

## Still Buffering 196: NikkieTutorials

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[theme music plays]

**Raleigh:** Hello, and welcome to *Still Buffering*: a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

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

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

**Raleigh:** Goin' strong.

**Sydnee:** It just flows now.

**Raleigh:** Just flows. Just comes right out.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Did it.

**Sydnee:** There you go. Nothin' to worry about. Uh, I—this is great. You're eating some blueberries right before our podcast.

**Raleigh:** I got my guava tea again.

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] That's good.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. It's gone. It was very good. Um... I ate a whole box of—well, a box is... a misleading term. I ate a whole small plastic container of blueberries. [laughs] As my lunch/breakfast. Um... college is hard.

**Sydnee:** [snorts]

**Taylor:** [laughs] It requires many blueberries, college does.

**Rileigh:** I—I didn't have class, but I tried to wake up and work out, and all that stuff. Thought I'd have time to—to shower and get food before I came here, and I did not. So I just put on... clothes, unshowered, on my sweaty body. Unclean.

**Taylor:** Ooh...

**Rileigh:** And grabbed blueberries.

**Sydnee:** Ew...

**Rileigh:** That was all I had to eat. So that's the current state I'm in. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Taylor:** Well...

**Rileigh:** Just wanted to make sure everyone knew.

**Sydnee:** Uh—

**Rileigh:** That's where I'm at.

**Taylor:** See, you—

**Sydnee:** I was t—

**Taylor:** —hm. You should've—you should've thought that through, 'cause you could've eaten your blueberries in the shower and, like, two birds one st—I don't like that phrase—

**Rileigh:** Yeah, I didn't even think about that.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] —done two things at once, yeah.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Did you all have exciting weekends?

[pauses]

**Taylor:** [quietly] Uhhh... no, I worked.

**Raleigh:** I forgot it was a weekend.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Um... I also did not—

**Sydnee:** I did get to see you, Tey. That was pretty exciting.

**Taylor:** Oh, that's right! I worked right after that.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [stilted] Sydnee, did *you* have an exciting weekend?

**Sydnee:** I did!

**Raleigh:** What'd you do?

**Sydnee:** I got to see Tey!

**Raleigh:** What else did you do?

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Is that—is that what you—is that—is that the most exciting part about it? Is that—that what—

**Sydnee:** Yes, we—we had—we had brunch together at your restaurant and it was great.

**Taylor:** Yeah, that was definitely the most excited thing that happened to you that weekend.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That was my favorite part.

[pauses]

**Sydnee:** Also, on a less exciting note, I *did* talk with Paul Rudd. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Yeah, alright. That's fine.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Look, I'm not—I'm not Paul Rudd! That's okay, I get it! I accept that.

**Rileigh:** I was, uh, holding auditions for summer theater this weekend, as I'm directing the children's preshow. And as I'm sitting in this room that I've been in for going on six hours without eating, I just get a text from Sydnee that says:

"Paul Rudd is as nice as you'd expect him to be."

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** "Also, I danced with Vanessa Hudgens last night." [holding back laughter] And I've never felt so many emotions all at once upon receiving a text.

**Sydnee:** I should be clear. I danced in proximity. It was kind of like a group dance floor situation.

**Rileigh:** But Vanessa Hudgens was there.

**Sydnee:** She was... present. Uh, no, it's such a relief—

**Rileigh:** I can't believe you didn't say anything to her for me.

**Sydnee:** [sighs quietly]

**Rileigh:** *High School Musical*, Sydnee! Alright, that's it.

**Sydnee:** Was that what I should've said? [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's all I'll say. *High School Musical*. I've always loved her.

**Taylor:** "My—I—I'm bringing you a very important message from my little sister, who's a big fan. Uh, she says '[loudly] *High School Musical!*'"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** That's all you had to say.

**Sydnee:** I, uh—

**Raleigh:** She had just broken up with her boyfriend of nine years, Sydnee! You could've offered her some—

**Sydnee:** I didn't know that.

**Raleigh:** —some support!

**Sydnee:** I—that doesn't seem like a thing a stranger should say to you! [laughs]

**Raleigh:** You know what?

**Sydnee:** When you're just tryin' to have a good evening, and it's like, "Hi, I... heard... [holding back laughter] that you broke up with your—"

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's a terrible approach to a conversation. No, I just—it's such a relief when—when you're, you know—when you watched *Clueless* as many times as I did... and loved Paul Rudd for so many years, to meet him, and he's... genuinely a nice person. We talked about growin' up in a small town.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] It was very nice.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** It's just nice! It's nice when people—

**Raleigh:** [bitterly] I'm sure it was *lovely*.

**Sydnee:** No, it's nice when people are as nice as you hope they are.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which—he's friends with Lin, so of course he's nice.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause, you know. But—

**Raleigh:** I like that you've gotten to the point in your friendship with Lin Manuel Miranda that when you go to *his* birthday party it's not the big deal that you got to see him and hang out with him. It's all the famous people that *he* is friends with [through laughter] that are the big deal.

**Sydnee:** No, he's always the big deal. But I should—I should not be shocked that he is friends with other...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** ... genuinely nice people. 'Cause he is a genuinely nice person. And, uh, Stacey London gave me fashion advice.

**Raleigh:** [sighs] That's all you've ever wanted.

**Sydnee:** That's all I—I have wanted Stacey London to rescue me. [laughs] For so—

**Taylor:** Can—can you—

**Raleigh:** Did you say "Can we go on a shopping spree right now?"

**Sydnee:** "Please, help me Stacey!"

**Raleigh:** "We're in New York."

**Taylor:** Can you tell—can you tell us what was her advice? How did she feel about what you were wearing?

**Sydnee:** She critiqued me.

**Raleigh:** [gasps] Oh!

**Sydnee:** Uh, she told me should would not have chosen those shoes. [laughs]

**Taylor:** No!

**Rileigh:** You know who else said they would not have chosen those shoes?

**Sydnee:** Mom.

**Rileigh:** Mom. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I know!

**Taylor:** Well.

**Sydnee:** Well, the dress was... it was, like, uh... maroon-ish? I don't know what color that was. And navy?

**Rileigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** And Mom said I should be wearing black shoes, and I was like, "But the dress—but it has navy!" So I thought I had to wear the brown boots.

**Rileigh:** But they were very light brown.

**Sydnee:** I don't know. But Stacey London agreed. I should've gone with black shoes. But she did say that she was very happy that I found my waist.

**Rileigh:** That's good. I'm glad you found your waist.

**Sydnee:** I found my waist. [laughs quietly]

**Rileigh:** I'm really proud of you.

**Taylor:** Is that hard? It's—it's right there. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Apparently it's a problem for people! No, I remember that from watching *What Not to Wear*.

**Rileigh:** I watched so much *What Not to Wear* because of you.

**Sydnee:** I know. People not knowing where their waist is.

**Rileigh:** Yeah, you think it's, like, a different place than your real waist is.

**Sydnee:** Everybody always thinks it's lower than it is.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Your waist is higher than you think it is. Uh, but I found it. She was proud of me.

**Raleigh:** Like a search, a mission.

**Sydnee:** So my life is complete! [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Treasure hunt.

**Sydnee:** That's all I needed! Uh—

**Raleigh:** Um, you met Regina Spektor.

**Sydnee:** Yes. She also—genuine, nice. Uh, when I told her that I loved her music, which has to have been the—how many millionth time—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** —a human has said that to her? She acted genuinely, like, touched.

**Raleigh:** "That's the first time anyone's ever said that to me!"

**Sydnee:** I know! And it's like, the—uh... certainly I am not the first person tonight to even talk about how talented and amazing you are.

**Taylor:** Yeah, but I think if you've gotten to the point—or you've let your head get big enough that somebody genuine compliments the thing that you have devoted your life to and you're like, "[scoffs] [bored tone] Do you know how many people have told me that?" Like—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** —"Okay!" [laughs] Like, I think that's—

**Raleigh:** "Never mind!"



**Taylor:** I think that should always make you stop and go, "Wow, cool! Someone loves what I do." And if that doesn't happen, then you might be a butthead.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's true. That's true. Just... very kind, sweet people. Celebrities, they're just like us.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Except—except not really, 'cause there are a lot of, like, you know, 'regleeur' people who are kinda mean. So—

**Taylor:** That's true.

**Raleigh:** So, you know. It all balances out, really.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. So there are also some celebrities who are just... genuinely kind, nice people.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** So. That's the moral of my weekend. The most—

**Raleigh:** This has been *Still Buff*—[laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** —the most important person I hung out with all weekend was Taylor. For her—

**Taylor:** Your favorite—your favorite celebrity.

**Sydnee:** My favorite celebrity.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Taylor Smirl, for her birthday.

**Taylor:** It was very nice. We got to come to brunch at my restaurant before I had to work brunch at my restaurant. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And we—and then we almost got trapped in New York by a snowstorm, but we made it out. Just barely.

**Raleigh:** But you made it home.

**Taylor:** I was hoping that snow would let me keep you for a few more days, but alas.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** And I'll be in New York in, like, six weeks!

**Taylor:** Woo, yay!

**Raleigh:** Woo! We're *all* going to New York.

**Taylor:** That's true, actually.

**Raleigh:** Slowly but surely.

**Sydnee:** [holding back laughter] I'll let Paul Rudd know you're coming.

**Raleigh:** Thanks! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, Raleigh, do you wanna talk about something that you've brought this week? Do you wanna do a thing? Do you wanna do the thi—the show?

**Raleigh:** Do I wanna do the podcast?

**Sydnee:** Do the—do you want to—[snorts]

**Raleigh:** I would very much like to do the podcast, actually.

**Sydnee:** Okay.

**Raleigh:** Um—

**Sydnee:** You gotta get to class.

**Raleigh:** I gotta get to class. I got a Spanish class in a few hours.

**Taylor:** Wait, wait. I was—I thought the point of this podcast was Paul Rudd, who's just like us. Is it not? 'Cause I was down with it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] Paul Rudd!

**Sydnee:** That's a good one, too.

**Raleigh:** Let's talk about all the ways in which Paul Rudd is just like us. Um...

**Sydnee:** Nice. [laughs] Uh... from a small town.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. What else you got?

**Sydnee:** I don't have anything else—I don't—

**Raleigh:** Okay. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I mean, after that, like—

**Taylor:** You see him eat any food? Does he—does he eat food like—like people eat food? Like—

**Sydnee:** Uhh, I'm sure he must've been eating. There were so many... delicious things being passed around on trays.

**Raleigh:** What kind of food was there?

**Sydnee:** There was, like, um—like tapas, like little... hors d'oeuvres on trays that were passed around. There was a giant paella. All kinds of—

**Raleigh:** Wow. That sounds delicious.

**Sydnee:** It was very good. Anyway.

**Rileigh:** Wow.

**Taylor:** Alright.

**Rileigh:** Um, so we're talking about Paul Rudd. [laughs] We're talking about NikkieTutorials, who is a beauty YouTuber that I have been watching for years. She is, like, the one beauty YouTuber I have maintained, like—like—[through laughter] I almost said a relationship with!

Um, I often will, like, find beauty YouTubers on YouTube that I like and will watch a few videos, but then never really go back to them. But she's the one that I have watched consistently for years. Like, if I need something to turn on when I'm getting in bed, something relaxing to watch, if I want to watch something while I'm doing my makeup, if I genuinely want to learn how to do makeup better—like, anything I could want to watch for any sort of mood.

I'm always like, "Well, that seems like a good—good choice. Let's see what videos she's got—she's got goin' on." Um, so yeah, I wanna talk about... her.

**Sydnee:** Well—

**Rileigh:** That was—that is—your—here. I've presented her.

**Sydnee:** In preparation for this episode, I have, uh, done my best to familiarize myself with Nikkie. Of NikkieTutorials. 'Cause I had never heard of her. Or—and—and this is no slight. I don't watch many YouTube videos—

**Rileigh:** Well, yeah.

**Sydnee:** —that aren't, um...

**Rileigh:** Baby Shark?

**Sydnee:** Yeah, for my children? [laughs quietly] That aren't people opening LOLs.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or... Ryan. Uh, those are the only YouTubes I'm familiar with, what we call weird videos.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. [quietly] Lots of weird videos.

**Sydnee:** Uh, so I—I watched a bunch, so I would know...

**Raleigh:** That's good.

**Sydnee:** ... what I was talking about. I learned that I knew nothing about makeup.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Surprising... no one. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That was the first thing that I learned.

**Raleigh:** Um, so Nikkie has been in the news... yeah, the news—a lot recently, because she posted a video called "I'm Coming Out," and it was her saying that she was assigned male at birth, and is transgender, and that is something that she has never shared with... anyone, based on the video, except for, you know, her close family. Her mom, um, her fiance, her close friends.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** But she shared with her followers and her subscribers for the first time ever that she is transgender, and the reason she had to do so was very... horrible. She said in the video that she was blackmailed into doing so, which is awful, and something that no one should ever have to experience. You know, being forced to share something that is a part of them that doesn't really belong to anyone else.

But, from what I have seen, the response has been nothing but supportive and caring and... you know. She has a good—a good fan base.

**Sydnee:** I would hope, but I don't—obviously I don't know, you know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But the response has been good?

**Raleigh:** Yeah, from what I have seen in my very small view of the internet.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Obviously I don't see all. Um—

**Sydnee:** I thought the video—that was the first one I watched.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Which is a w—that was, like, probab—I should've probably gone back or something—I don't know if that was the right order.

**Raleigh:** Well—

**Sydnee:** But I started with that video, and I thought it was a really beautiful video. Not knowing her or having any sort of personal relation—not—not that—not that watching YouTube videos is a personal relationship, but you know what I mean.

**Raleigh:** It feels like it is.

**Sydnee:** Like, it was the first time that I had watched one of her videos. I thought it was a very lovely video, very honest. It felt very raw and real, and... true, and a very kind of... I don't know. It was—it was beautiful. I don't think you had to be familiar with her prior work—

**Raleigh:** No, not at all.

**Sydnee:** —to appreciate that video.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I cried while watching it. [laughs quietly] Um, I think it was—it's very eye-opening when you think about it, because she shared in the video that she started on, um, hormone therapy and things like that, treatments, um, when she was... eleven years old? Something like? Very young. Fourteen? Something—

**Sydnee:** I think about fourteen.

**Taylor:** Fourteen.

**Raleigh:** Fourteen?

**Sydnee:** I think fourteen.

**Raleigh:** Um, and that was when she also started doing YouTube videos, and has been consistently on YouTube the entire time since then, and now that's been... over a decade that she's been on YouTube, and she mentioned in the video that, you know, all of the transitional procedures and treatments that she had take place all happened while she was on YouTube, and she never shared that with anyone.

It—I mean, I have been watching her videos for probably close to a decade now, and I had no idea. But, I mean, the way she said it was, that's not the point of what she does. She doesn't want anyone to make her identity, that's hers and belongs to her. That doesn't change who she is or change what she does. What she does is her makeup, and that's what she cares about, and that's her passion, and she wants her channel to be about that. And I think that's very lovely.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** And inspiring.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I totally—like, I thought—I really, um, admire that about her. Because I kind of—I relate to that? I feel like sometimes, you know, it's—you know, I have friends where, like, you know, they're cartoonists, and a lot of their work is about their—their queerness and identity, and I love their stuff. But for me, that's just not—it's just not what I want to do.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Like, there's—that's a—there's a part of me, but there's so much more to me! And there's so much—my interest lies so far away from that, in what I want my work to be about. And it's like, I just—you know. That's—from the very beginning, her first video, she wanted to show people how she does makeup, and that's what she's done.

And, you know, her—her gender identity, or anything about her sexuality has... nothing to do with that.

**Sydnee:** Right. But I do think—I mean, I agree completely, and I think, you know, the hard thing is, it is her right to never have to... to say anything other than that.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like, she never—she—she... she does not have, like, an obligation to share anything else. Um, beyond the art that she puts out there, what she does and what she wants to say and do. That's it. Nobody—nobody's obligated to tell anybody anything else, especially anything personal or intimate about themselves.

Um, so it's terrible that she was put in a position where she felt like she had no other choice, and that it wasn't on—it wasn't—the timing wasn't on her terms. But, the coming out, the actual—her words, what she chose to say—that was her platform, and those were her words. Um, and I—I do think that... every time somebody stands up and says who they are and is honest about themselves, I think that—and she talks about that in the video, that it is more likely that someone watching will feel that they can be honest and be who they are.

So I thought that was a very beautiful thing that through that traumatic kind of experience that she was going through of being blackmailed, she was able to find the beauty of, you know—I'm just gettin' teared up thinkin' about.

**Raleigh:** Are you—are you crying? Aw, Syd!

**Sydnee:** Don't give me a hard time!

**Raleigh:** I looked over and I was like, "Oh no, her eyes!" [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, 'cause she—she realized that. It was very, like, "You know what? I hate—this sucks, it's not fair, it's not right—" I hate the term "silver lining" because not everything has a silver lining, and we look so hard for silver linings when sometimes there just isn't one.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, but she was able to say "This sucks, it's not fair, it's not right. *But*, if someone watching says 'I want to be honest about who I am, and I'm ready to



say that out loud and I'm ready to tell other people, or I'm just ready to tell myself,' like, that's a beautiful thing."

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** Yeah, I agree.

**Taylor:** I agree, but I do think it—it raises the important point, which you touched on, which is that you don't... I think that there's pressure. I feel like, you know, some people put it on themselves. Sometimes the community puts it on people that belong to it. Like, you have to—it's almost like—like in AA where you have to go around and tell everybody "Hello, I'm an alcoholic." It's like—when she was talking about how she shares her truth with the people she loves and she trusts, and that's her choice, and I think that's really important to know.

That you—you don't have to tell. You don't have to tell everybody. You don't, like... deny your identity if you haven't gone up to everybody, including people that you know are gonna be nasty or negative about it, and told them. Like, that is your truth it it's—it's part of you, and you can share it with as many or as few people as you choose to. That doesn't invalidate your existence.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. And especially if you're talking about, in this example, sharing it with *the world*.

**Taylor:** Exactly.

**Sydnee:** On YouTube, you know. I mean, even more so. That's... much bigger than the—than coming out would be for most people who don't have that kind of audience, you know.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I mean, imagine being a young teenager and going through something that is a—a big... transformation into who she always knew who she was, and having to share that with thousands of people that will never meet you in your life and don't really know you. I—I would understand not wanting to make that... on—or put that on social media and make that public.

**Sydnee:** Especially from a very, like, pragmatic standpoint. She's made a career.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** You know, doing makeup tutorials, doing what—you know, she was—her skill. Like, sharing her talent and her skill with everyone, and she's—that is her career. I'm assuming that's how she pays the bills!

**Raleigh:** Yeah. That's—that's her job.

**Sydnee:** That would be my guess!

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And, uh, to know that there's—to have that voice that goes, "Will this threaten it? Could—could being honest put that in jeopardy?" That's very scary, because then, one—again, very practically—how do you live? And then, two, "I love doing this thing and sharing it with people, and I might not be able to share my art with people." So all the money and—and logical things aside, just the—the very, like, "I have this creative ability. I love showing people how to do this stuff, and maybe this piece of information could cause people not to listen." That's gotta be really hard.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Of course, I don't think it *has*. I think people are still—

**Taylor:** Right.

**Sydnee:** Although that was her most—was that her most recent video?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** I think.

**Raleigh:** Yes. Um, if I—unless I've missed one, then yes, that is her most recent video. Um, there have been—and that kind of touches on what you were just talking about. She had a, uh, makeup line deal with a brand of makeup called Two-Faced, where, you know, they're already—it's her own brand. She did a collaboration with them, made some products. Um, and she was very vocal

afterwards about... well, later, um, about how poorly she was paid for it, basically. That she wasn't compensated very well for all the actual, like, creative effort that she put into it, that the deal she got based off of how much she would get off of every unit sold was not very much, and she really, you know, was treated poorly, just as a collaborator on this project.

And after she, um, posted her coming out video, one of the, uh—the owner's sister, who works for the makeup company, changed her—this is the first time I've ever seen anyone use this form of—of insult—changed her Instagram bio. Like, her bio on Instagram! To say "Transgender, huh? That's not the only thing she's been lying about."

And was, soon after, fired from the company, and now no longer has any association with them.

**Sydnee:** *Wow.*

**Raleigh:** But—I mean, can you imagine—I know! Changed her Instagram bio, which is, like, why—why would you even... [pauses] obviously doesn't know how social media works, but it's an awful thing to say about someone. I think referencing her identity, and also what she had said about the company after working with them.

But I mean, could you imagine if that was part of Nikkie's identity years ago, and that sort of, you know, unconscious—or very deliberate bias and prejudice was present in people she was trying to work with. I—I could totally understand that fear of your identity and who you are coming in—interfering with just... your passion.

**Sydnee:** I can't—I can't believe somebody would do that.

**Raleigh:** Right?! But yeah, the, uh—the company—

**Sydnee:** That's—on so many levels—

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** There's so much to unpack there. Like, that's awful. That's terrible. I'm—that's good that they did the right thing, letting her go, you know?

**Taylor:** I mean, it is nice when the trash takes itself out. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I mean, part of me is like, "Well, you know, you showed—you showed everyone that you're an awful person, and you're horrible, and you don't deserve a job in this industry. So I'm glad you have been fired." But—

**Sydnee:** But then you get to, like, the next level where, like, why would you do that?

**Raleigh:** Yeah!

**Sydnee:** Like, how did you not—even if—even if you have those awful thoughts and feelings about people, like, why did you say that? And then the third is—so there's a bio on Instagram? That's the third question I had. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** That is—

**Sydnee:** Do I have one?

**Raleigh:** [long-suffering] Yes.

**Taylor:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** I mean—

**Sydnee:** I have a—

**Taylor:** I don't think you've filled it in.

**Raleigh:** Have you written anything in it? That's a good question.

**Sydnee:** How—I don't—when the show's over, will you show me how to get to it?

**Raleigh:** [sighs] It's just like your—

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** —it—you don't have a bio. It's just like your Twitter one, Sydnee!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Yeah, it's just your name. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Okay. [laughs]

**Taylor:** That is a really bizarre place to—to hide an insult, or... that's just a... that's... like, "I'm just gonna make my AIM away message, uh—"

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs] That's basically what she's done, yeah! Um—

**Sydnee:** Okay. So it's like a Twitter bio.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, it's your Twitter bio.

**Sydnee:** I have that.

**Raleigh:** You have that, but your Instagram was just your name and then that weird, awkward selfie you took in mom and dad's living room.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] I'll change my Instagram bio to say the same thing as my Twitter bio.

**Raleigh:** That's good. That's good. That's what mine is.

**Sydnee:** It's nice if they're—

**Raleigh:** They're the same.

**Sydnee:** —yeah, they're the same. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** Um, I wanna talk more about Nikkie's videos, but...

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** ... before we do that... [quietly] you usually do this part. [normal volume] Let's check the group message! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I do! I—you totally—you switched the—the order. We're changin' everything up for 2020.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

**Sydnee:** It's all new.

**Raleigh:** Yep.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sydnee:** Uh, you're gonna start us off.

**Raleigh:** I am, actually! I wanna tell you all about Native. Um, we've talked about Native before, because they create [hesitantly] simple... safe, [holding back laughter] effective products—products, that people use in the bathroom every day.

Their products are created with trusted ingredients, and if you still aren't convinced, you can check out the 9,000 five star reviews from their customers.

So, Native makes deodorant, and we've all used Native deodorant. I have used Native deodorant for... years now. If not years, many—many months. Um, I love Native deodorant. It smells great. It makes my pits... I'm gonna use the word "pits" in 2020—

**Sydnee:** Sure.

**Raleigh:** —makes my pits smell... delicious. Like coconuts—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] Like coconuts.

**Raleigh:** —and—yes, like, coconut and vanilla! Um—

**Sydnee:** That's my favorite! That's—coconut anything really gets me, but.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. The coconut and vanilla is very, like, beachy and—and summery, even in these cold winter months.

**Sydnee:** Make your pits smell like the beach.

**Rileigh:** Yes, they do! In a weird... way.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** Um... and their formula contains simple ingredients like tapioca starch and coconut oil, so you know everything that's in your deodorant.

It comes in a wide variety of enticing scents for all people, plus limited edition seasonal scents. Hmm! And they have an unscented formula and baking soda free formulas, for those with sensitivities, if you need something easier on your underarms.

So, Sydnee, if our listeners want to check out Native, what should they do?

**Sydnee:** Well, for 20% off your first purchase, visit [Nativedeodorant.com](http://Nativedeodorant.com) and use "buffering" during checkout! That's [Nativedeodorant.com](http://Nativedeodorant.com) and code "buffering" for 20% off your first purchase.

**Rileigh:** So go get some beachy pits.

[pauses]

**Sydnee:** Alright, Tey. You've—this is all you.

**Rileigh:** All you.

**Sydnee:** We got a Jumbotron this week.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** Woop woop!

**Sydnee:** You are specifically named in this Jumbotron, so I think—I think we just gotta turn it all over to you.

**Taylor:** Alright, great. Well, uh, I—I have this Jumbotron for, uh, "My wife Sarah," only not... my wife—

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

**Taylor:** Not my wife. It says "My wife—"

**Sydnee:** Congratulations!

**Raleigh:** Congratulations! [laughs]

**Taylor:** I don't—I don't have a wife named Sarah. Uh, it's from "Your husband Joe," but not... your—not neither—either of yours—husbands—

**Sydnee:** No.

**Raleigh:** I don't have a husband named Joe.

**Taylor:** Aw, this is confusing. Geez, Joe. I'm trying to read your message directly.

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** This is for Joe—[laughs quietly] from Joe to Sarah! They are married! That's what it is. [laughs]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Got it. We have the relationships and names down.

**Raleigh:** You're doing great.

**Taylor:** There you go.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Uh, alright. It's—

**Sydnee:** What's the event?!



**Taylor:** It says "Happy birthday to my beautiful wife, from the 'SMcElroy' sisters, on behalf of your husband. You got me listening to this family, but I bet I can get Taylor to say "butts" for you. Happy birthday, my dear. Butts, butts, butts for you, Sarah!"

**Sydnee:** Aww...

**Raleigh:** [groans]

**Sydnee:** Not just butts, but butts for *you*.

**Raleigh:** Butts for you...

**Taylor:** Um, I hope you have a wonderful birthday. I actually hope there aren't too many butts in your birthday. I don't know. I don't know! Whatever. Happy birthday. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** Yes, yeah. Happy birthday.

**Raleigh:** Happy birthday!

**Sydnee:** I think it's the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Is her actual—

**Raleigh:** So we're two days early.

**Sydnee:** So this is an early birthday message, Sarah, but you can cash it in—you can hold on to it and then cash it in on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Raleigh:** Cash in on those butts.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, on all those butts.

**Taylor:** Woo!

**Sydnee:** From—directly from Taylor to you.

**Taylor:** Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sydnee:** Uh, so we should—let's talk about some of the NikkieTutorials videos.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Because as she said, she wanted her—her life, you know, to be about her art.

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] About her art!

**Sydnee:** And that's what she put in the forefront.

**Raleigh:** So we're gonna talk about her art.

**Sydnee:** So let's talk about it.

**Raleigh:** Um... yeah. So, I—I have been, watching, like I said, her for years. But I find it so inspiring and so cool that she has so many videos with such big celebrities, doing their makeup and talking to them. And just being, like, a close personal friend.

**Sydnee:** That's helpful for me, as someone who is kind of not... um...

**Raleigh:** I thought you were gonna say "as a celebrity." [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** No... I am not a celebrity.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, I just occasionally get to meet them, and then try not to... freak out. I—but as someone who is not, like, in the YouTube world, like, I'm very—I never know who the cool YouTubers are.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, to—I'm watching these videos and I'm thinking, like, "So I guess a lot of people must watch these." And then Lady Gaga shows up in a video and I'm like, "Okay! Well—"

**Raleigh:** "So a good amount of people watch these."

**Sydnee:** Yeah, so you're *very* famous. I understand now. If you're—if you're Gaga famous...

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** ... you're famous.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. She's had videos recently with Lady Gaga, with Drew Barrymore, um... Kim Kardashian, just so many—

**Sydnee:** We got a Kardashian.

**Raleigh:** —we got a Kardashian in there! Um, and she does their makeup and talks to 'em, and not only that, but she's had videos where she's just done straight up makeup tutorials that I've watched and tried to follow, with little to no success. Um, she's just so good at it! Like, I—I just—

**Sydnee:** How—uh, can I ask a basic question?

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** How are you supposed to know that the concealer doesn't go on first? I always thought concealer was the first thing you put on.

**Raleigh:** Can I ask why you think that?

**Sydnee:** 'Cause it conceals what's underneath.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm. But... but are you putting on *foundation*?

**Sydnee:** Well, no.

**Taylor:** But it—

**Rileigh:** Okay. Well, then, sure. Concealer can go on first, 'cause you're not putting anything else on your face!

**Sydnee:** Yeah. But even when I did—'cause there was a time in my life where I used foundation.

**Rileigh:** Uh-huh.

**Sydnee:** I would put on the concealer first—

**Rileigh:** No, mm-mm, no.

**Sydnee:** —and then, like, under my eyes—'cause I always have circles under my eyes—and on any zits that I might have, and then I would put foundation over that, and then put powder over that. And then blush and lipstick.

**Taylor:** Syd, it's right there in the name! It's *foundation*!

**Rileigh:** Foundation.

**Taylor:** It's the *foundation* of your face.

**Sydnee:** Well, okay. I thought concealer was optional.

**Rileigh:** No.

**Sydnee:** I didn't think you used concealer routinely—

**Rileigh:** Noo! Concealer's not optional!

**Sydnee:** Well, I just assumed that I had such a close—

**Rileigh:** Well—

**Sydnee:** —personal relationship with concealer because I always had acne. I mean, that was just—even now, I still get zits. They tell you, you know, that someday that stops? 36, is still hasn't. But, uh, I just assumed that was why.

**Rileigh:** Yeah. I thought when I turned 18 and became an adult, my acne would magically go away.

**Taylor:** Ah, no.

**Rileigh:** That's not true. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** It's real fun when you've got, like, "Oh, well there's wrinkles here, and there's acne here. What do—what do you do?" You just—nothing.

**Rileigh:** Help! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I'm in my 30's. I give up. It's fine. This is my face now!

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm, yeah. Yeah. Throw in my gray hair there, and that's... a great look.

**Rileigh:** Did you watch any videos of hers with Charlie?

**Sydnee:** No, I haven't watched any with Charlie.

**Rileigh:** Because Charlie would love them.

**Sydnee:** Charlie would love the videos.

**Rileigh:** Um, she's done some videos with, like, using all kids and Claire's makeup, doing a full face.

**Sydnee:** Aww...

**Rileigh:** And I don't understand—because the makeup that she gets, like... like, the Claire's makeup especially, it's that kind of makeup that doesn't even really have any color in it, it's just kind of chalk. But she is able to create these beautiful looks that look so professional, that I could never achieve with the best makeup products... with Claire's makeup! And it's just—I don't get it!

**Sydnee:** I—I understood best the, um—I watched some of her super early videos, like her first video. I went all the way back. And those makeup looks

make the most sense to me, but I think it's the era. [laughs quietly] I think it's the timing of those videos.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I'm like, "Yes, I understand these makeup looks. Mm-hmm, this is about—" although she's still way more talented than me. She knows how to put—I never knew that there were things you did with eye shadow other than just kind of, like, rub it across.

**Raleigh:** [inhales] Oh, you used your finger. In that motion.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:** You use your finger to put on eye shadow?

**Sydnee:** Well, I mean, no. I use that little...

**Taylor:** The little... hmm, yeah.

**Raleigh:** [high pitched] You use the one that comes with the pallet! The little sponge!

**Sydnee:** Yeah? What else would you—I don't *have* anything else. I don't—I literally don't own any...

**Raleigh:** A brush?

**Sydnee:** I don't have—I mean, there—I have the brush that sometimes comes into the blush. That—depending on—although the blush I got now has, like, a sponge in it, so.

**Taylor:** It's crazy, Syd. High end makeup doesn't even give you a tool. It just is like, "Nah. Just... you're—"

**Raleigh:** "You got your own."

**Taylor:** Expecting you to buy it.

**Raleigh:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** I don't have—I don't have those. I did buy some of the little cotton circles? The discs? Because I lost—

**Rileigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** —the cotton disc that came with my powder once.

**Taylor:** Cotton? Like, the one-use things?!

[pauses]

**Sydnee:** ... Yeah.

**Taylor:** Those aren't for makeup!

**Rileigh:** [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Like, I—[stammering]

**Rileigh:** That's not for makeup!

**Taylor:** I don't do a lot of makeup. I—but I know that.

**Rileigh:** That's, like, for—for—[laughs] that's, like, for makeup *remover*!

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Rileigh:** Like, that's what you put your makeup remover on to take it off your eyes!

**Sydnee:** Well, when I lost my disc from my powder, I got those discs and use those.

**Rileigh:** And I—I know what disc you're talking about. You're talking about, like, the little poof.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Rileigh:** And that is nothing like those little thin, dry, cotton rounds!

**Taylor:** Syd did you... end up with, like, clumps of cotton on your face? I mean, you're on your way to, like, a zombie makeup tutorial. That's an actual step there. [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** She does those too, though. Well, not zombies, but I saw a demon one that was really cool.

**Taylor:** I like her, uh—her Halloweeks? She does, like, different makeup every day for a week. [through laughter] Um, actually there was one video that I saw—and I think she got the idea from another YouTuber, but I really liked hers where she was putting on her makeup in haunted woods?

[pauses]

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Taylor:** Alone? So, like, she had her crew set her up—set herself up and then drive away, and she was in this—in the woods at night, doing a spooky makeup [through laughter] in the spooky forest!

**Raleigh:** I love that.

**Sydnee:** That's really funny.

**Taylor:** This is—I can get down with this. Like...

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She—she's very, um—she's very funny. She's very witty. I like her sense of humor, and I can see why—not just—I mean, the makeup aside, obviously she's very talented. Like, that's not—I don't think that's revolutionary to say. She's very talented. But, like, I enjoyed... and I don't—you know, this is weird. I don't watch YouTube videos. This is a whole, like—

**Raleigh:** You don't. Except for Charlie's and Cooper's.

**Sydnee:** It was actually hard for me to sit down and do it because I was like, "Well, what am I gonna do while I'm—I've gotta watch these YouTube videos for the show. What am I gonna do while I'm watching them?" And you—



**Raleigh:** You watch... them. What?

**Sydnee:** I've never.. I don't—

**Raleigh:** It's like TV!

**Sydnee:** I don't—I mean, even TV I'm always doin' something else. I never just sit and watch anything.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Unless, like, a movie maybe. But it was weird to, like, sit and watch. And I did enjoy them. Like, it was an enjoyable experience. [pauses] I like YouTube. [snorts]

**Raleigh:** She, uh—that's the first time I think I've ever heard you say that. Um...

**Sydnee:** I—there we go.

**Raleigh:** She truly is a sorceress. There have been several videos where she's shown before makeup, like, spots on her face or dark circles or whatever. And by the end it's like I don't—she's replaced her skin with new skin. It makes it look so smooth. And even when I use the same foundations and the same products that she does I'm like—I don't know—I truly don't understand how she does it.

Um, but she actually made makeup challenges on YouTube very popular. Like, um, blindfolded makeup or makeup in reverse order. There was one I watched recently—she did, like, her makeup in alphabetical order. So, like, whatever product came first in the alphabet she did first. Which, of course, was not... you know. The usual way. Like, you usually wouldn't do blush first and then foundation last, but.

**Sydnee:** No, you do concealer first, obviously.

**Raleigh:** Well, um... still wrong.

**Sydnee:** No, there's the spray! Primer.

**Taylor:** There you go.

**Raleigh:** Yeah! Wowww! Nikkie!

**Sydnee:** Not to... prime is a crime.

**Raleigh:** Yes! [through laughter] Oh my—[high pitched laughter] I never thought I'd hear Sydnee quote NikkieTutorials!

**Sydnee:** I saw that.

**Raleigh:** That is, that's what she says almost every video.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Raleigh:** That's true. Not to prime is a crime.

**Taylor:** I was—I was gonna say—

**Sydnee:** I don't own that, but I recognize-

**Raleigh:** But you know it.

**Taylor:** [crosstalk] [laughs]

**Raleigh:** No. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** I—I do not—

**Taylor:** You've bought a primer in the wild?

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I do not own a primer—no, uh. I got—a primer came in some sort of kit I got once for something else, and I remember sitting there looking at that spray bottle going "What in the world... do you..." I had no idea.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** But anyway.

**Raleigh:** I mean, there are spray primers, there are—

**Sydnee:** I understand now, in context.

**Raleigh:** —there are, like, silicone-y ones. There are... all kinds.

**Sydnee:** There just was a lot that was going into the base as I was watching her videos that I did not—I think that's what blows my mind, is there's a lot more that goes on there, but I understand it, because you can see the artistry that results in the way that, like—she understands light.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** To really understand and do makeup well, you have to understand the way light reflects off of the contours of your face, and that is impressive to me. I mean, you have to understand, like, physics. [laughs quietly] It's impressive! Uh, it's certainly not something I can do. Teylor, you probably have a better... eye for that with your artistic abilities.

**Teylor:** Well, that's like—I sometimes—I don't wear a lot of makeup, but I watch makeup videos in the background when I'm drawing a lot of time, just 'cause it's kind of pleasant and I can kind of come in and out of focus on it. Uh, that's been my major, like, watching of Nikkie.

Uh, but I do. It's—a lot of it's just, like, they're—they don't get as much credit as I think makeup artists deserve for the fact that they're painters, they're artists. They're doing it on human skin, but they're applying contouring, and I mean, like, the color correction they do—a lot of the same stuff that when you approach a canvas and you're trying to create—you know, oftentimes in painting you're creating illusions of depth and of high spaces and of, you know, color—of tones, of warmth or coldness.

Like, all the same stuff that you kind of learn in, like, an understanding of how color interacts and, like, additive color, is what you're doing in makeup. And it really—it's really amazing to see it done.

**Raleigh:** She—she is an artist, but she also, like, makes her canvas. She sets it all up. It's like when Bob Ross does that thing where he puts, like, the... the white primer on his canvas.

**Teylor:** Gesso? Gesso. Yes.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Yeah. To make all the colors blend better and everything look—look better.

**Sydnee:** Ohhh.

**Raleigh:** It's like that, except she's doin' it all on her face.

**Taylor:** You wouldn't—you wouldn't put your strokes down on a naked canvas, so all of that stuff is just like priming your canvas. I get that.

**Raleigh:** Right, yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's good to know. Okay, I didn't know—I mean, I am not going to attempt to paint on a canvas, but that's good to know.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, or on anything else.

**Raleigh:** On your face.

**Sydnee:** Never, yeah. I—yeah. I mean, I guess I paint on my—I put blush on?

**Raleigh:** That's good!

**Sydnee:** I don't put eye shadow on, 'cause I don't know what I'm doing with it, I've learned.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, one thing I've really been impressed with that I wish I could learn more from her, but I can't, is that, um, she has a different eye shape than most people. I don't know if you—either of you noticed this in any of your videos you watched, but she has very hooded eyes.

So she's changed the way she does her eye shadow so that when her eyes are open you can still see all of it, which is different than, like—I don't really have hooded eyes, so I can just put eye shadow on all of my eyelid and whatever they look like closed is pretty much what they look like open.

But she has to change it so that she's doing it in a way so that even when some of her eyelid is concealed when its open, it still looks like a complete look. And it

doesn't look like her eyes are hooded. And that is so fascinating to me, because she even does her eyeliner differently so that it still looks like one continuous line, even though her eyes are—are hooded.

**Taylor:** Is that a cut crease? Is that where you move the—where the thing is?

**Raleigh:** Um, she does a lot of cut creases. That's more when you, like, paint concealer on to the middle part of your eyelid, but leave all of the very well blended, like, colorful eye shadow around the outside and then put, like, a solid color like some glitter or something in the middle.

So you've got, like, a solid block of, like, glitter on the middle of your eyelid, and then you've got all this blended color and, like, one very even line around the outside. She does a lot of cut creases, something, again, that I can not... I just... [quietly] she's so good.

**Sydnee:** I also found the eyebrows very impressive.

**Taylor:** Oh, yeah.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** She was, like, drawing on individual... brow hairs. That was crazy.

**Taylor:** I think the—and this is—I mean, she's definitely one of the—on the forefront of this, but I think it's accredited to a lot of these YouTube makeup artists, is that, like, I feel like there was definitely—Syd, maybe you agree with me.

Like, when we were coming up its like, "What a—when you have makeup on, it's supposed to look like you are a flawless, natural being, but you can't—it can't read as makeup. It's gotta... you know, you gotta look natural, but you gotta use a thousand products to get there, and if you can tell you have makeup on, then you done goofed."

And I—and I feel like that's—I don't know. I feel like it's also kind of just like a... like, makeup is fun. Like, having, like, artistry on your face is fun, and a think a lot of people—not just women, but people have been allowed to reclaim, like, having a face of makeup, and putting their makeup on, and letting it be for them

and about them, and it's not going for this, like—this beauty standard of perfection and flawlessness, that we're just gonna try to fake with makeup.

It's like, no, no, no. I'm definitely wearing eyelashes. I'm definitely wearing eye shadow. I'm wearing a lip.

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Taylor:** I'm beautiful.

**Raleigh:** Yeah. I like that she says a lot that she's, um—she uses the word "caked" for when she's putting on her foundation, which for so long was, like, offensive. Like, if you told someone "Oh, your makeup looks so cakey." Like, you mean it looks, like, too thick and too obvious that it's makeup.

But she talks about how much she loves full coverage foundation. She wants to look caked, and like she has done a full face of makeup, and she puts on these super long eyelashes and then puts on diamonds underneath her eyes and—it's just, like... yeah! Like, I want people to know that I'm really good at what I do, and I want you know this is makeup, because look how good it looks!

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Raleigh:** I—I love that.

**Sydnee:** Well, and that's—I think that that message comes through even with just the relatively few number of videos that I watched to how many she has, that it's—it's about you doing it for you because it's what you want, because it's how you want to look right now and because you feel good about the result, and it has nothing to do with anyone else telling you how to look or what you should do or what—you know, what will be attractive to someone else.

It's very much for you, which is a wonderful message to share, no matter what you're talking about; makeup or anything else, that the choices you make need to be the best for you. And, you know, considering your own health and well being and happiness and all that.

**Taylor:** That reminds me, there was one video that I saw of hers that I loved, and it was response to the that... meme, whatever, going around. Like,

"[douchebag voice] If you wanna really know what a girl looks like, take her swimming on the first date." 'Cause, like, you know—

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Her makeup will come off when you're swimming.

**Taylor:** So she did this video—and first she talks about synchronized swimmers, which wear this crazy, like, you know, waterproof makeup. Like, synchronized swimmers wear makeup. Uh, and so she did this just completely intense, like, unblended, bright, outlandish makeup, supposedly with waterproof makeup.

It was a gag, and she sprayed her face down with water at the end and it all, you know, dripped off crazy. But, uh, it was just—I loved it, that she was like, "Oh, okay. You wanna—here—here you go. Waterproof makeup. [through laughter] You can't touch me."

**Raleigh:** Yeah. Um, one of her first—not first, but one of her first *big* videos that I saw when I really hadn't watched her that much several years ago was called "The Power of Makeup." In it, she did a whole face, like, full makeup, foundation, eye shadow, all that kind of stuff, and then used a makeup wipe and took off half of her face, like, right down the middle, so that one half had no makeup at all and one half was completely done up in makeup.

And she talked about it saying, like, "Yeah, obviously this half of my face looks different from this half of my face, and I have more spots on this side of my face, and I have longer eyelashes on this side, but the point isn't that I think I look better on this side. It's just that I feel empowered when I look like myself on this side, and recognize this is who I am. But also, I'm okay with people seeing this half of my face, and I don't feel like I need to have makeup on, but I love doing this, and I love having this."

And it was more so the power of makeup without, like, "Oh, look, you can look like a totally different person, than you can, like, catfish people online 'cause, you know, you look totally different." Like, people say that online all the time. Like, "Oh, you're wearing all that makeup in your pictures. Like, I feel like you look like a different person without makeup on."

She wasn't saying that was the power of makeup. The power is just, like, it empowers you to—to be whoever you wanna be, and feel confident looking many different ways. I think that's really powerful, 'cause little girls grow up watching videos like that and think, "I don't *need* makeup to look like someone wants me

to look. I can just wear it if I want to, because it makes me feel good, and it's fun."

**Sydnee:** And I think that's reflected—I was watching some of the videos where she goes to people's houses and, like—like, it's usually, like, a friend or a family member calls and says, like, "Nikkie to the rescue" or something.

And, uh—and "Will you help... whoever, with their makeup?" And first of all, it's somebody who wants to wear makeup. Like, it's not, like, "Oh, you don't wear enough makeup! We're gonna get somebody to come fix that."

It's "I would like to know how to do this. I have no idea what I'm doing. You know, someone come help me."

And secondly, I felt like the—the few that I saw, the looks that she gave them—one, she asked them a bunch of questions about what they wanted. Like, what their real fears were, concerns, insecurities, that kind of thing.

And two, they were looks that those people probably would continue to wear on a daily basis. She didn't just turn them into little hers, you know? It wasn't like "Let me show you how to do this *right*." It was "Oh, you'd like to wear some makeup? Here, let me work with what you wanna look like. I can help you get there. And also, I'm showing you how to do it."

I noticed that she even had one of the girls holding a mirror so that she could look at what she was doing while she was doing it, so that she could reproduce that. Um, which is really nice, because then that's not just, like, "Here's this completely unrealistic standard, you know, that I'll do for you one time—"

**Raleigh:** [simultaneously] That you're never gonna be able to do again.

**Sydnee:** —yeah, exactly.

**Raleigh:** Um, it makes me think a lot about Charlie, just because I know she's very little, and doesn't know how to do makeup in the way that most people do makeup—

**Taylor:** [laughs] I love how she—

**Sydnee:** [simultaneously] No, but she wants to.



**Raleigh:** —but she loves—

**Taylor:** —does her makeup.

**Raleigh:** —she loves doing makeup! And she loves just—

**Sydnee:** She's very into it.

**Raleigh:** —yeah, she loves just, like, playing with it and trying different things. And she never just, like, does the same three things every time. She's always doing something different, whether, like, with eyebrows or eye shadow or lipstick or blush. And thinking about Charlie growing up watching someone like Nikkie, who tells you, like, "You don't need makeup, but I love doing it because it's like an art, and it's my passion, and if you feel this way then let's do it together."

Like, that makes me feel very, like, excited for her that it's not... I've watched beauty gurus in the past growing up, when I was learning how to do makeup, that made me feel like I had to look like them to look beautiful, and follow their steps, and this is how you'd look pretty enough for people to like you.

But thinking about Charlie watching someone who's more so telling her, like, "Just do what you love doing, and feel confident if you have no makeup on, if you have all of the makeup on."

And that makes me feel very... optimistic, and inspired.

**Taylor:** Yeah. I think that we all get pleasure from engaging with our aesthetic opinions, be it our fashion, our hair, our makeup. Um, and obviously if you don't, you don't. That's cool. But I love people that encourage people to engage with theirs in particular. It's not that there's one right, it's that you have those inside of you, and you have every right to embrace them and explore them, and wear them!

**Raleigh:** Right.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause whether it's—whether it's being said or just—it is the underlying message, the idea is that beauty means a lot of different things. Beauty is not one thing. And that's a really important message to hear when you're younger, that—I mean, 'cause it—beauty is not one way of wearing your makeup, but that what flows from that is, beauty is not one hair color. Beauty is not one eye color.

Beauty is not one skin color. Beauty is not one body type, one shape, one size. Beauty is not one gender. Beauty is many, many things, and it is—and you define that. And that flows naturally from the way she... the way she does things, you know? It's, like, effortless. It's just written into the DNA of the shows she does.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** So. Yes, uh, but I don't know that I am eager to let Charlie practice her makeup on me?

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Rileigh:** You should.

**Sydnee:** She d—she—oh, I have let her.

**Rileigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And the—it's the eyes? She's really into eyes a lot.

**Rileigh:** She is.

**Sydnee:** She does give me a lot of what I kind of think of as Groucho Marx eyebrows. She gives me those a lot. Um... they're—yes. Very arched and very dark, and [holding back laughter] very, uh... angular.

Um, she also likes a lot of eye shadow *around* the eye? Like, up to the hairline—

**Rileigh:** [simultaneously] Not necessarily on it, though.

**Sydnee:** —but not necessarily *on* it. I don't know what you'd call that.

**Rileigh:** Nothing. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** She did a look like that—

**Sydnee:** I look like Zuul. [laughs]

**Taylor:** —yeah, she did a look like that with one of my pallets and she was like, "Look, TeyTey! I did a rocker girl for you!" And it was like—it was very *Blade Runner*, and I liked it! I was about it! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It is. She—it's a very—I always think Zuul from *Ghostbusters*, but yeah. It's a very, like—[laughs]

**Taylor:** [through laughter] There is no Charlie, only Zuul. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Only Zuul. [laughs] But if—but if I have to sacrifice my face for her to explore this interest, I will do it. I will do it. And I'll show her these videos. She would love these videos.

**Raleigh:** She would.

**Sydnee:** And I would be—I would feel good about showing them to her, which, man. How many things on YouTube can you say *that* about?

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** "I feel good about showing this to my child!"

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** I would feel good about that with NikkieTutorials. So.

**Raleigh:** So, yeah. Go check out her videos. Now I wanna—wanna go watch one.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Even if you don't—and I will say, I am not somebody—I don't particularly wanna wear a lot more makeup than what I wear. It's just not my interest. But, uh, I still enjoyed watching the videos.

One, they're super impressive. Like, especially, like, the Halloween stuff. That stuff—it's so amazing to me. And two, she's very enjoyable to watch as a personality.

**Raleigh:** Yeah, she is.

**Sydnee:** Like, she seems like a very cool person to hang out with.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, I need to talk about what we're gonna do next week.

**Taylor:** Yeah!

**Raleigh:** Yes. What are we gonna do next week?

**Sydnee:** Yes. So it's my pick next week. We're goin'—um, we're goin' back in time. None of this YouTube stuff.

**Raleigh:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Back before YouTube existed. Uh, and we're gonna talk about *Rent*.

**Raleigh:** Ooh!

**Taylor:** Oh boy. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Yes. Uh—[laughs] the time has—you knew it had to happen.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** We're *not* gonna talk about *Rent*?!

**Raleigh:** Just like I'm anxiously anticipating *Grease 2*.

**Sydnee:** Ehh... I don't know if *Grease 2* is the cultural touchstone that *Rent* is.

**Taylor:** That certainly is, though. Wow. This is gonna be a—this is gonna be a good one, I think.

**Sydnee:** Jonathon Larson's *Rent*. Uh, you don't—if you wanna play along at home, don't watch the movie. [laughs quietly]

**Taylor:** Awww.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Raleigh:** I'm gonna do all. I'm gonna watch the recent live version—

**Sydnee:** Nahh.

**Raleigh:** —I'mma watch the movie, I'mma listen to the soundtrack—

**Sydnee:** You can watch the movie, but yeah. There's the recent live version that was also good. You can watch that. You can watch the movie. You can just listen to the soundtrack. That's probably what I'm gonna do, just listen to the soundtrack. That's all—that was my only experience with *Rent* when I first had it as a kid! It was just listening and trying to picture in my head, "What was this like?" So.

**Taylor:** Well, and then you had that one book.

**Sydnee:** That's it.

**Taylor:** That *Rent* book that you could piece it together with. That got passed around—

**Sydnee:** Yeahhh.

**Taylor:** —like, your entire theater department.

**Sydnee:** It did, with us all trying to look at pictures of scenes and figure out, like—and, like, what the stage—man, I remember the first time I saw a picture of what the stage looked like and my mind was *blown*.

**Raleigh:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. Uh, so anyway, that's—that'll do it for us. That's it.

**Raleigh:** Well, alright.

**Sydnee:** Uh, thank you both.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Taylor:** Thank you!

**Sydnee:** Thank you.

**Raleigh:** Thank *you*.

**Sydnee:** Thanks for introducing me to NikkieTutorials.

**Raleigh:** You're welcome.

**Sydnee:** That was a very cool, interesting—

**Raleigh:** I'm glad you enjoy her.

**Sydnee:** Yes, I do. Interesting part of YouTube. Um, I like it. Uh, thank you to everyone listening. You can check out Maximumfun.org for a lot of wonderful podcasts that you would enjoy. You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org), and you can... tweet at us. That's the other thing you can do.

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** @stillbuff. [laughs quietly]

**Raleigh:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Forgot about Twitter for a second.

**Raleigh:** No, you—

**Taylor:** Oh, right. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was a beautiful five seconds of my life. I forgot about Twitter. [through laughter] It was The Eternal Sunshine of the Twitterless Mind.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, but it's back now, and you can tweet at us if you'd like. Um, and thank you to The Nouvellas for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

**Raleigh:** This has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

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

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

**Raleigh:** I am still buffering...

**Sydnee and Taylor:** [slightly off sync] And I... am... too.

[pauses]

**Sydnee:** We're workin' it out. It's—

**Raleigh:** Gettin' there. We're gettin' there.

**Taylor:** I still keep for—am? Was? Am? Was? Am. Am! It's am.

**Sydnee:** Something. I don't know.

**Raleigh:** "I wam."

**Taylor:** "Wam."

**Sydnee:** We're gonna go—we're gonna go upstairs and you're gonna show me what to do with my concealer stick.

**Raleigh:** Yes, I am.

**Sydnee:** Alright.

[theme music plays]

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[*Star Trek* com noise]

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