Twitter, you know, you can see a tweet, then you gotta click on it to see the comments. Instagram, it's a little bit more like, "Here's an art thing, or something cool! But oh, don't go into the comments!"

It's, like, kind of removing that, like... I just wanna... post a cool thing. Like, where is that? Where is that? Where it's just, like, let's make each other laugh, and you can't go on rants, I'm guessing, politically, on TikTok. Like... people might, but—

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Like—yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm sure people do, but yeah. But you know, it's funny. Like, what it's getting to is the idea that, like... can you imagine how nice it would be to have a social media platform that had no comments?

**Taylor:** [through laughter] It's true!

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Like, they always say, like, that's the cardinal rule of the internet. Don't read the comments.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** What if we just didn't have 'em? Like—

**Raleigh:** And, like—yeah.

**Sydnee:** —think how much better we'd all—like, how nourishing that would be for our souls if there were no comments to read? [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And they exist on TikTok, but again, they're not—it's not an Instagram or Facebook or Twitter where they're right there below your original post, where anyone scrolling by just is immediately inundated with the same comments. Like, you have to go look for them, and then scroll through them. And, um... this is my—this is my theory. This is what I'm gonna write my capstone about—[snorts] my senior year.

Um, when you look at social media, as you move through, like, the ones that are associated with various generations—like, you've got Facebook, the boomers' place to be. Right? Like, it is.

**Sydnee:** Right, right.

**Raleigh:** Then you've got Twitter, which is newer, but not—boomers don't totally get it, but it's still got a pretty healthy mix of, like, Gen X and Millennials and Gen Z. Moving on to Instagram, it's more Millennial and Gen Z. Then you got TikTok, that is almost entirely Gen Z.

My theory is social media gets nicer the younger generation you get associated with it, because when you've got a social media like TikTok that is being run and owned—not owned literally but, like, owned in terms of who's popular and the ideas that are popular—by people in Gen Z as opposed to Facebook, which is, like, filled with boomers ranting about politics, it's so much nicer to be on TikTok!

**Taylor:** I also like that it becomes more and more kind of irreverent as it goes down, too. [laughs] Like—

**Raleigh:** It does!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** It does! Like, we've gotten rid of words.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** You—you went from words to emojis to now it's just crab walking. I don't know. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yes!

**Sydnee:** And lip syncing.

**Raleigh:** Yeah! It was all words on Facebook, and then Twitter was like, "Okay, less words." And then Instagram said, "Pictures with *some* words." And TikTok said, "Just videos."

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Raleigh:** "No words. And words that aren't even your own! Words that you're lip syncing from someone else!" [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I—I like this. I like this progression. It's very nice. I feel very, like, on the outside of it. It's hard.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I think it's that weird generation that I always feel like I fit into where, like, I don't... I don't know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I feel like I gaze upon all the social media with wonder.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But I don't really feel a part of any of it. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [singing] Wish I could be...

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [singing] ... part of your world.

**Taylor:** Except for no! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Except I don't.

**Taylor:** When you're gazing into most social media it's just like, "Oh. Everything's on fire!" [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] No, I—yeah, I mean, like, the app on my phone I guess I feel most connected to is, like, my... my Minesweeper. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [loudly] *God*, you're so *old*! [pauses] Oh my gosh!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** That's like Dad with his one app that he regularly frequents, which is Solitaire.

**Sydnee:** He does play Solitaire.

**Raleigh:** He does! He'll just sit there with one finger and his eyes real close to the phone playing Solitaire.

**Sydnee:** Mom plays some sort of word game.

**Rileigh:** Yes. She does. That's the best is when she's trying to find the words, and we were on an airplane, and Dad was in the row behind us, and she was asking me for help [through laughter] and I just see his head stick up between the seats and whisper a word and then sink back into his seat. Bonding.

**Sydnee:** Thank you for explaining TikTok.

**Rileigh:** Please go check out some great TikToks. I will continue sharing them with you all, my favorites.

**Sydnee:** So I should get the app, you think?

**Rileigh:** I think. I love a good TikTok. There are lots of good animal ones. There are some good art ones, actually, where you can watch people, like, draw and do little quick clips of their progressions and everything. Like, face paint ones.

**Sydnee:** I do like those Tasty videos.

**Rileigh:** There are ones like that that have, like, cooking.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, that's what I figured, there must be ones like that.

**Rileigh:** There are craft ones. There are DIY ones. There are cooking ones that have recipes. Like, all—literally all the things that are popular video genres, along with, like, weird... niche dances and lip syncing. It's great.

**Taylor:** Syd, I think you should not only download, I think you should make a few videos. I just wanna see what that—I wanna see what that comes out with.

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] I think you should! I want you and Justin—I want you and Justin to make TikToks.

**Taylor:** You—you love songs! Just lip sync to some—I don't know, some stuff that you find on there, yeah.

**Sydnee:** Some *Grease 2*.



**Raleigh:** Some... *Once More With Feeling*.

**Sydnee:** There we go.

**Raleigh:** Um... I like the ones that kids do with their parents. Like, teens bringing their parents in to do the dance with them.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** While I'm home for Thanksgiving I've been thinking about making Mom and Dad make some with me.

**Sydnee:** There you go.

**Raleigh:** You know they would.

**Sydnee:** They would.

**Raleigh:** But yes, I am on TikTok. It is just my name. I only have two on there, but just wait.

**Sydnee:** This was the—*this* is why you wanted to talk about TikTok!

**Taylor:** This was a whole advertisement for your TikTok!

**Raleigh:** Ha ha!

**Taylor:** Oh!

**Raleigh:** No...

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh. I see how it is.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. Um, I do wanna advertise Candlenights Stars, though, as we near the end of this program.

**Sydnee:** Yes, please do.

**Raleigh:** Um, we are nearing Candlenights. It is only, what? Like, three weeks away now, at this point? Something like that? Three or four?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um, please—

**Sydnee:** 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Raleigh:** —please go check out—so yeah, like exactly four weeks almost.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, 21<sup>st</sup> of next month.

**Raleigh:** Next month.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah, 'cause the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month was yesterday.

**Raleigh:** Yesterday. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That'd be weird.

**Raleigh:** Um, please go check out Candlenights Stars. It's on GoFundMe. It's on all of our social medias. Be a Candlenights Star 2019. Look me up—my name on GoFundMe or on Twitter, Facebook, all those things. It's on all of them.

Um, we're raising money for Contact, which is a sexual assault 24 hour crisis center here in Huntington. They do a lot of great work, and I've been volunteering with them. Really want to help them out this Candlenights season, so if you couldn't get tickets to the show, you still wanna help out, that'd be a great way to do so.

**Sydnee:** And if you did get tickets to the show, we'll see you there.

**Raleigh:** Yes. Woo!

**Sydnee:** And you can see your name on a star, somewhere on the Candlenights stage.

**Raleigh:** Yes. So... we appreciate your help.

**Sydnee:** Thank you, sisters.

**Taylor:** Thank you.

**Sydnee:** As always.

**Raleigh:** Thank you, sister.

**Sydnee:** Thank you, listeners. You should check out Maximumfun.org for a lot of podcasts that you would enjoy. You should tweet at us @stillbuff, because we still are on Twitter, despite all the things we—all the—all the shade we throw at it.

**Raleigh:** Our average age here puts us in the Twitter generation. [laughs] I think.

**Sydnee:** Hey! Uh, and, uh, you can email us, 'cause email's for all ages.

**Raleigh:** Yeah! Well—

**Sydnee:** I'm of the email generation.

**Raleigh:** Oh God. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] At stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. [pauses] Yes. That's right.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** And thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

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

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

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

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

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

[theme song begins in the background]

**Rileigh:** Our average age is actually 29.33 repeating. What generation does that put us in? [laughs] That's a Millennial.

**Sydnee:** We're almost 30.

**Rileigh:** We're almost 30. Happy almost birthday! [laughs]

[theme song plays]

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** I listen to *Bullseye* because Jesse always has really good questions.

**Jesse:** What did John Malkovich wear when he was 20?

**Speaker Two:** Uh—I don't know how to describe it.

**Speaker Three:** There's always that moment where Jesse asks a question that the person he's interviewing has not thought of before?

**Speaker Four:** I don't think anyone's every said that to me, or acknowledged that to me, and that is so real.

**Jesse:** *Bullseye!* Interviews with creators you love and creators you need to know, from Maximumfun.org and NPR.

[music plays]

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