

Still Buffering 198: "Sailor Moon" (1992)

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[theme music plays]

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

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl!

Sydnee: So, lots of big events this past weekend.

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Yeah?

Rileigh: Yeah. Superbowl.

Sydnee: Yeah?

Taylor: You say it like there's some—is there something else?

Sydnee: Groundhog day.

Taylor: Oh, oh right.

Rileigh: Oh, right. Yes.

Taylor: We're gettin'—so he saw his shadow, so that means spring's comin'?

Rileigh: Yes.

Sydnee: No, he didn't see his shadow, so—

Taylor: Didn't see his shadow.

Sydnee: —so spring is coming.

Rileigh: But spring is coming.

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: Okay.

Sydnee: That is—

Rileigh: Apparently that never happens? Like, he always sees his shadow?

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: So... big deal, guys.

Taylor: You know that they—like, they claim it's the same groundhog since forever? Like, it's not. We know it's not, but they say it is?

Sydnee: Right.

Taylor: Like, it's like—

Rileigh: [gasps] What?

Sydnee: That's a weird thing to claim.

Taylor: Like, the eternal groundhog.

Rileigh: Wait...

Taylor: Also, the guy that gets the—

Sydnee: Did you think...

Taylor: Yeah, he's not an eternal groundhog.

Rileigh: What?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: I thought—

Sydnee: Groundhogs are mortal.

Raleigh: But... oh. I thought he was special.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] 'Cause it's his day. I just—I just thought...

Sydnee: It's just—no, it's just, like, a groundhog's day. It's not *the* groundhog's day.

Taylor: That's the only one there is.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Well, they don't specify!

Taylor: We have one groundhog, and he—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —he begins the spring.

Raleigh: It *has* been unseasonably warm here since groundhog's day though.

Taylor: I think the groundhog just heard about global warming.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah...

Sydnee: Groundhog got woke.

Taylor: Yeah. He just came out and he was like, "Y'all don't really need me anymore. You kinda got this, uh—handlin'—handlin' it yourself. There's really no guessin'... on this anymore. Uh, it's gonna be forever spring for a while. Then forever summer! Then everything's gonna be on fire. Groundhog out!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: "In fact, no more winter, ever!" [laughs]

Sydnee: "Can I get back in my stump now? Would y'all leave me alone?"

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: "It's—it's pretty good under here. Will y'all just not get me out next year?"

Taylor: "As—as the eternal groundhog, I'm gonna wait about the—uh, wait out the end of humanity for awhile, you know."

Raleigh: What does he do during the year?

Sydnee: I—I like the idea that—well, I mean, he just... like, groundhog stuff.

Taylor: Just groundhog stuff. [laughs]

Raleigh: He doesn't live lavishly? I feel like it's his day, he should... you know. [laughs]

Taylor: Now, I will s—the guy that handles him *does* wear a top hat, so I would assume there's a lot of wealth involved.

Raleigh: I know! That's why I—

Sydnee: Like a cat in ancient Egypt? Is that what you're kind of thinkin' of?

Raleigh: Why doesn't *he* get to wear a top hat?

Sydnee: Uh... I—you know, I don't know. I... I like the idea that the groundhog has now been elevated to, like, uh, a mythological holiday figure like the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus or the Great Pumpkin.

Taylor: [laughs] Is that—was that one of the trees in, like, *Nightmare Before Christmas*? They go to groundhog's day land? [through laughter] What would that be like?

Sydnee: See the giant groundhog.

Taylor: It's just the groundhog. He's like, "Oh, hey! N—no one ever comes here, actually. It's nice to see ya!" [laughs]

Sydnee: "I just do that one thing, and... you know. Honestly, people are really more excited about the Bill Murray movie anymore, so."

Rileigh: I was just trying to look at some good pictures. I just looked up groundhog from groundhog day, and first it told me about the Bill Murray movie, and I didn't really want to know about that.

But then it's just a Washington Post article that calls Punxsutawney Phil 131-year-old fake news. And, like, I don't need that, guys. Just let me—just let me see the groundhog.

Sydnee: Just let me have my groundhog.

Rileigh: Just let me see the groundhog. Also, I thought his name was Pete.

Sydnee: No, Phil.

Taylor: What?!

Rileigh: Who's Punxsutawney Pete?

Sydnee: [through laughter] I have no idea!

Taylor: Pete?!

Rileigh: [through laughter] Why—why'd I think his name was Pete?

Sydnee: Who *is* Punxsutawney Pete?

Rileigh: Someone tell me, please!

Taylor: Are you—is this a *Berenstein Bears* situation? Are you from another universe that merged into ours where you, in fact, have a [crosstalk]—

Rileigh: I think I am!

Sydnee: It's *Fringe*! *Fringe* is coming to life!

Taylor: Oh no...

Sydnee: Oh, is Peter Bishop real now? Where are you, Peter?!

Taylor: How—

Sydnee: I'm here!

Taylor: —do you have any different government goin' on over in that universe, Raleigh? Could we—

Raleigh: No. It's all bad over here. [laughs]

Taylor: Just checking.

Sydnee: Do you have Fauxlivia over there? 'Cause... I like Fauxlivia.

Raleigh: No. Everything sucks here, too. [holding back laughter] The only thing I have is Punxsutawney Phil. [laughs] And he looks exactly the same as Punxsutawney Pete, does everything same. We just call him Phil.

Sydnee: Have you seen the movie *Groundhog Day*?

Raleigh: Yes.

Sydnee: Okay. Alright. 'Cause they call him Phil, and then Bill Murray's name is Phil.

Raleigh: Is that why I think his name is Phil?

Sydnee: No, his name *is* Phil.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Wait, no, his name *is* Phil.

Sydnee: Yes.

Raleigh: Wait, his name's Pete.

Sydnee: No! His name is not Pete!

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: His name is Phil!

Rileigh: [inhales loudly]

Sydnee: Phil?

Rileigh: [sighs]

Sydnee: Phil Connors?!

Rileigh: You know it was a musical for a very short amount of time.

Sydnee: Yes. I would like to see that.

Rileigh: Would you?

Sydnee: Yeah! I love that! It's one of my favorite movies. I love that movie.

Rileigh: I'm gonna write a new one and call it Punxsutawney Pete.

Sydnee: One of my favorite movies, inexplicably, contains Andie MacDowell. I don't know. [laughs quietly] But also Bill Murray, so there you go.

Rileigh: [sighs] Did the groundhog do the halftime show?

Sydnee: Uh... no. The halftime show... I—this is—I don't think we're gonna get a lot of—

Rileigh: Wait, why have they—hold on. Why have they never done that? [laughs] Wa—hold on. [laughs]

Sydnee: Now, the Superbowl is not traditionally on groundhog's day. It just happened to be on... groundhog's day.

Rileigh: But this year it was, and I just wanna know—

Sydnee: That's true.

Rileigh: —why he didn't make just, like, a real quick appearance.

Sydnee: Well, I mean, maybe they ran it by J.Lo and Shakira—

Rileigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —and they were like, "You know—"

Taylor: "No."

Sydnee: "—I don't think we wanna incorporate a groundhog into our show? Thank you for thinking of that... but..."

Raleigh: "But... [laughs] nah."

Sydnee: "We've got it. We're good. We're doing some other stuff that isn't really groundhog related that I think people might enjoy more."

Taylor: Yeah...

Sydnee: I did enjoy it more.

Raleigh: I guess that's fair. No, I did very much enjoy the halftime show.

Taylor: I, uh—I thought it was great all around, but the moment that they panned out just so—to show Shakira playing the crystal-encrusted guitar was just, like, "Oh! This is—this is wonderful." [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Well, and I thought—I thought it was awesome. I thought it was amazing. Uh, J.Lo's athleticism is just... I mean—

Raleigh: Better than mine will ever be, and I am 19 years old and she is 50.

Sydnee: She's 50, she's amazing. Uh, I'm sorry, but to do that stuff on those poles... I mean, there were other—there were other dancers too, but J.Lo is just—I mean, it's incredible. It's incredible!

Raleigh: It's magic.

Sydnee: It is. Well, and, like, the—the strength that that takes.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: It is, it's ath—it's an athletic skill... that was in the middle of an athletic competition.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I was impressed... and, I mean, turned on. [laughs quietly]

Taylor: [laughs] Well, alright. Yeah, that's—okay.

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Well...

Sydnee: It was all very hot.

Raleigh: That's fair. That's fair.

Taylor: I—yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, Shakira was there too.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Uh, it was an incredible performance. It was so cool and so fun, and then they had so many, like, uh, political references and, like, um... when she came out at the end with the big, like, cape thing, or coat or whatever it was that was, like, the Puerto Rican flag and the American flag. It was—it was amazing! It was awesome.

Taylor: No, I agree. And I really don't—uh, all of the—the pearl-clutching over how... how—I guess how sexy it was? [through laughter] Like...

Raleigh: It was too sexy!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: Look. We—we had the—

Raleigh: You know what? That's—you know, that's a fair argument. It was maybe *too* sexy. [wheezes]

Sydnee: Was—[laughs quietly]

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: For Earth. It was just—

Raleigh: For Earth—just for us to handle. Like, I'm not offended by it. I just think it was maybe too much for us to handle. [laughs]

Sydnee: Like maybe we didn't deserve it.

Raleigh: [through laughter] We didn't deserve it.

Taylor: We definitely didn't deserve it. I—I don't know. Is that... like, they—they're the equivalents of, like, bathing suits that they were walking around stage on. Like, that's—what's the big deal? If we had to see Maroon 5—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —walk around lookin' like a doodle bear with his shirt off—

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —what, last year? We—they—we—they can handle some—some glittery ladies.

Raleigh: I do appreciate the thought that Adam Levine's name now is just collectively Maroon 5. [laughs]

Sydnee: He is Maroon 5. And it was so much better, I mean, than Maroon 5. It was.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I—I—you know, I have to say, I was really caught off guard 'cause I usually feel like I know when something happens; like when we have a cultural moment that, like, Karens are gonna get upset about. I usually feel like I know when that's coming, and I didn't—I was shocked when I saw the, like... the Facebook and Twitter outrage.

Um, because one, like—I mean, yeah it was sexy. I mean, like, they're... I mean, yeah! Like, it was a cool... show. Like, a—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Why don't you enjoy this more? Did you see them?!

Sydnee: —It was, like, a pop music performance. That's what—I mean, have you ever seen a concert? Like, that's the kind of stuff people wear! It's, like, glittery and... cool, and... they dance, and they're talented, and they sing well, and, like, what—like, this is a concert! Like, what are you—have you never *been* to one? Is this the first time you've seen a concert?

Raleigh: [simultaneously] I'm sure they haven't.

Sydnee: I just don't—there was nothing about it that struck me as, like... I don't know. I was very confused by it. And then people were like, "But my children were watching."

And I was like, "Yeah, my kids were watching! And they loved it!"

Raleigh: Charlie loved it!

Sydnee: They danced all over the room, and then Charlie said that she loved J.Lo's *pants*, which was confusing to me—

Raleigh: She was not wearing pants.

Sydnee: —'cause she wasn't exactly wearing what I would call *pants*.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: But she said, "I want those pants." And I was like, "What pants?"
[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: "Where?"

Sydnee: But, uh... well, I mean... sure, honey. I don't know! Like, none of it—I don't—whatever. I don't know.

Taylor: Well, I—yeah.

Raleigh: I agree.

Taylor: I don't know. I mean, I... [pauses] I don't know. They were empowered, you know, like... women of color. I—that really—let's be real. People get offended really easier when—a lot easier when it's not white people doing things.

Sydnee: Sure. Yes they do. Yes they do.

Raleigh: The one thing I was upset about was that it was not the entire show, and I did have to go back to watching sweaty boys run into each other all over the field for the next... half of the... program.

Sydnee: I like—I like football.

Raleigh: Well, I also like football, and I was enjoying the game, but then they showed me that halftime show. It was like, well, can that just be the rest of it?

Sydnee: That was better, yes.

Raleigh: That was better.

Sydnee: That was better than the football.

Raleigh: Can I just watch this the rest of the time, please? Thank you.

Sydnee: Yeah. It was better than the football.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Although it was a good game. It was a good game, and... I liked both teams, and... [laughs quietly] just—I sound like Dad. "Just wanna see a good game."

Raleigh: Yeah. "I wanna see a good game—"

Sydnee: I don't care who wins. Like both teams.

Raleigh: "—good game of ball."

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] Just wanna see who wins. Who—just wanna see a good game.

Anyway, um, speaking of... I don't know. I got nothin' here for this transition. Tey, you're gonna have to help here.

Rileigh: Of—of powerful women—

Sydnee: Powerful women.

Rileigh: —in... in great costumes.

Taylor: Who maybe don't wear pants. [laughs]

Rileigh: Who don't wear pants.

Sydnee: Yes. Who—who have a pants-optional approach to life.

Taylor: Yes, *Sailor Moon*! We're talking about *Sailor Moon* today.

Rileigh: Woo!

Taylor: I've—I brought it to the table. Uh... yes.

Sydnee: Thank you.

Taylor: Um... so, yeah. Uh, I—hopefully—hopefully if you're listening you're somewhat familiar. Uh, it's a pretty... I think a lot of people are familiar with *Sailor Moon*.

Um, it's, uh, a... it's an anime, it's a manga or comic book. Uh, it started in, like, '91. Uh—

Sydnee: That's what I was gonna ask, how old is it?

Taylor: —yeah. Uh, the manga and the anime started I think in the same year. Uh, 'cause it kind of started as a manga. Naoko Takeuchi is the creator. And, uh, she created it, but it was kind of at the same time sort of working with an animation studio for it to then be developed into a—a cartoon.

Um, but... yeah. Uh, it's a—specifically, I mean, there's the manga, there are stage shows, like musical shows. There's a remake that came out in 2014 that's, like, an update of the animation, which is story line a lot closer to the manga,

'cause there are some differences. Uh, there was also a live action TV show in Japan.

Uh, so there are a lot of different incarnations of this. Specifically for this, we're kind of talking about the one that I was first introduced to, which was the, [strained] uh—the... uh, 90's dub. Uh, which is of questionable quality, but holds a special place in my heart.

Sydnee: Which came on I wanna say at 4 o' clock?

Taylor: Uh, ye—

Sydnee: On weekdays?

Taylor: —yes. Uh, it originally was on, like, in the mornings? But then when Toonami became a thing on Cartoon Network, uh, Toonami started showing it, and that's when it was 4 o' clock.

Sydnee: 4—I—I remember rushing home—4 o' clock Eastern Time—rushing home to see *Sailor Moon* every day after school.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: And then I think *Dragon Ball Z* came on afterwards.

Taylor: Uh, I believe so. Um, I never—I could never really get as much into *Dragon Ball*.

Sydnee: I didn't either, but I just remembered always, like, watching the first 30 seconds before I turned the TV off and did something else. [laughs]

Raleigh: Wow!

Taylor: I very—

Sydnee: Well, I'm just saying. It wasn't my thing.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: It wasn't my bag.

Taylor: You know, I don't—I think when important things come into your life, you remember those moments, even if they seem innocuous at the time, and I remember exactly what I was doing the first time I saw *Sailor Moon*. Like—

Sydnee: Really?

Taylor: —to the moment. I was in my bedroom, I was putting on my softball socks because I had softball practice, and I needed to leave, and we were running late. And it was the episode—uh, the—the... kind of stupid American translated title was "Slim City."

Uh, it's from the first season when the—the evil... people... uh, who want to take energy set up a fake workout studio?

Sydnee: Uh-huh?

Taylor: And, uh, like, *Sailor Moon* and her friends end up going and, you know, foiling the evil plot. But that was the episode and I just—I was late to softball practice that day because I wanted to see what happened. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I, uh—that's funny. I watched a bit of that—I was flippin' through some different episodes today, watching bits and pieces to remind myself of some of it, and that was one of the ones I was watching today.

Then I had to flip to the end of season one, 'cause I remember watching that originally and crying, and so I had to remember—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: —[through laughter] I had to watch it again and be like, "Does this still do it for me?"

Taylor: Did it?

Sydnee: No, I did not cry.

Taylor: Aw, see, I did. I—I recently did a re-watch and I definitely cried. Uh...

Sydnee: If I had watched the entire season and built to it—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: —probably. But I was skippin' around, so I wasn't, like, emotionally there.

Raleigh: Um, I—I will say, I have always been aware of *Sailor Moon*. It has always been in my, you know, my mind. Because I've heard you all talk about it, mostly. And, um, I remember growing up I had received a tiny little Chibi Moon taped to my front—or my bedroom door to match the, uh... what Sailor Scouts were on your all's door? There was one on each of your doors, and at some point I—

Taylor: Oh, that's right!

Raleigh: —I received a Chibi moon on my door.

Sydnee: I was Mars.

Taylor: I had Sailor Moon on my door. Uh—

Raleigh: I was gonna say, I'm pretty sure you had Sailor Moon on your door.

Taylor: Those were those stickers.

Raleigh: Yeah, uh-huh.

Taylor: The holographic stickers that I got from the Archie McPhee catalog. Uh...

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: That was, uh, one of the few sources where you could find some random anime stuff back in the day

Sydnee: Oh, man.

Raleigh: Yeah. So I've always been aware of *Sailor Moon*, but I actually had never consumed it in any form until when *Crystal* became available a few years ago. I guess that was 2014. It seems... not that long ago, but I guess it was.

Um, I—I watched a few episodes then, and then just re-watched it this past week in preparation for this.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: Um... but it's actually, I will admit, the only anime I have ever actually... watched?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Rileigh: And I... very much enjoy it. I don't think that there was ever anything about anime that I *didn't* wanna watch. I just think it was one of those things that was never, like, very readily available to watch, as much as, like, other cartoons or regular, like, teen kids' TV shows that were, you know, American made.

So I just never, like, had as much access to it, but... it was very good. I very much enjoyed it.

Sydnee: It, uh—is that the beginning of, like, the—kind of the magic girls in anime? Is that the—

Taylor: Uh, no. I mean, there were—*Sailor Moon* is not the first magic girl. That was already sort of a... pre-existing genre. I think that when we talk about magic girls now, she's the one that is the most well known. But, uh, magic girls had already been around for a while in Japanese anime.

Sydnee: That's—I always think of it, 'cause I see shows sometimes now, um, that Charlie watches, and I feel like I'm watching and I'm goin', "Oh. This is supposed to be—this is *Sailor Moon* inspired."

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: "Like, this is very... I feel *Sailor Moon* in it." But I guess I'm not—it's not necessarily *Sailor Moon* it's what I... attach to that—

Taylor: Well...

Sydnee: —genre. But it's not necessarily the original.

Taylor: It's definitely—it's the one that I think you see most as an influence in what we have. Like, modern day—a lot of American cartoons. I mean, definitely,

like—there are straight up homages to it in *Adventure Time*, *Steven Universe* definitely. I—I'm sure.

I think it's—I've read it in interviews that all of those creators are influenced by *Sailor Moon*, but... you know, and the one thing that it did do, uh, which is sort of the—the formula that a lot of people have taken to move forward with is, like, it combined the sort of magic girl... icon that was—that was already sort of established, with, like, the fighting team, uh, formula. And that's really the thing that *Sailor Moon* sort of revolutionized.

Uh, there were other, you know, like, fighting team animes, to be, like, a all female fighting team anime was kind of the thing that it did differently.

Sydnee: And it was always nice, I remember being, when I was younger, to have a show like that. Um, and it wasn't the only—I mean, you see a lot of stuff that's targeted, I think, at—at, like, preteen and teenage girls that has this idea of, like, a team of young women who have varied—very varied interests and attributes so that you can find one that you relate to.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And, uh—and that was one of the things I really liked about it was, like, I didn't really—like, the character Sailor Moon I couldn't identify with personally a lot. I didn't share a lot of her, like, personality traits and interests. But there were—there were plenty of other characters for me to connect with. You know, that I could see myself in and be part of the team.

Taylor: Well, and I—I think that was one of the things that really appealed to me and appealed to, I think, a lot of young girls in general, was that it, uh... as a fan—even at the time, I was already a fan of, like—I liked superheroes. I liked comics. But as far as, like... there was always like, a female, and that's the female. There's the female one! You know?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Taylor: So the women were always kind of one thing in the sort of superhero world, and that was what was so great about *Sailor Moon* is that—well, they're all female and they all have different attributes, and it does—there's not just one kind that works, and it's not just, like—you know, powerful, sexy, capable, strong,

but not too overbearing. Like, it was like, "Oh, they all have flaws and strengths and weaknesses and that's..."

Sydnee: Mm-hmm. I always liked that, uh—it's weird, 'cause I was thinking about—I always connected the most with Rei, Sailor Mars. And you'd think—like, when I think back, like, why? Why not Ami? Why not Sailor Mercury, the smart one?

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: 'Cause that was how I always saw myself when I was younger was, like, well, I'm the quiet smart girl. That's kind of my part. I'll sit here and read a book quietly, 'cause that seems to be... [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: That seems to be what my character does in this scene. Does everybody think about things that way?

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: Especially when I'm—yeah.

Sydnee: "In this scene, I sit and read a book." [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: When I'm surrounded, like, by my other roommates and we're all, like, talking, but it's like, "Look at each of our personalities. What is my character doing right now?"

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: Um, I'm eating lunch alone and reading a book. This is appropriate. [laughs quietly] Uh, but I—

Raleigh: [snorts quietly]

Sydnee: —I—always connected more with Sailor Mars, and I remember really embracing that, because she was so angry. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: [laughs]

Taylor: Well it—

Sydnee: She had that—I mean, like, she showed her anger. And I remember thinking, like, "Oh, that's me!" And then thinking, "Well, it's *not* me, though. I *don't* do that."

And then realizing, "Oh, but that *is* me, and I feel like I *can't* show that. Like, it's a stifled part of me, and I see it in that character in this—you know, in this TV show."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And it makes me want to be more like that, 'cause it *is* me. Like, it *is* in there, and *she* lets it out, and it's part of her power. It is literally part of her, like... her—you know, magical ability is kind of represented in her fire and her kind of... under the surface... rage. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: And maybe I can embrace that part of me, too. I know that sounds really silly for, like, connecting to a—you know, it was a cartoon, but, like, it really did—I remember thinking, like, "This is me. I am *not* the quiet, shy one. *This* is me."

Taylor: I—

Rileigh: I—I will say, I, um, had never really thought about which Sailor Scout I was until we had thought about... [laughs quietly] each of us dressing as a different Sailor Scout for a live show that we did not end up doing.

But, uh, I decided I was Sailor Mercury, just based off the descriptions, 'cause this was when I hadn't really watched a lot of it. And I did just take a BuzzFeed quiz that told me it would actually tell me which Sailor Scout I am, and it *did* tell me I'm Sailor Mercury.

Sydnee: Well, there we go.

Rileigh: [through laughter] So. In case everyone was wondering. Um...

Sydnee: Did you always know you were a Sailor Moon, Tey?

Taylor: I don't know. I mean, I always—well, I think that when I was younger I felt closest to Sailor Moon because, you know, I—I legitimately remember, like, doing really badly on a math test and comforting myself with, "Well, Sailor Moon gets bad grades sometimes, too!"

Sydnee: [laughs]

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: "It's fine!"

Raleigh: "Look at her now!"

Taylor: "She got a 30 once. I got a 50! It's not that bad!" Uh... but I think also just, like, you know, the idea that... your—you know, like... all of the other soldiers had more, like, evident kind of strengths. You know, Mercury was smart... Mars was passionate, Jupiter was strong, Venus was... Venus was... I don't know. She was the superstar when she came—when she joined the team.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She was, like, cool? And...

Taylor: Yeah... I mean—

Sydnee: ... fashion-y? [through laughter] I don't know—

Taylor: Well...

Raleigh: Cool and fashion-y.

Sydnee: What was it? Uh...

Taylor: Venus was very confident.

Sydnee: She had the social skills.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: She was—yeah, she had the social skills. She was the one who, like—she was charismatic and she could make you feel like... at ease, and... that's a—that's an important power. That's an important skill.

Taylor: Absolutely. But—but I—you know, Sailor Moon didn't have anything evident, because what her power was was her—it was her kindness. It was her... her belief in her friends, you know? Her belief in goodness. And I really loved that about her as a character, because it was held up in the show.

In fact, it was the strongest power in the show. And that... I think, as someone at the time that didn't feel like I had any of those other stand out traits... but, you know, I cared about things and people, and I was sensitive. That felt like someone that kind of affirmed those things.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She was the heart.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But—but not like on *Captain Planet* where it was always like, "What—what is your power, even?"

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: [simultaneously] Well, it was still a good power. [laughs]

Sydnee: Um... I wanna—we need to talk more about, like, the show itself and kind of get into some more of the details, but before we do that...

Raleigh: Let's check the group message.

Raleigh: Um, I have a sponsor I wanna talk about this week.

Sydnee: Go for it.

Raleigh: So, Sydnee.

Sydnee: Yes.

Rileigh: You're a small business owner.

Sydnee: No.

Rileigh: [quietly] Just say you are.

Sydnee: Oh. Yes. [stiffly] I am a small business owner.

Rileigh: And you got into your line of work because of your passion for your job! But is tedious admin work keeping you from doing the part of the job you actually love?

Sydnee: Oh, boy, it is! I can't even tell you.

Rileigh: Well—

Taylor: [snorts]

Sydnee: My small business, which I named... Small Business—

Rileigh: [holding back laughter] Mm-hmm?

Sydnee: Incorporated. I do business in small things.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Yes. You deal in tiny—tiny items.

Sydnee: I—I only sell tiny items for my small business. [laughs quietly]

Rileigh: Well, HoneyBook can take those tasks off your to do list so you can focus on selling your tiny items.

Sydnee: Oh, thank goodness.

Rileigh: The thing you actually love. Because HoneyBook—

Sydnee: I have so many. I can't even tell you—I can fit so many in my store 'cause they're so tiny.

Rileigh: [laughs] Um... HoneyBook is an online business management tool that organizes your client communications, bookings, contracts, and invoices, all in one place.

It's perfect for freelancers, entrepreneurs, or [holding back laughter] literally small business owners that wanna consolidate services they already use, like Quickbooks, Google, like Excel, Mailchimp... basically it just simplifies your to do list and helps you stay in control, with HoneyBook. So it does all that stuff for you so you can, you know, focus on the stuff you actually care about. Do the—do the things you want to do, not all the tedious stuff.

So Tey, if our listeners wanna check out HoneyBook, what should they do?

Taylor: Well, right now HoneyBook is offering our listeners 50% off when you visit tryhoneybook.com/buffering. Payment is flexible, and this promotion applies whether you pay monthly or annually.

So go to tryhoneybook.com/buffering for 50% off your first year. That's tryhoneybook.com/buffering.

Sydnee: Uh, I want to tell you all about my pants.

[pauses]

Rileigh: Okay?

Taylor: Alright?

Sydnee: Uh... I—I like pants, myself. I have, uh—as we have already covered, I fully approve of you if you prefer not to wear pants, but I am—I am a pants fan.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I've always—always liked pants. And, uh—

Rileigh: Sure.

Sydnee: —specifically pants that, uh, I can—like, multi-functional pants that I can wear to work, that I am comfortable—

Raleigh: At your small business?

Sydnee: —at my small business where I sell tiny things. Small Business, small business. Uh, where I—where I, uh, can wear 'em at work, I can wear 'em at home when I'm chasin' the kids around. I can maybe even dress 'em up, wear 'em out to dinner. Uh, wherever I want to go. And Betabrand has those pants.

Raleigh: What?

Sydnee: Yes, they do. [holding back laughter] And they'll sell them to you. For money.

Raleigh: What?!

Sydnee: [laughs] You can buy 'em. And then you can—

Raleigh: A service?!

Sydnee: —wear them.

Raleigh: [holding back laughter] And a good?!

Sydnee: It's a service and a good. Uh, Betabrand's dress pant yoga—I really—I can't sing their praises enough, because I already owned them long before they started advertising on our show. I really did. Um, I found them from a bunch of other doctor moms recommending them, that they were great for, like—it doesn't—you wouldn't think that doctoring is an action job... [laughs quietly]

Raleigh: I get it.

Sydnee: But, like—like, I'm—I'm sometimes crawling around on the floor lookin' at feet and doin' a lot of stuff, and—

Raleigh: Yeah! Gross! [laughs]

Sydnee: Just sayin'! Anyway, I don't have to, uh—[laughs quietly]

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: I don't have to sacrifice comfort for function, or—or style, when I am wearing Betabrand pants, because they look great. They're super comfy. They're very stretchy. They're wrinkle free. Uh, I can crawl around after my kids and, I mean, I still look like I'm dressed nicely for work.

They have lots of colors, patterns, cuts, styles. They've got boot leg, straight leg, skinny, cropped. Uh, they have premium denim, and, uh, they have one with pockets! That's my next thing I gotta get. I gotta get some of the ones—

Raleigh: [gasps] Oh, man.

Sydnee: I know! I know. I gotta get some of the ones with pockets, 'cause they really are—they are my, like, go to work pant. Um, and they have been for a long time, so I—I would highly recommend if you, like me, were looking for that kind of multi-functional pant, Betabrand has got 'em. And, uh, Teylor, if our listeners wanna get these great pants, where should they go?

Teylor: Well, right now our listeners can get 20% off their first order, uh, if you go to betabrand.com/buffering. That's 20% off your first order at betabrand.com/buffering. Millions of women agree: these are the most comfortable pants you'll ever wear to work. Go to betabrand.com/buffering for 20% off now.

[pauses]

Raleigh: Now.

Teylor: [through gritted teeth] Now!

Sydnee: Uh... so it—Tey, it really—it's always interesting to me when I ask people about *Sailor Moon*, like, how many people who didn't necessarily watch anime or engage with manga or anything like that are familiar with *Sailor Moon* and watch *Sailor Moon*, at least some.

Teylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: I feel like it really permeated our culture.

Taylor: I—I agree. I mean, it was definitely kinda—it was a cultural event. It's one of the things that I think definitely opened the door for, uh, the popularity of anime culture that is so massive now.

But I think one thing that, you know, we can't go without mentioning is that, uh, I think for a lot of young queer people it was really impacting, and people that were coming into their identities, just because of, uh—especially in the later seasons when you have, like, the openly gay Scouts introduced.

I think that there were a lot of elements there—and I've only really kind of thought about it in that context by meeting other people that said, "You know, that was really big in my recognition of, like, my gender identity or my sexuality."

Um, and I think a lot of that was because it's not only that you had characters that were... out and open, um—I mean, and you also had bad guys too. Like, they were—you know, they were... gay characters, and, you know, characters whose gender identity was not strict, really. And in the world that *Sailor Moon* existed in, no one really cared? Like—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Sydnee: I—I love the episode where, uh, Makoto—I wouldn't really say that it's that she has a crush on Haruka, who is the sort of, like, an—I guess androgynous. Like, presents as both male and female depending on her mood, uh, Sailor Scout.

Uh, and, uh... Makoto has a crush on her. And the other scouts are really concerned, not because "Oh no, maybe—maybe Makoto's gay!" It's because—because Sailor Uranus already has a girlfriend. So they're like, "No! That's not a good idea! [through laughter] She has somebody!"

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: Like, that's the conflict. And then, you know—and then kind of at the end of the episode you see that it's that Makoto saw something in—in Haruka that she just really admired, and it helped her try to look at, like, becoming a more confident version of herself, as somebody who's, like, strong and—and capable.

And I think that that's just... you know, the message in there is—it's so many good things that, you know, young people wanna see and need to see. That queer people can exist, and that's not their story line, you know? It—

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: —'cause that was—we had... queer people, we had gay people on TV in the 90's, but you didn't see them where it wasn't the whole point of their existence, you know? It was like, "They're gay, so they have a tragic gay story line. Everything's about them being gay."

And *Sailor Moon* was like, "What? These—these are boys. They turn into girls. We don't care. They have superpowers! Look at the bad guy!" [through laughter] Like... it's not a big deal!

Sydnee: It's—no, it's really true, especially at that time. I mean, yes, there were—there were non-straight characters on television, but not very many. Um, and you're right. That was the whole thing. If they were introduced, that was why. That was—their existence on the TV show was usually because, you know, they were gay.

And, uh, you—you certainly didn't have a lot of shows that were aimed at younger audiences?

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: That—that would include any characters who, you know, were LGBTQ, who had any kind of gender representation that wasn't very... you know, very clearly, like, cisgender female, cisgender male. Um, you just didn't—you didn't see that aimed at kids. And I remember you and I watching it and in the American dub version—

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: —they tried to—what did they...

Taylor: [groans]

Sydnee: What did they make Sailor Uranus and Neptune? Cousins, or something?

Taylor: They made them *cousins*, and that's—I guess they thought "Well, we'll just make 'em cousins, but we'll leave in all of the obvious flirting that they do with each other, and with all other characters in the show."

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: And all that made it seem like, "Wait, are they cousins that are into each other?" Like... 'cause the attraction between them was inherent. Uh, you couldn't really write that out. Definitely at that time when, like, that was released in America, I had already seeked out, like, fan subs and had experienced that. Uh, but it was... I don't know. It was...

Raleigh: Why would they do that? [laughs]

Taylor: It was...

Sydney: It was the 90's.

Raleigh: That's so silly.

Taylor: Oh, they—they did a lot with those—'cause there was a lot there. I mean, it was really revolutionary for its time. I mean, this, you know, was airing, uh, through, I think, '97 in Japan. But, you know, it was being translated in the 90's, and it was—it became popular internationally. Like, I read that in Italy they didn't know how to deal with the Starlights, so they created a narrative—the Starlights are—in the manga they're just—I believe that they're female characters that can also, uh—or that disguise themselves as male when they're on Earth. Now, in the anime it's just—they just, you know, they're—they're men, and when they transform they're women, and that is it, and that's... that's what they are.

Uh, in Italy they didn't know how to work with that, so they made it so that when the men transformed, they summoned their sisters, their twin sisters, who took over. So they created—yeah!

Sydney: Oh, no!

Taylor: They created two characters out of each one.

Raleigh: [sighs deeply]

Sydney: Where did the men go? To, like, a void?

Taylor: I don't know. They just trade—

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, a nether void where they sit and wait?

Taylor: I guess? I—I don't know.

Rileigh: A kind of limbo.

Taylor: I mean, and that was—that was part of the reason that the American dub took so long, both with processing—"What do we do with Uranus and Neptune?" And then, "Oh no, the Starlights!"

But, I mean, even—you had, like, uh... you know, uh, Zoicite and, uh—and Kunzite? Who were two males in the original Japanese, and they were gay. They were in love. Uh, and they just... uh, I like that their version of—like, it was Zoicite, and then they changed it to Z—no, it was Zoicite and they changed it to Zoycite. I guess that—did that feminize the name? I don't know. It's a—it's not a—it's a rock. But, uh—[laughs]

Rileigh: [snorts]

Taylor: They gave it...

Sydnee: They just made it a female character.

Rileigh: It's a rock.

Taylor: They made it a female character.

Sydnee: I remember that.

Taylor: And then they did the same thing when they finally translated *SuperS*. Uh, you have Hawk's Eye, Tiger's Eye, and Fish Eye. And Fish Eye is a male. You know, uses he/him pronouns. But also likes to dress in drag. And they just made it a female.

Uh, but—for the time, like, Naoko Takeuchi really devised a universe with all of this part of it and just said, "Yeah! This is what I'm doing. These are all parts of the story." Like, "This is the story I want to tell." Which you really have to commend her for that, and the fact that it grew to such a—it became so big that people had to... deal with these things. People were exposed to them, which was—which was important.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Well, I—I always think, like—I look back on it, and I was thinkin' about it a lot. Like, it's too bad that, you know, whoever was making the decisions, whatever—what level it was at, network or whatever, to do the dubs and try to, like, change these things when they brought them over here.

Um, at first I was thinking, like, "[sighs] It's so stupid. It makes me angry." And then I thought, like, there is something there that makes me wonder if there wasn't, like, an intentional subversive element to it, because it's not—first of all, we were fallin' for anything.

Taylor: No.

Rileigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I mean, I remember watching and thinking, "We're missing something."

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, "Something is missing, here, in this translation. I—I'm not getting the whole story." Um, and I remember you and I seeking out all of the other—like, the original subtitled content so that we could figure out what we were missing, and then learning what they were trying to hide. And one, just wanting to see more of the original now, because I want the story as it's meant to be told, not this kind—not this falsified version that's trying to cover things up.

Um, and two, I remember thinking, like, "That's so awful." I remember thinking that as, like—how old were we? Like, 12, 13, 14?

Taylor: Yeah. I was in—I was in middle school? Like, maybe?

Sydnee: Yeah. I remember thinking that's so awful that they would do that, that they would—like, that they would think that I—like, as—as kids, we can't be exposed to the fact that there are lesbians in the world. Like, that's so terrible. You know, what about kids who aren't straight?

Like, I remember having those thoughts because of the action that was taken. And then I think, like, "Well, huh. I guess it did all that." By introducing it—not that it's right. Obviously it should just have been presented the way that it was written.

But, like, it did all that to me as a young person because they tried to censor it, because of—of the way it was—I don't know. Just bringing it here and showing it on American television was a very powerful act, even if I don't like the way they did it. I'm glad that it happened, because it really—I remember that they cut it off—do you remember the original run of it, they cut it off before the Sailor Stars came on? And just started over?

Taylor: Oh yeah! They—they never dubbed those. Uh, the Sailor—the Sailor Starlights.

Sydnee: 'Cause, like—I assume 'cause they just had no clue what to do.

Taylor: Yeah.

Sydnee: But it just made us go find it! Like, that's all it did. It just made us go, like, "Okay, well, fine. We'll get—we'll go buy some... [holding back laughter] some subs—off the—off the budding internet."

Taylor: Oh, gosh.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: "We—we'll get some VHS tapes!" [laughs]

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Sydnee: "Off the internet."

Taylor: Those were the days of the, uh—this was—anybody that, uh, knows this reference, it's gonna date all of us. The Anime Turnpike on the internet—um—

Sydnee: [laughs]

Taylor: —it was a—that's where you went, which was just a bunch of links to take you to—not, like—Raleigh, this was not where you could go find, like, streaming episodes. Like, that was not a thing.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Taylor: You could go—

Sydnee: No, no.

Taylor: —and find, like, people that had written up synopsis of every episode. And, like, you know, I would print those off and I kept them in a binder. Like, I had a binder full of every episode—

Raleigh: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: —of *Sailor Moon*. All 200 episodes, like, in synopsis. So the ones that I couldn't see I could at least understand what happened. And, like—

Raleigh: [laughs] Read the plot lines.

Taylor: —yeah! And, like, print off each character and, like, have character sheets that I would lovingly hand make. Like, print off a picture of the character and then hand write information about them. I—it was—you know.

Like, you did—that's—that's true, Syd. Because even if there was a lot of editing to it, it led us all to find what it really was. And, you know, one thing that I'm just now thinking about is that... uh, it also—because there were—it was still a kids' show, so, you know, I also think that at the time—or maybe—'cause I—when it came to, like... like, sex stuff, I was not interested. And I feel like to have queer characters in media, it was still always in, like, an adult... format.

Like, it was—it would not have been in a kids' show. Which—I wasn't comfortable with sex yet, but that didn't mean that I wasn't comfortable with the—with having a broader understanding of sexual identities or gender identities. And it provided those without having to—without being in an adult package or, like, having sex tied to it, which it's not always—it's not always tied to your gender or your sexual identity.

Raleigh: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It—it really was like a trail of breadcrumbs.

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: I mean, it was. For—for us to follow to something big—that we knew there was something else on the other end of it and, uh—and it was just enough—which, I mean, like, there's a—there's a part of me that is optimistic and

hopeful and likes to believe someone who was making decisions knew they were doing.

Rileigh: Right.

Sydnee: Perhaps that is too optimistic to believe. [laughs quietly] Perhaps it was all an accident and they were trying to censor us and they—they didn't do a very good job. Um—

Taylor: There wa—

Sydnee: —but I like to think that it was—it was somebo—somebody who was goin', "I'm just gonna... you—you're gonna find this. All you—all the queer kids are gonna follow this trail—"

Taylor: [laughs]

Sydnee: "—'cause it's here and it's waiting for you. I can't just hand it to you! I'm not allowed to yet. [laughs] Someday it'll happen, but right now I'm gonna leave this little trail for you to follow."

Taylor: Well, and I think it also—I think the show itself, uh, in its original form very much, like... it's kind of funny, 'cause I feel like it has the same build that a show like *Adventure Time* and *Steven Universe* both have, in that it starts off, like, "This is a silly cartoon for kids! It's fun!"

And then becomes something that is so much bigger and deeper. And it almost, like, gets past that—like, when your parents are like, "What are you watching?" And they're like, you know, they—if you were to watch the first, I'd say, 10 episode of, like, the original *Sailor Moon*, it's so goofy. It's so, like—you know, the episodes are about, like, "They wanna—like, this one is... this demon is attacking a jewelry store! And this one's attacking, like, the—"

Rileigh: Yeah. [laughs]

Taylor: "—you know, the—the salon!" Like, it's—it's quote, unquote "girl stuff," and it's about boys and, like... you know.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Taylor: It's—it's so, like, safe that by the time, like, it's—you're into it and you're watching it, you like it. Then it starts kind of introducing, like, "Oh, hey! But you know what? Like, there's deeper stuff here."

I mean, it's not just—there's—it's about, like, identities, but also just, like, you know... some of the stuff that Sailor Moon has to grapple with. It's not just like, "I fight bad guys, 'cause bad guys are bad!"

It's like, "Oh, but... a lot of—there's a lot of redemption in the bad guys!" You know? You see a lot of people that—that Sailor Moon helps turn back to the side of goodness. Like, it's not just traditional superhero stuff like that. There's a lot about, you know, people having a second chance and that, you know, like, it's not always force and fighting that can save the day. Sometimes it's love and forgiveness.

And, like... you know, I feel like modern cartoons that hold that same kind of—you know, how deep *Adventure Time* gets and how deep *Steven Universe* gets. It's like, they kind of brought you into a safe place and then exposed you to really good things. Like... yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I think that's true. I was watching the—the end of season one, which... I guess this is a spoiler.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs quietly] I gue—I guess? Um...

Raleigh: [sarcastically] No, Sydnee! How could you! [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Um, I was watching it today, and it was when she's fighting Queen Beryl. And the idea is that, like, the evil thing that's gonna happen on Earth is everybody's gonna be enveloped in greed and hatred.

Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Like, that's the bad thing.

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like, we're gonna—that's how we're going to destroy the world. We're not gonna blow it up or something. We're gonna... make everybody hate each other, and fight, and be greedy, and not be led by love.

And the thing she's trying to do is... I mean, like, literally one of her powers is healing. But, like, the thing she's trying to do is make people believe in love again. Like, "I need everybody to have faith in love, that love can help us."

And it was just, like, I was watching it and I was thinking, like, with my adult brain, those are very complicated and powerful concepts. This isn't about, "I wanna be in charge of the world. And—so that I can be, like, rich and powerful. And you wanna be—you want to keep the world status quo the way it is."

This is about hate and love. This is about, like, greed versus giving. It was a—I don't know! I just—I was watching it and thinking, like, "These are very, like, powerful concepts to be addressing in a... cartoon format."

Rileigh: Yeah. Watching it back, it—it made me wish that I would've watched it or been introduced to it, like, more regularly at a younger age. Because I feel like the cartoons I grew up watching, none of them—I mean, like, the—the closest thing I had to, like, a fighting group that I watched regularly—like, fighting bad guys, was the *Power Rangers*. And I watched them growing up. But there was the—what? One female? Two?

Sydnee: Two.

Rileigh: Two? Um, but, you know, they—it wasn't about them, and their thing, I feel like, that I got from it, was that they were girls. Like, that was their thing for being in the group. They were the girls. And I watched *Teen Titans*, but they weren't, like—like, people I could as much relate to, because they were all, like, super—supernatural, like... you know.

Taylor: Right.

Sydnee: Sure.

Rileigh: Um, and they were great shows, but I didn't... have, like, a strong female group that was diverse and about them being powerful women to watch.

Um, I don't know. It was very powerful watching it back. I wish I would've watched it at a younger age.

I—I know that I was enough aware of it—I was having this memory as we were talking about this—that when I was in the second grade, so I was probably, like, seven, I, for the talent show... choreographed a dance for me and, like, four of my other girl friends, to the *Sailor Moon* theme song.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: And we all picked a different Sailor Scout and wore, like, coordinating colored shirt and skirt... to match that Sailor Scout. And then I—[holding back laughter] we danced to the *Sailor Moon* theme song.

Sydnee: Who were you?

Raleigh: I was Sailor Jupiter.

Taylor: Oh, okay.

Raleigh: Because she... this was really my reasoning. She had brown hair and brown eyes.

Sydnee: [chokes]

Raleigh: And I also had brown hair and brown eyes.

Taylor: [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: Raleigh: the most literal of the three of us.

Raleigh: Like, I hadn't ever—I hadn't ever watched it, so I didn't really know their personalities. And I knew that, like, I had a blonde friend. She would be Sailor Moon, of course, because she was blonde. And I—I was brunette, and I had brown eyes, so I would be Sailor Jupiter.

Sydnee: Sure.

Raleigh: [through laughter] Like, that was my whole thing.

Sydnee: And I always think of you as so sporty and strong.

Rileigh: Right.

Taylor: And you—and you love to bake.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Rileigh: Now I—now I know better. [laughs quietly]

Sydnee: [laughs] Yes, your baking abilities. I forgot about that. [holding back laughter] Sailor Jupiter's baking abilities.

Rileigh: I *do* bake! But I am not sporty. [laughs]

Sydnee: I—I dressed as Sailor Moon once, uh, for costume day at school in high school, and there was a picture of me in the school newspaper the next day, and they called me Wonder Woman.

Taylor: And you were wearing *my* Halloween costume, also, I would add.

Sydnee: Yes, I was.

Taylor: 'Cause I—I did have all—I had—we trick or treated one year with, uh—we had all five Sailor—Sailor Senshi represented.

Sydnee: We still have that picture somewhere. It's a good picture.

Taylor: Uh, but, you know, that's—

Sydnee: Uh—

Taylor: Oh, sorry, go ahead.

Sydnee: I was just gonna say—fun fact: that day when I was dressed as Sailor Moon, do you know who I was sitting next to in class?

Rileigh: Justin.

Taylor: Ha!

Sydnee: Justin.

Rileigh: Wow.

Sydnee: He was dressed as a cow.

Taylor: Oh, alright. Yeah.

Rileigh: [snorts]

Taylor: Sure.

Rileigh: Well...

Sydnee: Yeah.

Rileigh: Sure. Yeah. That makes sense.

Sydnee: [laughs quietly]

Taylor: Uh, but I was gonna say, like, that's—you know, thinking about the—the team structure as kind of something that set it apart, I think that was one thing, like... it's such a theme in a lot of works about, like, superhero stuff. Where, you know, it's up to you to save the day. Like, sometime—like, on your own, by yourself. And that kind of concept of, like, her strength comes from her love for her friends and—like, that's really—like it's not just this, like, "I'm the hero, so I must... you know, I—I'm not connected to the world. I—I must stand outside of it and protect it."

It's like, no! She is capable of having power because she's—she loves, and she's loved. And it is—it's directly tied. Like, even when her friends, you know—even when, like, at the end of the first season when they all die, uh, they're still there beside her in her memories of them. And that's—I think that's really beautiful too, because it kind of takes that idea around, like, the all powerful one savior. And it's like, no, she's... she's a savior because of her friends. Uh, which makes me think, like—I've said this before. I feel like Joss Whedon was aware of Buffy—or was aware of *Sailor Moon*? [laughs]

Rileigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I was about to say, it's very Buffy.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: She actually in that episode says "I just—why can't I just be a regular girl?" And for a moment I thought, "Oh, she's Buffy! It's Buffy!" Like, I mean, *Sailor Moon* came first.

Raleigh: I can definitely see that, right.

Sydnee: But, like, this is—this had to have helped inspire Buffy.

Taylor: Well, and, I—you know. Like, there's—there's that. There's, you know, that the Scoobies are the reason that, you know, Buffy has power. She has—Sailor Moon has the Scouts. Uh, a boyfriend that goes to the side of darkness that she ultimately has to fight.

Sydnee: Hmm.

Taylor: Uh—

Raleigh: Hmm!

Sydnee: Yes.

Taylor: —a younger sibling that appears out of nowhere who her family has false memories implanted that exist in the family...

Raleigh: [gasps]

Taylor: I mean... come on.

Raleigh: Wow.

Taylor: [laughs]

Raleigh: I'm gonna write my final essay this year for my English class about this.

Taylor: I think that there's—

Raleigh: [laughs]

Taylor: —and I was like—I don't know! I'm not saying, like, it's—I don't know! I'd have a hard time believing that Joss Whedon did not...

Raleigh: Conspiracy!

Taylor: ... have some—have some understanding of *Sailor Moon*.

Sydnee: The next time I have a chat with Marti Noxon I'm gonna have to ask her.

Raleigh: Oh my gosh. Um... I think—I was trying to think, and the last thing I will say—I was trying to think of a character that felt the same to me growing up watching cartoons or TV shows, and I think—you've mentioned *Adventure Time* a few times.

But that was, like, my cartoon growing up. 'Cause it, like, became a big thing when I was in, like, middle school. And that was like—I remember coming home and watching that every day. And I think Princess Bubblegum on *Adventure Time* is the—and Marceline—are the closest two characters I had to, like, *Sailor Moon*-esque characters, because they were smart, and they were strong, and they had their own personalities, and it was never their story that they were, like... just there for a boy. Like, they were their own thing. And then eventually there was, like, the whole squad of princesses in the *Adventure Time* universe that were very reminiscent of Sailor Scouts. So...

Taylor: Yeah, absolutely.

Raleigh: That was all—that was it. That was it, though.

Taylor: Well, that—there's—yeah. I love that when it's, uh, Fiona and Cake in one of those episodes, Fiona actually has Princess Serenity's dress on for, like, a dance or something.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: Aww...

Taylor: So it is—it's definitely some love back and forth. And I think also in that sense that it's—it's a hero's journey about, like, coming of age. About the importance of accepting loss, just as much... winning, about forgiving, as much as

it is conquering. Like, they have a lot of the same themes. I love *Adventure Time* too, and it's one of the first cartoons that I've loved on level to *Sailor Moon*.

Rileigh: Yeah. It's real good.

Sydnee: Um, and it lives on in—in Charlie and her Chibi Moon costume that you got her.

Taylor: [through laughter] It makes me so happy.

Sydnee: That's, like, the real deal.

Taylor: Oh yes!

Sydnee: She looks so cute. She loves it.

Taylor: That is—that is a cosplay. That is a—that is more than a costume.

Sydnee: She—she loves it. She, like—she wore—she wore it to the store with us the other day.

Taylor: [laughs]

Rileigh: Of course.

Sydnee: [holding back laughter] She refused to wear anything else, so we went to Kroger with her dressed as Chibi Moon.

Taylor: Oh, that's great.

Sydnee: She looked so cute. I like—there were people that were similar to our age who were lookin', like, givin' us thumbs up. Like, "Hey! Good parenting! Is your kid dressed as Chibi Moon?"

Rileigh: "Great job!" [laughs]

Sydnee: "Good job there!" Alright. Well, that was delightful. To eating cheesecake and saving the world.

Taylor: Hey! [laughs]

Raleigh: Yeah. Um... it's, uh—it is my turn next week, and I wanna talk about *The Circle*, which—

Sydnee: Alright!

Raleigh: —we have all watched, but I feel like I can claim it because it's a Netflix show which is kind of, like, you know... my generation. It's my time.

Sydnee: I mean, it's about social media.

Raleigh: It's about social media.

Sydnee: It's a reality show about social media. I think that it fits into—

Raleigh: Yeah. I want—I still wanna be on it.

Sydnee: —2020.

Raleigh: And I think if we do an episode on it, that'll, like, really raise my chances of one day being on *The Circle*.

Sydnee: Ah, okay. Alright.

Raleigh: So... yeah. We're gonna do *The Circle* next week.

Sydnee: Alright, then.

Raleigh: It's on Netflix if you wanna... watch along. Play along.

Sydnee: Yes. It's—it's very good, I will say.

Raleigh: Yeah. I even got our parents to watch it so.

Sydnee: Uh, well, thank you both.

Taylor: Thank you.

Sydnee: I—I enjoyed talking about—

Raleigh: [simultaneously] Thank *you*.

Sydnee: —*Sailor Moon*.

Taylor: Yes.

Sydnee: That was fun.

Raleigh: Yeah.

Sydnee: I'm gonna—I'm gonna watch more of it. I better, 'cause I—

Raleigh: Me too.

Sydnee: —I bought a whole season so that I could watch a bunch of it, so better make use of that.

Taylor: Oh man, last, uh—last March I think it was, they brought the *Sailor Moon* musical I think for the first time ever to America, and I got to see it here in New York. And, uh, it was... it was the most amazing—

Raleigh: Oh my gosh.

Taylor: —I waited for that night since I was probably 12 years old, and it was a culmination of so—so much love.

Raleigh: Aw.

Sydnee: Since you were watching those VHS subs that we bought from sketchy sellers online.

Taylor: Yeah!

Sydnee: Uh, well, thank you for listening. You can, uh, tweet at us @stillbuff, and you can email us at stillbuffering@maximumfun.org. Although people are saying that their emails are going back again.

Raleigh: [sighs]

Taylor: [groans]

Sydnee: 'Cause I've been getting some emails that—

Raleigh: I'm sorry.

Sydnee: —I've been getting some emails at *Sawbones*.

Raleigh: [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] At our *Sawbones* email. Uh, which is fine. I read both, so, I mean, I'll get those. But, um—but we really need to get that—

Raleigh: Try to fix that again.

Sydnee: —fixed again. Uh, but if you have any suggestions for things we should talk about, you can always tweet at us, too, @stillbuff. Um, and thank you to Maximum Fun. I didn't thank them yet. To Maximumfun.org. Wonderful podcasts, check 'em out. Comedy and culture. You know, that thing. [laughs quietly] And thank you to The Nouvellas—

Raleigh: There you go.

Sydnee: —for our theme song, "Baby You Change Your Mind."

Raleigh: [laughs quietly] Uh, this has been your cross-generational guide to the culture that made us. I am Raleigh Smirl.

[theme music begins in the background]

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Taylor: And I'm Taylor Smirl.

Raleigh: I am still buffering...

Sydnee and Taylor: And I... am... too.

[pauses]

Sydnee: Should we change it to "we?" [unintelligible 52:22]

Taylor: I don't know. "We are too."

Sydnee: We—we, not I. See, that feels like the spirit of *Sailor Moon*.

Taylor: There we go. [pauses] We will punch you.

[theme music plays]

Helen: Hey, J. Keith.

J. Keith: Hey, Helen! I hear you have a true/false quiz you wanted me to finish.

Helen: I *do*. Here we begin. We host a trivia game show podcast on the Max Fun Network called *Go Fact Yourself*.

J. Keith: True.

Helen: Correct! The show is all about celebrity guests answering trivia questions about things J. Keith enjoys.

J. Keith: False. We sometimes don't talk about baseball or cats.

Helen: Thank God. It's questions about things *they* enjoy! Next, we bring on surprise experts every episode.

J. Keith: True!

Helen: Correct! Final question: it's just the two of us, sitting alone with these guests.

J. Keith: False.

Helen: Correct! We have a live audience at the Angel City Brewery!

[audience cheers]

Helen: See? You can hear *Go Fact Yourself* every first and third Friday of the month, and if you don't listen, you can go fact yourself!

J. Keith: True!

[music plays]

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