

Still Buffering 191: How to Booksmart

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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 Teylor Smirl!

Sydnee: I'd like to apologize in advance for my sniffiness.

Raleigh: Not forgiven.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Duly noted.

Sydnee: I'm gonna do my best not to sniffle... *into* the mic? I did finish crunching my Neccos before we started.

Raleigh: Now, that is something you can prevent.

Sydnee: Yes. I did not—I wanted—I found it sonically unpleasant, and I was the one crunching them, so—

Raleigh: I also found it sonically unpleasant, and I was the one sitting here [through laughter] across from the table with you with your voice in my headphones.

Taylor: Yeah, nobody wants to listen to that podcast.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Justin hates them so much. [pauses] He says it's like you're chewing chalk.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It does have that.

Raleigh: Which is already my worst nightmare.

Sydnee: Uh-huh. I—it's bad.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Ooh, don't think about that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I'm sorry.

Taylor: Oh...

Sydnee: I apologize that we brought that up. I know.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Why are you just doing all of this today to our ears?

Sydnee: I'm sorry.

Raleigh: [laughs] The sniffles, the Neccos, the imagery.

Sydnee: I don't know—I don't know if I'm getting a cold or if my allergies... I'm not clear on that yet.

Raleigh: Aren't you a doctor?

Sydnee: Uh... yes.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But—

Raleigh: [through laughter] Shouldn't you—shouldn't you know that?

Sydnee: I mean, the symptoms can be similar. I'm sneezing a lot. I'm beginning to think it might be allergies.

Uh, I—I wanted to share with you all—our mother gave us, a couple years ago, a—uh, 'cause she had it at her house and Charlie admired it—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: —which you know what happens if you admire something at Mom's house.

Taylor: She gives it to you, yes.

Raleigh: She gives it to you.

Taylor: Forcibly.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Which is very kind, and I love her for that.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: However, my children admire many things. [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Everything, some might say.

Sydnee: Yes. So please don't give them everything they admire, because there's a limit to how many things I want in my house. Uh, but this was a, um... a manger scene. A nativity set.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, *Peanuts*-themed.

Raleigh: Mmkay.

Sydnee: In which Woodstock, uh, lies in place of baby Jesus.

Raleigh: That's good. I was gonna ask, and I was hoping that was the answer.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: And Charlie loved it, and wanted it. So we brought it home, and this year we discovered that through moving and boxing and then also Cooper—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: —the heads had been broken off most of the members of the *Peanuts* gang.

Raleigh: Yeahhh, mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And I just couldn't continue to—I have tried to glue them back on now for two years and it's just—they're all off now.

Taylor: Oh no.

Sydnee: And so... so I told—Charlie was devastated, so I said, "Okay, fine. I will... [long-sufferingly] buy a new one."

Raleigh: Yeahhh you will!

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] So I did! I replaced it. We put it up, and that same day, Cooper broke the legs off two of them.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [amused] Cooper...

Sydnee: Both Lucy and Linus are now missing their legs. And so I am—I have devoted—I'm only sharing this so that you both know that a good portion of my week has been devoted to gluing body parts back on *Peanuts* characters in a nativity scene.

Raleigh: That's good.

Taylor: Well, I mean, you *are* a doctor, so it's... you know.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I guess I'm uniquely... suited to that task.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: It's like surgery, right?

Sydnee: I don't even *like* the thing! I don't even wa—I—[sighs]

Taylor: Now, I—why do you have it within reach of your very small baby? That's what I wanna know. Like, there's—

Sydnee: Well, this is what—

Taylor: —you could prevent this.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Sydnee said "Well... I didn't plan on you calling out the one flaw I made."

Sydnee: Yeah. Well, this is what Justin said, like, the fourth time I was gluing Linus's legs back on. He was like, "Why did you not put it somewhere where the baby can't get it?" [pauses] And that's an excellent question.

Raleigh: [laughs] Okay.

Taylor: Okay.

Raleigh: So that story was, "Justin did ask the same exact question [through laughter] and I still did not have an answer."

Sydnee: Maybe deep down inside [holding back laughter] I just don't want it.

Raleigh: You wanted Cooper to break it so you could say, "Oh no, not my fault."

Taylor: "We just can't have a manger scene. It will always be broken."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But I have glued it back together again. It is currently intact, and up out of Cooper's reach, but I don't know where it will live for the season. [laughs quietly]

I don't—I don't know why it's so important to Charlie. I don't think she's ever seen a *Peanuts* cartoon, read a *Peanuts* comic strip—

Rileigh: That's what I was gonna ask.

Sydnee: —or in any way...

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... encountered the *Peanuts* characters.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: So I have no idea how she has so much affection for this thing.

Taylor: I think what you should do is just get some, like, *Peanuts* toys, which are made to not be broken, and just sub out all the manger people with just some—some action figures, some *Peanuts* action figures.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Mm-hmm?

Taylor: 'Cause then it's just... not breakable.

Rileigh: Or just regleeur action figures.

Sydnee: That's what I was gonna say.

Taylor: [through laughter] Or just regular—

Sydnee: You could do that. If we're gonna do that—we have a *lot* of action figures, guys—

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —that this—we could get really creative with this.

Taylor: Oh, and Charlie loves to be creative! Why don't you just say, like, "Hey, we got a better idea. Why don't you just pick the action figure that's gonna be the baby and who's gonna be Mary."

And I would just love to see what she'd come up with. I bet it'd be really good.

Raleigh: Ohhh, yeah.

Sydney: We—uh, we have filled their Advent calendar with little teeny, like, uh—I don't know what they are. They're little... stocky... figures that are, like—

Raleigh: You're doin' great so far.

Sydney: —short, squat lil figures—

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Uh-huh?

Sydney: —of, uh, superheroes.

Taylor: Okay, alright.

Raleigh: Uh-huh.

Sydney: Of all the Marvel people.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydney: And, like, I think there might be some bad guys, too. I don't know. I didn't see any of those movies.

Raleigh: Okay, yeah, mm-hmm.

Sydney: But all those movies?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Marvel.

Taylor: You didn't see any of the Marvel movies?!

Sydney: No. [pauses] I've seen a *Spider-Man*.

Taylor: [stammers]

Raleigh: You've seen one *Spider-Man*?

Taylor: A—an *Spider-Man*? [laughs]

Sydnee: I—I have seen—

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] An *Spider-Man*.

Sydnee: —I've seen more than one. I don't know which ones. There are different—

Raleigh: Do you know who Spider-Man was?

Taylor: Yeah, which Spider-Man did you see?

Sydnee: I saw the one—yeah, I saw the one you all like.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: I like Tom Holland.

Sydnee: That one.

Raleigh: That one?

Taylor: You saw *Homecoming*?

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: And I saw the old one with Toby McGuire.

Taylor: Yeah, we don't talk about that.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: I love Tom Holland.

Sydnee: All these other ones—

Taylor: Well, we don't talk about the third one, I should say.

Rileigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: All these other ones that have different names that—that circle the word "Avengers," right? I haven't seen any of those.

Rileigh: [through laughter] The *Avengers* films... is what you're referring to.

Sydnee: I haven't seen any of those, so I don't know—I don't know who a lot of these people are that we put in the Advent calendar—

Rileigh: [quietly] I'm so disappointed in you.

Sydnee: —but Charlie's very excited about them. Cooper is excited 'cause they're small and they're people. I think that's really her whole thing. Anyway, my point was that I think any one of them would be a great stand in... [holding back laughter] for the baby Jesus.

Rileigh: I think it should be a Littlest Pet Shop.

[pauses]

Taylor: Oh—

Rileigh: She has lots of options there.

Sydnee: Okay.

Taylor: I—I just—

Rileigh: Lots of variety.

Taylor: —let her creativity run wild. I wanna see the—the manger scene that Charlie would come up with.

Sydnee: So far they've unwrapped Hulk and She-Hulk and Baby Groot—

Rileigh: [gasps loudly]

Sydnee: —and—

Rileigh: Baby Groot as the baby?

Sydnee: —Spider-Gwen.

Taylor: Oh, nice.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Or Baby Yoda.

Taylor: The ultimate baby.

Sydnee: We do have a Baby Yoda ornament on Cooper's tree.

Rileigh: That's very good.

Sydnee: Maybe that would be good.

Rileigh: Someone wrote a "Dear Theodosia" parody that is "Dear Baby Yoda."

Taylor: [through laughter] I heard that.

Rileigh: It's very good.

Taylor: It is very good.

Rileigh: This is far all—any of you who have not heard it.

Sydnee: I was contemplating what we talked about with Baby Yoda last week that, like, what is his—if his name is Yoda... is he, like—is the whole race of Yoda—like, are they all Yodas? But then that wouldn't make sense for his name to be Yoda.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: Because then that would be like if my name was Human or.. Homo Sapien.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "Nice to meet you, I'm Homo Sapien McElroy." That would be very strange.

Raleigh: First name "Baby," last name "Yoda."

Sydnee: Well, I asked Justin. I said, "So, what is Yoda's, like, species? What's his race? Like, what is he?"

Taylor: No, they're—

Sydnee: And he said he doesn't—there isn't one. There's too few of them.

Taylor: Yeah. It's not recorded. I mean, they're—well—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —in lore.

Sydnee: [loudly] How do you people know this stuff?! And I went, "Well, where does he come from?" And he went, "From the mind of George Lucas!"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I said, "I give up." [laughs]

Taylor: I mean, that is valid.

Raleigh: That's true.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: I—I really—I feel like we're going to a—to Disney right at the right time, because you know that—you know there's gonna be so much sweet, sweet Baby Yoda merch.

Sydnee: Oh yeah.

Raleigh: *Oh* yeah.

Sydnee: Oh yeah. But it's not Yoda? I don't know.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: I'm not gonna get into this again.

Taylor: No, it's—

Raleigh: Baby Yoda sippin' on his tea. And his soup.

Sydnee: "[singing] Baby Yoda. Baby Yoda." That's another cartoon we found.

Raleigh: Oh.

Sydnee: "[singing] Flying in a pod. Baby Yoda."

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Do you wanna keep goin'?

Sydnee: No.

Raleigh: Okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm done now. Hey, speakin' of—speakin' of flicks...

Taylor: There we go. I was gonna say, we're about to—

Raleigh: [hesitantly] Fl—flicks?

Taylor: —goin' on ten minutes of whatever this was.

Sydnee: I'm sorry. I did not take any cold medicine, although you would think I had.

Raleigh: I took two hours of sleep.

Sydnee: Well. Finals week.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's—you know. I don't wanna say "Get used to it," because it's—no, don't. It's bad for you. But we've all been there.

Sydnee: Uh, so movies that are great and relevant to the podcast that we do. Uh, I propose *Booksmart*.

Taylor: Ah, yes.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: We have—it's not like it just came out. That would've been good if we were that on top of it, but—

Taylor: It *was* just—I think it just started streaming on Hulu recently. I think in, like, the last couple weeks.

Sydnee: Ah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: That's how—that's why *I* saw it. I didn't—I didn't go to theaters. Sorry. I would've supported it, I just don't—don't go to the movies!

Raleigh: I 'renteded' it on the old—the old iTunes.

Sydnee: That's what I was gonna say. I watched it at home too, but I don't know how.

Raleigh: Probably that.

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Rileigh: Justin just makes things happen on the internet and on the TV for Sydnee, and Sydnee just goes, "Oh yeah! You made it happen!"

Taylor: Yes. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I—

Rileigh: "A movie!"

Sydnee: —I—poor guy. He now lives under this expectation I have, which is anything—

Rileigh: Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: —any form of media I ever want to see on our television, I assume he can make it appear, because I don't know how any of it works and he's always done that.

And so I'll be like, "Well, get this movie." And he's like, "What do you want?" And I'm like, "I don't know, just find it... on there."

Rileigh: That was like on Thanksgiving when they were watching football and you just said, "Justin! Make *Ratatouille* happen on the TV!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: He usually can make it happen!

Rileigh: He didn't make *Ratatouille* happen on the TV.

Taylor: Well, he tried really hard.

Sydnee: But he did—

Taylor: Then he went to a different TV and made it happen there.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] But he, uh—he did make *Booksmart* happen on the TV in some sort of legal fashion. We did not watch it illegally.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Nor did I.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I don't know.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] Did anyone? What are you tryin' to say, Syd?

Sydnee: I just always like to clarify that.

Taylor: Well, I—

Sydnee: And, uh...

Taylor: Especially where it's, like, kind of more like smaller, independent movies are concerned, you really wanna support those movies somehow.

Sydnee: Yes. I think that's important. I agree completely, and I would not want to insinuate otherwise, but we did watch it, and now we've all watched it, and it is—it's relevant... to us. And you. [holding back laughter] so let's talk about it.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Sydnee: Uh, first of all, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I thought it was—

Raleigh: As did I.

Sydnee: —funny and insightful and smart, and—

Raleigh: Would you say... *Book* smart?

Sydnee: Ha ha. Now you made that joke.

Raleigh: I did! You set me up for it.

Taylor: The one time.

Sydnee: It's weird—it's weird, because it—I felt like it was especially fitting for us to talk about on this show because there were things in it that I so can't relate to, because of when—it's set in the now.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Uh, and that is not the world in which I'm a teenager. But then there are themes in it which of course I can connect with.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Uh, so I felt like that was the—that's, like, the synopsis of our show.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. That's—yeah, that's a good, you know—little elevator speech you did right there about *Still Buffering*.

Sydnee: If you haven't seen it, it's the—it's, very basically—and I guess we are going to have spoilers, I think that's fair to say—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Oh, yeah, uh, yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah, there will be spoilers. But just generally speaking, it's—it seems like a pretty straightforward teen movie.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Two—two girls, at the end of their senior year of high school, wanna go out and party one last time.

Raleigh: Yes. Well—

Sydnee: 'Cause they've been good.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And they wanna have one big party before their high school experience ends.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: They have realized that all the people they thought were slacking because they were partying also are doing well after high school and are going to good colleges like they are.

Taylor: Well, I—

Raleigh: So they're making up for lost time.

Taylor: I like the differentiation that one of the two girls feels that way. The other one's like, "Yeah, we're fine." [laughs] Like, "We spent the whole—"

Raleigh: Yeah, that's true.

Taylor: "—I'm fine with what we did the whole time." Like, you know—I kind of—I related a lot more to that character 'cause it's like, yeah, I didn't go to parties in high school. I knew that they were going on. I'm not—I'm okay with that. [laughs]

Sydney: Nah, see, I—I, uh, related very strongly to Molly.

Raleigh: Yes.

Taylor: Uh, I bet—I bet you did. [laughs]

Sydney: Because I—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydney: —I live with so much FOMO it's overwhelming. [laughs]

Taylor: Oh, man.

Sydney: And I am constantly worried that, like, I—that would've been me. But I worked so hard, and I gave up all that 'cause I thought it was necessary, and then to find out it wasn't—I—I think I would've been similarly devastated.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Um, it was not hard for me to relate to the characters, but that situation—I think I did the both. I don't wanna say I was the slacker, the

partiers that they show at the beginning that none of them like, or neither of them like, but ended up going to good schools. But I—I did do a good mixture of the partying and the going out and the school, and ended up, you know, with a scholarship and everything.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: So.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Raleigh: I did not spend all of high school doing work.

Sydnee: Well...

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I don't know—I don't know how to relate to that.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I'm just frustrated.

Taylor: See, I didn't spend all of high school doing work, but I—there's something in between, like, "Aw man, I studied the whole time," and, like, "I was just at ragin' parties!"

It's like, "Nah, I was doin' not work, but I was home alone. [laughs] Like, too." And I was fine with that, you know?

Sydnee: Well, and I think they're talking about—it's funny, 'cause what they're talking about are, like, multiple issues here, which is—it's all in—when you're young, not just high school but when you're young, so much of your world is still just through your perspective.

It's so hard for you to see the world from multiple perspectives until you've lived in it more, and so, you know, this is the way I see high school. I'm a brain, I work hard, I will be—I suffer now, I will be rewarded with great college opportunities in the future.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: They're the party, popular people. Everyone loves them. Their high school experience is amazing, but this is it for them. They peak. They're done.

And it's really easy to try to categorize people like that, and they play on that idea.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, that as you get older you realize that people don't fit into boxes that well.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: And there are multiple factors at play. Part of it is that people are more complicated and you can't judge them just by how they look on the outside, and I think that you also have to, like, factor privilege in there. Like, the world ain't fair.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah. Well, and—

Sydnee: Which are both important lessons to learn.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And I do remember having that concept, like, that once I get to college everyone's gonna be like me, and that'll be fine. And then you kind of get to college and you go—like, I went to art school and I still went to art school and went, "Aw, there—those are the popular people. Like, those are the jocks. [snorts] Those are the funny, cool dudes. Like, I'm still outside of this all. It's fine! But it's still the same structure." [laughs quietly]

And then you go to the workplace and it's like, "Oh, it's here, too!"

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] It—it does. I think the key, though, that they hit on—you know, one of the themes of the whole films is that your happiness cannot be—it cannot be relative. It cannot be in relation to the people around you.

It has to be yours, and it does not matter if someone else that you perceive as having not worked as hard as you or not be as deserving as you for whatever your set of reasons are, it doesn't matter what they get or don't get in terms of whether you should be happy about what you got or didn't got.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Didn't got.

Taylor: Yeah?

Raleigh: What you didn't got?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: I didn't got it!

Taylor: I think achieving, or.. living in spite of other people is a bad way to go about it, but I *do* remember that feeling of, like, "I'm gonna go out and be somebody in spite of y'all!" Like, that's a—that's a very high school feeling that you kind of have to confront and get over at some point.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Yes. Yes. Definitely. Now, one thing that's established pretty quickly in the movie that I—I would say for me was so foreign—and this is gonna sound terrible, but it was so foreign for me to see in a movie that I almost found it jarring, was how supportive these two female leads are of each other.

Taylor: [through laughter] That first moment when they're just dancin' by their car.

Raleigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: [through laughter] Like, that was so good!

Sydnee: The way they—and when they ask, like, "How does this look" And—

Raleigh: I, uh—yeah. [holding back laughter] Wh—I watched this movie with my roommates and we all had this moment where they're standing there, like, yelling at each other, like, "Oh my God, you look so beautiful!" "No, *you* look so beautiful!" Just yelling at each other back and forth about how amazing they look. Um, we had this moment where we all were like, "Oh my God, it's us."

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's what we do! It's like, one of us gets ready and we all just stand there yelling at them about how good they look and about how pretty they are and everything. [laughs] It was so good.

Sydnee: Well, and I think—but I think what you're hitting on is that, one, obviously I think that's something that has improved over time, but I also think that there is a reality there that is almost never represented in, like, high school films of yore. There's always this kind of competition. Like, even among friends you get—it's like—it's a very frenemy vibe when it involves high school females. Like, we—we just can't support each other without also secretly comparing ourselves and wanting to beat each other.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And that's not the truth, necessarily. I'm not saying that doesn't happen, but I'm saying that there—there are strong, supportive, you know, female friendships, that are just like the one represented in this movie. You just never got to see that because, largely, men were making the movies, and they assume that we're all out here... fighting each other for that one... that one girl spot that exists in every realm of society.

Raleigh: One girl spot.

Sydnee: The one girl spot.

Taylor: Well, and I—exactly. Like, that's a good thing to bring up, because that's a narrative that we all—we were, I think, indoctrinated with. That, like, there's, you know—there's only so much space for women, and so you have to compete with each other.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: And that's something that—it is a very refreshing thing, like, to see represented in media, and hopefully that will, you know, be more and more [through laughter] represented.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: There's this really cool thing we talked about in my English theory class about how in media there's usually either two, like, male characters or two female characters that are prevented from having, like, a full bond because at some point the creator introduces a person of the opposite sex, or whatever sex they're attracted to, to, like, interfere with their friendship, because there can be no friendship. There always has to be a romantic connection.

And I like that in this movie, they're just friends. There's no, like, competing over a guy or girl or whatever. Or, like, one of them liking someone and then not being friends with the other. Like, they stay friends, even though there's, like, romantic interest, it doesn't interfere with friendship. Their friendship comes first.

Sydnee: And they do have *conflict*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: In the film. But it's the conflict of a relationship between two people who do care about each other and support each other, but are hitting a point in their lives where they're both going to change and grow, and so the relationship will need to change and grow too, which is a normal, healthy thing to talk about that happens in all forms of relationships, whether they be friendship or family or romantic or whatever.

When change happens, the relationship must evolve, too, and that is the conflict that they sort of confront with each other. And that's a very, like... adult, mature conversation, and also respects the characters and how intelligent we are supposed to, you know, accept that they are.

Taylor: Well, and I think the focus—I mean, the relationship in the movie *is* their friendship, and so—teen movies of the past, it was always about, you know, the—the heteronormative relationship that was supposed to come to pass. And, like, a lot of times even when there were, you know, side characters that were supportive friends or whatever, they were kind of cast aside and it wasn't really

reflected upon. It was like, "Oh, you're just there to be the funny friend, or the whatever."

It's like—I really like that that was—'cause I don't think we really give enough, uh, credit to how powerful friendships can be in our life. I mean, how many relationships from high school last romantically? Not many, but friendships? That's—that's different. Those are sometimes lifelong relationships, and we really don't give them as much credit as romantic relationships when I feel like, in my life, they've been far, far more important and far more powerful.

Sydnee: Now, I wanna talk about the series of parties that ensue.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yes. [holding back laughter] All of the parties.

Sydnee: Yes. [laughs] 'Cause like any good, uh, end of senior year teen movie, you gotta have some parties.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: At least one. Maybe multiple. Um—

Raleigh: Maybe on a boat.

Sydnee: And—yeah, I thought these were also unique and different from what I am used to traditionally. Uh, but before I talk about partying...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Raleigh: Um, I wanna—I wanna talk about our first sponsor this week. I'm gonna—I'm gonna do it.

Sydnee: Alright, do it!

Raleigh: Um, our first sponsor this week is Hello Fresh! We've told you about Hello Fresh some before, but we wanna tell you about them again, because Hello Fresh makes home cooked meals simple, for you and for everyone.

Um, they make cooking delicious at home a reality, regardless of your comfort in the kitchen. If you're like me, you probably aren't very comfortable in the kitchen. You probably don't really know what you're doing once you get up in there. I know I don't. But Hello Fresh makes it so I can act like I know what I'm doing, and end up with something really tasty.

Um, you can break out of your dinner rut with Hello Fresh's 20+ seasonal, chef-curated recipes each week, and there's something for everyone in all of those recipe options. From family recipes to calorie smart and vegetarian, and fun menu series like Hall of Fame and craft burgers.

So, whatever kind of food you want, they have something for you! And they can easily change your delivery days, food preferences, and skip a week whenever you need, so it's super easy for you, customizable, whatever you want, whatever you need.

Um, and we want you to try out Hello Fresh, and love it as much as we do! So, Taylor, if our listeners wanna check out Hello Fresh, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, you can get nine free meals with Hello Fresh. Uh, if you go to hellofresh.com/stillbuffering9 and use code "stillbuffering9." That's hellofresh.com/stillbuffering9 and use code "stillbuffering9" for *nine* free meals. That's a lot of free meals!

Raleigh: That's a lot of free meals! Go check that out!

Sydnee: Now, I wanna tell you all about our second sponsor this week, StoryWorth.

Raleigh: Whoa.

Sydnee: Because it is the holidays. And you know how every Thanksgiving, Dad has to tell us the story about the time that he rode in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with Ronald McDonald and Soupy Sales and he threw things at the crowd, and the New York City Police officer put him over the back of the car and told him if he threw one more nut or bolt he was gonna put him in jail?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Yes.

Sydnee: Remember that great story?

Taylor: Yeah, thank you for that recap.

Raleigh: Yeah. I swear, every time you tell it it passes on the curse like the chicken.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Well, StoryWorth wants to save us all.

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: No, but seriously! All of your family members love to share and swap stories, but, you know, we can only get together so often, and sometimes there's—you start to realize, like, "Man, I wanna know a lot more, I have so many more questions, and now Thanksgiving dinner's over and everybody's asleep and I can't ask you any more questions, 'cause you're sleepin' off all that turkey."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Turn to StoryWorth, an online service that helps your loved one tell the story of their lives with thought-provoking questions, and they get to add their memories and thoughts and tell their own stories, and then you can share them and have a record of 'em, and they ask you all kinds of different things. Like, "What have been some of your life's greatest surprises?" Or "What's the riskiest thing you've ever done?"

And then, you know, your loved one can think about it and answer the email that they send every week and write the story, and after a year, StoryWorth will compile them all, every answered question and the photos you choose to include into a beautiful keepsake book. Then it's shipped for free!

Raleigh: Wonderful.

Sydnee: So then maybe if we have a recorded version—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —of Dad's [holding back laughter] Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade story, he won't need to tell it to us every year. We can just read it.

Raleigh: One can only hope.

Taylor: But then how will it get slightly more elaborate every year?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Now, that's true. [laughs]

Sydnee: That's true. Well, he'll just—he'll have to include it in StoryWorth every year that he does it.

Taylor: There you go. That's fine.

Raleigh: There you go, yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, so, Tey, if our listeners wanted to check out StoryWorth, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, you can preserve and pass on your memories with StoryWorth, the most meaningful gift for your family. Sign up today by going to storyworth.com/stillbuffering. You'll get 20 bucks off your first purchase! That's storyworth.com/stillbuffering, get that 20 bucks off.

Raleigh: I wanna talk about boat parties, and I wanna know why I've never been to one.

Sydnee: So, our characters, once they decide that they're going to party one time—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: —because apparently it didn't matter, they could've been partying all along and they still would've gotten into great colleges, uh—

Rileigh: And they're about to graduate, so they decide the night before graduation they're gonna go party.

Sydnee: The—they don't know where the party's at.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: So they end up going to—

Rileigh: Right. [laughs]

Sydnee: —a *wrong* party, although it was a party on a boat, which would always be the right party in *my* book.

Rileigh: And, like, it had all sorts of cool gifts and food and music, and I felt bad for... the character that had that party?

Taylor: Yeah.

Rileigh: He put a lot of work into that.

Taylor: See, I would've never left the boat party.

Rileigh: Yeah!

Taylor: It's like—so, there's nobody here, but all other aspects of a party are present, and Billie Lourd. I'm here! I'm gonna be here.

Rileigh: I was gonna say, "And Billie Lourd's there!" [laughs]

Taylor: [laughs] Yeah!

Sydnee: Billie Lourd's there, and it's on a boat.

Rileigh: Yeah, and then you get what, like, a free iPad?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, this is great. Full access to food?

Sydnee: No, that was the perfect party.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Uh, that was the perfect party, and I don't know why they felt the need to leave it.

Raleigh: 'Cause it wasn't *the* party.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Uh, and so they—they leave boat party and again think they're gonna go to the right party.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Um, is that when they get—when they have to take an Uber and it's their principal?

Raleigh: Yes. That is when they have to take an Uber driven by their principal.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Which... I can't say I ever experienced that.

Sydnee: I like—I like one of the things this brought up that they play with in the movie, and I know neither of you are gonna want to talk about, but I think—

Raleigh: I know exactly what you're gonna say, please don't do it. Do not do it.

Sydnee: I think it's important.

Raleigh: You're gonna do it.

Sydnee: The funny thing about the scene, other than that obviously their principal is... driving them to a party—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Their Uber driver, yes.

Sydnee: —and trying to, like, relate to them and talk to them, and they're uncomfortable and awkward about it, and, you know.

Raleigh: Teens.

Sydnee: That—that kind of, like, obvious joke. The next joke is that they start secretly watching porn in the back of the car.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, for instructional purposes only.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And the—[laughs quietly] they are—they're sharing their headphones and they're watching the porn, and then he offers to put it through the car speakers.

Raleigh: Connect to the Bluetooth, so their phone connects to the Bluetooth and...

Sydnee: And of course their principal hears the porn they're listening to.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Or watching. Uh, I thought—what I thought was refreshing about, like—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: —"Oh, it's funny 'cause... you know, principal. Sex. It's funny."

Raleigh: Uh-huh? [laughs]

Sydnee: What I thought was funny about—or interesting, is that it—it talks about sexuality, and then how normal it is for them to be thinking about it, talking about it, [holding back laughter] looking at it, trying to understand it, both their own, like, sexual feelings and experiences and desires, as well as, like, where that fits into the world.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Again, this is not something that, in a lot of movies that I grew up with, girls were allowed to do much of.

Rileigh: Right.

Taylor: No.

Sydnee: Or there was, like, that one girl in a movie who—like, the one character who was, like, into that, and all of the other characters that you're supposed to, like, focus on are like...

Rileigh: "That girl."

Sydnee: "That girl." As if, like, there aren't a lot of humans, whatever gender, thinking about sex.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And talking about sex, and it's okay, and it—I thought that was really refreshing!

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: It made it very normal.

Rileigh: I agree.

Sydnee: I mean, 'cause it—you know, if you look at, like—I think, like, a good comparison would be maybe, like, *Can't Hardly Wait*.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You know? As, like—

Rileigh: Can't say I know. [quietly] You never talk—

Taylor: We're gonna—

Sydnee: We have to make you watch *Can't Hardly Wait*.

Taylor: —I—I feel bad, because it didn't—it hasn't aged quite as well as you'd hope. Uh, but yeah. You should see it. For... for podcast reasons. [laughs]

Sydnee: For podcast reasons, because it was sort of like the prototypical, end of senior year, party, teen movie.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: From, like, our era. And while there are some funny things about it, it is very much—I feel like, falls into that kind of, like... these outdated, traditional gender roles about sex and relationships and what everybody's looking for, and what everybody's interested in, and that kind of thing.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And obviously it—everything from the 90's is problematic. [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah...

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: Well—and you're right, Syd. Any representation of female sexuality was kind of just pushed upon the one hypersexual kind of caricature female. And it's like, "[dudebro voice] Oh, that's the one that has sex." [through laughter] And it's like nobody else talks about it!

Sydnee: Right. Well, and it—it negates the idea that while of course not everybody talks and thinks about sex, there are certainly people who don't, it has nothing to do with gender.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Just—there are lots of people who talk and think about sex.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And some people don't, and that's all fine. And I just—I thought that was very refreshing, as now an adult woman who feels like, through my teen years, any, like, thinking or talking about sex was... gosh. I mean, we *didn't* much, and when we did, it was more like... it was always seen through, like, a guilt thing.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: You won't believe—I can remember so many times my friends saying, "Oh, I was so bad. You won't believe what I did. I can't believe I did that."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And they're talking about an experience that they wanted, consented to, enjoyed, and had... I mean—and maybe were completely safe in doing so, but still felt the need to present it like, "I'm so bad."

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Well, that twofold, like, societal expectation of, like—like, you know, "Women, you don't have sex. Men, you better be having sex!" It's like, "Well—who—who are—who's the—who are the boys—who are the boys havin' sex with?"

Raleigh: Well, that's—

Taylor: What's—what's happening?!

Raleigh: —that's what I was gonna say is that the—I've never seen *Can't Hardly Wait*, but if there was one, you know, hypersexualized female character who talk—you know, she's the one that has sex, who's she havin' sex with? 'Cause obviously it's with somebody, and there's someone else involved, whether female or male. Like, there's someone else in there that's doin' it, and considering it was a 90's movie I'm going to assume probably men—

Taylor: Not to count out homosexual relationships, but once again, you're right, 90's. So no, we didn't talk about that.

Raleigh: Yeah, of course. Like, that was not represented. You know, anything but a heteronormative relationship is not represented in earlier movies very often,

but, like, it's not a bad thing for men—you don't talk about how many times *men* have sex in movies. You don't make *them* feel bad for having sex or being sexual.

Sydnee: You—you might make them feel bad for *not*.

Taylor: Exactly.

Raleigh: Exactly!

Sydnee: I mean, that's—that's, like, a—

Raleigh: Isn't that *The Breakfast Club*? The whole plot line? Like, the—the nerd is—

Sydnee: No.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: —has never had sex?

Sydnee: Well, that might be a plot el—that's not the main—what I was gonna say—

Raleigh: Well, I know it's not the whole plot line. I'm saying, like, they make him feel bad. It's all like, "What? You haven't? What?"

Sydnee: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, I mean, definitely. If you were found out to be, you know—to have not had sex and you were male back then—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —Um... but I was gonna say, isn't that *American Pie*? Gosh, it's been so long since I've seen that movie.

Taylor: Yeah, that movie's super sexual.

Sydnee: And I think that—that's the whole thing, right? They're gonna have sex?

Taylor: Yeah. Like, they have to have sex before they go to college. I think that's—that's a plot of a lot of movies.

Sydnee: I think that's the whole plot—yeah. I gotta be honest, that was one that I watched one time and went, "Nnn... no." [laughs]

Raleigh: "Not for me."

Sydnee: "No..."

Raleigh: "No..."

Sydnee: The only—the only thing that I thought was true at all about that is I believe that's where they introduce the idea of the, like, highly sexualized experiences that people were having at band camp.

Taylor: Yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And, like, I was not in the band, but as a member of the show choir, I can attest that—

Raleigh: Ew, ew, ew, ew, please, stop.

Sydnee: Well, everybody thought that we were all nerds and that the band were full of nerds and that nobody was doin' anything, but you just had no idea what was happening—

Raleigh: Ew. Stop. Stop. Please. Stop.

Sydnee: —on those trips.

Raleigh: Sydnee, please. Oh my God. Oh, God.

Sydnee: I'm just saying!

Raleigh: Please.

Taylor: Oh, Raleigh.

Raleigh: I've let it go on for so long! You're my sister!

Sydnee: I'm just saying! But I think that was the only thing that—that was not one I returned to. Um—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh—[laughs quietly] anyway, I just thought while obviously the joke here is, "And now their principal knows they were watching porn," I thought it was refreshing to see them talk—and they do. They talk about sex, and they're not—in no way are shaming each other.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And—or shaming themselves, and I thought that that was nice.

Raleigh: Yeah, I agree.

Sydnee: They go to the next party, which is a murder mystery dinner party.

Raleigh: [sing-song] That's the party I woulda been at!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs] Can I just say—

Taylor: Okay, so we're—we're understanding that I would've stayed at the first party. Raleigh, you woulda—the second party, that's where you woulda stuck around.

Raleigh: I s—

Taylor: You woulda—

Raleigh: —I would've been *all* up in—

Sydnee: Do I—I guess I'm the one who ends up at the popular party?

Raleigh: I woulda been all up in that murder mystery party. Oh, my gosh! They all had characters and costumes?! And it was a dinner party, there was food?! Oh my *gosh*, I would've been all up in that party.

Sydnee: Can I say that while I don't know that that would've been the party for me, necessarily—I would like that. Uh, not my ideal party probably—

Raleigh: That's my ideal party.

Sydnee: —if I had been dating Justin McElroy at the time...

Raleigh: That would've been the party you were at.

Sydnee: We would've been at that party. [laughs]

Taylor: You might've been hosting the party.

Sydnee: Yes. We would've been throwing the party. [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. It would've been *your* party.

Sydnee: Uh, no. That looked like a fun party. They do, of course, have, like, the, um—I feel like that's the classic teen movie. They have to have a drug experience.

Raleigh: Yeah, and they turn into Barbie dolls, which I... thoroughly enjoyed. [laughs]

Taylor: [through laughter] It was very strange, but I enjoyed it too.

Raleigh: [through laughter] I enjoyed it very much.

Sydnee: Uh, and then they finally end up arriving at the—at the right party.

Raleigh: Quote unquote.

Sydnee: They find the—the—the one that they—the one they were *trying* to get to, I should say.

Raleigh: Yes. Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, because we have now, by now, uncovered that Molly is interested in the guy throwing the party.

Raleigh: Yes. And they get their English teacher to drive them?

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I did relate to that part very much. Being friends with your English teacher and wanting her to, like, think you're cool, and wanting to, like, actually have her number and hang out with her after you graduate?

Taylor: See, I'm—I was really, uh—

Sydnee: [laughs] Nope.

Raleigh: I had a cool English teacher. Oh, okay.

Taylor: Well, at the beginning of the film where the English teacher gives the number to the two girls, and then the other girl, who turns out to be, like, the hookup for the one, like, queer character, like—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: —when she's like, "Oh, your English teacher gave you her number?" And I clocked—I was like, "Queer moment. Ah, no." You're so used to reading into things and hoping that it's gay, but it's definitely not gonna be gay, and then it was! And I was like, "Yes!"

Raleigh: And then it was gay. [laughs]

Sydnee: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: That was there for me!

Raleigh: I do, uh, really appreciate—we'll get back to the party, but I did really appreciate that, one, one of the two main female characters was not straight, and that was—I don't wanna say it was good that it was not a huge plot point, but I do appreciate that it was not a huge, big ordeal made out of the fact that she liked girls.

It was just kind of like, "Oh, the person you have a crush on is right there, and it is a girl," and that was pretty much the whole conversation about it, and then it

was about her wanting to be with girls. Like, that—I really liked that! I really appreciated that.

Taylor: Well, yeah. Even, like, in the car scene—which, Rileigh, I won't make you relive—but it's—

Rileigh: Thank you.

Taylor: —lesbian porn that they're looking at. So it's like—her friend's like, "Cool, let's figure this out together. Let's watch some porn." [laughs] It's like, "Wow! That's awesome."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I like her—I like her, um—they make it—they play it for laughs, but, like, her hyper-supportive parents.

Taylor: Oh, I love that.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Who are like, "We—" I—I thought it was—I thought, again, it was kind of refreshingly honest, because the—what they're saying is, "We're not really sure what to say, but we love you, and all we want you to know is that we love and accept you—"

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: "—and we—we don't wanna say anything wrong to, like, make you feel unsupported or un—so we are just so open to everything that—"

Rileigh: To everything.

Sydnee: [laughs] "—to everything, as a way to, like, make sure—" I just thought that was... that was r—that was nice, you know?

Rileigh: Yeah.

Taylor: It actually—it reminded me of Mom and Dad, the one Christmas that I brought home a roommate, a female roommate.

Rileigh: [snorts]

Taylor: And, like—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: She was my first female roommate but they were like, "You know what? She's really great, though. We really like her. You know, you could—like, what's goin' on there? Like, we like her a lot." [through laughter] It's like, "She—she's my roommate. She's straight. But thank you so much. This means a lot to me."

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah. Um, I also liked that neither of the main characters looked like your standard female protagonist of a teen movie.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: For literally every single teen movie I think I've ever seen, which is not to say they weren't beautiful, because they were. But, you know—like, the teen movies you see from, like, the 90's and the early 2000's, you have the girl who's very thin, and clear skin, and pretty, and there's always, like, weird plot lines about, like... no one likes her and she wants to date someone, but also it's like if that kind of girl went to my high school, that'd be, like, the—you know, the best looking person there. Like, obviously this is a very beautiful actress. [through laughter] Like, what do you mean?

Sydnee: It's so hard to understand that kind of stuff as an adult. I was watching one of *The Descendants* movies—[laughs quietly]

Rileigh: As you do.

Sydnee: —with Charlie. Uh, again. And there's a character that—they're all talking—they're all kind of teasing her about her hair. And I'm staring at her hair going, "What's wro—like, I can't—" I feel like I'm—

Rileigh: "What's wrong with it?"

Sydnee: —like I'm losing my mind, like I'm having a stroke or something! Like, I'm looking at this girl's hair, and it's just normal hair!

Raleigh: It's just hair.

Sydnee: It's just hair—why are they—why—and I realized, like, "Oh, this is supposed to be the unattractive character."

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: And it's so baffling to me, 'cause first of all, I mean, they're all gorgeous!

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: They're all beautiful! [laughs] Everybody in those *Descendants* movies. They're all beautiful people. Every single human. And, like, there's—there's nothing wrong with this character's hair, and I was so—and I then I realized, like, "Oh, they have to do that in movies." Like, they pretend, like they can trick you into buying into this narrative that there's this unattractive person when you're going, "They're—no. No!"

Taylor: I mean, even with the casting—because, like, they cast people that look like they could be... 16, 17, 18 years old.

Raleigh: Yeah!

Taylor: Which, you know, in the 90's—like, a teen movie was full of, like, 25 to probably 30 year olds. [laughs] Like—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —so, like, the concept of, like, what was sexy and what was attractive, and even what should I look like was so skewed, because I'm watching, like—you know, like, all of these completely grown, like, fully developed adults. I'm like, "How is—that's the nerdy one and that's the—the hot one, but they all just look like grownups, and I'm nowhere near that!"

Raleigh: Well—

Sydnee: I know! When you think about, like, *Grease*.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Go even further back and it's like, Olivia Newton-John was... in her 30's?

Raleigh: [simultaneously] In her 30's, right?

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Or—I mean, it still happens! You look at *Riverdale*, and all the people on there, if you look at how old they're supposed to be, they should be younger than *I* am in real life, and they're all, like, ten years older than me! The youngest one is still older than me, and they're all supposed to be, like, 17 years old, and they're all beautiful and attractive!

Sydnee: Yeah, I—I felt like these were believable.

Raleigh: They were very re—all of the characters in the entire movie were all very realistic.

Taylor: I mean, you—yeah.

Raleigh: Looking and acting and—and everything.

Taylor: If you look back at your high school yearbook now... like, Raleigh you're still close to that, but Syd, like—and then you look at, like, who were the "hot people," quote unquote, and, like, who were the nerds, it's like, we all look like—what—what were you doing? [through laughter] Like—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —you are babies and you don't know how hair works! Like, it's fine, but what?

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: I know, I know. [laughs] I look back at my senior picture and I think I look so good, and my lips are so berry.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: And I'm like, "What is that?" [laughs]

Raleigh: Sydnee, what were you doing?

Taylor: My eyebrows were just an angry line, and I thought that was good.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: That's like the really great video I found of Sydnee from her freshman or sophomore year of college.

Sydnee: That was so rough.

Raleigh: The eyebrows, the lips... again, they were very berry. You kept that look for a while.

Sydnee: It was very early *Buffy* is what it was.

Raleigh: It *was* early *Buffy*.

Sydnee: It was—it—if you look at—

Raleigh: It was from, like, [holding back laughter] 2005.

Sydnee: If you look at my look at end of high school and into beginning of college, it was like Buffy Summers circa Season One and Two. Hardcore. But, uh—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs] Moving on.

Sydnee: [laughs] Moving on. Um... they, uh—so, the party happens, and of course—and I felt like this was kind of—again, like, falling into kind of the themes I recognize. They both have the idealized person that they're seeking at these parties. They each have their crush, and alas—again, spoilers—turns out their crushes are crushin' on each other.

Raleigh: Ohh!

Sydnee: So... which is—which is—I mean, it's—in the teenage world, that is heartbreaking.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: I felt that. I was—I'm still close enough to high school where I was like, "Oof. Yeah. That's... mm-hmm."

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Um... I will say, though, I did have one experience that felt very similar to something in the movie, [holding back laughter] and that was when the police show up at the party.

Taylor: You—you had a party like that?!

Raleigh: That—yes.

Taylor: [simultaneously] Oh wait, I remember that! That's right!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: 'Cause I showed up and pretended to be the adult. I mean, I *was* an adult—

Raleigh: You *were* the adult.

Sydnee: —but I didn't—I—'cause Mom and Dad weren't there. Mom called me and was like, "The police are at our house, and Raleigh was having a party, get up there!"

And I go up and there and I'm like—I put on my, like, work—

Rileigh: You put—you intentionally put on, like, your, you know, hospital sweatshirt.

Sydnee: My Marshall Health pullover that has, like, "Dr. McElroy" on it, so I would look very official. I'm like, "[deep voice] Hi, I'm... Dr. McElroy, I'm her older sister. I live down the street." [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: But, uh—

Sydnee: "[deep voice] What seems to be the trouble, officer?" [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: One of the—one of the main characters, like, sacrifices herself to the police for everyone else to get out, right?

Taylor: Yes.

Rileigh: Like, runs in front of them and gets arrested.

Taylor: Amy.

Sydnee: Amy and Molly are the two main characters.

Rileigh: Amy. And—

Sydnee: Yeah, Amy—Amy sacrifices herself.

Rileigh: —and I—I also, when the police showed up at my house, I was like, "Here, I—[stammers]—" I was sobbing. I was like, "[tearfully] I—I'll do it, I'll talk to 'em, you all just run! Just leave, it's fine! It's my house, I take responsibility! I might go to jail and I'm never gonna go to college but it's fine!"

Sydnee: It was very much like the moment that Taylor and I were caught being tardy.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: For class—

Taylor: Oh, that's right.

Sydnee: —and the—the assistant principal stopped us in the hallway and said, "You all stand here. I'm gonna go get a pen and paper and take down all your names." And as soon he disappeared I was like, "Run, Teylor! Run!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "I'm at the end of my high school career, yours is just beginning!"

Rileigh: [laughs]

Teylor: Aw, man. And I did run. I feel bad, in retrospect, but, uh, I was a scared baby.

Sydnee: It was the right move. [laughs]

Rileigh: Um... but yeah.

Sydnee: So, yeah. You've had that experience.

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Would you say it was like that? Although you didn't get taken to jail.

Teylor: No.

Rileigh: I didn't go to jail, and I don't believe that someone actually would've gone to jail.

Sydnee: I thought that seemed a little...

Rileigh: Yeah. In my experience—at least around here, police show up at a party where there's underage drinking, which is what she went to jail for, right? Underage drinking?

Sydnee: Ye—no! She—doesn't she jump in the cop car?

Rileigh: Oh, maybe that's what it was. I forget. It's been a while since either Sydnee or I have seen this movie, but if it was for underage drinking, they wouldn't take someone to jail for that.

Sydnee: She did—

Raleigh: That's more of like a warning type thing, 'cause it has to be more than that.

Sydnee: [simultaneously] It's more than just that, isn't it Tey?

Taylor: She kinda goes off on the cops.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: I mean, she makes a big scene so somebody can escape.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's—it's more than just that. I mean, and you can—if you're just underage drinking, the cops probably aren't gonna take you in, but if you're public intox—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —then that's—I mean, that's a much bigger deal.

Raleigh: But—yeah.

Sydnee: I talk like I've ever been arrested for any—I have not.

Raleigh: Right.

Sydnee: Please—I have not been arrested for public intoxication. [laughs]

Raleigh: Nor have... I. [laughs]

Taylor: Well, and I think that's—one thing that I was expecting going into it was after everything I heard about, I thought it was gonna be this very hyperrealistic take on high school and partying, and it actually still had a lot of the kind of fantastical elements that I was used to from teen movies. One of those being like, "Oh no, she's in the slammer!"

Like—you know, like—like, all of the kind of goofy, like... like the way that they end the movie with them driving in and breaking through a fence in the car, and the one character's like, "Oops, my car!" And it's like, "That's fine."

Like, there's—there's still a bit of, like, kind of—it's a teen movie, which I actually enjoy. Like, they didn't—they weren't trying to make some, like, "Oh, like, this is *real*." Like, no! We're just—we're making a teen movie. We're just making it for... this generation, and we're bringing in things that are relevant to them, which I thought was cool.

Sydnee: Which—and that was the—that was the thing that I really enjoyed too, is that it—for me, the things that they would say to each other and—like, when it was just the two of them, and the way they acted towards each other. It revealed the fact that, uh—I grew up—and Teylor, you would probably agree with this. Rileigh, I would say that this is a different experience for you.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: When I grew up, I constantly felt at odds with what was expected of me in terms of me being a female. I constantly felt like there were—there were things I was supposed to be doing and saying, and not supposed to be doing or saying, that never, like—I don't—I don't understand why this has to be what it means to be a female.

And in this movie, there's so many times that they're... gross, or funny, or ridiculous, or silly, or, like—and not in, like, a, "Oh, silly girl!" way.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, crude in ways that traditionally only—especially in movies, only boys can be. And I just—I really appreciated playing with all that. Um, and talking about that, and it felt like a movie that was not made by men, to me.

Teylor: Oh, absolutely.

Sydnee: It felt so strong—like, I felt... parts of my brain—

Rileigh: I do agree with that, yeah.

Sydnee: —up there. Like, I could see things the way that I saw life and they world when I was younger. I saw that on the screen, and that's rare.

Taylor: Well, and—you're right, because there's such that—that idea that I think—I hope—I mean, that *should* die—uh, is, like, females bond over shared insecurities, you know? Like that scene in *Mean Girls* where they all look in the mirror and, like, have to say their flaws and, like—

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: —that—so it's a very tenuous bond, because it's like, our insecurities are what draw us together, but we also have revealed our insecurities to each other. And it's just—you don't really see that, and that's really, like—like, just how much they gas each other up. And I remember even having that feeling, like, as—like, in high school.

I mean, I wasn't friends with people like that. Like, my female friends. We were all nerds. Like, we had removed ourself from the female... equation. [through laughter] 'Cause it was just like, "No. We're—we don't—we don't go to parties, we—we watch anime, we—we don't talk—we're not interested in sex. This is *great*. We can exist. No one sees us, but we can exist."

Sydney: And it's really true that—like, now, the—other than my—other than, you know, my family [laughs quietly]—when I think about my female friendships, um, I feel totally supported and, like, in no competition, and we share things, and we talk about things honestly. And I know that, like—because I work with my two closest female friends.

I know that when I, like, propose something, they're both gonna back my play instantly. I know that if I, like, take a side on something—and if they do, I'll be right there with 'em. Like, it's—it's really nice, and that's the reality of the—the female friendships that I've formed as an adult.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydney: Is that. It's not one of... you know, secret sniping at each other behind each other's backs, or talking about each other, or, you know, feeling bad about ourselves and, like, sharing that. It's very much, like... we are strong and we are tough and we enjoy each other's company, and we support each other wholeheartedly because we believe in each other.

Taylor: Which I think is just non-gendered healthy friendship. I think that—

Sydnee: Sure.

Taylor: —you know, the kind of cliché male friendships come with completely different but similar, like, expectations of, like, how you're supposed to interact. I just—we all just need to move past that into like—you know what works for all of us? Being supportive! Like, encouraging each other!

Sydnee: Exactly.

Taylor: It's—it works for—it's—no gender needed!

Raleigh: Yeah. I'm still a baby adult, but all my college friends thus far, I've had very similar relationship and friendship experiences. Which is... good.

Sydnee: That's good.

Raleigh: And I could talk for *Booksmart* forever, and we will talk about it again at some point I'm sure. Um... but that is all the time we have this week, folks.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] Well, you should see the film.

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: We didn't—we didn't completely spoil it. There's still more that happens at the very end—

Raleigh: Of course.

Sydnee: —but, um—but you should see it if you haven't, 'cause it's so enjoyable. It's so funny and smart and...

Raleigh: Book smart.

Taylor: You can't use that joke twice!

Sydnee: There you go.

Raleigh: No, it's like—I—I—it's like a callback. Like, I—I—

Taylor: Oh, I see. It was like bookends to the podcast.

Rileigh: —ye—ohhh! Yep.

Sydnee: And Olivia Wilde.

Rileigh: Yep.

Sydnee: Directed it, right?

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Uh, such a—so talented.

Rileigh: I'm now realizing that's her husband that plays the principal.

Sydnee: Oh, I didn't realize the.

Rileigh: Full circle. Jason Sudeikis. Um—but anyways—

Sydnee: But Olivia Wilde is so talented.

Rileigh: —yes.

Taylor: Also just Billie Lourd's character.

Sydnee: So good. And then this is a great movie.

Taylor: Just Billie Lourd's character there. [through laughter] That's who I wish I'd been in high school.

Sydnee: So amazing.

Rileigh: Oh, it's so good.

Taylor: [through laughter] Whatever's goin' on with that magical creature.

Rileigh: Every character she plays is just what I want, always.

Sydnee: And I also feel like that—from doing this podcast I knew this, but if you're an adult and you have no idea what's happening with teens in 2019, I feel like this movie gives you some insight.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm. Or our podcast.

Sydnee: Or you could listen to our podcast. [laughs]

Taylor: You have us every week. *Booksmart's* just one movie.

Sydnee: Or, you could go to Maximumfun.org and listen to a lot of great podcasts.

Taylor: There you go.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Did you see that? How I did that, right there?

Raleigh: That was good.

Sydnee: Uh, you, um—also, before I tell you all the other things that I tell you every week—

Raleigh: [Bit.ly/candlenightsstars2019](https://bit.ly/candlenightsstars2019).

Sydnee: There you go.

Raleigh: Is what you were gonna say.

Sydnee: Yes, thank you. I was double checking.

Raleigh: We—yes. We—

Sydnee: I didn't wanna mess it up.

Raleigh: —um, just hit our goal of \$10,000 raised for Contact, a 24 hour sexual assault crisis center here in Huntington. Um, which is amazing!

Sydnee: But why stop there?

Raleigh: Exactly! Why stop there? That's just a first goal. We want ten more goals, like we have every year, and I wanna give them as much as—as much as possible, 'cause they do great work here in Huntington and, um, yeah. I wanna give back.

Sydnee: We really appreciate you. If you have donated to Candlenights Stars—

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: —thank you, thank you, thank you.

Raleigh: So much.

Sydnee: You've done a wonderful thing for a very important cause in our community, and we appreciate it so much. If you haven't and you want to, please do. You'll get your name on a star on our Candlenights—

Raleigh: Five dollars is all it takes.

Sydnee: —yep, as little as five bucks—on the Candlenights stage. Uh, bit.ly/candlenightsstars2019 is where you go to do that, if you can!

And you can tweet at us @stillbuff, and you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org, 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.

[pauses]

Sydnee: When can I sniffle?

Raleigh: Now you can.

Taylor: Oh, go crazy.

Sydnee: Oh, I don't—I don't wanna sniffle [crosstalk]—

Raleigh: Go crazy! Go wild!

Sydnee: —[unintelligible] sniffle and crunch Neccos all afternoon.

Taylor: [whoops]

[theme music plays]

Speaker One: I've got a message for you.

April: Hi, it's me, April Wolfe! The host of *Switchblade Sisters* and co-writer of the new horror film, *Black Christmas*.

Katie: And I'm Katie Walsh, film critic and occasional host of *Switchblade Sisters*.

April: We're here to announce that for one episode, we will be doing something a little different. Much like Jeff Goldblum in David Cronenberg's *The Fly*, I will be going through a truly disturbing transformation.

Katie: April will transform from the interviewer into the interviewee. I will be asking her all about her new film, *Black Christmas*, her writing process, and ongoing existential dread.

April: But I will also be discussing John Carpenter's perfect masterpiece, *Prince of Darkness*.

Movie Clip: You guys seen any movies you like?

Katie: So tune in to *Switchblade Sisters* for a one-of-a-kind episode with April Wolfe, and me, Katie Walsh.

April: See you then!

Movie Clip: Only the corrupt are listened to, now.

[music plays]

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